



# Col. William Grayson Chapter

## *Sons of the American Revolution*

# —Newsletter—



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## *The Crossing of the Dan*

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. In what became known as the "Race to the Dan," a few weeks later, on February 14, 1781, became "The Crossing of the Dan" when Greene's army crossed the Dan River to safety near South Boston, Virginia, and stopped the British advance. 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.

On Saturday, February 16 at 10:00 am, the SAR and DAR hosted the 238<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration of the Crossing of the Dan in The Prizery, the museum in South Boston dedicated to commemorating the Crossing of the Dan. The steady rain kept all parts of the commemoration inside the Prizery, The program included the presentations of about 20 wreath, and the Colonel William Grayson Chapter' President, Michael E. Weyler, presented his chapter's wreath

The guest speaker was Dr. Carole Watterson Troxler, History Professor Emerita at Elon University. Her topic was "Loyalists in the Back Country," in which she described the lives, the fights and the eventual outcomes of the British Loyalists in the Carolina backcountry who fought for the crown.



CWG Chapter President Mike Weyler  
At Crossing of the Dan Ceremony.



CWG Chapter and several other Chapters placed wreaths  
at the Crossing of the Dan Commemoration Ceremony.  
Not all chapters are pictured.

## *President's Report*

The Omni Hotel in Richmond, Va., hosted the VASSAR 129<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Friday and Saturday, February 8-9, 2019. I was able to attend along with George Ax, Bill Collier, Barry Schwoerer, and John Epperly. It was a very good meeting from the standpoint of the recognition given to the Colonel William Grayson Chapter during the two days. I want to give you some highlights.

On Friday afternoon, at the Board of Managers Meeting, our chapter was awarded six streamers for our participation in various VASSAR programs. We received the following streamers:

- Contributor, Brennan Fund 2018
- Contributor, Washington Friends & Foes 2018
- Contributor, 116<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Museum 2018
- Participant, Night at the Ballpark 2018
- Participant, Youth Programs/Contests 2018
- Wayne & Wink Rouse Award for Youth Program Participation 2018

While the first five of the six streamers were also given to other chapters for their participation, the last one, the Wayne & Wink Rouse Award for Youth Program Participation was given to only one chapter, ours. This award represents participation in more VASSAR Youth Programs than any other chapter. This award was created last year, and we were the only chapter to receive it last year as well. Thank you to all who worked in the youth programs to make this possible.

Saturday morning, during the Membership Meeting, I accepted, for Jeff Windland, his Colonel's Commission in the Virginia Society SAR First Virginia Regiment. This Commission was VASSAR's way of recognizing Jeff's financial contributions to VASSAR programs.

Following the Membership Meeting, the VASSAR Oration Contest was conducted, and our Chapter's winner, Gabriella Luchetti, placed second. You may recall that Gabriella was our Oration winner last year and went to the 2018 Congress as Virginia's entry.

Our Eagle Scout Scholarship Competition winner, David Bunin, placed second in VASSAR, and our Outstanding JROTC Cadet Competition winner, Owen Carlton, also placed second in VASSAR. Both were recognized at the awards ceremony following the Orations.

Saturday afternoon, in the Old House Chamber of the Virginia State House, in the Chapter Awards part of the program, our chapter received further recognition.

- A streamer for Virginia History Day Support 2018
- Five stars for our Forgotten Patriots Streamer
- One star for our Graves Registration Streamer
- A streamer for our Chester E. May Teacher of the Year nominee and VASSAR winner, Julie Elston

- A streamer for our Dr. Tom & Betty Lawrence American History Teacher of the Year nominee and VASSAR winner, also Julie Elston, who now goes on to the NSSAR competition.
- Best Chapter Website of the Year 2018, which included a trophy naming our own George Thomas as the VASSAR Webmaster of the Year
- A streamer for the Chapter Excellence Award, the second highest chapter award given to a chapter by VASSAR.

While we had hopes of regaining the Very Best Very Large Chapter Award this year, the highest VASSAR chapter award, it went to the Fairfax Resolves Chapter, who gave us a good run for the prize.

At the final session of the Annual Meeting, our new VASSAR officers were installed. Our new VASSAR President is Peter M. Davenport, who you will remember was the guest speaker at our January 12 chapter meeting and the one who installed our 2019 officers. Pete stated his four goals for the year; Recruit, Reaffirm, Recognize and Retain.

