

Liberty Gazette

"Give me liberty or give me death!"

Patrick Henry - Richmond, Virginia
March 23, 1775



Summer, 2023

Richmond Chapter ★ Virginia Society ★ Sons of the American Revolution

Richmond Chapter marks 100 years

The April 23 Richmond Chapter Centennial Celebration was a recent Chapter highlight.

Please see the *Liberty Gazette* [Special Centennial Edition](#) for full event coverage.



James Monroe Birthday Celebration



Peter Broadbent

Richmond Chapter members once again journeyed to the James Monroe Birthplace.

Compatriots Akers and Lusk were in attendance. Bill Schwetke joined the color guard, Chris Yohn laid a wreath on behalf of the chapter and Peter Broadbent continues to do a fantastic job as the event's Master of Ceremonies.

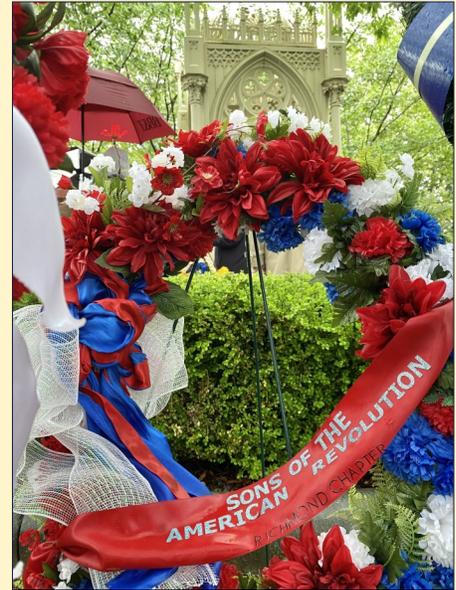
Compatriot Robert Lusk also attended the Monroe birthday celebration at Oak Grove.

James Monroe Graveside Birthday Celebration

Richmond Chapter members joined many state-wide SAR, DAR and CAR representatives at the James Monroe Birthday Celebration in Hollywood Cemetery. The event took place on April 28, which is President Monroe's actual birthdate.

U.S. Army Ordnance School Brigadier General Michael B. Lalor offered remarks and a color guard rendered military honors prior to the wreath laying ceremony.

Richmond Chapter members Robertson and Schwetke attended, Chris Yohn presented the wreath and brought greetings on behalf of the chapter and Peter Broadbent once again emceed the event.



Richmond Chapter May Meeting

The May 21 regular chapter meeting was the last one before our summer break. The meeting was highlighted by presentations, new member inductions, awards and recognition.



Welcome new members:
Ralph Spaulding, George Mosby, and Greg Surpluss



Compatriots adding supplemental ancestors:
Tim Mays and Jim Russell



Ancestor share: Chris Ackiss



Military Service Awards:
Steven Norris, George Mosby, and Richard Brooks

Photos courtesy of Beau Robertson



Philip Barnard

The Price of Patriotism

First Vice President Philip Barnard presented *The Price of Patriotism*, which investigated the significant consequences our Patriot Ancestors faced for their devotion to liberty and the founding of our country.

Philip was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for his efforts and for delivering an abbreviated version of the talk at the Chapter Centennial.

The Tea Act 250th anniversary

The Richmond Chapter commemorated the 250th anniversary of the Tea Act at its May meeting. Choosing to serve iced coffee instead of iced tea, President Yohn presented an overview of the historic significance of the Tea Act, then challenged attendees: “Now, as you’ve no doubt noticed, we’ve taken steps to support our Patriot Ancestors in protesting this outrageous monopoly and ongoing tax by serving iced coffee at today’s meeting instead of iced tea.



“Those in attendance today have a special and unique opportunity to shape the course of our chapter’s future proceedings. I propose we continue to boycott tea and, instead, serve iced coffee at our meetings for the remainder of the year. Who among us is willing to show that unity of support in remembrance of the very real struggles faced by our Patriot ancestors? All in favor please signify by saying aye!”

The resolution passed *unanimously* and the chapter commemorated the occasion with a group photo.

#No tea in '23



Howard Bartholf

50 years a Compatriot

Howard marks a half-century as a member of the Richmond Chapter, Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution on June 29. He was kind enough to share his thoughts and memories on being a member for fully half of the chapter's existence. . .

