



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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March 2014

Presidents Message

I had the opportunity to attend part of the VASSAR Annual Meeting in Richmond on February 14-15. Ed Truslow is now Second Vice President of VASSAR. Elsewhere in this newsletter is a list of the many awards which our Chapter won. You should all be proud of the work of our Chapter. Thank you.

I had the opportunity of observing the oration contest at VASSAR involving seven high school students. The event was won by a female high school senior who hopes to matriculate at William & Mary in the fall.

You will also read elsewhere in this newsletter about the attendance of three of our members at the Crossing of the Dan River in South Boston, Virginia on February 22. This event is now a National SAR event. The river crossing of the Patriots this year was delayed somewhat because the Director of the event could not reach the Patriots or the British by cell phone. Progress!

The next event is at Guilford Courthouse in North Carolina on March 15. I plan on attending this event. Let me know if you are interested in joining me.

You should check out the story about our Chapter's participation in Yorktown Day and our Veterans' Day celebration on page 40 in the SAR magazine for the Winter of 2013-2014, including a picture of your

Chapter President presenting our Chapter wreath at Yorktown.

I am particularly interested this year in three programs: Flag Certificates, Eagle Scouts and events honoring our Veterans. More about this later. I hope that you can join me in some of these endeavors.

Bob Spencer

March 8th Luncheon

Please sign up asap for the luncheon meeting which will be held at the Fort Magruder Inn (formerly the Crowne Plaza) which is where we have been meeting for some time.

Local author and Christopher Wren lecturer Aleck Loker will be our speaker. His talk will be on Patriot Peyton Randolph who among other things served as the first President of the Continental Congress.

Date: Saturday March 8, 2014

Location: Fort Magruder Inn
6945 Pocahontas Trail (Rt. 60 east)

Social: 11:30am

Meeting: 12:00 noon

**Sign-up Form below for the Saturday
March 8th Meeting @ 11:30am**

**Reservations MUST be received not later
than Wed March 5th**

Send check & form to:

Jack Lee
521 Newport Ave.
Williamsburg, VA 23185-4012
(757) 221-6686
valee@widomaker.com

Make checks payable to
"Williamsburg Chapter, SAR"

Please reserve _____ lunches at \$20.00

Name(s) _____

of Vegetarian Dinners _____

March Book Raffle Selection

The Raffle Book selection for March is *George Washington's Secret Navy: How The American Revolution Went To Sea*, by James L. Nelson, McGraw-Hill, 2008. Raffle tickets are \$1.00 each or 7 for \$5.00, and may be purchased at the door.

**Crossing of the Dan
Commemoration**

On Saturday February 22 (Washington's Birthday) Chapter President Bob Spencer, Jack Lee and Ed Truslow journeyed to South Boston, VA to participate in the 233rd Anniversary Commemoration of *The Crossing of the Dan*. In February of 1781 General Nathaniel Greene's forces escaped destruction by crossing the Dan River with the only available boats thereby leaving the British with no way to pursue them. General Greene, after being resupplied and augmented with additional troops was able to later recross the river to inflict heavy casualties on General Cornwallis' forces at The Battle Guilford Courthouse in North Carolina.



Crossing the perilous Dan – The river was running very swiftly and the cross river anchor rope broke when they were half way across. The fellow lying down is holding on very tightly to the rope end that is tied to the north bank



(L-R) Ed Truslow, Jack Lee & Bob Spencer at commemoration monument area

The Danville, Virginia ABC television news station has a short video piece on the event which is located at:

<http://www.wset.com/story/24795475/south-boston-celebrates-233rd-anniversary-of-the-crossing-of-the-dan?autoStart=true&topVideoCatNo=default&clipId=9871409#.Uwnr5wkSQn4.gmail>

February 8th Chapter Luncheon Meeting

John Burkart gave an interesting talk on the recently formed Tidewater Virginia Historical Society. Their mission is to preserve and promote the heritage of Tidewater Virginia by serving as an advocate for historic knowledge, archaeology, preservation, and our geographic and cultural heritage. They have a web site at www.tv-hs.org.