Recruit now only new members, but also be active in recruiting for future officers and for volunteers to fill the slots in our chapter's committees. Reaffirm our faith in the principles of liberty and our Democratic Republic. Recognize not only those who have gone before but also our youth and the role they will play in our future. Retain those members who are inclined to drop out by better communication with them. These are the things our new VASSAR President has called to our

In summary, our chapter has shown, by our participation, both across the board as well as in-depth, that we are focused on our mission. That mission is to honor our Patriot Ancestors, to honor our veterans, and to keep reminding our nation, and in particular, the youth of our nation, of the great country our Patriot Ancestor fought for and have now entrusted to us.

Michael E. Weyler

## *Vice President's Report*

I want to report to you all of the GREAT SUCCESS in the number of VASSAR chapters turning out to volunteer as judges for this year's District V VA HISTORY DAY event at Mt. Vernon High School, Alexandria, Va. on Saturday 2 March 2019. To give some context on the size of this event, Ms. Denise McHugh, Director of District V VA HISTORY DAY, that District V is as large as all of the other Virginia Districts COMBINED!

This year's theme was Triumph and Tragedy in History.

We had a total of 16 SAR members volunteering as judges during the event; a record number! Of all the organizations who volunteered to judge this year, the SAR had the largest contingent of volunteers to participate.

I know that Ms. McHugh was very appreciative of all our members who attended and gave of their time for this very worthwhile educational event.

The following local chapter members were in attendance:

1. Colonel William Grayson: Joseph Carroll, Bob Brunner, Leamon Duncan, Dave Button, and Keith Rouleau.
2. Fairfax Resolves: William Denk, Michael Garby, Carl Loveland, and John Rymer.
3. George Mason: Rob Mitchell and Mark Sink
4. George Washington: Dave Thomas, Hank Foresman, Rich Sherman, and David Kuhnsman.
5. Culpeper Minute Men: Tom Hamill

At the end of the competition we identified two projects that related directly to the Revolutionary War:

1. Lauren Hinckley and Samantha Carey - Junior Division - Group Performance - The Tragic and Triumphant Story of Revolutionary War Heroine Deborah Sampson.
2. Noah Sternberg - Junior Division - Paper - From Tragedy to Triumph: The Battle of Bunker Hill.

Dave Thomas and Keith Rouleau awarded each winner the SAR Bronze Good Citizenship medal and Certificate during the awards ceremony at the end of the day.

My Thanks to all members who took the time out of their busy schedule to spend the day volunteering as judges, captains, and run-off judges for this important educational event.

I also want to personally thank George Ax (CWG) for coordinating the Bronze Good Citizenship medals and Owen Jacobs (CWG) for printing the Certificates.

I look forward to continuing to grow our Chapter's involvement in VA History Day in 2020.

Keith Rouleau

## **Upcoming Events**

**9 Mar.: CWG Chapter Meeting** 11 a.m. (meet & greet at 10:30) in the Mountain View Card Room at Heritage Hunt Golf and Country Club, Gainesville, Va.

**20 Apr.: James Monroe Birthplace Opening**, Colonial Beach, Va.

**27 Apr.: Multi-Chapter Meeting** 11 a.m. (meet & greet at 10:30) at Graves Mountain Lodge, Syria, Va.

**28 Apr.: James Monroe Grave Ceremony** at Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond, Va.

**11 May: Raid on Martin's Station**, Ewing, Va.

**18 May: CWG Chapter Meeting** 11 a.m. (meet & greet at 10:30) in the Mountain View Card Room at Heritage Hunt Golf and Country Club, Gainesville, Va.

**27 May: National Memorial Day Parade**, Washington, D.C.

**4 Jul.: March to George Washington's Tomb**, Mt. Vernon, Va.

**7-10 Jul.: 129th Annual SAR Congress**, Costa Mesa, Calif.

**12 Oct: CWG Chapter Meeting** 11 a.m. (meet & greet at 10:30) in the Mountain View Card Room at Heritage Hunt Golf and Country Club, Gainesville, Va.

## *Chapter Activities*

**7 Jan.:** On January 7, 2019, CWG Compatriot Paul Chase made a formal presentation on the American Revolution to the Park West Lions Club of Manassas Va.



Paul Chase.

