

Virginia SAR Update

June 2026



President's Message

Dear Compatriots,

America's 250th Birthday is almost here! We know the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence is only the beginning of a new chapter of the American Revolution. Invite your eligible family and friends to learn about the American Story and to be part of America 250! If they are eligible to join SAR, please put them in touch with your chapter registrar!

And after the festivities of July 4th, let's continue partying like it's 1776! There are many "Save The Dates" for your calendar in this update. Watch the Members' Calendar on virginiasar.org for details.

Thank you for your continued dedication to preserving the spirit of liberty and patriotism.

Yours in Patriotic Service,
Darrin M. Schmidt, Virginia SAR State President



Upcoming Events - Details at virginiasar.org

<u>June</u>			
19-23	Th-Tue		Sail 250th Norfolk
20	Sat	10 AM	Wreath Laying at GW Birthplace - James Monroe Chapter with NPS
20	Sat	11:00 AM	Virginia SAR - Pomeroy Foundation Sign Dedication & Grave Markings
20	Sat	1:30 PM	Col James Wood II Chapter - Peter Muhlenberg Statue event
27	Sat	11:00 AM	President Schmidt speaking at Revolutionary War Monument Unveiling - Bamberg Co SC https://southcarolina250.com/event/permanent-revolutionary-war-monument-dedication/
27	Sat	1:00 PM	Tomb Rededication at Fort Laurens (OH)
27	Sat.	1:00 PM	251st Beeline March, Winchester, VA
<u>July</u>			
2-6			250 th Celebration of the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia PA
4	Sat	8:30 AM	George Washington Chapter March to the Tomb
9	Thu	10:00 AM	250 th Anniversary of Gwynn's Island & Cricket Hill
10-16			SAR National Congress - Greensboro, NC
14	Tue		Bastille Day Event - Norfolk
<u>SEPT</u>			
11-12			Semi-Annual Meeting - Roanoke
<u>OCT</u>			
17	Sat	TBA	Endview Event - Newport News VA
19	Mon	TBA	Yorktown Day - Thomas Nelson Jr Grave Marking and Parade

Witness To History: sarwitnessstohistory@gmail.com



Every single chapter can participate in this Presidential Initiative throughout the year.

How are you Witnessing History?

Send in your pictures so we can share them and promote your chapter's activities!!

Designed for ALL chapters to participate.

- Sarwitnessstohistory@gmail.com
- Every event: 1-4 pictures with single 2-3 sentence caption
- Include meetings
- Posting on social media & repost local press coverage

Virginia Society Workshops

[2026 Virtual Workshops](#) on the Virginia SAR Website



The Awards and SMART Report workshops have been posted to the website. If you've got a topic that will advance the SAR mission, please contact Carl Loveland or Darrin Schmidt!

On deck: **5 August (7:00 PM) - Patriot Research System (PRS)** - Compatriot Jamie Callender ([Calendar and Zoom Link](#))

This workshop provides an overview of the Patriot Research System (PRS) and its growing role in supporting NSSAR genealogy, historical preservation, and member engagement activities.

Who is my Region Chair?



Region Chairs are important resources for chapter officers! These Compatriots support their region with membership and program support, guidance and mentorship.

[Central Region](#): Gary Hall. **Chapters**: Dan River, Fort Harrison, General Daniel Morgan, Patrick Henry, Richmond, Rockbridge Volunteers, Thomas Jefferson.

[Eastern Region](#): Ken Hawkins. **Chapters**: Abraham Brown, Great Bridge, James Monroe, Nansemond Indian Patriots, Norfolk, Rappahannock, Richard Henry Lee, Thomas Nelson Jr., Williamsburg.

[Frontier Region](#): John Gullion. **Chapters**: Clinch Mountain Militia, Colonel George Waller, Fincastle Resolutions, General William Campbell, Lieutenant David Cox, Martin's Station, New River Valley.

