



**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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**June 2012**

**President's Message**

Compatriots,

May has been a very busy month even though we didn't have our usual luncheon at the Crowne Plaza. Instead our May member activity will be the Memorial Day wreath laying and parade with Colonial Williamsburg and the luncheon afterwards at the Kings Arms Tavern..

Our chapter recently participated in the District 6 and Virginia History Day Events, a JROTC and a ROTC award ceremony, and a Knight Essay award ceremony.

I look forward to seeing many of you on Memorial Day

Best regards,  
Ed

**May 28th Memorial Day**

As we have done in the past, the Williamsburg Chapter will join in the Colonial Williamsburg Memorial Day commemoration on May 28th. The proceedings will begin at 10:00am in front of the Governor's Palace. Following brief opening remarks and wreath laying ceremony there, the march will begin with our chapter color guard following the Colonial Williamsburg Fife and Drums Corps. You are invited to fall in behind the procession. We will then march to the Palace Green Gate of Bruton Parish Church

and the French cemetery near the Williamsburg Inn for a wreath laying at each of those two sites.

There will be a shuttle from the Colonial Williamsburg employees' parking lot opposite the Colonial Capitol to the turnaround in front of Matthew Whaley School for the color guard and those having difficulty walking.

**Saturday June 16th Joint Meeting**

As is our tradition, the June meeting will be a joint affair with the Thomas Nelson, Jr. Chapter hosting the luncheon.. It will be at the Crowne Point Plaza at 950 J. Clyde Morris Ave, (Rt. 17) in Newport, News. We will gather for a social period at 11:30am followed by lunch and the speaker.

The speaker will be Captain (Ret) Robert W. Wilson of the Mariner's Museum in Newport News.. His topic will be *The Revolutionary War in the Chesapeake*.

The menu will consist of: Tossed Salad  
Beef Tips with Red Wine Sauce, Mushroom Mèlange, Chefs Vegetable Choice, Dessert  
Coffee or tea  
Cost will be \$ 24.00 per person

**Reservations required by June 12 to**

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

## JROTC and ROTC Awards

On April 20<sup>th</sup> our ROTC Chairman Tom Morr presented Charles City High School JROTC student Scott Godsey with an SAR Bronze ROTC medal at ceremonies held at the school.



**(L-R) Tom Morr and Scott Godsey**

On April 25<sup>th</sup> Tom presented a Silver SAR medal to William and Mary Cadet John Waickwicz at ceremonies held at Christopher Newport University.



**(L-R) John Waickwicz. and Tom Morr**

## Virginia History Day

On Saturday April 21st VASSAR History Day Chairman Ben Fegan, Don Swain, Jim Henry and Ed Truslow acted as judges for

the VASSAR portion of the Virginia History Day competition at the Thomas Nelson Community College in Williamsburg. Junior and Senior High School students from all over Virginia traveled to compete in the Colonial Williamsburg sponsored event.

The student projects covered a broad range of topics from ancient times to the modern era. Our task was to focus on those projects that encompassed the Revolutionary War period.

In the Junior category, Sam Harris and Nate Bennett of Hornsby Middle School in Williamsburg were the winners. Their website project was entitled *The Battle of Fort Duquesne: The Turning Point of the French and Indian War Leading to British Control of an Essential Location.*

In the Senior category Alexandra Vance of Castlewood High School in Russell County was the winner.

Her project was entitled *Lay the Country to Waste with Fire and Sword* which is the story of the Overmountain Men in the Battle of King's Mountain.



**(L-R) Ed Truslow, Nate Bennett, Alexandra Vance and Ben Fegan  
(Sam Harris not in the photo)**

## District 6 Knight Essay Contest Award

Victoria Triska was our chapter's 2012 Knight Essay contest winner. Victoria is a Junior at Peninsula Catholic High School in Newport News. We look forward to her competing again next year.



