



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,

Besides being very hot, July has been a trying month for some of our members. As most of you know, our President Ben Fegan, has had a very serious operation and remains in intensive care at McGuire Woods Hospital in Richmond.

Bob Dunnells, one of our past Presidents, recently broke his hip and after an operation he has begun his rehabilitation at Patriots Colony in Williamsburg.

Bill Bunnell will be in Jacksonville, FL for July and August undergoing outpatient treatments at the University of Florida Proton Therapy Institute. Bill and his family are renting a house for the duration of their stay there.

July 4th Service at Bruton Parish Church

Our 25th annual July 4th Service at Bruton Parish Church was very well attended with 102 people present. That was the highest number in recent years and was so in spite of the restrictions on our parking in front of the church on that day.

Our own chaplain, the Rev. Dr. James Henry led the service and the Rev. Ronald Jaynes, Bruton's Interim Rector gave an inspiring homily for our nation's birthday.

Bob Schmidt was our flag bearer and Bill Bunnell and Bob Spencer were our ushers. As usual Bruton Parish gave us lots of support for which we are very grateful.



DAR Service at Berkeley Plantation

Due to our SAR July 4th being late in the afternoon, nine of our members were able to attend the late morning DAR service at Berkeley Plantation in Charles City County. For many years the DAR has conducted this service at the gravesite of Benjamin Harrison V who is one of the seven Virginia signers of the Declaration of Independence. Benjamin is also the father of President William Henry Harrison and great grandfather of President Benjamin Harrison.

Betty Morie the DAR wife of SAR member Paul Morie, gave the talk and Malcolm Jamieson, the present owner of Berkeley Plantation, gave a few brief remarks as well. He noted that his father had given permission to the DAR to hold services there, a tradition he has continued and assumes that his son will continue as well.

Art Batten added wreaths from the SAR and Founders and Patriots to those of the DAR and CAR. (Our folks in attendance and Malcolm Jamieson are below)



Chapter Meeting Schedule

The following are the scheduled Chapter meeting dates this fall:

September 18th (Sept 11 was in conflict with the VASSAR meeting)

October 9th

November 13th

Special Dates

October 19th Yorktown Day – this is a great event and all SAR members are encouraged to march in the parade with their respective chapters. Put it on your calendar.

November 11th – Our annual Veterans Day event at the Palace Cemetery

Historian's Corner

"From the Historian's Bookshelf" selection for the month of August is a delightful little book entitled "Signing Their Lives Away: The Fame and Misfortune of the Men Who Signed The Declaration of Independence", by Denise Kiernan and Joseph D'Agnese, Quirk Books, Philadelphia, 2009.

The authors point out that "In the summer of

1776 fifty-six men risked their lives and livelihood to defy King George III and sign the Declaration of Independence--- yet how many of them do we actually remember? "Signing Their Lives Away" introduces the readers to the eclectic group of statesmen, soldiers, slave holders and scoundrels who signed this historic document---and the many strange fates that awaited them....Complete with portraits of the signers as well as a facsimile of the Declaration of Independence, "Signing Their Lives Away" provides an entertaining and enlightening narrative for history buffs.

Here is a sample of information from the book that you may not know. Who was the actual designer of the U.S. flag? Contrary to popular belief is wasn't Betsy Ross, as we were all taught in elementary school. The actual designer was Francis Hopkinson, one of the five signers from New Jersey! This, and many other interesting facts and myth-busters, makes this book both enjoyable and informative reading.