[Northern Region](#): Dale Corey. **Chapters**: Colonel Fielding Lewis, Colonel James Wood II, Colonel William Grayson, Culpeper Minute Men, Fairfax Resolves, George Mason, George Washington, Sergeant Major John Champe.

Semi-Annual Meeting in Roanoke



Save the Date for September 11-12 in Roanoke! We are looking forward to an exceptional semi-annual meeting in the Western part of Virginia. Chancellor Monday and the Fincastle Resolutions Chapter are planning a full schedule of events and 1st VP Bonner and has been working on programs and events to ensure everyone comes away with new knowledge! We'll commemorate the 25th Anniversary of 9-11 with local first responders and plan a visit to the Bedford D-Day Memorial. *Stay Tuned!*

C.A.R. Updates!

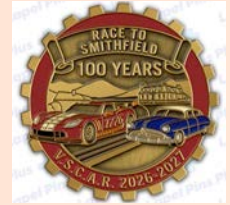
Children of the American Revolution www.nscar.org / www.vscar.org



This is a special year for C.A.R. in Virginia! First, it's the 100th anniversary of the Virginia Society! Second, the National President of C.A.R., Will Elston, is a Virginia C.A.R. member and SAR compatriot! We look forward to highlighting more information about his 2026-2027 project "Liberty's Legacy" in an upcoming issue! *Below, NSSAR PG Mike Elston and VASSAR President Darrin Schmidt are pictured with N.S.C.A.R. President Will Elston and V.S.C.A.R. President Christopher Hopkins.*



V.S.C.A.R. President & Project



V.S.C.A.R. State President Christopher Hopkins is a member of the William Byrd Society in Richmond, VA. He has held state offices, such as Chaplain and First Vice President, and all offices on the local level. His favorite event is always the State Workshop where officers hold a skit night, to write skits to inform the members about the State Project and National Project.

This year's state project for the Virginia Society Children of the American Revolution is Race to Smithfield. The state project is using the framework of the Pixar's movie Cars to contextualize the history of Historic Smithfield in Blacksburg, VA. In the colonial era, Smithfield served as a logistical hub on the Eastern Divide and the Western Frontier. In 1775, Colonel William Preston was the "Crew Chief" and lead surveyor of the region. Leading the front in the mountains during the Revolution, along with the Mountain Warriors, they secured the Chiswell mines and kept the ammunition supply safe from the hands of the Red Coats.

Historic Smithfield serves a gateway to the frontier, preserving the Preston family legacy, the history of the Mountain Warriors and the ideals of the Fincastle Resolutions. **With a goal of \$15,000, 100% of the proceeds will directly support Historic Smithfield to acquire items, such as time-accurate clothing, time-accurate home items, and black-powder flintlock firearms, to enhance the living learning history portion of Historic Smithfield.**



President Hopkins was welcomed as a member of the Fairfax Resolves Chapter, SAR, at a recent C.A.R. event!

To drive engagement, bimonthly educational programs will be published, tracking a metaphorical race leading to Historic Smithfield while profiling Will Preston and prominent frontier militia figures. For memorabilia, shirts, pins, and challenge coins are for sale. For the **shirts**, they are sporting the colors of Virginia Tech, **maroon** and **burnt orange**. The **pins** are sporting the logo for the state project this year, two cars on the road to Smithfield. And lastly, the **coins** will commemorate the celebration of 250 years of our great nation and the 100th year celebration of Virginia Society Children of the American Revolution.

A Note from President Schmidt: Please invite President Hopkins or a Virginia C.A.R. officer to your Chapter Meetings and support the State Project and Virginia C.A.R. with a donation.

Committee Volunteers Needed!



There are many opportunities to serve on state committees as members or chairmen, please contact President Schmidt (president@virginiasar.org) with your interests! Committees currently needing chairmen:

- **Conference Committee** (*Multiple Leadership Spots!*) – Help coordinate and operate state meetings in conjunction with the State Secretary
- **Operation Ancestor Search (OAS) Committee** – Identify Virginia facilities and personnel to support the National SAR Genealogy training program for Wounded Warriors and their families.

