

**President Barry Schwoerer****THE ESCAPE OF JOHN CHAMPE****Guidon of the U.S. Light Dragoons**

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# THE CIPHER

## SGT MAJ JOHN CHAMPE CHAPTER

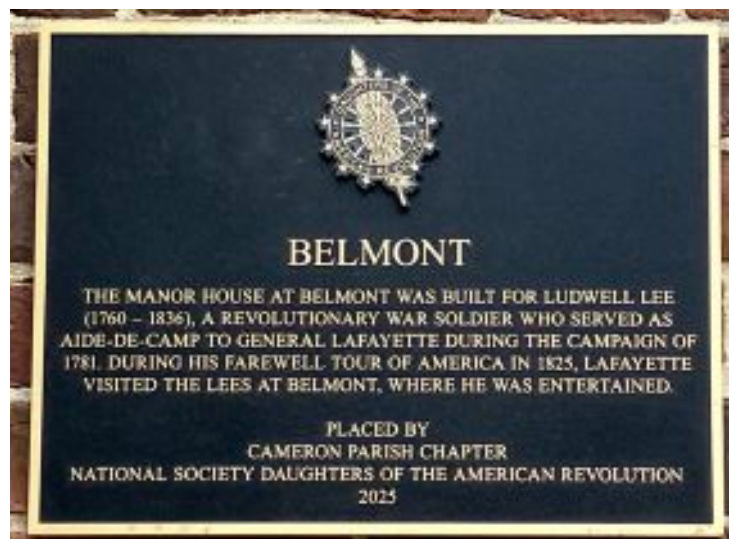
VIRGINIA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

### DAR Plaque dedicated

### Ludwell Lee honored

**Belmont Manor, Leesburg, VA. May 3, 2025**

Cameron Parish Chapter DAR sponsored the installation of a plaque commemorating Belmont Manor and Ludwell Lee. Our chapter led a multi-chapter SAR Color Guard to present colors and escort a DAR member who unveiled a plaque honoring Ludwell Lee, builder of Belmont Manor. Ludwell Lee was aide-de-Camp to the Marque de Lafayette during the Revolution. Lafayette visited the Lees and Belmont Manor when he made a return visit to the United States in 1825. Participating for SMJC in color Guard were Ken Bonner, Barry Schwoerer and Mark Sink. Chris Vaughan accompanied his two daughters who are members of the Reverend John Marks Society C.A.R. From the CJW-II chapter: Marc Robinson (escort), Chip Daniel, Dale Corey.



### Honor Flight for Vets From Chicago to Dulles

**May 14, 2025:** SMJC members Steve Van Deusen, Mark Sink and Barry Schwoerer participated in an Honor flight greeting 114 veterans of the Vietnam War at Dulles International Airport.



## 250th Anniversary Williamsburg Gunpowder Incident

**Williamsburg May 3, 2025**

Ken Bonner and David Welker represented the chapter in the 250th Anniversary of Colonial Governor Dunmore ordering gunpowder removed from the magazine at Williamsburg. Dunmore was in fear of a Colonial uprising in response to a series of events that infuriated the Colonists.



**David Welker in front of  
the Magazine at  
Williamsburg**

## 250th Anniversary 2nd Continental Congress

**VFW Building Berryville VA May 10, 2025**

SMJC members Barry Schwoerer, Ken Bonner and Warner Workman participated in the commemoration of the start of the 2nd Continental Congress. That Congress became the defacto Government of the new United States after the Declaration of Independence severed all ties with Great Britain



**The SAR Team in front of  
the Governor's Palace**



**Color Guard prepared to  
advance the colors at  
Berryville**

## 244TH ANNIVERSARY WAYNE'S CROSSING

**Noland's Ferry, Maryland May 31, 2025**

The Maryland Society SAR sponsored a commemoration of General Anthony Wayne's army crossing of the Potomac on May 31, 1781. General Washington Ordered Wayne's army of 1100 Maryland Continental troops, supplies and artillery to leave garrison at York, PA and march south to join General Lafayette's Army. After crossing into Virginia the Army proceeded to march south, joining Lafayette on June 10, 1781. Faced with the combined armies, General Cornwallis moved his army to Yorktown where the American Army boxed him in. When the French Navy defeated the British Navy in the Battle of the Capes all possibility of escape was closed. The British Army surrendered October 19, 1781.



