



Col. William Grayson Chapter *Sons of the American Revolution* —*Newsletter*—



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July - September 2021

Speaking Out About History in the Public Square

The Colonel William Grayson Chapter continues to perpetuate both knowledge of America's founding documents and an appreciation for the stories of patriotism, courage, sacrifice, tragedy, and triumph of the patriots who achieved the independence of the American people. These stories are universal examples of man's eternal struggle against tyranny, relevant to all time, and will continue to inspire and strengthen each succeeding generation as it too is called upon to defend our freedoms on the battlefield or in our public institutions.

President's Comments: Ross H. Schwalm

The Colonel William Grayson Chapter President has been hitting the "Public Square" in support of SAR programs.

Jul 10 – History Camp America Speaker – Amphibious Assault on Long Island, Aug 1776 – This was a virtual event where my presentation was prerecorded and I answered question via chat during the video.

Recording studio was provided by Cyber Bytes Foundation in Stafford, VA.

Jul 12 – Flag Certificate Presentation to the Manassas Veterans of Foreign War Post with Chapter Secretary David Button. – Manassas, VA.

Jul 23 – Certificate of Appreciation presented to Past VASSAR President Jim Bayne. Compatriot Thad Hartman organized and participated in this event conducted at Compatriot Bayne’s home.



Jul 24 – Cumberland County Register of Historic Places Plaque Unveiling Ceremony of Lincoln Cemetery, an African American burial site with multiple US Colored Troop graves. The Cumberland County Historical Society Executive Director is Mr. Eric Kelso, a SAR Compatriot. - Participant with US Marine Corps veteran Kelvin Michael Davis, a descendant of a US Color Troop who escaped slavey and joined the Union Army. Senior government official was Congressman Scott Perry, PA –10, former Adjutant General, PA National Guard. – Upper Allen Township, Cumberland County, PA.

Aug 4 – 9 – Delegate to the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War National Encampment. – St Louis, MO. I was appointed as an Aide de Camp to the elected National Commander for 2021 – 2022. I am one of only 11 of 6000 members who has been awarded the SUVCW War Medal. I interacted with many veterans including helping a Vietnam War Veterans Reunion with moving supplies and luggage to aid them in their departure.

Aug 14 – Guest Speaker – Williamsburg SAR Chapter – Amphibious Assault on Long Island, Aug 1776 – I brought a guest from the local area, Mr. Paul Gvoth, who proved invaluable as my inside man to coordinate my arrival at the meeting. - Williamsburg, VA



- Sep 10 – Rippon Lodge Road to Yorktown event – Compatriots Andrew Mills, Jack Mills and Ross Schwalm supported the Prince William County History Division’s living history activities used to educate the public and school children from the county. Andrew Mills portrayed Col Blackburn during this event on both days. – Woodbridge, VA
- Sep 11 - Rippon Lodge Road to Yorktown event – Compatriots Andrew Mills, Charles Mills, Dave Button and Ross Schwalm set up a chapter information tent. Marine Corps veteran Kelvin Michael Davis was the first visitor to our tent. The public learned about the SAR and the county employees were appreciative of our participation in this event.
- Sep 18 – Speaker via Zoom at Historic Dumfries Virginia Members First Event – Hessian Prisoners of War at Dumfries 1777.
- Sep 18 – Speaker at Fairfax Resolves SAR Chapter – Dispelling the Myth of Hessian Mercenaries – Hosted a guest, Army veteran James Meyer, who served with Chapter President David Cook. – Fairfax, VA
- Sep 25 – Banquet Speaker at Naval Mobile Construction Battalion – 53 Vietnam Veterans Reunion – The personal Vietnam story of George E. Tallman, Seabee Master Chief, USNR (Retired). Event had 50 people in attendance. Several of the attendees had served with George in Vietnam. The presentation was derived from an oral history interview conducted with George in 2017 and on two articles published from the interview content. – Arlington, VA

Upcoming Events

October 7, 2021: 241st Anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain, Thursday, 7 Oct, 11:00am, King's Mountain National Military Park, 2625 Park Road, Blacksburg, SC

October 19, 2021: 240th Anniversary of the Battle of Yorktown, Tuesday, 19 Oct. 0910am, Start at Grace Episcopal Church for wreath laying at Gov. Thomas Nelson, Jr's Grave, 111 Church St, Yorktown, VA.