<http://sar.org/committees/operation-ancestor-search-committee/>

America250: Where are YOU being a Witness to History? President's Initiative



Are you publicly reading the Declaration of Independence? Where? When? Send your pictures to sarwitnessstohistory@gmail.com so we can recognize your efforts!

Opportunities for readings include:

July 2 – Original Reading in Philadelphia

July 4 – Independence Day

[July 8 – First reading to the Troops](#)

August 12 – Day of the First public reading of the Declaration of Independence in Virginia

President Schmidt at Valley Forge National Park



The Battle of Waxhaws in S.C.



The Battle of Waxhaws, often remembered as Buford's Massacre, profoundly affected Virginia because many of the Continental soldiers engaged were members of the 3rd Virginia Detachment under Colonel Abraham Buford. The reported slaughter of surrendering American troops by British cavalry under Lieutenant Colonel Banastre Tarleton galvanized Patriot resistance throughout Virginia and the South, strengthening support for the Revolutionary cause during a critical period of the war.



After the wreath laying, Virginia SAR conducted a special ceremony. A Virginia SAR Color Guard presented honors inside the gravesite. President Schmidt spread Virginia soil on the mass grave of 115 Continental Soldiers as Virginia SAR State Chaplain John Kuvakas and Virginia DAR State Chaplain Holly Lynne McKinley Schmidt read from the Psalms.



All are encouraged to participate in these commemorations as a way to witness history.

Watch the video on the Virginia SAR YouTube Channel at:

<https://youtu.be/Zb1V2wNtJzY?si=ci-KSyWOES21dpw7>



Invitations for State Officers



Your State Officers want to connect with your chapter members!

Please continue to send invitations for your State Officers to attend Chapter events and meetings.

Reach out to president@virginiasar.org as soon as dates are available!

Chapter Events (Clockwise from Right): Charles Broadwater Day in Vienna (FFR, CJW,), 251st Gunpowder Incident near Williamsburg (Wmsbg, GB, Norfolk), Grave marking for Robert White and Casper Larrick in Winchester (CJW, CMM, GMason), Flag Day Flag Retirement in Great Falls (FFR), Patriots of Color Marker Dedication in Culpeper.

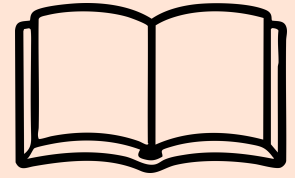




Chapter Events (Clockwise from Above): Sean Heuvel (Wmsbg) at Virginia War Museum event in Newport News, Martin's Station (TJ, FFR, MS) in Ewing, Richard Henry Lee Chapter 50th Anniversary in Weems, Naturalization Ceremony at Red Hill (PH, Dan River), Stratford Hall event in Stratford (JMonroe, Rich'd, CWG, GB, SMJC, GW, FFR, CFL), Virginia C.A.R. State Project marker dedication in New Baltimore.



Reading America 250



We've taken notice of these books and recommend them for your summer reading list! Happy Reading!

Mercy Otis Warren: History of the Rise, Progress, and Termination of the American Revolution

Warren is considered the first historian of the American Revolution. Her book was part of Jefferson's library collection that became the Library of Congress. This book was one of few that survived the Burning of Washington

Derek Baxter: The Forgotten World War: Exploring the Secret History of the American Revolution, from Spain to India and Back Again

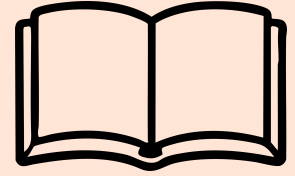
Baxter mixes present-day observations as he and his family visited sites relevant to the Revolutionary War. Relevant to SAR activities, the author conveys his conversations with historical interpreters and scholars at sites like Bunker Hill and Fort St. Jean and Carpenter's Hall. In these conversations, he reveals the complex interactions with foreign powers that brought the Americans support in the form of gunpowder, military might, and critically important finances.