(L-R) Ed Truslow & Victoria Triska

## Chapter Color Guard Volunteers

*. The British are coming! The British are coming!* Muster the troops! Well, not really. How about *muster the Color Guard*. Williamsburg Chapter is looking for volunteers to join our color guard. We muster for Memorial Day and Veteran's Day. We could present the colors at our meetings also, even though we don't at the present time. Current members are Jim Henry and Tom Morr. Bob Schmidt is the color guard commander. If you are interested contact Jim Henry at 221-8314, or Bob Schmidt at 345-0292.

## 2012 Chapter Calendar

**May 28th** – Memorial Day Ceremony with CW – Lunch at the King's Arms  
**June 16**– Joint Mtg. – Crowne Point Plaza, Newport News  
**June 26<sup>th</sup>** – Battle of Spencer's Ordinary  
**July 4<sup>th</sup>** – Service at Bruton Parish Church  
**July 6<sup>th</sup>** – Battle of Green Spring  
**September 8<sup>th</sup>** - Chapter Luncheon Meeting  
**October 13<sup>th</sup>** - Chapter Luncheon Meeting  
**October 19<sup>th</sup>** – Yorktown Day  
**November 11<sup>th</sup>** – Palace Cemetery  
**December** – No Meeting

## VASSAR Sponsored Activities

**June 17** – Battle of Ramsour's Mill – Lincolnton, NC

**July 7-12 122<sup>nd</sup>** Annual Congress – Phoenix, AZ

**August 11-12 Atlantic Middle States Conference** – Newark, DE

**September 15-16 VASSAR Semi-Annual Meeting** Charlottesville, VA

Details of the above VASSAR events as well as other events may be found at: <http://www.virginia-sar.org/vassar/events.htm>

## Registrar's Corner

**Supplemental applications** in recognition of additional ancestors must be submitted to the Chapter Registrar for review and transcribing onto a special, watermarked NSSAR form. Co-sponsors are not required. After the Chapter Registrar completes the application, the applicant signs and sends it to the VASSAR Registrar for his review prior to forwarding it to NASSAR. There is a \$40 NSSAR fee and a \$5 VASSAR fee. There is no fee required for the Chapter.

**Member Bios** - Response to the request for a biographical data sheet and sketch of member Patriots has been less than overwhelming. Local research confirms that all members of the Chapter have a biography and a Patriot; please provide yours to the Registrar at your earliest convenience. Make your submissions to Ron Losee at:

3021 Pine Hollow Path  
Williamsburg, VA 23185-1400  
[Valosee@aol.com](mailto:Valosee@aol.com)

### **The Historian's Corner**

June's selection "From the Historian's Bookshelf" is *An Essay on the Life of The Honourable Major-General Israel Putnam* addressed to the State Society of the Cincinnati in Connecticut and Published by Their Order, 1787, by David Humphreys; forward by William C. Dowling, and published by the Liberty Fund, Inc., Indianapolis, 2000.

David Humphreys, principal aide-de-camp to Putnam and subsequently to George Washington, divides the *Life of Israel Putnam* into two halves, the first being largely concerned with Putnam's deeds in the Seven Years' War---the "French and Indian War" of American history---the second being devoted to his role in the American Revolution.

Humphreys, always interested in telling the truth, is also consciously writing within a Plutarchan tradition that takes the truth about a biographical hero to be moral rather than circumstantial or factual. The point of Plutarchan biography, still the commanding model in that classically oriented age of Humphreys, is to give back to the community a sustaining image of its own

deepest values in the personality of the hero. That is what Humphreys had in mind when he states early in the *Life* that his ends will have been served if he produces in his American readers a desire to imitate the "domestic, manly and heroic virtues" of Israel Putnam.

Bottom line, *An Essay on the Life of the Honourable Major-General Israel Putnam* is both an interesting but difficult to read account of the life of Israel Putnam. It is definitely not a book that can be read in a couple of days! Its difficulty to read is due to the fact that it is written in the style of prose current in the late 18th century. One has to disconnect their 21st century mindset and mentally place themselves back in 1787. It is a true document of that era, and should be read and appreciated as such.

Jim Henry, Chapter Historian

### **2012 Chapter Officers**

**President** - Ed Truslow  
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