



Col. William Grayson Chapter

Sons of the American Revolution

—Newsletter—



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On 27 April, the Col. William Grayson Chapter, along with six other VASSAR chapters, met at Graves Mountain Lodge in Syria, Virginia. This meeting is an annual event that we have been involved with for many years. The following seven chapters were represented: Thomas Jefferson, Culpeper Minutemen, Fort Harrison, Colonel Fielding Lewis, General Daniel Morgan, Colonel William Grayson, and Colonel James Wood II. The host this year was the Colonel James Wood II chapter, and their master of ceremonies was Marc Robinson, chapter Vice President.

The Colonel William Grayson Chapter was represented by 13 members and spouses, which included three members who participated in the Color Guard, Paul Chase the VASSAR Color Guard Commander, Leamon Duncan, chapter Historian and Quartermaster, and Michael E. Weyler, chapter President. Past chapter presidents Thad Hartman, Bill Collier and Gary Howard were also present.

The business part of the meeting consisted of reports from each chapter and several awards to folks, including two ladies, who have been instrumental in aiding VASSAR during the last year. Our own Thad Harman received the Patriot Graves Marking medal from former VASSAR President Pat Kelly in appreciation for his years of effort in finding and marking Patriot graves.

Before the start of the meeting, Compatriots conducted the annual ceremony to gather some Virginia soil for spreading over the mass grave of Virginia soldiers who died at the Battle of Waxhaws in South Carolina. The soil was placed in an urn, blessed by the chaplain, and then turned over to the VASSAR President, Peter M. Davenport, for transport to the Waxhaws battlefield where he will spread the soil over the grave of the Virginians.



SAR Attendees at Graves Mountain Lodge.



Obtaining the soil to be spread at Waxsaws.

President's Report

With the coming of Spring, March and April became busy months for our chapter.

On March 9, following our chapter meeting, we assembled at Aggregate Industries in Manassas to mark the grave of Drummond Wheeler, a Patriot in the American Revolution. Not only was the event well attended by several SAR and DAR organizations, all of whom presented wreaths, but the ceremony also included an eight-man firelock squad that gave a musket salute. The musket men came from the Culpeper Minutemen chapter and the Colonel James Wood II chapter, as well as our own Colonel William Grayson chapter. We are hoping that our future grave markings that include musket salutes will continue to attract firelock-qualified men from other chapters.

On March 16, two major commemorations, each in a different state, found two of our faithful members representing our chapter. Dave Button presented our wreath on the birthday of President James Madison at his home, Montpelier. Paul Chase, in uniform, attended the annual memorial ceremony at Guilford Courthouse in North Carolina. Thank you, gentlemen.

On April 6, I was able to attend two grave marking ceremonies at the Mount Hebron Cemetery in Winchester, Virginia. These events were your president's first opportunity to participate in the Color Guard with his new uniform.

On April 20, for the annual celebration at President James Monroe's birthplace in Colonial Beach, Virginia, Paul Chase led the VASSAR Color Guard, and I presented our chapter wreath.

On April 27, we gathered with six other chapters at Graves Mountain in Syria, Virginia for the annual SAR Multi-Chapter Meeting. Our chapter was represented by 13 members and spouses, three of whom were in the Color Guard, under the command of our own Paul Chase.

On April 28, on President Monroe's birthday, Dave Button presented our wreath at Monroe's grave in the Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond.

Finally, also on April 28, I presented the Colonel William Grayson Chapter wreath at the ceremony for the re-interment of the remains of three of Virginia's founding settlers near the junction of the James and Chickahominy Rivers in Williamsburg.

I would encourage as many of you as possible to consider traveling to some of these state-wide events outside our area. It allows us to see the bigger picture of the state society of which we are but one part.

Michael E. Weyler

Upcoming Events

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, 6901 Arthur Hills Drive, Gainesville, Va. 20155. The price of lunch is \$35 per person. Please notify Dave Button before 11 April if you plan to attend.

Our speaker will be First Sergeant Daniel E. Harper, U. S. Army, Retired, a combat veteran who saw service in both Korea and Vietnam and is the recipient of a Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, and three Purple Hearts. Sgt. Harper's topic is on the life lessons he has learned. These lessons are spelled out in his autobiography "Life of a Soldier."

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

1 Jun: General Wayne's Crossing of the Potomac, Leesburg, VA

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

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

20 Jul: Night at the Ball Park, Potomac Nationals in Woodbridge, VA

9 & 10 Aug: Atlantic Middle States Association Annual Meeting, Newark, DE

13 & 14 Sep: VASSAR Semi-Annual Meeting, Fairfax, VA

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, 6901 Arthur Hills Drive, Gainesville, Va. 20155.

19 Oct: Yorktown Day, Yorktown, VA

Chapter Activities

16 Mar.: CWG Compatriot Paul Chase represented the chapter at the Commemoration of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. It rained the evening before, but then mild temps and clear skies made the event a spectacular display of flags, fifers, drummers and huge assemblage of SAR and DAR members.