November 6, 2021: Annual Northern Virginia Veterans Day Parade; Sat., 11 a.m. in Manassas, Va.

November 13, 2021: 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. Officer Elections for 2022 will take place at this meeting.

December 11, 2021: Battle of Great Bridge, Saturday, 11 Dec, time 11:00 AM, Great Bridge Battlefield & Waterways Historical Foundation, 1775 Historic Way, Chesapeake, VA.

Registrar's Report

New Members Approved in July – September 2021:

Applicant	Date Approved	Patriot
James Gregory “Greg” Burch	2 July 2021	Oliver Burch , who signed the Maryland Oaths of Fidelity and Support, Prince George's County, Maryland in 1778. Note, our chapter member Mike Taimi shares this ancestor.
Terry Robert KREBS	27 Sept 2021	Thomas Morse who was a signer of the New Hampshire Revolutionary War Association Test, Town of Dublin
Jeffrey Edgar KLEINSMITH	27 Sept 2021	Jean Baptiste Romain dit Sanscrainte , a Lieutenant serving under Colonel George Rogers Clark in the Kaskaskia Expedition of 1778 - 1779
John Edgar KLEINSMITH Junior Member	27 Sept 2021	Jean Baptiste Romain dit Sanscrainte , a Lieutenant serving under Colonel George Rogers Clark in the Kaskaskia Expedition of 1778 - 1779
Grant Jeffrey KLEINSMITH Junior Member	27 Sept 2021	Jean Baptiste Romain dit Sanscrainte , a Lieutenant serving under Colonel George Rogers Clark in the Kaskaskia Expedition of 1778 - 1779

We have seven more new member applications pending review at State or National.

Supplemental Applications Approved in July - September 2021

Applicant	Date Approved	Patriot
	NONE	

Four supplemental applications are pending review at the National Headquarters and one with the State Registrar.

At the annual conference, SAR leadership announced an increase in application fees of \$20 for both new member applications and supplementals. Current application costs for new members are \$135, including \$35 in annual dues, for National; \$8 for VASSAR, and \$45 for CWGC. Supplemental applications are now \$100 NASSAR, \$8 VASSAR, and \$15 for CWGC.

ROTC, JROTC and Sea Cadet Programs Chairman Report

Our Chapter Outstanding Cadet for 2021-2021, Cadet 2nd Lt Anna Bardorf, won First at VASSAR as you recall. She competed at National and placed 9th overall.

Emails have been sent to all our supported JROTC and Sea Cadet units. To accomplish this, all units were researched. We found that two (2) instructors have been replaced. The emails sent to those schools welcomed the new Cadre and explained our programs.

COVID continues to influence the programs. Four (4) units did not participate last year and one of our goals is to reestablish our relationship.

We will be judging applicant's at the end of the year for our Chapter's 2022 Outstanding Cadet. The requirements, forms and schedule are in the email sent to the units.

Anyone wishing to serve in these programs should contact Compatriot Callaway.

Chapter Activities and News

July 3, 2021: Signer of the Declaration of Independence Honored at Mt Airy, Warsaw, Virginia

Members of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter, Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution participated in honoring Francis Lightfoot Lee, true American Patriot. Signer of the Declaration of Independence and Articles of Confederation, Francis Lightfoot Lee, was honored as a Patriot of the American Revolution by members of the Sons, Children, and Daughters of the American Revolution. The event was held at Mt Airy Cemetery, near Warsaw, Virginia, burial place of Patriot Lee, his wife Rebecca Tayloe Lee, and several members of the Tayloe family.

