



# Col. William Grayson Chapter

## *Sons of the American Revolution*

# —Newsletter—



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## **Yorktown Day, October 19, 2019**

Every year on this date, Col. William Grayson Chapter travels to Yorktown, Virginia, to celebrate General Washington's victory over Cornwallis on October 19, 1781. We participate in the wreath-laying ceremony at the grave of Governor Thomas Nelson, and then we march in the parade through Yorktown that ends at the Monument to Alliance and Victory with a ceremony honoring Washington's victory.

Thomas Nelson Jr. (December 26, 1738 – January 4, 1789) was a planter, soldier, and statesman from Yorktown. He represented Virginia in the Continental Congress and is regarded as one of the U.S. Founding Fathers. He signed the Declaration of Independence as a member of the Virginia delegation, he was commanding General of the Lower Virginia Militia and succeeded Thomas Jefferson as governor of Virginia in 1781.

Some 60 wreaths were presented at Governor Nelson's grave, SAR, DAR, C.A.R., and many others. Chapter President Michael E. Weyler presented the Colonel William Grayson Chapter wreath and rendered a continental army salute.

Also present from the Colonel William Grayson Chapter were Past President Mike Taimi and Historian Leamon Duncan. Counting our dual members who were present, we totaled six compatriots.

Following the ceremony at Governor Nelson's grave, we mustered for the official Yorktown Day Parade. The route followed Yorktown's Main Street and passed in front of the Monument to Alliance and Victory, erected in 1881 to commemorate the military victory a century before. Included in the 36 parade units are representatives of all branches of the U.S. military, fifes, and drums corps – including The U.S. Army Old Guard Fifes & Drums Corps – JROTC and NJROTC units, and patriotic organizations.

President General Jack Manning, Chancellor General, and VASSAR President Pete Davenport, Surgeon General Daryl Addington, VASSAR Color Guard Commander Ken

Bonner, and former Vice President General for the Atlantic Middle States Conference, Lou Raborg led the SAR's contingent in the parade.

If you have not been to Yorktown Day in the past, please consider joining those who do travel to Yorktown next year. The ceremonies and the parade grow each year, and Yorktown is a great, family-friendly, small town that welcomes all.



L-R: Mike Taimi, Michael Weyler, Leamon Duncan, Mike Lyman, Ken Morris, and Jim Kelly.



L-R: Ken Bonner, Pete Davenport, PG Jack Manning, Daryl Addington, and Lou Raborg.

## *President's Report*

This last quarter of 2019 saw the Colonel William Grayson Chapter as busy as ever. There was no coasting to year's end, even though the holidays in each month impacted everyone's schedule.

October was probably the busiest month with grave decorations in Louisa, Page, and Prince William Counties, plus Governor Nelson's grave decoration and parade in Yorktown. All activities are described in detail in this newsletter.

November, appropriately, saw an emphasis on veterans. Our chapter participated in the Northern Virginia Veterans Parade as well as the Gold Good Citizenship Medal Gala honoring General Gordon Sullivan, U.S. Army, retired, former Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army. Also, the speaker at our chapter's November meeting was our own Colonel Ward Nickisch, U.S. Army retired. With his presentation titled FALLEN, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN: The Search and Recovery of POW/MIAs from Prior Wars, Colonel Nickisch walked us through his first-person account of our nation's the on-going commitment to account for and recover the remains of our POWs/MIAs.

December started with the Battle of Great Bridge Ceremony in Chesapeake, Virginia, with participation in the color guard and presentation of our chapter wreath. Our compatriots also participated in the wreath laying ceremonies at the Quantico National Cemetery on December 7 and the Wreaths Across America placements at Stonewall Memory Gardens in Manassas.

By now, you are probably aware that most of our 2019 chapter officers will be continuing in their current positions in 2020, the result of the election held at our November 16 meeting.