He examines the support provided by an interesting collection of "superheroes" that are familiar to many in this readership: Lafayette, Duportail, de Fleury, Pulaski, Kosciuszko, and Von Steuben.

Michael Auslin: National Treasure: How the Declaration of Independence Made America

National Treasure is the first complete history of the Declaration, from Thomas Jefferson's quill in 1776 to cyberspace in the 21st century. Written for a general audience, it tells the story of those who preserved, protected, debated, mythologized, and even commodified the Declaration. Most importantly, the book shows how the Declaration became and remains the supreme statement of American ideals.

Reading America 250 (Cont'd)



Chris Yohn: Liberty's Land

Liberty's Land illuminates a side of colonial life often overlooked: the conflicts and sacrifices made far from the famous Revolutionary battlefields, but paid for with American courage all the same.

Engaging, informative, and emotionally rich, Liberty's Land is perfect both for readers steeped in Revolutionary War history and for those eager to expand their understanding of the era.

William Fahey: New Hampshire and Independence - Rediscovered Writings from the Sons of the American Revolution

Six groundbreaking essays by Sons of the American Revolution reveal the significance of New Hampshire's role in the Revolution. The Author shares six essays from the archives of the SAR to bring this rousing tale to life.

Barbara Jo Barker: Unseen Patriots of the American Revolution: Blacks, Native Americans, Women, and those of different ethnicities

Black Revolutionary War Soldiers numbered up to 953 in the Continental Army (battlefieldstrust.org) Telling the stories of these Black, along with Indigenous and Women Patriots, is at the core of this book. Primary source document information included. Find out why Blacks were barred from serving at the outset of the war. Why did General Washington change his mind? Why did they fight? What hopes did they have? The Native Americans hoped to remain neutral. What caused them to join either the British or the Colonists?

Philip Barnard: The One True Father. Edmund Randolph and the True Story Behind the Creation of the United States Constitution (Pre-Order!)

Barnard opens the door to a richer appreciation of the collaborative effort that went into drafting the Constitution. Readers will be introduced to Randolph's pivotal contributions, including his role in crafting the Virginia Plan and his primary authorship of the Constitution. The volumes delve into the political machinations, personal rivalries, and ideological battles that defined the Constitutional Convention, providing an unvarnished look at the human dynamics behind the founding of our nation.

Treasurers! *It's Almost Dues Time!*



Attention Chapter Treasurers! Watch for information about paying dues to State. Remember, if you plan to collect electronically, State is not paying for Chapter PayRock transactions. Connect with your Regional Chair or visit a MemberClicks Discussion session.

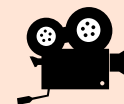
Member Clicks? Club Express??



Hopefully everyone is familiar with the MemberClicks member management system that the Virginia SAR implemented a few years ago. This system streamlined various administrative tasks, and offered features such as event planning, database management, and communications tools. Initial challenges with MemberClicks and the reported success of other states using the ClubExpress application led to a thorough review of both tools in an effort to ensure that the Virginia Society was using the best possible member management solution.

After a diligent assessment of the potential benefits and drawbacks of transitioning to ClubExpress, the Member Management Committee has opted to remain with the MemberClicks tool. The committee will now be investigating better processes that better align with the the MemberClicks process flows and providing more training opportunities to help chapters transition away from using PayRock. **Stay tuned since this will change the way members pay their dues this year!**

Young Washington Movie Preview



Fairfax Resolves coordinated a preview of Angel Studios' new movie, **YOUNG WASHINGTON**. This film depicts the untold story of the Father of our Nation as he faces war, betrayal, and the impossible choices that forged a legendary leader. **YOUNG WASHINGTON is set to release on Independence Day weekend.**