I was all of 26 years old when I joined the SAR. My membership certificate was signed by Thomas Paige Nelson, a direct descendent of Yorktown's famed Revolutionary War hero and Virginia wartime Governor Thomas Nelson Jr.



When I joined, in 1973, the Virginia Society kept its headquarters in the Jefferson Hotel, here in Richmond.

The Richmond Chapter was led by Joseph Cottrell. We often met in the meeting rooms off the Franklin Street side of the hotel, adjacent to the present-day Lemaire restaurant. We also occasionally met in a private club in the basement of the hotel, at the Richmond Engineer's Club and at Mrs. Morton's Tea Room, all on Franklin Street.

The Chapter held several signature events, including: Spring Garden Parties at the Branch Cabel House on Monument Avenue, Patrick Henry's Liberty or Death speech commemorations at St. John's Church and an annual bell-ringing at First Baptist Church in honor of the Fourth of July. Chapter member Earl Bethel was a Deacon at First Baptist and he coordinated the event. I had the honor of ringing that bell for the chapter for several years and I can state the bell actually rang me and lifted me off the ground several times.

Back then, I was one of the younger members of the Richmond Chapter and wondered to myself why was I in the company of so many prominent and impressive men. Men like Rod Brown, James Sudeth, John Crouch, Flavius B. Walker, Malvern Omohundro, Reverend William Lister, Dr. William Thurman, James Cremins, Robert Morse, Dr. William B. Fitzhugh and many more whose names have faded from my memory. All those patriots are gone now except for me and my dear friend and SAR brother Brian Miller.

I served in many chapter positions, over the years. I edited the chapter newsletter and roster. I served as Chapter Secretary, Second and First Vice President and, eventually as President, in 1980. I also served as State Secretary for many years working with my dear friend Mrs. Marie Franko who served as Executive Secretary.

Some of my fondest memories are of our annual trips to Yorktown, especially the year President Ronald Reagan was the keynote speaker. French President Francois Mitterand and Governor John Dalton also made remarks. Elements of the French and American fleets were in the York River and a large military parade followed. I can still see that day clearly in my mind's eye. I was so proud to be an American and a member of the SAR.

Our own Roderick Brown was a member of the Yorktown Day Commission and received the National SAR Gold Good Citizenship Medal for his extraordinary efforts in putting the program together.

Another highlight was the State Convention when Bill Lister had Major General George S. Patton IV as the guest of honor. I can still see him coming down the staircase at the Jefferson as we greeted him in the receiving line and the Army band serenaded us from the balcony above. Reverend Lister had worked for the Stars and Stripes newspaper and was a friend of General Patton's father during World War II.



Howard led-off the past-president remarks at the Richmond Chapter Centennial

As President, I also hosted a meeting at the Defense General Supply Center Officer's Club, here in Richmond. The speaker was Dr. John E. Monahan from the University of Virginia and his wife was Anna Anderson, who proclaimed she was Anastasia - sole surviving daughter of Tsar Nicholas of Russia. Dr. Monahan did all the talking but, sitting up on the dais, I could see his wife kicking him under the table when he said something she didn't agree with.

Having been a member for the last 50 of our 100-year history, I am so very encouraged by what lies ahead for the next decades. My advice is to attract new and younger members and put them to work. In the words of my former Vietnam General, "Many hands make easy work."

The SAR has remained faithful to its charter at the National, State and Chapter levels. It is our duty to our ancestors to continue their legacy of patriotism, loyalty and duty.

Compatriots, I wish you well. Our motto remains LIBERTAS ET PATRIA.

Howard E. Bartholf
National 105110
State 3259



Howard joined the Virginia Society Color Guard and bore the Chapter flag at the Richmond Chapter Centennial, in honor of his 50 years of service

Chapter programs

Many thanks to the Richmond Chapter program chairmen, who have been busy this year and making great progress.

ROTC Awards Chair Kenny Bage, with robust support from Bill Haskins, has administered 10 bronze and two silver medals.

Flag Presentation/Retirement Chair Robert Halpern has been busy in both aspects of the program but also took the time to create a patriotic flag display at his place of work.