**8 Jan.:** The Col. William Grayson Chapter presented two Eagle Scouts from Troop 577 at Liberty Middle School in Little Rocky Run, Clifton, VA with Certificates of Appreciation for submitting applications to the CWG Chapter, Virginia SAR, for the Arthur M. and Berdena King Eagle Scout Scholarship program. Compatriot Barry Schwoerer made the presentation in Revolutionary War Militia uniform. David Bunin won the Chapter contest and will receive a cash prize, medal, and certificate at the Chapter meeting on Saturday, 12 January. Robert Tyler Schroder received a certificate of appreciation for his application. Applicant Alexander Wells had returned to College and was not available for presentation.

The Eagle Scout Scholarship requires applicants to be an Eagle Scout, not yet 19 years of age, a leader in his troop and completion of a 500-word historical essay related to the American Revolution.



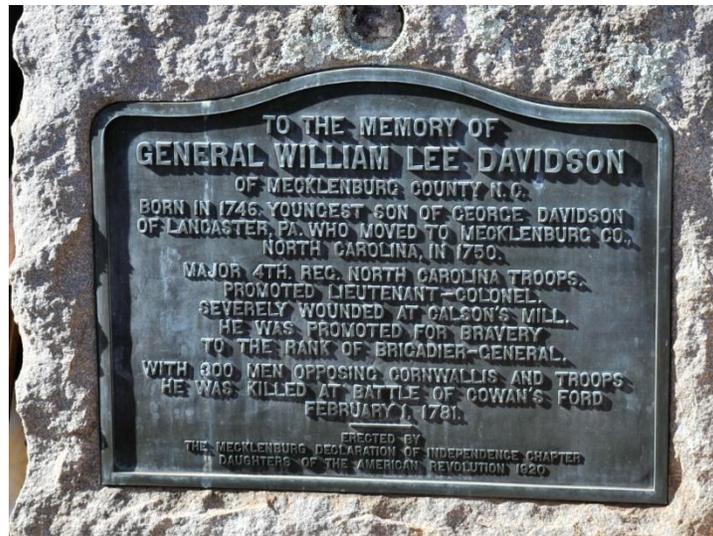
L-R: Robert Tyler Schroder, David Bunin,  
and Barry Schwoerer.

**26 Jan.:** Compatriot Bob McRorie, now of North Carolina, presented the CWG Chapter wreath at the Battle of Cowan's Ford Event at the Hopewell Presbyterian Church, Huntersville, N.C. The church cemetery is the burial site of Gen William Lee Davidson.

The Battle of Cowan's Ford was a battle in the Southern Theater of Cornwallis's 1780-1782 Campaign that eventually led to the British Army's surrender at Yorktown during the American Revolutionary War. It was fought on 1 February 1781 at Cowan's Ford on the Catawba River in northwestern Mecklenburg County, N.C., between a force of about 5,000 British and fewer than a thousand Americans who were attempting to slow the British advance across the river. The American general William Lee Davidson died in this battle.



Compatriot Bob McRorie.



Memorial to Gen. William Lee Davidson.

**27 Jan.:** Compatriot Barry Schwoerer of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter gave a presentation to members of C.A.R on 27 January in Springfield, Va. The centerpiece of the presentation was a reproduction Charleville .69-Caliber musket, similar to muskets provided to the United States by France during the Revolutionary War. Mr. Schwoerer displayed the items required to operate, clean and maintain the musket as well as the many items a typical Revolutionary War militia soldier would have carried to battle.

Following the presentation, C.A.R members were provided with materials to make paper cartridges in the same manner as a Revolutionary soldier. Crystal sugar was used instead of black powder, and candy Whoppers for musket balls. The children were provided wooden dowels for formers, pre-cut paper shapes and tubes for “Powder” measures.

Mr. Schwoerer presented the Chapter President a book titled “Soldier of the American Revolution, a Visual Reference.”



Compatriot Schwoerer with his Charleville musket and giving instructions.

**15 Feb.:** Compatriot Leamon Duncan accompanied by Compatriot Barry Schwoerer, both of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter, spent some time today cleaning the gravestones for Patriot Stephen Howison and his wife, Mary at the Howison Cemetery in Prince William County, Va. In coordination with the Prince William Historic Preservation Foundation and with a break from the cold weather here in Northern Virginia, the two compatriots headed to the cemetery after musket safety training to complete the mission.

The credit for the gravestone preservation goes to Andrew Lumish who started a movement by cleaning the headstones of Veterans in his local community in Florida and then telling their stories. His story appeared on the CBS Sunday Morning program. It is called the Cemetery Preservation Movement.