L-R: CWG Compatriots Paul Chase, Brett Osborn, and Bill Schwetke.
Photo courtesy of Karen Powell.

18 Mar.: Serve our Willing Warriors Retreat, Haymarket, Va. Compatriot Barry Schworer conducted Operation Ancestor Search (OAS) for engaged Warriors Eric Haynes and Brenda Fricke accompanied by their service dogs, Truman and Ciera. Eric and Brenda are engaged to be married 29 June at the USMC Chapel at Quantico Marine Base. Pooches Truman and Ciera will be joined as family service pooches at a ceremony 29 June during the reception for Eric and Brenda at American Legion Post 28 in Triangle, VA.

Barry conducted OAS in Revolutionary War Militia Uniform. Good progress was made tracing the ancestry of Brenda and Eric using a free subscription to Ancestry.com. Unfortunately, available genealogy search engines failed to give any information regarding the pedigree of Truman or Ciera. Both pooches are well behaved and provide wonderful support for Eric and Brenda, indicating an admirable pedigree.

Eric is a 100% disabled Army E-5 and Brenda is a 100% disabled Army E-3. Barry expressed our Chapter, VASSAR and NSSAR appreciation for their sacrifices in service to our country.



L-R: Truman, Brenda Fricke, Eric Haynes, and Ciera.

23 Mar.: Congratulations to Compatriot George Thomas for winning the Virginia Society Webmaster of the Year award for 2018! George does an outstanding job keeping up our Chapter's website. He is also the Registrar for our Chapter and the Assistant Registrar for the Virginia Society. Chapter President Mike Weyler presented the award to George.



George Thomas (L) and Mike Weyler.

29 Mar.: Compatriot Leamon Duncan of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter, Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution, spent part of the day cleaning Veteran gravestones and Markers at the Greenwood Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery in Dale City, Virginia. Compatriot Duncan cleaned three gravestones and two markers of Veterans from World Wars I & II. After cleaning each stone/marker, Compatriot Duncan planted an American Flag at each site and rendered a hand salute in honor of his fellow Veterans and the sacrifices they made.



Private First Class DeWitt Luther Windsor, WWII.



Private Harvey Woodyard, WWI.

30 & 31 Mar.: Compatriot Barry Schwoerer, attired in a militia uniform, attended the Eagle Scout Courts of Honor for Lane Tomlinson and James Ellison Hoge, respectively. Both Lane and James are members of Boy Scout Troop 1882 in Haymarket, VA. Barry presented each scout a Certificate of Accomplishment and the SAR/Scout patch.



Barry Schwoerer and Eagle Scouts James E. Hoge (L) and Lane Tomlinson.

7 Apr.: Compatriot Barry Schwoerer presented a certificate of Accomplishment and SAR/Scout partnership patch to Jack Bedinger of Troop1882 in Haymarket, Va.

Jack's father told Barry that he had traced multiple family ancestors to the Revolutionary War era. When he finds the time he will apply through our chapter for himself and two sons.

Barry challenged Jack to become our Western Prince William County SAR Eagle Scout coordinator once he becomes a member.



Jack Bedinger and Barry Schwoerer.

17 Apr.: Compatriot George Raymond, CWG Flag Committee Chairman, presented the SAR Certificate of Commendation to the Woodbridge, VA Elks Lodge #2355 for properly displaying their flag 24/7 and lighted. Receiving the certificate on behalf of the Lodge was the Exalted Ruler, Bob Kane, PER. CWG Compatriot Leamon Duncan, in militia uniform, accompanied Compatriot Raymond.



L-R: George Raymond, Bob Kane,
and Leamon Duncan.

20 Apr.: The James Monroe Memorial Foundation held its annual commemoration of James Monroe's birthday at his recently reconstructed birthplace in Colonial Beach, Virginia. Twelve VASSAR Chapters presented wreaths: Richmond, George Mason, Col. William Grayson, James Monroe, Richard Henry Lee, Fairfax Resolves, George Washington, Rappahannock, Williamsburg, Thomas Nelson, Jr., Culpeper Minutemen, and Col. Fielding Lewis chapters.

Peter Davenport, VASSAR President, spoke about James Monroe's contribution to history. Paul Chase, VASSAR Color Guard Commander, and Michael "Mike" E. Weyler, our chapter President, represented The Colonel William Grayson Chapter. Mike marched in the Color Guard, presented our chapter's wreath, and brought greetings from our chapter.



Mike Weyler (5th from R) and Paul Chase (far R).

20 Apr.: Gravestone Cleaning of a Civil War Veteran. Colonel William Grayson Chapter Compatriot Leamon Duncan cleaned the gravestone of Thomas Clarke and family in the Greenwood Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Dale City, Virginia.