The event was sponsored by the James Monroe Chapter, Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution (SAR). Virginia Society SAR President Jeff Thomas, presented a biography of Patriot Lee which outlined his significant contributions to pre-Revolution, Revolution, and post-Revolution America. Patriot Lee and his brother, Richard Henry Lee, were the only brothers to sign the Declaration of Independence.

Patriot Lee was honored by an Honor Guard presenting the United States, Virginia, and multiple SAR Chapter Flags, presentation of wreaths by individual members of Societies in Virginia and Maryland, and the firing of a three volley musket salute. Representing the Colonel William Grayson Chapter were Compatriots Michael Weyler and Barry Schwoerer.



Headstone of Patriot Francis Lightfoot Lee with NSSAR Patriot Marker

July 4, 2021: March to the Tomb of George Washington



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LPRNBkkg9K4>

Compatriots Leamon Duncan, Mike Weyler, Andrew Mills, Jack Mills and Chuck Mills took part in VASSAR ceremonies at the tomb of General George Washington on July 4. The annual event, is sponsored by the George Washington Chapter. In addition to the presentation of the Society wreath, Compatriots were invited individually to lay a carnation at the foot of Washington's grave. Compatriots Leamon Duncan, Mike Weyler, Andrew Mills, and Jack Mills participated as members of the Color Guard.

July 5, 2021: Berkeley Plantation, Charles City County, Virginia. Benjamin Harrison V honored

Compatriots of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter, Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution (VASSAR), participated in the dedication of a bronze SAR Patriot Grave Marker. The bronze Grave Marker honors the contributions of Benjamin Harrison V, signer of the Declaration of Independence, Member of the Virginia House of Burgesses, Member of the Continental Congress, an active participant in the drafting of the U.S. Constitution, three times Governor of Virginia, Father of the eighth U.S President William Henry Harrison, and Great Grandfather of the twenty-third U.S. President, Benjamin Harrison. Patriot Harrison was born at Berkeley Plantation, the Harrison Family home, 5 April, 1726. He died 24 April, 1791 and is buried at the family cemetery on Berkeley Plantation. The Harrison's are considered to be both Founders of the United States and Patriots of the American Revolution. The first Benjamin Harrison arrived in the American Colonies in 1630 and quickly became engaged in Governance and public service. Today's ceremony was conducted at the family cemetery on the grounds of Berkeley Plantation

The ceremony was hosted by the Williamsburg Chapter VASSAR and was a VASSAR Presidential initiative. Thirteen SAR Chapters, four Daughters of the Revolution Chapters, VASSAR, Virginia Society C.A.R and the Virginia Society of Founders and Patriots presented wreaths in honor of Patriot Harrison. Representing the Colonel William Grayson Chapter were Compatriots Michael Weyler and Barry Schwoerer.



SAR Patriot Marker listing contributions of Benjamin Harrison V

July 12, 2021: Flag Certificate Presentation to the Manassas Veterans of Foreign War Post

Compatriots Ross Schwalm and Dave Button participated in the Flag Certificate Presentation to the Manassas Veterans of Foreign War



Chapter Secretary Dave Button presents certificate

July 24, 2021: New Jerusalem Lutheran Church Cemetery Grave Marking Ceremony

Chapter Secretary Dave Button presented the chapter wreath at New Jerusalem Lutheran Church Cemetery Grave Marking Ceremony.



August 21, 2021: CWG Secretary Dave Button presented a flag certificate to American Legion Post #10 in Manassas.

September 10-11, 2021: Colonel William Grayson Chapter supports Road to Victory Commemoration

The Prince William County Office of Historic Preservation sponsored a commemoration of the Washington-Rochambeau March to Yorktown at historic Rippon Lodge, the home of the Patriot, Col. Thomas Blackburn. Colonel William Grayson members were out in force to support this educational event.

Compatriots Andrew Mills, Chuck Mills, Dave Button and Ross Schwalm set up a chapter information tent. Marine Corps veteran Kelvin Michael Davis was the first visitor to our tent. The public learned about the SAR and the county employees were appreciative of our participation in this event.