The cleanup today was a great opportunity to give back to the local Prince William community and another way to honor the Patriots who fought for the freedom and liberty we all enjoy today.



Before.



After.

**16 Feb.:** Compatriot Leamon Duncan of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter, Virginia SAR, presented the SAR Certificate of Recognition to Scout Troop 1882's newest Eagle Scout, Shane Gallagher. The presentation took place during Troop 1882's Court of Honor Ceremony held in Gainesville, VA.



Leamon Duncan and  
Shane Gallagher.

**18 February 2019; Alexandria, Va.:** As part of the George Washington Birthday Celebration, five VASSAR Chapters, including the Colonel William Grayson Chapter, along with the VASSAR President, Peter M. Davenport, presented wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the American Revolution. Our own Paul Chase, the Guard Commander, led the VASSAR Color Guard. President Michael E. Weyler presented The Colonel William Grayson Chapter wreath.

While most are familiar with the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery, few know of the Tomb of the Unknown from the Revolutionary War. However, based on church records from the Old Presbyterian Meeting House on South Fairfax Street in Alexandria, the Children of the American Revolution dedicated the first memorial ninety years ago in 1929.



L-R: Compatriots Joe Carroll, Ken Morris, Paul Chase (Continental uniform),  
President Mike Weyler, and Leamon Duncan (Militia uniform).



**Inscription**

“Here lies a soldier of the Revolution whose identity is known but to God. His was an idealism that recognized a Supreme Being, that planted religious liberty on our shores, that overthrew despotism, that established a people’s government, that wrote a Constitution setting metes and bounds of delegated authority, that fixed a standard of value upon men above gold and lifted high the torch of civil liberty along the pathway of mankind. In ourselves his soul exists as part of ours, his memory’s mansion.”

CWG President Mike Weyler (L) renders a hand Salute after placing the wreath at the Tomb.

Also, part of the George Washington Birthday festivities, approximately 20 compatriots from the Colonel William Grayson, George Mason, George Washington, and Fairfax Resolves VASSAR Chapters marched in the parade through Old Town Alexandria on 18 February. The group was led by the Frederick Town Fife and Drum Corps. The Colonel William Grayson chapter members in the parade included Paul Chase, the VASSAR Color Guard Commander, Mike Weyler, chapter President, Leamon Duncan, chapter Historian, and Compatriot Joe Carroll.



Washington’s Birthday Parade. Mike Weyler on the left.

**23 Feb.:** Compatriots from nine VASSAR Chapters (Colonel William Grayson, Fairfax Resolves, George Mason, Culpeper Minutemen, James Monroe, Richard Henry Lee, Thomas Jefferson, Thomas Nelson, Jr., and George Washington) attended the 12th annual commemoration of the signing of the 1766 Leedstown Resolutions. The event, hosted by the Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Society, was held at the Ingleside Vineyards in Oak Grove, VA.

The Leedstown Resolutions, signed by 115 men, on 27 Feb 1766 protested the 1765 Stamp Act and other intolerable acts enacted by Parliament. The VASSAR Color Guard, under the command of our own Paul Chase, presented and posted colors, ensuring the dignity and solemnity of the event. Charles Belfield of the James Monroe Chapter discussed the significance of the Leedstown Resolutions and read the names of the 115 patriots who gathered from around Virginia, including William Grayson, to sign this document.

The Fifth President of the United States, James Monroe (portrayed by James Harrison III) discussed his life and place in U.S. History. VASSAR President Peter Davenport then gave closing remarks, followed by the presentation of wreaths by some VASSAR and VADAR chapters, as well as the Virginia Society Order of the Founders and Patriots of America. Our chapter President, Mike Weyler presented The Colonel William Grayson Chapter wreath.



President Mike Weyler.



The Color Guard. Paul Chase, center.

## *Registrar's Report*

### **NEW MEMBERS APPROVED**

APPLICANT	DATE	PATRIOT
Lucas DeWalt, Fort Worth, Tex.	11 Jan 2019	Christian DeWalt, Pvt., Pennsylvania Militia
Nicholas DeWalt, Fort Worth, Tex.	11 Jan 2019	Christian DeWalt, Pvt., Pennsylvania Militia
Rodney DeWalt, Fort Worth, Tex.	11 Jan 2019	Christian DeWalt, Pvt., Pennsylvania Militia