Public Service Awards Chair Chris Ackiss has been contacting local law enforcement and fire/EMT companies and is working his leads to identify the best award recipients.

Eagle Scout Program Chair Jason Gagnon created a custom brochure which he took to two multiple-troop Eagle Scout information sessions to spread the word about SAR Eagle Scout Scholarships, the recognition program and SAR membership.



Robert Halpern's workplace display



Kenny Bage



Bill Haskins



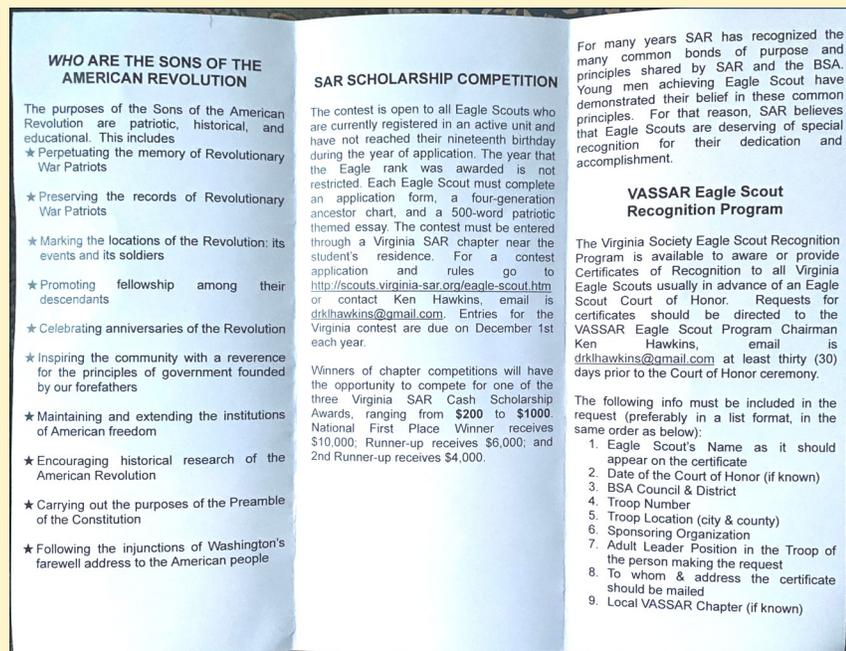
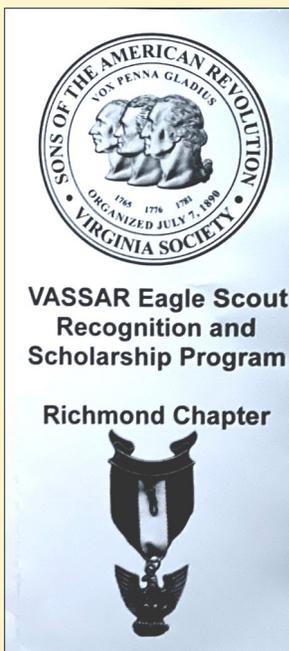
Robert Halpern



Chris Ackiss



Jason Gagnon



Jason Gagnon's Eagle Scout brochure

What makes an SAR member?

Richmond Chapter members are proud of mission of the Sons of the American Revolution. We continue to examine the meaning of being an SAR member in this and ongoing issues of the *Liberty Gazette*.

The SAR Brand Purpose

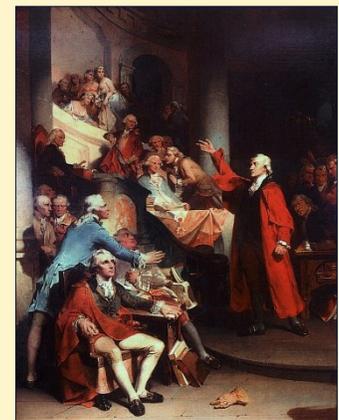
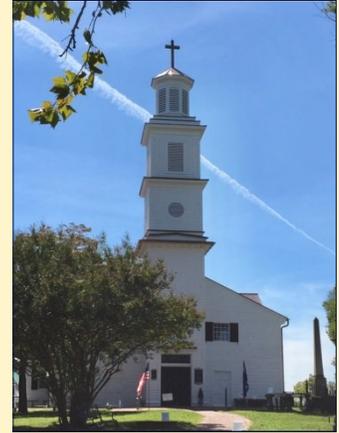
The Sons of the American Revolution is a brotherhood of patriotic men brought together by heritage and forged into an organization dedicated to the preservation of American ideals and to our Constitutional freedoms.

