



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. XVI

No. 7

July 2012

President's Message

Compatriots,

On May 28th we joined with Colonial Williamsburg in the annual Memorial Day Commemoration by laying wreaths at the three Patriot burial sites in Williamsburg. This is the third year we participated by providing the wreath presenters and our chapter color guard. We were also honored to have VASSAR President Elect Kent Webber here to lay one of the wreaths and join us at our informal luncheon at the King's Arms Tavern. We were also joined by the Thomas Nelson Jr. SAR Chapter and the Williamsburg DAR Chapter.

The wreath contingent consisted of VASSAR President Elect Kent Webber, Williamsburg Chapter President Ed Truslow and Williamsburg Chapter VP Russ White., Thomas Nelson, Jr. Chapter VP Ken Wood and Williamsburg DAR Virginia Lee.



(L-R) Virginia Lee, Ken Wood, Kent Webber, Ed Truslow and Russ White



Our Chapter Color Guard



Marching on Duke of Gloucester Street

Our meeting on June 16 was a joint affair hosted by the Thomas Nelson, Jr. Chapter in Newport News. The guest speaker was Warren Deal who came in period dress. The title of his interesting and humorous talk was *Horse Thieves, Cattle Rustlers, and Sticky Fingered Virginia Militia- Gloucester 1781.*



(L-R) Speaker Warren Deal & Thomas Nelson Jr. President Joe Shipes

The SAR Annual Conference on the Revolution, led by NSSAR Treasurer General and Past VASSAR President Joe Dooley, was held this year in Charlottesville June 22-24. Jefferson scholars throughout the country were in attendance as well as NSSAR President General Larry Magerkurth. VASSAR President Phil Williams arranged to have a private SAR wreath laying ceremony at Thomas Jefferson's grave at Monticello. President General Magerkurth spoke and presented the wreath. Leslie Bowman, President and CEO of Monticello also spoke.



(L-R) Ed Truslow and NSSAR President General Larry Magerkurth. VASSAR 2nd VP Bill Broadus is in the background.

Best regards,
Ed

June 26 Spencer's Ordinary Commemoration

On Tuesday June 26th our chapter held a service commemorating the 231st anniversary of the Engagement at Spencer's Ordinary at Freedom Park which is where the battle occurred in 1781. It was the first of two battles in James City County, the other being the Battle of Green Spring that happened ten days later. Nancy Ellis and Marlie Smith from the James City County Parks and Recreation attended the event.



(L-R) Ron Losee, William Wells, Jim Henry, John Brough, Nancy Ellis, Marlie Smith, Bob Schmidt, Alan Morledge, Ed Truslow & Collyer Linn

July 4th SAR Memorial Service

I look forward to seeing many of you at our 27th July 4th Memorial Service at Bruton Parish Church which will begin at 9:00am. As usual during church services, parking is allowed at the church on Duke of Gloucester Street.

The Williamsburg DAR Chapter has invited us to their 11:00am service at Berkeley Plantation for their annual service in memory of Patriot Benjamin Harrison. Afterwards we can also join them for an informal lunch at the Courthouse Grill in Charles City.

**Friday July 6th
Battle of Green Spring SAR
Commemoration**

On Friday July 6 at 9:00am we will honor the sacrifices of those patriots who fell at the Battle of Green Spring near Jamestown. The proceedings will be held at the nearby remnant of the Church on the Main where some are believed to have been buried. The church fell into disrepair many years ago and only the foundation corners are visible today.

The site is located at the corner of Sir Gilbert Loop and Prince Trevor Drive. From Jamestown Road turn onto 4H Club Road, then turn onto Sir Thomas Way and then turn right onto Prince Trevor Drive. The site will be on your left when you reach Sir Gilbert Loop.

Saturday July 14th Chapter Meeting

On Saturday July 14th we will as usual be meeting at 11:30 for lunch at the Crowne Plaza in Williamsburg. Our guest speaker is Past VASSAR President Bill Simpson and his topic will be *Irregular Warfare in the Revolution*. Bill is a frequent speaker on numerous American Revolution topics.

**Reservations required not later than
Wednesday July 11th to
Bob Schmidt
220 Charleston Place
Williamsburg, VA 23185
(757) 345-0292
sar1812@cox.net**

**Please make your \$18.00 check out to
Williamsburg Chapter, SAR and send it
to Bob in advance.**

2012 Chapter Calendar

July 4th – Service at Bruton Parish Church
July 6th – Battle of Green Spring
September 8th - Chapter Luncheon Meeting
October 13th - Chapter Luncheon Meeting
October 19th – Yorktown Day
November 11th – Palace Cemetery
December – No Meeting

VASSAR Sponsored Activities

July 7-12 122nd Annual Congress –
Phoenix, AZ

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

**September 8 - Wreath Laying at the
Tomb of the Unknown** – Arlington, VA

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

October 19 – Siege of Yorktown –
Yorktown, VA

December 1 – Battle of Great Bridge –
Chesapeake, 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

May was a great month. Chapter members submitted info on 10 new ancestors that were transcribed for supplementary applications and forwarded to NSSAR for approval. Six citizens indicated an interest during May on joining the SAR and have been provided information for application completion; three additional applications are being processed as of this date.

The number of members who have submitted a biographical data summary on themselves and their Patriot ancestors has risen to only 25 of 87. Thanks to those who have; would appreciate it if those who haven't, do so.

3021 Pine Hollow Path
Williamsburg, VA 23185-1400
Valosee@aol.com

The Historian's Corner

During my vacation last month at Nags Head, NC, I had the delightful experience of reading *The Drillmaster of Valley Forge: The Baron De Steuben and the Making of the American Army*, by Paul Lockhart, HarperCollins Press, New York, 2008.

The image of the Baron De Steuben training Washington's ragged, demoralized troops in the snow of Valley Forge is part of the iconography of our Revolutionary heritage, but most history buffs know little about this fascinating figure.

Paul Lockhart, an expert in European military history, finally explains the significance of Steuben's military experience in Europe. Steeped in the traditions of the Prussian Army of Frederick the Great, he taught the soldiers of the Continental army how to fight like Europeans. And his influence did not end with the Revolution. Steuben was instrumental in creating West Point, and in writing the "Blue Book" --- the first official regulations of the American army. His principles have guided the American armed forces to this day.

The Drillmaster of Valley Forge is a captivating book that reads like a mystery

novel---holding one's attention to the point of not wanting to put it down until you discover what happens next! I highly recommend this book for your summer reading pleasure.

Jim Henry, Chapter Historian

July Raffle Book

Star-Spangled Books: Books, Sheet Music, Newspapers, Manuscripts, and Persons associated with "The Star-Spangled Banner" Compiled by P.W. Filby and Edward G. Howard, published by the Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, 1972.. Raffle tickets: \$1 per ticket or 7 for \$5.

2012 Chapter Officers

President - Ed Truslow
ewtruslow@verizon.net

Vice President - Rushton White
rushtonwhite@cox.net

Secretary/ Treasurer - Bob Schmidt
sar1812@cox.net

Registrar/Genealogist - Ron Losee
Valosee@aol.com

Chaplain/ Historian - Jim Henry
thedawgsdidit@cox.net

Public Relations - Collyer Linn
collyerlinn@verizon.net