



The Magazine

Williamsburg Chapter

Virginia Society

Sons of the American Revolution



By signing the Declaration of Independence, the fifty-six Americans pledged their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor. Nine died of wounds during the Revolutionary War, five were captured or imprisoned. Wives and children were jailed, mistreated, or left penniless. Twelve signer's houses were burned to the ground. No signer defected. Their honor, like their nation remained intact.

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President's Page

Compatriots,

I would like to welcome our newest member, Jim Kump, whose application for membership has recently been approved. Jim lives in the Atlanta area and hopes to visit Williamsburg during the last week of May. Hopefully we will be able to introduce you to him at our Kings Arms luncheon following our Memorial Day ceremony. We also have new members Jim Talley and Bob Spencer whom we hope to introduce either on Memorial Day or at our June meeting.

Speaking of Memorial Day Joe Spruill has been working very hard to make parking arrangements for both those who wish to participate in the ceremony and also for those of you who just want to attend the luncheon. Please go out of your way to thank him for his efforts in your behalf. It has not been an easy task! Those who wish to help Tom Campbell putting out the flags on the Patriot graves in the cemetery should plan on arriving at the Palace around 9 AM. Our goal is that the flags be in place by 9:45. The formal ceremony will take place in front of the Palace at 10 AM and will conclude at the French cemetery site by 11 AM. Lunch at Kings Arms (about a 5 minute walk) will follow immediately. Joe will give us information regarding parking and "shuttle" service.

During our luncheon Bob Bowen (VASSAR President) will present artifacts which were found during the 1920's work on the colonial gaol to Colonial Williamsburg representatives. Elane Strange (DAR), Bob Bowen (VASSAR President) and I will place wreaths at the Palace, Bruton Parish and at the French burial site. Exact details will be finalized on Thursday the

27th by representatives from Colonial Williamsburg, DAR and SAR at a "walk through". You can expect an email with more details immediately following the walk through. Our membership should plan on meeting in front of the Palace a few minutes before 10. Bob Schmidt has organized a local color guard and their inaugural performance will be the Memorial Day ceremony. Please thank Bob and his color guard members for their hard work! We have a member from Newport News and two 7th Virginia Regiment volunteers performing with Bob.

Our June meeting will be a joint meeting with the Newport News Chapter. It will be held at the Crowne Plaza on 12 June. Ed Truslow has arranged for Bob Zolad to speak to us on the subject "Life of a Private" in the Continental Army.

Bob retired from ExxonMobil Corporation after 33 years of service. He moved to Williamsburg from Fairfax, Va. in 2003 and has worked as a museum costumed interpreter for Jamestown Yorktown Foundation for 5 years at the Yorktown Victory Center. For 3 years he has served as a volunteer Militia interpreter for Colonial Williamsburg and for 2 years has participated with a British Royal Artillery unit at the Yorktown National Historic Park.

In costume Bob will discuss how the Continental soldier lived and such things as how and what they ate? He will answer such questions such as if they were sick who treated them? What were their chances of survival? Did they really stand in straight lines and fire at one another? Were they citizen soldiers or trained professionals? These and more questions will be answered through an interactive presentation and demonstration of the

life, activities and military practices of the common soldier during the American Revolution. Bob's presentation style is not only educational but lively and entertaining

Jim Swords and the Newport News Chapter have offered to host a January joint meeting and installation of new officers on Saturday, January 8th. Tentatively the meeting will be held at the Riverwalk Restaurant in Yorktown.

On the fourth of July we plan to participate in the DAR ceremony at Berkley Plantation in the morning, a luncheon at Charles City Tavern (which will be opened especially for the DAR/SAR group) and conclude with our traditional service at Bruton Parish Church. Because the 4th falls on a Sunday, our Bruton Parish service will begin at 3 PM.

Unfortunately I will undergo major surgery to repair a splenic artery aneurism on 25 June. Ed Truslow will be communicating more details on these events in the July newsletter. I hope to be able to attend the Church service.

Ben Fegan, bfegan1@cox.net

Historian Report

The selection "From the Historian's Bookshelf" for the month of June is entitled "The American Revolutionaries: A History in Their Own Words 1750-1800", edited by Milton Meltzer, 1993, Harper Trophy.

In this short, easily read book, Milton Meltzer has collected "the personal documents left by those early Americans". Meltzer's stated purpose for this book is to "*help us understand the Revolution as a human experience.*" He contends that "*it was people who made the Revolution, and not abstract social and economic and political forces.*" Hence, he has attempted, and has succeeded, in answering such questions as "Who were these new Americans?" "What did they worry about/" "What was it like to meet the enemy in combat?" "What did the folks back home do as the men went off to fight?"

Through the use of first person evidence such as letters, diaries, memories, journals, we can discover not only the answers to these questions,

but we can also get a glimpse into what life was like in the last half of the eighteenth century. Meltzer cautions us when he states, "*The focus here is not so much on official papers as on the experiences of ordinary Americans, men or women, young and old. They speak in their own words.*"

Hopefully, this selection will enhance our speaker's topic at our June meeting, "The Revolutionary Soldier's Life".

Jim Henry, Historian

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Please note that your reservations and checks are to be sent to Ed Truslow for the June meeting. I am going to be out of town.



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| <p>Reservations MUST be received by 6/10/2010</p> <p>Send to: Ed Truslow, 110 Moray Firth Williamsburg, VA 23188 (757) 565-2460</p> <p><i>Meeting Date 06/12/10 Ft. Magruder, 11:30</i></p> <p>Checks payable to "Williamsburg Chapter, SAR"</p> <p>Please reserve _____ lunches at \$16.00 per person for Jun 12, 2010</p> <p>Name _____</p> |
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