Speaker John Burkart

We were pleased to induct two new members at the meeting. John Hostetter came in via his patriot John Funk and John Wenrich came in via his ancestor Mathias Wenrich.



(L-R) President Spencer and new member Jacob Hostetter



(L-R) President Spencer and new member John Wenrich

John Moseley received approval of his supplemental application for his ancestor patriot Mrs. Elizabeth Marriott. Since there had been no other SAR or DAR applications approved for this patriot, John also received a VASSAR Forgotten Patriots Award



(L-R) President Spencer and Vice President John Moseley

2014 VASSAR Annual Meeting

The Williamsburg Chapter was well represented at the 124th VASSAR Annual Meeting February 14-15 in Richmond. Chapter members attending were Chapter President Bob Spencer, Secretary Harley Stewart, Treasurer Jack Lee, State History Day Chairman Don Swain and VASSAR Vice President Ed Truslow. In addition to guests, over 90 VASSAR members were registered for the two day meeting.



Pictured above are all of the 2014 VASSAR officers installed by President General Joe Dooley (in the foreground) Chapter member Ed Truslow, second the left, was installed as VASSAR 2nd Vice President

The Williamsburg Chapter and Chapter members walked away with 11 awards and they were:

- **Chapter Excellence Award** - Streamer
- **Chapter Flag Award** - Streamer
- **Chapter History Day Support Award** - Streamer
- **St. George Tucker Grave Marking** (Nelson County) – Streamer
- **Mount Hebron Cemetery Patriot Grave Marking** (Winchester) - Streamer
- **Best Chapter Scrapbook** - (Compiler Jim Henry) - Acrylic & Streamer
- **Best Chapter Website** (Webmaster Claire White) - Acrylic & Streamer
- **Best Chapter Newsletter** (Editor Ed Truslow) - Acrylic & Streamer
- **Forgotten Patriots Award** (John Moseley) - 2 Streamer Stars
- **Silver Roger Sherman State Service Award** - (Ben Fegan) - Medal & Certificate
- **VASSAR Presidential Award** - Certificate (Ed Truslow)



(L-R) VASSAR President Kent Webber presenting the Silver Roger Sherman Award to Chapter President Bob Spencer on behalf of Past VASSAR History Day Chairman Ben Fegan



(L-R) Lance Lyngar with VASSAR President Kent Webber presenting the Best Chapter Award to Jack Lee on behalf of Claire White, Williamsburg Chapter Webmaster.



(L-R) Harley Stewart, Ed Truslow, NSSAR President General Joe Dooley & Jack Lee



Bill Broadus
2014-2015 VASSAR President

2014 Chapter & VASSAR Calendar

March 15th – Battle of Guilford Court House, NC
March 8th - Chapter Luncheon Meeting – Fort Magruder Inn
March 16th – James Madison’s Birthday, Montpelier, Montpelier Station, VA
April 12th - Chapter Luncheon Meeting – Fort Magruder Inn
April 19th – Battle of Petersburg
April 26th – Virginia History Day at Thomas Nelson Community College
April 28th – James Monroe’s Birthday, Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond, VA
May 3rd – Tucker Grave Marking, Congressional Cemetery, Wash. D.C.
May 26th – Memorial Day Wreath Laying & parade with CW and lunch at the King’s Arms
June 7th – Joint Chapter Luncheon
June 21st – Battle of Ramseur’s Mill – Lincolnton, NC
June 26th – Engagement at Spencer’s Ordinary – Freedom Park Williamsburg
July 4th – Independence Day service at Bruton Parish Church
July 6th – Battle of Green Spring, Jamestown
July 12th – Chapter Luncheon Meeting - Fort Magruder Inn

2014 Williamsburg Chapter Officers

President – Bob Spencer
spencerlaw@cox.net

Vice President – John Moseley
johnmoseley33@yahoo.com

Secretary - Harley Stewart
hstewart9@cox.net

Treasurer - Jack Lee
valee@widomaker.com

Public Relations- Lew DeSeife
ldeseife@cox.net

Registrar/Genealogist – Ron Losee
Valosee@aol.com

Historian
Marvin Williams
marw@cox.net

Chaplain – Rev. Dr. Jim Henry
thedawgsdidit@cox.net