



# 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. XIV

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July 2011

### President's Message

Compatriots,

Our June 11<sup>th</sup> joint meeting with the Thomas Nelson, Jr. Chapter was very well attended indeed. We had 49 for lunch and as usual we enjoyed getting together with our peninsula neighborhood compatriots.



**Chapter Presidents  
Ed Truslow & Joe Shipes**

We were treated with a very illuminating presentation by Dr. Corless Tacosa of George Washington's management of spying activities in her talk entitled *George Washington: Spymaster*. Washington's hands on management of intelligence gathering proved to be of significant help in the ultimate success of the American Revolution. Dr. Tacosa has a broad background in intelligence gathering history beginning with the Revolutionary War down to the present time.



**Dr. Corliss Tacossa**

Thomas Nelson, Jr. President Joe Shipes presented three of their chapter wives with Martha Washington medals.

We were pleased to induct John Jethro Lilley III as a new member into our chapter.



**Sponsor Ben Fegan , New Member Jethro  
Lilley & Ed Truslow**

We also were treated to Alan Booth's oration that he will give at the SAR National Congress in July in Winston-Salem, NC. Alan, sponsored by our chapter at the VASSAR Annual meeting, is to represent VASSAR at the SAR Congress.



**Orator Alan Booth and Susan his mother**

July will be a busy month so check out all of the details herein.

### **Memorial Day Wreath Laying Ceremonies**

We were pleased to participate for the second year with Colonial Williamsburg in recognizing our Patriots on Memorial Day. We began wreath laying ceremonies at the Governor's Palace, proceeded to Bruton Parish Church and laid the final wreath at the French burial site near the Williamsburg Inn. Last year Colonial Williamsburg estimated that over 2,000 people watched or marched in the parade. This year there may have been more. Our chapter provided the Color Guard. They were assisted by members of the Virginia 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment.

We were also pleased to have VASSAR President Elect Henry "Phil" Williams representing the state society laying a wreath and marching with us. Also joining us were Joe Shipes, President of the Thomas Nelson, Jr. Chapter and Pam Meiring, Williamsburg

DAR Regent and her Vice Regent Joanie Stevens. Rush White and I were our chapter representatives.



**(Front L-R) Pam Meiring, Joanie Stevens, CW Interpreter, Rush White (Back L-R) Joe Shipes, Phil Williams & Ed Truslow**

Afterwards we adjourned to the Kings Arms Tavern for cool refreshments and lunch and some remarks by VASSAR President Elect Phil Williams.

**Best regards,  
Ed**

### **July 4<sup>th</sup> Chapter Service at Bruton Parish Church**

This is the 27<sup>th</sup> year of our chapter holding a July 4<sup>th</sup> commemoration service at Bruton Parish Church. It will begin at 9:00am and attendees will be permitted to park on Duke of Gloucester Street opposite the church. We encourage all who are able to attend.

### **July 4<sup>th</sup> DAR Wreath Laying at Berkeley Plantation**

The Williamsburg Chapter, DAR has invited us to attend their 11:00am July 4<sup>th</sup> wreath laying ceremony at Berkeley Plantation in Charles City County. There will be plenty of time to get there at the conclusion of our

Bruton Parish service. The DAR ceremony takes place at the gravesite of patriot Benjamin Harrison

There are directional signs after the Charles City courthouse area is passed (there is a blinking light at the courthouse intersection). Turn left off of Route 5 to Berkeley. As you approach the entrance to the plantation, there will be temporary directional signs to the small cemetery on the property. The roads are dirt and gravel, and the cars will cross farm fields to a wooded area near the James River. There will be cars parked at the site.

Everyone should bring a chair unless they prefer to stand. The ceremony is held outside, but it is in deep shade. Come cool!

For those who wish, there will be a Dutch Treat lunch afterwards at the nearby Charles City Tavern.

### **July 6<sup>th</sup> Battle of Green Spring Commemoration**

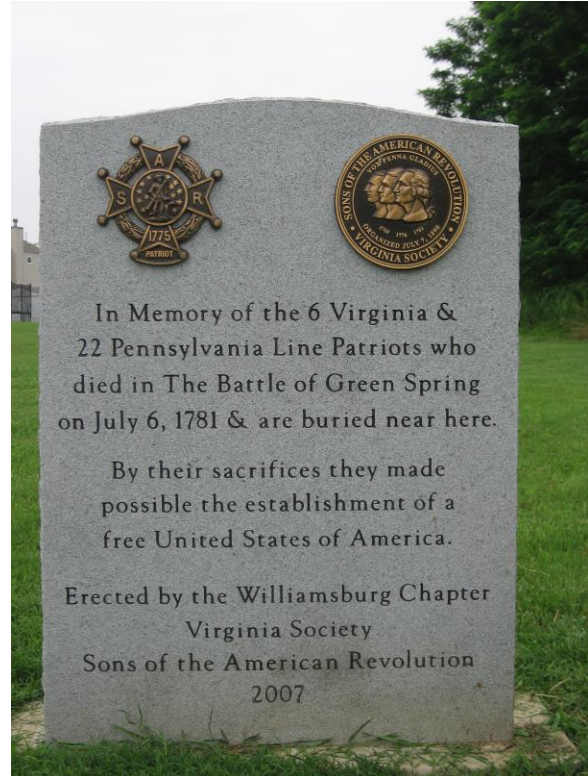
As many of you know, our chapter had a battlefield map installed on Greensprings Road depicting the events of the battle that occurred there on July 6, 1781. It was a precursor to the Siege of Yorktown. A number of our fallen dead in that battle are buried close to the nearby remnant of the Church on the Main. Our chapter placed a memorial stone at that location. We will honor those patriots with a short outdoor service at 9:00am that Wednesday. Directions and details will be provided near the date.

