



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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Compatriots,

May and June were busy months! We participated in a very successful Memorial Day ceremony with the DAR and Colonial Williamsburg on 31 May and we honored the 158 Patriots buried behind the Palace. After the ceremony we had a fine lunch at the King's Arms Tavern and made presentations to program participants, inducted a new member and honored individuals whose help and support made the event possible!

Tom Campbell and his crew placed flags on the graves of the 158 Patriots buried behind the Palace.



The wreath laying party consisted of VASSAR President Bob Bowen, Williamsburg DAR Regent Elane Strange and myself. We were assisted by wreath bearers who carried the 3 wreaths from the Palace, Bruton Parish and to the French burial site near the Williamsburg Inn. Past VASSAR President Art Batten, Tom Campbell and Newport News President Jim Swords carried the wreaths.



The event was witnessed by approximately 2,583 spectators! The spectators lined the route of march and many marched along behind the official party as it traveled between the three sites.



Bob Schmidt's newly constituted local Color Guard made its' inaugural appearance. Our own Bob Schmidt, Tom Morr and Jim Henry were joined by Norm Fuss, Warren Deal, Tom Bertram and C. Drummond Ball from the 7th Virginia Regiment. Jeff Brown from Newport News also participated in the Color Guard. Additional re-enactors from the 7th Regiment followed along behind the Color Guard under arms.



After the ceremony the tired but happy party adjourned to the King's Arms Tavern. VASSAR President Bob Bowen presented a nail recovered from the remains of the Colonial Williamsburg Gaol during its 1920's excavation. The CW staff has dated the nail to the mid 1750's. Ms. Kay Wilkinson (Director of Special Gifts) accepted the gift on the part of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.



Our Chapter recognized the efforts of two Colonial Williamsburg employees who have been instrumental in coordinating Chapter activities with our CW neighbor.

Ms. Kay Wilkinson has assisted our efforts to identify the 158 Patriots buried behind the Palace by name as well as pointing us toward CW research assets and facilities to assist other Chapter historical preservation projects. The Chapter presented Kay with a Martha Washington Medal.



Ms. Barbara Tyler-Mullen has been the Chapter's point of contact in arranging activities in the Palace Cemetery as well as helping us coordinate with the Fife and Drum Corps and with costumed CW interpreters. Barbara was also the recipient of a Martha Washington Medal.



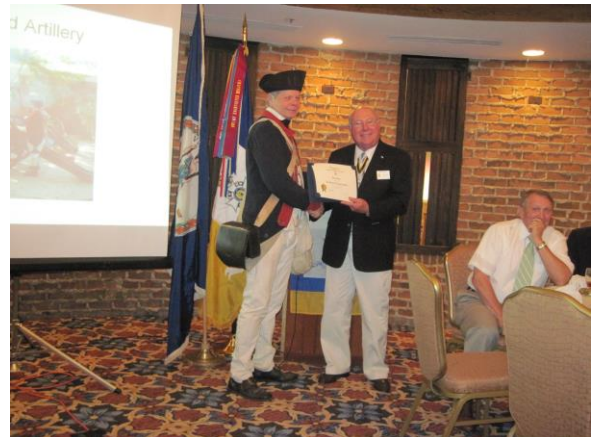
ceremonies in the Palace Cemetery for the past three years and helped move the timing of the ceremony from Yorktown Day to Veterans' Day. His work in coordinating our Memorial Day Ceremony, to include coordinating transportation, has been particularly valuable.



New Member May 31 - The Chapter was proud to induct new member, Jim Talley. Jim's wife Phyllis is shown below pinning Jim's rosette on his lapel



The Chapter's 12 June meeting was a joint meeting with our neighboring Compatriots in Newport News. We had a large turn out and a great program. Bob Zolad spoke on "Life of a Private". Bob's presentation was both interesting and amusing... mixing humor with fact in an engaging way.



Chapter Service Medal - Finally, the Chapter recognized the efforts of Compatriot Joe Spruill by presenting him the Chapter Service Medal. As we all know, Joe has worked for the past two years to activate our Public Safety recognition program. He has been responsible for the

New Member June 12 - Bob Spencer was inducted into our membership at the June meeting. We all know of Bob's contributions to the study of Colonial

History and his assistance to the Chapter. We are glad to have him as an "official" member!



From the Historian

The selection for July "From the Historian's Bookshelf" is entitled "The Religion of the Founding Fathers" by David L. Holmes, Ashlawn-Highland and The Clements Library, University of Michigan, 2003. This selection is appropriate for July since our chapter will hold its' Twenty Fifth Annual Service of Prayer & Thanksgiving at Bruton Parish Church on July 4th, at 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon.

In the Forward of this little book, John W. Turner, Religious Studies and Programs, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, says of the author, David L. Holmes: "Trained in the fields of English, theology, and church history, Professor Holmes has focused his scholarly work ... on the development of American religion from the colonial period to the present. This well written volume is a highly useful contribution to the historical literature dealing with the faith of the Founding Fathers. With the care and sensitivity of a seasoned historian, the author uses available evidence to assure readers that the Founders of the republic, whose lives are chronicled herein, were indeed "sincere men of faith". At the end of the day, as at the end of time, this is what will have mattered."

Read this little book first, then draw your own conclusions as to the question of the faith of our Founding Fathers.

Jim Henry, Historian

July 4th - On the 4th of July the Chapter will join the DAR at Berkeley Plantation at 11AM for a wreath laying at the grave site of Benjamin Harrison--- The process usually lasts about 30 minutes. Betty Morie will give a brief talk about Benjamin Harrison and the ceremony ends with taps. Mr. Jamieson, owner of Berkeley usually attends.

After the program the group will adjourn for lunch at the Charles City Tavern. Lunch at the Charles City Tavern will be Dutch Treat from the menu. The DAR has made special arrangements for the tavern to be open so our only requirement is to provide an estimate of attendance. Please call Betty Morie at 757-564-8832 if you plan to attend so that she can make arrangements for seating.

After lunch we will conduct our traditional (and 26th) memorial service at Bruton Parish. The ceremony will begin at 3 PM. I will be recovering from surgery on the 4th so Ed Truslow will be our official representative.

The 4th of July events will take the place of our normal July meeting. Our next meeting at the Crowne Plaza/Fort Magruder will be on Saturday September 11.

Member Status - Jim Henry will be the Chapter's point of contact for keeping up with the status of members who are ill and will pass on the information he receives to the membership. This will help to keep wives and loved ones from having to answer the same questions from a large number of interested people.

The current status is that Clayton Rowland contracted an infection after his last round of chemotherapy and had to return to the hospital. We hope that he returns soon. Bill Bunnell is undergoing treatment for prostate cancer and is in a clinic in Florida. As you know I will be entering the hospital for abdominal surgery on the 25th of June.