The SAR offers you the opportunity to take an active role in assuring your children the same freedoms you have enjoyed.

SAR unites you with members who share common interests and a sense of responsibility in furthering patriotic education as well as preserving, understanding and appreciating the principles of government established by our forefathers.

We speak of our founding principles, ideals and values. But, what are they? Here are a few we learned in grammar school:

- ◆ **Generosity** -
Help your neighbor when in need
- ◆ **Service** -
Serve God, family and country
- ◆ **Courage** -
Be brave . . . stand up for what you believe
- ◆ **Resilience** -
Be strong . . . endure
- ◆ **Individual liberty** -
To possess the right and power to act, believe and express ourselves in a manner of our own choosing . . . in other words, be yourself
- ◆ **Personal responsibility** -
Take care of yourself . . . importance of protecting our constitutionally limited government and the responsibility to defend the rule of law upon which our founding fathers built our nation



The Richmond Chapter Memorial Fund



**Your \$10 donation
to this special fund
honors your patriot
ancestors and supports
the programs and
work of the
Richmond Chapter SAR.**

Jack Akers - John Lester

Will Akers - John Lester

Kenneth L. Bage - John Hinton, John Hinton, Sr.

Phillip Barnard, Jr. - Joel Barnard

Howard E. Bartholf - Cpt. James Varian, Jacobus Bartholf, Guillian Bertholf, Jonathan Varian

Mark S. Brennan, Sr. - John Oliver

Robert S. Bridges, Jr. - William Jordan

Peter E. Broadbent, Jr. - Lt. Richard Talbott, Cpt. Alexander Wells, Lt. James Marshall

A. Brian Cowardin - John Cowardin

James E. Creech, Jr. - William Ragland

Doug Cumins - George Keister, Nathaniel Wilson

Wyatt F. Davis - Alexander Guthrie

Ronald J. DePue, Sr. - Benjamin DePue

Richard Dohm - John Gibson, Jr.

Charles Lewis Grant - William Russell

Robert Halpern - Ens. James Sproul

John Harler - William Sommerville

William M. Haskins, Jr. - William Gannon, Moses Preston, Gilbert Stevens, Thomas Prather

Dana K. Law - Henry Law

Brian K. Miller - Theophilus Avery, Abel Sholes

Hal Raddin, Jr. - Benjamin Raddin

Philip M. Revene - William Withers, William Slack

Mark Samples - Jane Porter Green

Christopher Small - Hugh Hayes

Walter Smith - Casparus Pruyn, Sylvanus Smith

Arthur H. Taylor III - Silas Call

Cullen Walker - Paul Carrington

Chris Yohn - Lt. Jacob Vanderslice

Next meeting - Richmond Chapter annual dinner

The next Richmond Chapter meeting is our traditional annual dinner on **September 14, at 6 p.m.**

The event will feature a cash bar from 6 to 6:30, followed by our meeting and dinner.

Special guest Richmond National Battlefield Park Ranger Bert Dunkerly will share his extensive knowledge of Revolutionary War-era Richmond. Bert is a historian, award-winning author and speaker who is actively involved in historic preservation and research. He holds a degree in History from St. Vincent College and a Masters in Historic Preservation from Middle Tennessee State University. Bert has worked at fourteen historic sites and written twelve books and numerous scholarly articles.



Guest speaker Bert Dunkerly

We'll also hear from Richmond SAR Compatriot and Colonel Alexander Spotswood CAR President Jack Akers who will address us on, *Thanking those we need to thank.*

For those who plan to attend, please be sure to visit the virginiasar.org calendar for full event details and to register yourself and guests. It's very important for us to get an accurate count to share with the venue. See you there!

Remaining 2023 meetings



Richmond Chapter 2023 meeting schedule
All meetings take place at Willow Oaks Country Club

Thursday, September 14 - 6 p.m. (Annual dinner)
Sunday, October 8 - 1 p.m.
Sunday, November 12 - 1 p.m.
Sunday, December 10 - 1 p.m.



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