### **World War II Vets – Cont'd**

We regret that we missed one of our WWII Vets in our June newsletter. He is:

- Rev. Dr. Ed Morgan – U.S. Navy

We are proud to have Ed and the other eight WW II Vets in our chapter. Again, when you see Ed and the other eight gentlemen, please give them hearty thanks for their service to our country.



**Memorial Stone - Church on the Main**

### **July 9th Chapter Meeting**

Our monthly meeting will be held at the Crowne Plaza/Fort Magruder Inn on Saturday July 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am. Our speaker will be Thomas Nelson, Jr., a direct descendant of the patriot General Thomas Nelson of Yorktown fame. Our speaker just happens to live a couple of blocks away from his famous ancestor's home which is of course owned by the National Park Service and is open to the public. Our speaker will be in costume and talk about his ancestor.

**Sign-up for the July 9th meeting**  
Reservations MUST be received not later  
Than Wed. July 6th

**Bob Schmidt**  
**220 Charleston Place**  
**Williamsburg, VA 23185**  
(757) 345-0292  
sar1812@cox.net

**Meeting Date 7 /9/2011**  
**Crowne Plaza/Fort Magruder Inn**  
**\$18.00 Check payable to**  
**Williamsburg Chapter, SAR**

**Number for lunch** \_\_\_\_\_

## 2011 Chapter Calendar

**July 4th** – Independence Day Service at Bruton Parish Church – **9:00am**

**July 4<sup>th</sup>** – DAR Wreath laying at Berkeley Plantation – **11:00am**. Dutch Treat lunch at the Charles City Tavern afterwards.

**July 6<sup>th</sup>** – Brief Chapter memorial service commemorating the Battle of Green Spring. We'll gather at the nearby Church on the Main at **9:00am**

**July 9th** - Chapter Luncheon Meeting – speaker Thomas Nelson, Jr (descendant of General Thomas Nelson and also a current Yorktown resident) **11:30am**

**August** – No Meeting

**Sep. 10th** - Chapter Luncheon Meeting – speaker “Light Horse Harry Lee” (Frank Mergargee)

**Oct. 8th** - Chapter Luncheon Meeting – speaker Tom Campbell

**Nov. 11th** - Veteran’s Day @ the Palace and Luncheon Meeting afterwards

**December** – No Meeting

Luncheons will be at the Crowne Plaza except as otherwise noted.

## Future VASSAR Activities

**Atlantic Middle States Conference** — Aug 12-13 Alexandria, VA

**VASSAR Semi-Annual Meeting** – Sep 16-17 Fredericksburg, VA

**Battle of Kings Mountain** – Oct. 7 - Blacksburg, SC

**Battle Days** – Oct 7-9 – Point Pleasant, WV

**Yorktown Day** – Oct. 19 Yorktown, VA

## The Historian's Corner

"From the Historian's Bookshelf" selection for July features "I Am Murdered: George Wythe, Thomas Jefferson, and the Killing That Shocked a New Nation", by Bruce Chadwick, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2009.

In "I Am Murdered", the celebrated historian Bruce Chadwick tells the grisly, fascinating, and often astounding tale of George Wythe's murder and America's very first "trial of the century". Brimming with fascinating details of early nineteenth century medicine, forensic science, and legal issues, this fast moving account features compelling portraits of all major players in the case and asks penetrating questions about the many controversies that swirled around the trial.

Complete with a satisfying account of Wythe's ultimate revenge and a poignant depiction of his deep and abiding friendship with Thomas Jefferson, "I Am Murdered" is part American tragedy, part CSI circa 1806, and all intriguing examination of the unjust death of a Founding Father.

Jim Henry, Chapter Historian

Note: The Raffle Book for July will be June's offering: "The Genuine Article: A Historian Looks at Early America", by Edmund S. Morgan; since we had no Raffle at the June joint meeting with the Thomas Nelson, Jr. Chapter. JRH

## 2011 Chapter Officers

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