



# 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. XVIII**

**No. 5**

**May 2014**

## Presidents Message

We are now starting the busy part of our annual calendar.

On Saturday, April 26, Don Swain, Jack Lee, Harley Stewart and I served as judges at the Virginia History Day held at Thomas Nelson Community College to review those history projects prepared by students that dealt with the time period of the American Revolutionary War. Bob White, an incoming member, joined us. We awarded a bronze medal, a certificate and a cash prize of \$100 to a high school student from Northern Virginia for a performance based on Abigail Adams. Two middle school students from Bedford, Virginia received bronze medals, certificates and a \$100 cash prize for a presentation about the influence of John Locke on our forefathers. You may remember that students from Bedford won our awards last year, so there must be a very fine history teacher in Bedford.

On Monday, April 28, Ed Truslow (representing VASSAR), Jack Lee, Harley Stewart and I attended the annual birthday ceremony of James Monroe at Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond. The ceremony was very interesting. Hollywood Cemetery is worth a visit, particularly in Spring. Unfortunately, the rain was coming down in buckets.

Jack Lee and I traveled to Charles City County High School on Tuesday April 29, to award a medal and certificate to a member of the JROTC program at the School. The winner of our awards is a fine young man who is a sophomore. He is already considering joining the Marines after graduation. (Note to Ron Losee).

On Saturday, May 3, there is a grave marking in Gloucester of a grave of a patriot of the American Revolutionary War and a second grave of a veteran of the War of 1812.

Remember our May 26 meeting is the Memorial Day ceremony at Colonial Williamsburg, followed by lunch in the garden of the Kings Arms Restaurant. Please make your reservations early.

VASSAR gives an award to a citizen who has made significant volunteer activities in the community. I would like to submit a nominee this year. Let me know as soon as possible if you have a nominee. I do have someone in mind if here is no other nominee.

Bob Spencer

## Monday May 26th Memorial Day Ceremonies & Chapter Luncheon

As we have done in the past, the Williamsburg Chapter will join in the Colonial Williamsburg Memorial Day commemoration on May 26th. We will assemble at the front of the Governor's Palace no later than 9:15 AM. 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, and then our dignitaries and wreath bearers, and the remaining participants.

The procession will then march to the Palace Green Gate of Bruton Parish Church for a brief wreath laying ceremony and then continue to the French cemetery near the Williamsburg Inn for a wreath laying for our Revolutionary War allies..

At the conclusion of the ceremonies we will meet in the garden at **King's Arms Tavern** for an individual Dutch treat "order from the menu" luncheon.

Attendance at the luncheon must be limited to the first 29 responding. No advance payment is required but please e-mail or call your reservation to **Treasurer Jack Lee** at *(757) 221-6686 or vatee@widomaker.com*

We hope all members and their families will join us.

## June 7th Joint Chapter Meeting in Newport News

As is our custom, every June we join together with the Thomas Nelson, Jr. Chapter for a joint luncheon meeting. This year they will be hosting at the Point Plaza Suites Hotel which

is located just off Route 17. It's easy to get to via Exit 258B if I-64. Put it on your calendar. More info will be in the next newsletter.

## April 12th Meeting

President Bob Spencer, assisted by Chapter Registrar Ron Losee, inducted Richard Newsome into membership in our chapter. When you see Richard at a meeting, please introduce yourself.



**(L-R)** Ron Losee, Bob Spencer & Richard Newsome

Our luncheon speaker was Daniel Preston who is the editor of the Papers of James Monroe. Daniel gave a very illuminating presentation on the little known but varied career of James Monroe.



**(L-R)** Daniel Preston & Bob Spencer

## Battle of Petersburg Commemoration

On Saturday April 19<sup>th</sup>, VASSAR VP Ed Truslow presented a wreath at Battersea Plantation House in Petersburg, Va. commemorating the 233<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the battle there in April of 1781. At that battle the Americans were outnumbered by more than two to one and were pushed out of Petersburg.

Other wreath presenters were George Corbett, President of the Richmond SAR Chapter, Dawn Holmes on behalf of the Dames of the British Empire, and Barbara Atkinson Regent of the Colonel John Banister DAR Chapter. U.S. Army Brigadier General John O'Neill and British Lieutenant Colonel Alan Hoff jointly presented a wreath in memory of British Major General William Phillips who died of the fever at Petersburg. He is buried in nearby Blandford Church Cemetery and a memorial stone for him was placed there by the DAR in 1914.