When I was installed as your president on January 12, 2019, I asked, if you were a praying man, that you pray for the other officers and me, that we would be able to faithfully discharge the duties of our offices to serve our chapter, to hold fast to our pledge to honor our Patriot Ancestors and to keep reminding our nation, in particular, the youth of our nation, of the great country our Patriot Ancestors fought for and have now entrusted to us. I ask that this would continue to be your prayer for your officers in 2020.

In patriotic service,

Michael E. Weyler

## *Upcoming Events*

**11 Jan.: CWG Chapter Meeting**, Sat., 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. The installation of the 2020 officers will be conducted. The Speaker will be Bill Schwetke.

**7-8 Feb.:** VASSAR Annual Meeting; Omni Richmond Hotel, Richmond, VA.

**14-15 Feb.: Crossing the Dan Activities**, South Boston, VA.

**17 Feb.: George Washington Birthday Parade**, Alexandria, VA.

**22 Feb.: Leedstown Resolutions Activities**, Ingleside Winery, Colonial Beach, VA

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

**16 Mar.: James Madison Birthday Activities**, Montpelier, VA.

**4 Apr.: Ebenezer Baptist Church Markings.**

**25 Apr.: Monroe Birthplace Opening**, Colonial Beach, VA.

**25 Apr.: Multi-Chapter Meeting**, Graves Mountain Lodge, Syria, VA (date is tentative).

**28 Apr.: Monroe Grave Ceremony**, Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond, VA.

## *Chapter Activities*

### **5 Oct.: Grave Marking Ceremonies in Louisa and Page Counties, Virginia.**

**Mineral, Louisa County:** Compatriot Joe Carroll traveled to Louisa County to represent our chapter, to support the DAR, and to present our chapter wreath in the DAR grave marking ceremony for Samuel Wharton, who served as a Private in Coleman's Company in the Virginia Militia. Wharton served with honor at the Siege of Yorktown, where both of his hands were severely injured by a cannonball.

Wharton was born in 1761, died in 1841, and was buried in the Wharton Family Cemetery in Mineral, Virginia.

Two of Virginia's DAR Chapters, the Falls Church Chapter, and the Louisa Court House Chapter hosted the ceremony.

Of the seven wreaths presented, two were from SAR Chapters; Colonel William Grayson Chapter and Richmond Chapter, three were from the DAR, and two were from the C.A.R.



Joe Carroll, CWG Chapter on far left.  
Dana Law, President, Richmond Chapter, on far right.

**Luray, Page County:** Chapter President Michael E. Weyler and Compatriot Barry Schwoerer traveled to Luray in Page County to support the Colonel James Wood II Chapter's grave marking ceremony for Patriot Andrew Keyser, who enlisted in 1780 as a Private in Lieutenant Colonel Richard Campbell's Virginia Regiment. His unit fought in the Battle of Cowpens, at Guilford Courthouse, the Battle of Hobkirk's Hill, the Battle of Ninety-six, and Eutaw Springs.

Andrew Keyser was born in 1758, died in 1833, and was buried in the Keyser Family Cemetery in Luray, Virginia.

The Master of Ceremonies was Dale Corey, President of the Colonel James Wood II Chapter. There were eight in the color guard, which included a drummer and a bugler. Both Mike Weyler and Barry Schwoerer marched in the color guard, after which Mike Weyler presented our chapter wreath, and Barry Schwoerer participated in the three-man firelock squad that rendered the musket salutes.

Of the four wreaths presented, two were SAR, and two were DAR.



L-R, Michael Weyler, Kari Brewton, Clay Robinson, Barry Schwoerer, Marc Robinson, and Eric Robinson with SAR Chapter wreaths.

**12 Oct.: Four New Members.** The chapter meeting saw the induction of four new compatriots, Randy R. Baker, Michael James Blythe, Herbert Dandridge Campbell Jr., and David DeForest Haught.

Four of our compatriots were also honored for their service in the United States Military. The War Service Medal was awarded to Geoffrey Lyster, David Haught, and Michael Wilson, and the Military Service Medal was awarded to Michael Blythe.



