



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. 12

December 2014

Message from the President

My term as President of the Williamsburg Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution is winding down. Don Swain and his team will be responsible for leading our Chapter as of January 10, 2015.

I am confident that the members of our Chapter will give Don the great support that I have enjoyed.

I am now in the process of preparing our Annual report for 2014 to VASSAR. It is very interesting to use this task as an opportunity to review what our Chapter has accomplished this year. It is a record of which we can be very proud!

As of this date I am preparing this article for the newsletter, there is one more important event to attend. The Battle of Great Bridge event will be held in Chesapeake, Virginia on Saturday December 5. I encourage our members to attend. It is an easy one-hour drive.

I was pleased that we had the opportunity to honor our military veterans at our Veteran's Day lunch, particularly our 7 World War II veterans. Unfortunately, we just lost John Bidwell. One of

those veterans.

It was a pleasure to hear our designated Orator for the VASSAR contest. The contest will be conducted at the VASSAR Annual Meeting in Richmond in February. Taylor Povich is also considering the submission of an essay in the VASSAR essay contest.

I wish each of you a wonderful holiday season and a happy and prosperous 2015. Keep on the lookout for prospective members of our Chapter. Contact on Losee if you have any questions about membership.

- Bob Spencer



December 2014

Page 1

Chapter/VASSAR Calendar

Upcoming SAR Events in Our Region & Beyond



DECEMBER 13th, 2014

Wreaths Across America

DECEMBER 29th, 2014

Colonial Ball & Debutante Presentation (GSSAR)

Athens, GA

JANUARY 10th, 2015

Joint Williamsburg/Thomas Nelson Jr. Chapter Meeting
& Officer Induction

Newport News, VA

JANUARY 16th, 2015

Commemoration of the Battle of Cowpens
Cowpens, SC

FEBRUARY 8th, 2015

Williamsburg Chapter Meeting

Williamsburg, VA

FEBRUARY 13-14th, 2015

Commemoration of the Crossing of the Dan
Danville, VA

FEBRUARY 20-21st, 2015

VASSAR Annual Meeting

Richmond, VA

Veterans Day, November 11th, 2014



Bob Spencer, President Williamsburg Chapter SAR,
laying wreath in front of New Hampshire Militia

January 10th Joint Chapter Dinner

Compatriots please put January 10th at 6:00pm on your calendar for our 2015 Annual Meeting and Induction of Officers. This year the Thomas Nelson, Jr. Chapter is hosting this dual meeting and VASSAR President Bill Broadus will be installing the 2015 officers for both chapters. The meeting will be held at the Point Plaza Suites Hotel just off of Rt. 17 in Newport News. Please come out and support our 2015 chapter officers. Further details will be provided later.

Date: Saturday, January 10th, 2015

Location: Point Plaza Suites at City Center

950 J. Clyde Morris Blvd. Newport News, Virginia 23601

Social: 6:00pm

Meeting: 6:30pm

**Sign-up Form on page 8 for the Saturday January 10th Meeting
@ 6:00pm.**

**Reservations MUST be received not later than Wednesday
January 7th.**

2015 Chapter Dues

If you haven't already paid your 2015 dues, please get them into the mail as soon as possible so we can end the year with you on the 2015 member list. For most everyone, the combination of the National, State and Chapter dues totals \$70.00 however if you have a question about your amount, please contact Chapter Treasurer Jack Lee. His contact information is below.

Please send Treasurer Jack Lee your dues check to:

521 Newport Ave.

Williamsburg, VA 23185-4012

Jack may be contacted at

valee@widomaker.com

or 757-870-4516.



Compatriot George Thomas Copes



Compatriot George Thomas Copes, who preferred to be called “Tom”, died on October 21, 2014 after a brief illness.

Tom was a retired Chief Warrant Officer-Four in the United States Navy who lived in Yorktown and belonged to the Williamsburg Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. He was inducted into the Chapter in November, 2013.

Tom was a native of Maryland who joined the Navy upon graduation from high school. He served 30 years and served at Norfolk; Rota, Spain; Scotland and Diego Garcia, among other assignments. He was a 32d degree Mason, a Scottish Rite Mason, a member of National Sojourners, Inc. and the Yorkminster Presbyterian Church in Yorktown.