Major General Phillips was captured at the Battle of Saratoga and spent three years in captivity at Charlottesville, Va. until he was exchanged for American General Benjamin Lincoln. Thomas Jefferson entertained General Phillips on several occasions and held him in high regard. Jefferson wrote that General Phillips was "the proudest man of the proudest nation on earth".



**(L-R)** Ed Truslow, Dawn Holmes, George Corbett, Barbara Atkinson, General O'Neill & Lt. Col. Hoff.

General O'Neill is the commandant of the Fort Lee Quartermaster School and he graciously brought along a couple hundred of his soldiers shown below marching into the parade area.



### From the Chapter Registrar

If anyone is searching for family lineage and ancestor information, best place in America is probably the DAR Library in Washington D. C. Chartered bus trips sponsored by the Tidewater Genealogical Society are available several times a year. Next trip is 11 June. Non members are welcome

The number of member/ancestor biographies for the Chapter book is increasing, however, some of you have not yet participated. A paragraph about yourself and another about your ancestor would be appreciated; no limit on length, within reason. The bio book is located on a table in the dining room during chapter luncheons.

For information about either the DAR Library trip or the submission of member biographies please contact Ron Losee, the Chapter Registrar, at [Valosee@aol.com](mailto:Valosee@aol.com)

### History Day 2014

Bob Spencer, James Henry, Harley Stewart were VASSAR judges at the Colonial Williamsburg sponsored Virginia History Day competition on Saturday April 26. A Senior and a Junior project winner were selected. At the awards ceremony our chapter President Bob Spencer presented them with Bronze Good Citizenship Medals Certificates. Both winners were given one hundred dollar cash awards provided by the Williamsburg Chapter. Additionally an Outstanding Citizenship Award Certificate and lapel pin was presented to the runner up junior project. The award ceremony was attended by several hundred teachers, family members and competitors.

The senior winner was Celina Paudel for her performance of *A Woman Born Ahead of Her Time: the Roles and Responsibilities and Views of Abigail Adams*" She attends Westfield High School in Chantilly Va.

The Junior winners were Thomas Messier and Carly Field for their group performance titled: *John Locke's Ideas for Freedom and the American Revolution: The Rights to Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness*. They attend Bedford Middle School, Bedford Virginia.

## James Madison's Birthday Commemoration

On Monday April 28<sup>th</sup> Ed Truslow, Bob Spencer, Harley Stewart and Jack Lee journeyed to the Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond to commemorate the birthday of James Monroe at his gravesite. Brigadier General Haley from the Fort Lee Ordinance School was the keynote speaker and presented a wreath on behalf of President Obama. Various patriotic and heritage organizations presented wreaths as well. Ed Truslow presented the wreath of behalf of VASSAR and Bob Spencer presented the wreath on behalf of the Williamsburg Chapter.



(L-R) Jack Lee, Bob Spencer, Harley Stewart and Ed Truslow



General Haley

## Chapter/VSSAR Calendar

**May 17<sup>th</sup>** – Grave Marking and Joint Colonial War, Revolutionary War and War of 1812 joint plaque dedication – Old Donation Church, Virginia Beach, VA  
**May 26<sup>th</sup>** – Memorial Day Wreath Laying & parade with CW and lunch at the King's Arms  
**May 31<sup>st</sup>** – Thomas Tucker grave marking at the Congressional Cemetery, Wash. D.C.  
**June 7<sup>th</sup>** – Joint Chapter Luncheon – Newport News  
**June 14<sup>th</sup>** – VASSAR/1812 Society Joint Grave Marking – Dumfries, VA (Presidential Initiative)  
**June 21<sup>st</sup>** – Battle of Ramseur's Mill – Lincolnton, NC  
**June 26<sup>th</sup>** – Engagement at Spencer's Ordinary – Freedom Park -Williamsburg  
**July 4<sup>th</sup>** – Independence Day service at Bruton Parish Church  
**July 6<sup>th</sup>** – Battle of Green Spring, - Church on the Main, Jamestown  
**July 12<sup>th</sup>** – Chapter Luncheon Meeting - Fort Magruder Inn

## 2014 Williamsburg Chapter Officers

**President** – Bob Spencer  
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