**Color Guard prepared to  
advance the colors**



# PARADES

## Apple Blossom Parade

**Winchester, May 3, 2025**

Warner Workman's float was in the parade. Riding the float were chapter member Barry Schwoerer, Ryan Williams of the CJW-II Chapter who portrayed surveyor George Washington, Paul Parrish of the Daniel Morgan Chapter, and three ladies from the Fort Loudoun Chapter DAR.



## National Memorial Day Parade

**Washington DC, May 27, 2025**

Warner Workman's float followed the National SAR contingent as it progressed down the parade route. Riding the float were SMJC Compatriot David Welker and spouse Margaret. Ken Bonner and spouse Anita marched with the SAR Contingent representing multiple States. The SAR team included National Society President General Darryl Addington.



## Hamilton Memorial Day Parade

**Hamilton, VA, May 27, 2025**

For the 2nd year the chapter led the Village of Hamilton Memorial Day parade with a marching color guard. Following our color guard was a truck owned by Barry Schwoerer towing a small trailer with a 1/5 size liberty bell. The Color Guard was composed of Mark Sink, Jim Watts and Steve Van Deusen. Riding in the truck ringing the bell was Mrs. Paula Schwoerer, member of the Elizabeth McIntosh Hammill Chapter DAR. After the parade the team went to the town park for a two hour static display.



# YOUTH PROGRAMS

## ROTC Recognition

**Loudoun County High School, May 14, 2025**

Cadet Lieutenant Commander Erik Buer was selected by the chapter as the outstanding Naval ROTC Cadet for school year 2024-2025. His selection was based on outstanding performance in Academics, Military bearing, Military drill, Physical Fitness, and Leadership. During the end-of-year recognition program Cadet Buer was promoted from cadet Lieutenant Junior Grade to cadet Lieutenant Commander. He will serve school year 2025-2026 as one of the top cadet leaders in the Loudoun County High School Corps of Cadets. He was presented a scholarship check for \$500, and a bronze JROTC Medal and certificate. Making the presentation for the Chapter were Vice President Mark Sink and President Barry Schwoerer



## Virginia History Day

**Richmond, VA April 26, 2025**

Zachary Pyle represented the chapter at the state level program for Virginia History Day. Eric Judged several projects that were winners at regional contests, including Northern Virginia.

## Black Powder Rifle & Musket Certification

**Berryville, VA May 10, 2025**

Three Compatriots of our chapter achieved re-certification as operators of Black powder flintlock rifles and muskets at a VASSAR sponsored Color Guard Workshop at the VFW building in Berryville. Qualification to fire black powder flintlock weapons is good for one year. Achieving certification were Ken Bonner, Warner Workman and Barry Schwoerer. Steve Van Deusen, Mark Sink, and David Welker were previously certified.

A Compatriot does not have to own a flintlock to participate in a Color Guard Workshop or to be qualified to fire flintlock black powder weapons. If you want to "Try before buy" contact one of our certified members to let them know of your interest. If you attend a workshop and train on flintlock Black powder weapons you must wear clothing that is 100% natural fiber (wool, cotton, linen, leather, silk).

# Registrar's Corner

## Mike Watson

Please join me in welcoming four new members registered in May. With these four new members we have 68 members in the chapter. New members are:

- Leslie Joe Walter
- Mike Thompson
- Chris Hersch
- Eric Blaha

We have seven applicants in various stages of processing:

- 3 logged in at National waiting review and approval
- 2 at the Virginia State Registrar waiting forward to National
- 2 in process locally

We also had one Supplemental application approved for Ken Bonner

**SEE HISTORIANS CORNER NEXT PAGE**

## HISTORIAN's CORNER



### Loudoun County's 1775 Resolves in Support of Patrick Henry: "To Hazard All the Blessings of This Life"

**By Edward Spannaus, Historian, Sgt Lawrence Everhart Chapter, MD SAR.  
Published in the Lovettsville Historical Society Newsletter January 3, 2025**

One of Royal Governor Dunmore's moves in response to the Second Virginia Convention in March 1775, where Patrick Henry gave his dramatic speech in favor of preparing for war with Great Britain, was to order his naval forces to remove the gunpowder from the powder magazine at Williamsburg. This took place on the early morning of April 21, about four weeks after the convention had narrowly adopted Patrick Henry's proposal to create an independent militia and place him in charge of the committee which was to prepare the colony's defense.