L-R: Randy Baker and his lady Junie Parmer, Michael Blythe, H.D. Campbell and his lady Rosemarie Sheerin, David Haught, and President Michael Weyler.

**12 Oct.: CWG Chapter Hosts George Mason.** On Saturday morning, October 12, 2019, the Colonel William Grayson Chapter was host to George Mason, author of the Virginia Declaration of Rights, which later served as inspiration for the U.S. Constitution's Bill of Rights.

The chapter meeting saw the induction of four new compatriots, Randy R. Baker, Michael James Blythe, Herbert Dandridge Campbell Jr., and David DeForest Haught. Four of our compatriots were also honored for their service in the United States Military. The War Service Medal was awarded to Geoffrey Lyster, David Haught, and Michael Wilson, and the Military Service Medal was awarded to Michael Blythe.

After lunch, George Mason shared with us his personal experiences during the drafting of the Virginia Declaration of Rights, and the conflicts that developed in the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in the summer of 1787.

Mason was adamant that the new Federal Constitution should include a Bill of Rights similar to the one found not only in the Virginia Constitution but in the constitutions of several other states.

There was a rift between him and those who felt a Bill of Rights was not needed, that the Constitution could stand on its own as a document that put limits on the federal government without the need for an affirmative statement of specific rights.

Mason said that he did not trust human nature and that without the enumeration of specific rights, the federal government would eventually infringe on the rights of all Americans.

As a result, Mason was one of three who refused to sign the new Constitution, Edmund Randolph of Virginia, and Elbridge Gerry of Massachusetts being the other two. He said this drove a wedge between him and his friend and neighbor, George Washington, a rift that never healed. Even though the Bill of Rights did eventually make it into the Constitution, George Mason was on the wrong side of the original vote on the U.S. Constitution.

Don McAndrews, a member of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter, who portrayed George Mason, is much in demand as an in-character portrayer of Colonial and Revolutionary War notables, the most notable being his frequent appearances as Benjamin Franklin. Don has also appeared in character in 6 films.



George Mason (Don McAndrews).

**12 Oct.: A Patriot from Prince William County, Virginia.** On Saturday, October 12, 2019, in Prince William County, Virginia, the Colonel William Grayson Chapter of VASSAR hosted a grave marking for Foushee Tebbs, a Patriot who served Virginia and Prince William County for many years and in many capacities.

Before the Revolution, Foushee Tebbs served in the Virginia militia in the French and Indian Wars, after which he also served in the Virginia House of Burgesses for nine years. In 1774, he was a member of the First Virginia Convention.

During the Revolution, Foushee Tebbs was a member of the Committee of Safety, served as Sheriff of Prince William County, and subsequently as a Justice and County Commissioner for Prince William County.

Because Foushee Tebbs had been the County Sheriff, the current Prince William County Sheriff, Glendell Hill, and his Sheriff's Department Color Guard attended as well. In his remarks, Sheriff Hill expressed his appreciation for the SAR's recognition of the continuity in the Prince William County Sheriff's Department from the Revolution to today.

The Master of Ceremonies was Curtis Robb, the Colonel William Grayson Chapter's Grave Marking, and Graves Registration Chairman. Curtis directed the ceremony, which included a detailed narrative of Foushee Tebb's life and service.

A descendant of the Tebbs family was also present, Catherine Tebbs Mooklar. Foushee Tebbs was her 3x great-grandfather's brother.

Fourteen wreaths were presented at the ceremony: Virginia Society SAR; French Society SAR; 5 VASSAR Chapters, Thomas Jefferson, Colonel William Grayson, Colonel James Wood II, George Mason, and Fairfax Resolves; 6 DAR Chapters, George Mason, Prince William Resolves, Elizabeth McIntosh Hammill, Providence, Montpelier, and Lane's Mill; the Colonel William Grayson Society, C.A.R.