He was a descendant of Aquila Thomas Norris, who was appointed and commissioned a captain of the Hartford County, Maryland militia on April 9, 1778, and served during the Revolutionary War.

Memorial services were held on November 2 in Yorktown.

Compatriot John Bucher Bidwell

Compatriots,

Our John Bidwell passed away at Windsor Meade on Thursday, November 20, 2014. John’s obituary was in the Williamsburg Daily Press starting Sunday, November 23rd.

John was a WWII Veteran. At one time he was the Williamsburg Chapter Genealogist and Registrar.

According to Laura, John’s daughter, there was a memorial service at Williamsburg Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, November 26, 2014 at 2:00 pm with a reception following.

Burial was on Saturday, November 29th in Pennsylvania. John will be dearly missed by all who knew him.



DAR History Award Medal

The DAR History Award Medal was presented to Dr. William M. Kelso on Nov. 4 by the Williamsburg Chapter DAR at the Ford's Colony Country Club.

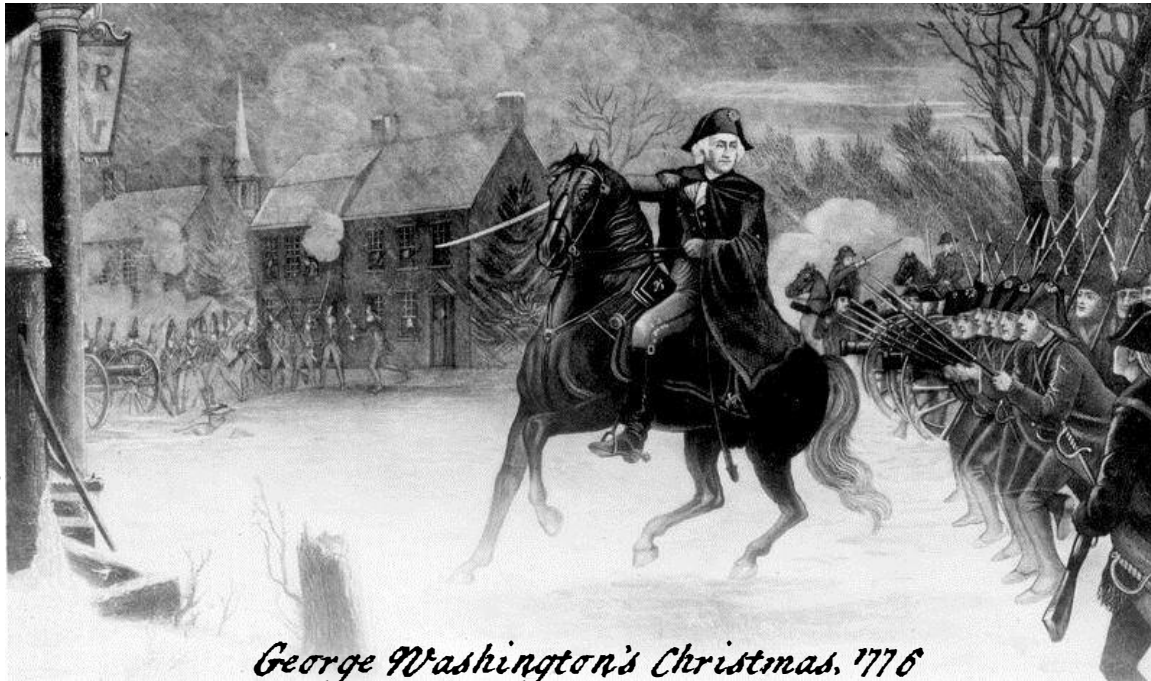
Kelso is the director of research and interpretation at Historic Jamestowne. Pictured are NSDAR Historian General Bana Caskey, CW Vice President of Research and Interpretation James Horn, Kelso, and DAR regent Jane Stewart.



SAR Attends Williamsburg DAR Function



Williamsburg SAR members present were president Bob Spencer (left), secretary Harley Stewart (5th from left), and member Bob Van Duyne (right). Present but not pictured were registrar Ron Losee and member Steve Wilson.



George Washington's Christmas, 1776

November 11th Guest Speaker



Stuart L. Butler retired from the National Archives and Records Administration in 1999 as an assistant branch chief with the formerly Old Military and Civil Branch, where he specialized in early American military records.