The theft was soon discovered, and citizens quickly assembled demanding the return of the gunpowder. Independent military companies from a number of counties, including Loudoun, organized themselves to march on Williamsburg and seize Dunmore from the Governor's Palace. Patrick Henry led the Hanover County militia marching toward Williamsburg; they were joined by others from central Virginia. Their goal was either to force the return of the gunpowder, or to secure compensation for the colony.

Meanwhile, news of the fighting at Lexington and Concord reached Virginia, further inspiring the Patriots and sending Dunmore into even more of a panic. Before reaching Williamsburg, Henry and his forces had obtained £330 in compensation for the gunpowder, and they thus halted their march and withdrew. Dunmore declared Henry an outlaw.<sup>[i]</sup>

A number of local committees (then known as the Committees of Public Safety, as directed by the First Continental Congress<sup>[ii]</sup>) adopted resolves (resolutions) denouncing Dunmore and supporting Patrick Henry. Among these was the Loudoun County Committee, which met at Leesburg on May 26, 1775.

The Resolves declare that taking into account Dunmore's conduct regarding the gunpower, he has forfeited the confidence of the people of Virginia and can be considered "an enemy to America," and that his excuses for his conduct are unsatisfactory and evasive. If taken literally, they would reflect great dishonor on the General Assembly, and would suggest that the representatives of the people are not competent judges of where arms and ammunition, intended for the defense of the colony, can be safely stored, or that the people can not be trusted with the means of their own defense.

Indeed, it continues, Dunmore is charging that the best men among us "are seducing their fellow subjects from their duty and allegiance."

They then turned to the Loudoun County troops that were marching to Williamsburg, and says that the reason that they didn't go any farther than Fredericksburg, was that they were requested to go home by Peyton Randolph (chair of the Second Virginia Convention when Henry spoke, as well as chair of the First and Second Continental Congresses), that the citizens of Williamsburg were not in danger, and nor were the treasury and records of the colony. Randolph had added that three of the other delegates to the Continental Congress – "the only civil power we know of in this great struggle for liberty" – were of the same opinion.

The Committee declared that they completely approved of the conduct of their fellow countrymen – Captain Patrick Henry and the other volunteers who marched with him – in seeking reprisal for the trespass committed by Dunmore, and then avowed, in the most powerful statement: "we are determined to hazard [to put at risk] all the blessings of this life" rather than to allow any injury to Patrick and his men, or to their property.

Following is the full text<sup>[iii]</sup> of the Resolves of May 26, 1775:

At a meeting of the Committee of Loudoun County, held at Leesburg on Friday, May 26, 1775.

Present: Francis Peyton, Esquire, Josias Clapham, Thomas Lewis, Anthony Russell, John Thomas, George Johnson, Thomas Shore, James Lane, Jacob Reed, Leven Powell, William Smith, Robert Jamison, Hardage Lane, James Lane, and John Lewis, Gentlemen.

The Committee, taking into consideration the conduct of the Governour relative to the powder which was by his express orders, taken secretly out of the publick Magazine belonging to this Colony, in the night of the twentieth ult., and carried on board the Magdaline schooner.



Resolved, nemine contra dicente, that his Lordship, by this and other parts of his conduct which have lately transpired, has not only forfeited the confidence of the good people of this Colony, but that he may be justly esteemed an enemy to America; and that as well his excuse published in his Proclamation of the fourth instant, as his verbal answer to the address presented him on that occasion by the city of Williamsburgh, are unsatisfactory and evasive, and reflect, in our opinion, great dishonour on the General Assembly and inhabitants of this Colony, as from the latter a suspicion may be easily deduced, that the Representatives of the people are not competent judges of the place wherein arms and ammunition, intended for the defense of the Colony, may be safely lodged, and that the inhabitants (unlike other subjects) cannot, in prudence, be trusted with the means necessary for their protection from insurrections, or even invasions; so in the former a very heavy charge is exhibited against the best men among us of seducing their fellow subjects from their duty and allegiance; a charge, we are confident, not founded in reality, and which, we believe, is construed out of the discharge of their duty which every good man is under, to point out to his weaker countrymen, in the day of publick trial, the part they should act, and explain, on constitutional principles, the nature of their allegiance, the ground of which we fervently pray may never be removed, whose force we desire may never with reason be relaxed, but yet may be subservient to considerations of superior regard.