A joint Color Guard, under the direction of the VASSAR Color Guard Commander, Ken Bonner, was led off by the Prince William County Sheriff's Color Guard, who carried the National Colors. A total of seven flags, seven musket men, and two swords constituted the event's Color Guard.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the seven-man Firelock Squad fired three musket salutes to Foushee Tebbs, after which Sgt. Kari Brewton, U.S. Army, retired, played taps.



New Stone marker.



Firelock Squad.

**2 Nov.: Northern Virginia Veterans Parade.** On Saturday morning, November 2, 2019, the Colonel William Grayson Chapter, along with participants from the Elizabeth McIntosh Hamilton Chapter, DAR; the Colonel William Grayson Society, C.A.R.; and the Fairfax Resolves Chapter, marched in the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Northern Virginia Veterans parade through Old Town Manassas, a parade honoring all veterans and their families. The Colonel William Grayson Chapter was also a parade sponsor, as they have been for the last several years.

Seventy units marched in the parade, including many veterans groups, JROTC units from the area, and local school bands.

The 2019 Parade was dedicated to Lieutenant Michael P. Murphy, U.S. Navy, who received the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously for action in the remote mountains of Afghanistan in pursuit of a Taliban leader, Ahmad Shah.

On June 28, 2005, three of four SEALs on the ground (Murphy, Dietz, Axelson) were killed during combat operations in support of Operation Red Wing. On the same day, a QRF of eight Navy SEALs and 8 Army Night Stalkers were also killed when the MH-47 helicopter that they were aboard was shot down by enemy fire in the vicinity of Asadabad, Afghanistan in Kumar Province.

That action and the story of Lieutenant Murphy were told by Marcus Luttrell, the only survivor of that action, in his book *Lone Survivor*, which was the basis for the 2013 movie of the same name.



L-R: Kevin Schwoerer, Barry Schwoerer, Michael Weyler, Leamon Duncan, Mike Taimi, Dave Button, and Dave Cook.

**9 Nov.: Old Potts Cemetery, Hillsboro, Virginia.** The Katoctin Chapter NSDAR marked the grave of Revolutionary War Patriot Ezekial Potts at the Old Potts Cemetery in Hillsboro, Virginia, at 11:00 am today. The Colonel James Wood II Chapter, Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution (VASSAR), led the SAR contingent, including Fairfax Resolves, Culpeper Minutemen, and Colonel William Grayson. Four members of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter, VASSAR participated: Barry Schwoerer was a member of the Firelock squad, Junior Member Jacob Schwoerer presented the Colonel William Grayson Chapter wreath, Sean and Kevin Schwoerer attended. NSDAR chapters included the sponsoring Katoctin Chapter and Elizabeth McIntosh Hammill.

This event was special for the Schwoerer Family. Ezekial Potts was the 4x great Uncle of Barry's wife, Paula Schwoerer, a member of the Elizabeth McIntosh Hammill Chapter of NSDAR in Manassas, VA. That makes Barry and Paula's sons and grandchildren relatives of Patriot Potts. David Potts, the father of Ezekial, was the progenitor of the Potts family in Loudoun County, VA. He was also the father of Elizabeth Potts 4x great grandmother of Mrs. Schwoerer, who married John Conard, Patriot of the American Revolution. Mrs. Schwoerer used John Conrad to join NSDAR.

Barry and Paula's granddaughters, identical twins Sophia and Gracelynn, presented the Colonel William Grayson Chapter C.A.R wreath while sister, Arianna, took pictures. Arianna is also a member of C.A.R. Mrs. Schwoerer presented the Elizabeth McIntosh Hammill Chapter, NSDAR wreath. Tammy Schwoerer mother of Jacob and a member of the Elizabeth McIntosh Hammill Chapter NSDAR attended. In total, nine members of the Schwoerer family attended, all members of Societies commemorating Patriots of the American Revolution.

