



# 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.

Vol. XIII

No. 12

December 2010

### President's Message

Compatriots,  
A belated Happy Thanksgiving to all of you. Here are some late pictures of our Chapter's wreath at Thomas Nelson, Jr.'s grave site during the Yorktown Day ceremony.



**Wreath Laying at Yorktown**



**VASSAR Officers and Chapter Representatives Marching at Yorktown**

**Veterans Day at the Palace** – I was very proud of our Chapter's performance on Veterans Day! Our Palace ceremony was on time, on schedule and executed in a professional manner. Everyone should go out of their way to thank Tom Campbell and Collyer Linn who laid out the palace cemetery with 158 flags. Tom also gave a brief (but focused) talk on those who are buried there. Thanks also goes to Bob Schmidt and his local color guard and Joe Spruill who coordinated our event with Colonial Williamsburg. Bob Spencer and Alan Morledge were on hand for those who needed transportation assistance. Of course our Chaplain the Rev. Dr. Jim Henry provided the invocation and benediction for the ceremony.



**VASSAR Color Guard at Yorktown**



**Palace Cemetery**

L-R Harry Walters former Asst. Sec. of the Army, Elane Williamsburg DAR Regent, Mark Brennan VASSAR President Elect, Jim Swords - Thomas Nelson, Jr. President, President Ben Fegan, and “Richard Henry Lee” aka Frank Mergargee

During the past two years I have been privileged to represent our Chapter at similar ceremonies and none exceeded ours in quality! I would encourage any of you who are interested in being on the color guard roster to contact Bob Schmidt. He may even be able to help with your uniform. Our color guard is a big hit with Colonial Williamsburg and draws a crowd of visitors whenever it makes an appearance.



**Colonial Williamsburg Fifer and Drummer Leading Our Color Guard at the Palace**

After the Palace ceremony we adjourned to the Crowne Plaza for our traditional luncheon. We recognized our Firefighter of the Year Nicole Furey and Policeman of the Year David Rochard. These people will be our representatives to VASSAR for state recognition.



L-R Williamsburg Fire Chief Pat Dent, Firefighter Nicole Furey, President Fegan, Officer David Rochard and James City Police Chief Emmett Harmon

Our guest speaker was Harry Walters. Harry spoke on veterans’ health care in particular and veterans affairs in general. He also described an initiative to make Williamsburg the focal point for a state wide Veterans’ Day Parade on 11-11-11. In addition to the combination of 11s, next year is the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the War on Terror. This program will include pioneering efforts to organize local programs aimed at assimilating Reserve and National Guard veterans back into the community.



Harry Walters and Ben Fegan

**Election of 2011 Officers** – Nominating Committee Chairman Jim Henry presented the slate of officers for 2011 and they were elected by acclamation by those present. They are as follows:

- President** - Ed Truslow
- Vice President** - Rushton White
- Secretary/ Treasurer** - Bob Schmidt
- Registrar/Genealogist** - Clayton Rowland
- Chaplain/ Historian** - Jim Henry
- Public Relations** - Collyer Linn
- Member at Large** – Ron Losee
- Member at Large** - Joe Spruill
- Member at Large** - Ben Fegan

**Shockoe Cemetery** - The following week I represented the Chapter in the Shockoe Cemetery where the graves of 3 Revolutionary War Patriots and 2 War of 1812 Patriots were marked.



**Shockoe Cemetery**

President Ben Fegan & Thomas Nelson, Jr. President Jim Swords.

As is our custom there will not be a formal December meeting.

**January Meeting** - Our next meeting will be on 15 January in Yorktown. This will be a joint meeting hosted by the Thomas Nelson Chapter. We will assemble at 5:30 in a private room at the Riverwalk Restaurant and sit down dinner will be served at 6PM. A cash bar will be available. Dress will be coat and tie. VASSAR President Bob Bowen will be the speaker and preside over the induction of the 2011 chapter officers. More details will follow.

**Sign-up Form for the January 15th Meeting**

<p><b>Dinner Reservations MUST be received by 1/11/2011</b></p> <p><b>Send check to: Bob Schmidt 220 Charleston Place Williamsburg, VA 23185 (757) 245-0292 sar1812@cox.net</b></p> <p><b>Meeting Date 1/15/2011 Riverwalk Restaurant, Yorktown, VA</b></p> <p><b>Checks payable to "Williamsburg Chapter, SAR"</b></p> <p><b>Please reserve _____ dinners at \$25.00 per person for January 15, 2011</b></p> <p><b>Name(s) _____</b></p>
---

## Historic Taskinas Plantation At York River State Park

As many of you know, our chapter member Jerry Traver is the Lead Archaeologist at the York River State Park. You can catch up on some of the background and his recent discoveries there regarding the Taskinas Plantation at:

<http://taskinasplantation.weebly.com/index.html>



Jerry Traver

### Meeting Name Tags

You may have noticed the nice name tags that Bob Schmidt, our Secretary-Treasurer, has made for our meetings. He will bring them to the meetings but asks that when the meetings are over, that you return them to the receptacle provided for them. That way he will not have to continually replace them at the Chapter's expense. If you brought one home from the last meeting, please bring it at the next.

### The Historian's Corner

In the spirit of the holiday season that is upon us, are you looking for an appropriate gift for someone interested in the American

Revolution and has everything? If so, let me suggest a little book that I recently discovered in the CW Visitor's Center Bookstore. It is entitled "A Battlefield Atlas of the American Revolution" by Dr. Craig L. Symonds and Cartography by William J. Clipson, The Nautical & Aviation Publishing Company of America, Inc., Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, 2009 (on sale for \$19.95).

Symonds narrates each battle in a clear, concise, and readable way. Accompanying two-color, full -page maps by Cartographer William J. Clipson, aids the visual comprehension of military history buffs and students, thus making this easy-to-handle book an ideal battlefield tour guide, or a personal library reference and resource.

Wishing you and yours a Joyful and blessed Christmastide, and a Happy New Year!!

Jim Henry, Chapter Historian  
E-mail: [thedawgsdidit@juno.com](mailto:thedawgsdidit@juno.com)