The Committee being informed by some of the officers who commanded the Troops of this County that marched on the above occasion, that the reason of their marching no farther than Fredericksburgh was, their having received repeated requests from the Honourable Peyton Randolph, Esq., to return home, assuring them that the peaceable citizens of Williamsburgh were under no apprehensions of danger, either in their persons or properties; that the publick treasury and records were perfectly safe, and that there was no necessity for their proceeding any further; three of the other Delegates appointed to the Continental Congress, the only civil power we know of in this great struggle for liberty, being of the same opinion.

Resolved, nemine contra dicente, That under such circumstances we approve the conduct of the said Officers and Troops.

Resolved, nemine contra dicente, That we cordially approve the conduct of our countrymen, Captain Patrick Henry, and the other volunteers of Hanover County, who marched under him, in making reprisals on the King's property for the trespass committed as aforesaid, and that we are determined to hazard all the blessings of this life rather than suffer the smallest injury offered to their persons or estates, on this account, to pass unrewarded with its equal punishment.

Resolved, nemine contra dicente, That it be recommended to the Representatives of this County, as the opinion of this Committee, that they by no means agree to the reprisals, taken as aforesaid, being returned.

Ordered, that the clerk transmit immediately a copy of the preceding resolves to the Printers of the Virginia and Pennsylvania gazettes, to be published. By order of the Committee.

George Johnston, Clerk.



This account is drawn largely from Revolutionary Virginia (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1975), Vol. III, pp. 3-4, 7-11, 87, 171-175; and also Virginius Dabney, Virginia: the New Dominion (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1983), pp.126-129.

[\[ii\]](#) After Dunmore dissolved the House of Burgesses on May 26, 1774, members of the House met the following day and issued a call for the First Virginia Convention to meet at the beginning of August. This fed into the First Continental Congress which met in Philadelphia in September, and adopted Articles of Association which included non-importation and non-exportation agreements. Each county, city, and town was urged to elect a committee to enforce the ban on trade with Great Britain. Pursuant to this, qualified voters in each Virginia county, including Loudoun County, elected a county committee. Loudoun's committee, also known as the Committee on Safety, operated from 1774-1776. "The County Committees of 1774-'75 in Virginia," William and Mary Quarterly, 5: 2 (Oct. 1896), pp. 94-106, and 5:4 (Apr. 1897), p. 255; Charles P. Poland, From Frontier to Suburbia (Marceline MO: Walsworth Publishing Co., 1976), p. 51.

[\[iii\]](#) The text can be found in Revolutionary Virginia, Vol. 3, p. 171-173; and also in James W. Head's History of Loudoun County Virginia(1908), p. 130-131.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS MAY & JUNE 2025

07 June 10:00am 1. Naturalization Ceremony-SAR presents Colors; 2. Display and demonstrations by SAR. Stratford Hall, seat of the Lee family of Virginia, ancestral home of two signers of the Declaration of Independence and Light Horse Harry Lee, commander of Lee's Legion, John Champe's unit.

14 June. Grave Marking of George and Martha Washington at Mt Vernon, 9:00am muster, 10:00 250th anniversary commemoration of founding of U.S. Army, 11:00am grave marking. Registration required on VASSAR MemberClicks. This is a once-in-a-lifetime event.

20-22 June Fort Loudoun 18th Century Market Fair @ Ft Loudoun Historic Site, 1720 North Brooklyn Road, Ft Loudoun, PA. 9am-5pm Friday and Saturday, 9am-2pm Sunday.

21 June 11:00am. Chapter meeting with a commemoration of the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill, private residence, 39338 Little River Turnpike, Aldie, VA

LOOKING FORWARD TO JULY.

4July: **we need volunteers to help with the Leesburg parade at 10:00am and the Reading of the Declaration of Independence at 1:30pm at the County Courthouse.**