Following the ceremony, the Schwoerer family accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Potts to tour Edgegrove Farm, the original 1746 Homestead established by David Potts. The farm is adjacent to The Old Potts Cemetery. The farm has remained in the Potts family with the family of Edwin Potts presently residing in the farmhouse, parts of which is a log cabin built circa 1795. During the visit, the Schwoerer grandchildren met Potts grandchildren, their cousins separated by nine generations, and over two centuries.



L-R Front: Gracelynn & Sophia Schwoerer.  
L-R Back: Arianna, Jacob, & Barry Schwoerer.



VASSAR, C.A.R., NSDAR, and Navy JROTC.  
NSDAR Marker for Ezekial Potts at Center.

**18 Nov.: Prince William County Sheriff's Department.** On November 18, 2019, the Colonel William Grayson Chapter presented Certificates of Appreciation to the Prince William County Sheriff and four of his officers. The Certificates of Appreciation were for the Sheriff's support of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter's October 12 grave marking for Foushee Tebbs, a Patriot who served Virginia and Prince William County for many years and in many capacities, including a term as Sheriff of Prince William County in 1777.

Sheriff Glendell Hill addressed the attendees at the grave marking, expressing his appreciation for the SAR's recognition of the continuity in the Prince William County Sheriff's Department from the Revolution to today.

The Sheriff's Color Guard joined with the VASSAR Color Guard under the direction of the VASSAR Color Guard Commander, Ken Bonner, with the Sheriff's Color Guard carrying the National Colors as the colors were advanced and presented.



L-R: Curtis Robb, Chairman of the Grave Marking and Registration Committees; Prince William County Sheriff Glendell Hill; Lt. Angie Miller; Chief Deputy Terry Fearnley; Michael Weyler, President of the Col. William Grayson Chapter; and Thad Hartman, Founding President of the William Grayson chapter. Not shown are Sgt. Angel Tyson and Deputy Sheng Song.

**30 Nov.: Operation Ancestor Search.** Colonel William Grayson Chapter Compatriots Barry Schwoerer and Bob Brunner presented an Operation Ancestor Search to U.S. Army Major Jeremy Haynes and his family at the Warrior Retreat at Bull Run this afternoon.

Major Haynes was severely injured during a sniper attack while serving as an aide to Major General Harold Green in Kabul, Afghanistan. General Greene was killed during the attack. A story about the attack and subsequent treatment, rehabilitation, and influence of faith and family can be found at:

[https://www.army.mil/article/151815/family\\_faith\\_focus\\_resiliency\\_helps\\_soldier\\_heal\\_from\\_extensive\\_combat\\_wounds](https://www.army.mil/article/151815/family_faith_focus_resiliency_helps_soldier_heal_from_extensive_combat_wounds)

Following the presentation, Compatriot Schwoerer presented Major Haynes with the NSSAR Wounded Warrior Challenge Coin.



Presentation of NSSAR Wounded Warrior Challenge Coin.  
L-R: Compatriot Barry Schwoerer and Major Jeremy Haynes.

**7 Dec.: Great Bridge Ceremony.** On December 7, 2019, at Chesapeake, Virginia, the Colonel William Grayson Chapter was represented by Chapter President Michael E. Weyler at the 244<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the American Patriots' victory at Great Bridge on December 9, 1775.

As a result of the Patriots' victory over British forces, the British Governor Lord Dunmore was compelled to flee Virginia, which ended British rule in Virginia.

The ceremony, a joint program of the SAR and DAR, is also an NSSAR National Event. Our VASSAR President, Peter M. Davenport, who is also the NSSAR Chancellor General, represented the NSSAR President Jack Manning, in leading the presentation of wreaths. The VASSAR Color Guard was also present under the command of Ken Bonner. The Colonel William Grayson Chapter flag advanced with the colors, and our wreath, one of the 20 presented.

Michael Weyler with Wreath.