L-R: Compatriots Dave Button, Chuck Mills, Andrew Mills, Jack Mills, Ross Schwalm.

Andrew Mills portrayed Col. Thomas Blackburn during the event.

Historical Notes: The Paul Revere of Virginia



Jack Jouet

Virginia experienced a spate of military activity early in the Revolutionary War. Lord Dunmore, the Royal governor, fought to keep the colony loyal to the crown. Overconfident after an easy victory at Kemp's Landing, Lord Dunmore ordered an attack on Patriot forces near Norfolk. Only after a fierce battle ending in the destruction of Norfolk was Dunmore expelled. Lord Dunmore's army evacuated Norfolk, embarking on British ships. Smallpox broke out on the crowded ships even as the fleet left Virginia waters bound for New York.

Three years of relative peace followed. Virginia's false sense of security was rudely shattered in 1779 by a British expedition under Admiral Sir George Collier that raided and occupied the port cities of the Tidewater.

In 1781 the British stepped up operations in the Southern theater of war. Benedict Arnold and a British fleet ravaged the Tidewater of Virginia, burning cities, seizing crops, and destroying everything that they could find. In April, the British warship *H.M.S. Savage* anchored off George Washington's plantation, Mount Vernon. The British raiders took seventeen of Washington's slaves from the Mount Vernon plantation. Lund Washington, a cousin who was watching over the plantation during the General's absence, went on board the *Savage*, took refreshments to the British officers, and tried to negotiate the return of the slaves. He failed. A week later the Marquis de Lafayette wrote General Washington criticizing Lund's actions, "This being done by the gentleman who, in some measure, represents you at your house will certainly have a bad effect, and contrasts with spirited answers from some neighbors, that had their houses burnt accordingly." The General sent the unfortunate Lund a stinging letter rebuking him for "...communing with a parcel of plundering Scoundrels...."

Later in the year Lord Cornwallis swept northward into Virginia and began to lay the country waste. His only opposition was a small American force under the Frenchman Lafayette. The Virginia General Assembly abandoned Williamsburg, Richmond and Petersburg, fleeing to Charlottesville. The Virginia delegates decided to assemble in mid-June. The British hatched a plan to capture or kill the entire Virginia Assembly and Governor Thomas Jefferson in one lightning raid that would crush all opposition. Lord Cornwallis chose the savage Banastre Tarleton and his battle hardened cavalry to do the job.



Banastre Tarleton

On the night of June 3, 1781, twenty-seven year old John “Jack” Jouett spotted Tarleton’s cavalry near Cuckoo Tavern in Louisa County. Suspecting that the British were marching on Charlottesville, Jouett mounted his horse at 10 PM and began the forty mile ride to Charlottesville. Traveling only with the light of the moon, Jouett took rough backwoods trails, riding hard to out distance the British.

At 11:30 PM, Tarleton paused for a three-hour rest at Louisa Courthouse. The British resumed their march at about 2 AM, and soon encountered a train of thirteen Patriot supply wagons at Boswell’s Tavern bound for South Carolina. Tarleton burned the wagons and continued toward Charlottesville.

At 4:30 AM, Jack Jouett ascended the mountain on which Jefferson’s home Monticello sits. An early riser, Thomas Jefferson was in the gardens at Monticello when Jouett arrived. Jefferson fortified Jouett with a glass of Madeira wine and sent him on the two additional miles to warn the town of Charlottesville.

Jefferson did not rush to make an escape. He had breakfast and spent two hours gathering up important papers, all the while checking the path up the mountain with his telescope for signs of the British. When

Jefferson finally spotted the British he mounted a horse and headed into the woods, successfully eluding capture.

Thanks to Jouett's timely warning most of the Virginia legislators in Charlottesville also escaped capture. Tarleton only managed to capture seven assemblymen whom he later released as being of no importance. One of these Virginia representatives was Daniel Boone.