Thomas Clarke served three years during the Civil War in the 2nd Regiment of the D.C. Volunteers. In addition to cleaning the gravestone, Compatriot Duncan also cleaned the “Real Daughter” marker placed by the Mount Vernon Chapter of the DAR for Mary M. Clarke. Mary was the daughter of Revolutionary War Patriot Wright Chamberlain of Vermont.

Following the cleaning Leamon placed a Flag and rendered a hand-salute to his fellow Veteran.



Gravestones before (top) and after cleaning.

22 Apr.: Today, Compatriot George Raymond, CWG Flag Committee Chairman, presented the SAR Certificate of Commendation to Mr. Ken Parsons, owner of Parsons Farm, 14319 Dumfries Rd., Manassas, VA 20112, for properly displaying his flag 24/7 and lighted at night. Mr. Parsons is also a Veteran having served in the Navy Reserves and Army. We thank Mr. Parsons for his service and sacrifices. Compatriot Leamon Duncan also participated in the ceremony in militia uniform.



L-R: Leamon Duncan, Ken Parsons, and George Raymond.

23 Apr.: Compatriots Mike Weyler and Barry Schwoerer attended the NSDAR George Mason Chapter meeting at Green Springs Retirement Community, Springfield, VA. Barry gave a presentation titled: "SAR, who are we, what do we do?" Both of us were in uniform, Mike in Continental Regimentals and me in Militia.

At the close of the program, the Vice Regent, Pam Newberry, asked for our Chapter to invite the George Mason Chapter to future events such as the grave marking on 18 May. They will probably present a wreath if invited.



L-R: Blanche Twardowski, George Mason Chapter Secretary, DAR;
Barry Schwoerer; Pam Newberry; and Mike Weyler.
Photo courtesy of George Mason Chapter, NSDAR.

24 Apr.: Compatriot George Raymond, Colonel William Grayson (CWG) Flag Committee Chairman, accompanied by Compatriot Dave Button, presented five SAR Certificates of Commendation to the Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative and their five regional offices for properly displaying their flag 24/7 and lighted at night. Receiving the certificate on behalf of NOVEC was Mr. Eddie Bartalos and Ms. Emily Ready.

The five Offices receiving the certificates are Lomond Business Center; Loudoun County Service Center; Gainesville Technical Center; Minnieville Office; and Balls Ford Corporate Center.

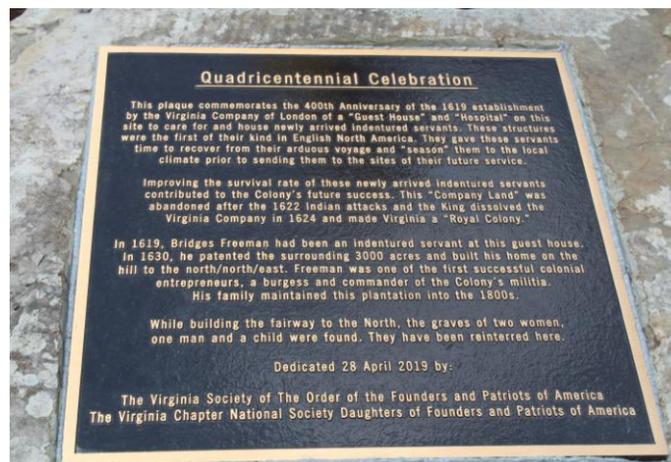


L-R: Emily Ready, Eddie Bartalos,
and George Raymond.

28 Apr.: Quadricentennial Celebration in Williamsburg, Va. Three SAR chapters, including The Col. William Grayson Chapter, participated in the Four-Hundredth Anniversary Celebration of the 1619 establishment by the Virginia Company of London of a small settlement for newly arrived indentured servants. The site and the surrounding area are currently occupied by the Two Rivers Country Club, which sits at the junction of the James River and the Chickahominy River. In addition to the SAR chapters, other participating organizations included the Order of Founders and Patriots of America and the DAR.



L-R: SAR Chapter members: Mike Lyman, Dual Member CWGC; Mike Weyler, President, CWG; Ken Hawkins, President, Norfolk; Steve McGuffin and Don Swain, Williamsburg.



Registrar's Report

NEW MEMBERS APPROVED

APPLICANT	DATE	PATRIOT
Dave Haught, Manassas, Va.	8 Mar 2019	John Evans, Colonel, Virginia Militia
Timothy Clark, Springfield, Va.	15 Mar 2019	Thomas Beerop, Soldier, New York Militia
Derek Thurston, Centreville, Va.	5 Apr 2019	Josiah Pond, PVT in Massachusetts Militia
Nicholas Thurston, Centreville, Va.	5 Apr 2019	Josiah Pond, PVT in Massachusetts Militia

Note: Looking for members interested in learning how to complete applications as an Assistant Registrar with the objective being to move into the Chapter Registrar position eventually. Applicants should have an interest in genealogical research, the availability to complete applications promptly, and should have good computer skills.

If interested, please contact George Thomas at gsthomas3@verizon.net.