**7 Dec.: Quantico National Cemetery, Dumfries, Virginia.** Compatriot Barry Schwoerer of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter, VASSAR, participated in the annual placement of wreaths at headstones of Veterans at Quantico National Cemetery sponsored by the Sergeant Mac Foundation. A short introduction preceded the placement of wreaths. The National Anthem, Pledge of Allegiance, and prayer, followed by a description of the event. The Sergeant MAC Foundation was formed to honor the memory of Marine Sergeant Eric McColley. On February 17, 2006, Sgt. McColley gave his life for his country, along with seven fellow Marines and two Airmen.

The National Wreath Project has evolved to the placing of wreaths at the graves of Veterans at Quantico National Cemetery and at Gettysburg National Cemetery in Pennsylvania. The goal each year has been to increase fundraising for the project to cover more gravesites in honor of our veterans during the holidays. This year (2019), the Foundation placed over 16,000 wreaths at Quantico National Cemetery, over one-half of the 31,000 plus veterans buried at the Cemetery.

Participants who place wreaths represent a cross-section of citizens from Counties near Quantico National Cemetery. A great many participants represent VFW, American Legion, Motorcycle Clubs honoring MIA/POW's, busloads of High School and Middle School students, Churches, SAR, and other civic organizations in the area.

For more information about the Sergeant Mac Foundation, check out their website at <https://www.sgtmac.org>



Participants finish the placement of wreaths in one section of the Cemetery.

**14 Dec.: Wreaths Across America.** On December 14, the day set aside for the 2019 Wreaths Across America Program, three members of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter participated in the wreath-laying ceremony at the Stonewall Memory Gardens Cemetery on Route 29 in Manassas. In attendance were Michael Weyler, George Ax, and Ward Nickisch.

The mission of the Wreaths Across America Program is to remember, honor and teach by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as at more than 1,600 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad, one such location being the Stonewall Memory Gardens Cemetery.

The event organizer at Stonewall Memory Gardens estimated the group that gathered there to lay wreaths at about 400. Small American flags had been placed ahead of the event on the approximately 1600 veterans' graves so the participants would be able to identify where to place the wreaths.

Each wreath-laying began with the person presenting the wreath repeating aloud the veterans' name. The placement of the wreath was then followed by a few moments of respectful silence. Presenters who were themselves veterans rendered a hand salute.



Compatriots George Ax and Michael Weyler.

**22 Dec.: Wounded Warrior Retreat Haymarket, VA.** Colonel William Grayson Chapter Compatriot Barry Schwoerer conducted an Operation Ancestor Search for Sergeant Zachary Herrick and his family at the PenFed House, Wounded Warrior Retreat, Haymarket.

Sergeant Herrick was severely wounded in a battle in Afghanistan and is in the recovery unit at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, MD. Following Operation Ancestor Search, Compatriot Schwoerer presented Sergeant Herrick, an NSSAR Wounded Warrior Challenge Coin, and Certificate. Sergeant Herrick and wife Hannah named their two-month-old daughter in honor of Sergeant Herrick's Company Commander, killed in the battle that wounded the Sergeant.



Back: Sgt. Zachary Herrick with daughter Dimitri Jessica.  
Front: Hannah Herrick with son Josiah.

## **Registrar's Report**

### **NEW MEMBERS APPROVED**

APPLICANT	DATE	PATRIOT
David Crawford, Carlsbad, Ca.	11 Oct. 2019	Elisha Harris, Soldier, Va. Militia
Connor Maloney, Fairfax, Va.	11 Oct. 2019	Samuel Davis, PVT, Virginia
Andrew Mills, Dumfries, Va.	6 Dec. 2019	Hardy Mills, PVT, N.C. Militia
Andrew Mils Jr., Dumfries, Va.	6 Dec. 2019	Hardy Mills, PVT, N.C. Militia
Charles Mills, Alexandria, Va.	6 Dec. 2019	Hardy Mills, PVT, N.C. Militia