He attended Florida State University and Florida Atlantic University, and holds a M.A. degree in American history. Since retiring from the U.S. Government after thirty years service,

Mr. Butler has been researching and writing a history of Virginia during the War of 1812. His latest book is entitled, *Defending the Old Dominion: Virginia and its Militia in the War of 1812*, published by the University Press of America.

Mr. Butler is a contributor to the ongoing publication, *Dictionary of Virginia Biography*, and is a current member of the Citizens Advisory Council for the Virginia War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission.

He is the author of *Virginia Soldiers in the U.S. Army* (Athens, 1987); *Guide to Virginia Militia Units in the War of 1812* (Athens, 1988, Revised 2011), and *Real Patriots and Heroic Soldiers: General Joel Leftwich and the Virginia Brigade in the War of 1812* (Westminster, 2008).

He has written a number of articles on the War of 1812 appearing in such magazines as the *Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Magazine*, *Albemarle County History Magazine*, *Maryland Historical Magazine*, and *Prologue*, the quarterly journal of the National Archives and Records Administration.

He now lives in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest



The Rumbaugh Oratorical Contest is a national Sons of the American Revolution contest in which high school students present orations the subjects of which are a person or event in the colonial period. The subject of Taylor's oration is the Stamp Act, its' genesis, Patrick Henry's Virginia Resolves and its' relevance today. She will represent the Williamsburg Chapter in the Virginia competition to be held in February. If she wins in the Virginia competition she will compete in June at the SAR national congress.

Taylor is a senior in Smithfield High School, her mother is Judy Povich and her father is Charles Povich.



Veterans Day Observances, Tuesday, November 11th, 2014



**Colonial Williamsburg Fife and Drum, Williamsburg Chapter SAR
Chaplain Jim Henry, SAR Color Guard**



Patrick Henry, CW Interpreter Richard Schuman

Veterans Day Observances (continued)



L-R - Col. Joe Spruil, SAR, Ed Truslow, VASSAR, Virginia Lee, DAR Regent, Bob Spencer, President Williamsburg SAR, Ken Wood, President Thomas Nelson SAR Chapter, Patrick Henry, CW Interpreter Richard Schuman at Wreath Laying ceremony for veterans buried in the Revolutionary Cemetery at the Governor's Palace



Members of Boy Scout troop 1932 with flags representing those buried in the Revolutionary Cemetery at the Governor's Palace, L-R British Provincial Loyalists, US Patriots (Original US Revolutionary Flag, French Regiments, Rhode Island Regiment, Massachusetts Regiment

New Member Induction – Compatriot Robert Van Duyne



Compatriot Robert Van Duyne was inducted into the Williamsburg Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution at our November 11th Veterans Day Chapter meeting.

The Sons of the American Revolution commemorate and provide memorials for the people and events of the American Revolution, help preserve records relating to the events leading up to and during the American Revolution, and were a major force behind the construction of the National Archives in Washington DC.

2015 Williamsburg Chapter Officers

President	Don Swain	dswain1015@aol.com
Vice-President	Jay Smith	jsmith@vikingeng.net
Secretary	Harley Stewart	hstewart9@cox.net
Treasurer	Jack Lee	valee@widomaker.com
Public Relations	Lew de Seife	ldeseife@cox.net
Registrar/Genealogist	Ron Losee	valosee@aol.com
Historian	Richard Newsome	r-newsome@sbcglobal.net
Chaplain	Rev. Dr. Jim Henry	thedawgsdidit@cox.net
At-Large Member	Tom Campbell	tcampbell113@cox.net
At-Large Member	George Bridewell	gbridewell@aol.com

Cut along dotted line

Reservation for the Saturday, January 10th 2015 Joint Chapter Meeting & Induction:

Please reserve _____ dinners at \$25.00

Name(s) _____

of Vegetarian Dinners _____

Please make checks payable to “Williamsburg Chapter SAR”

and mail to:

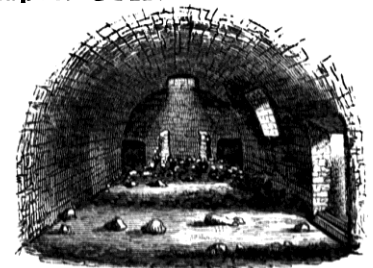
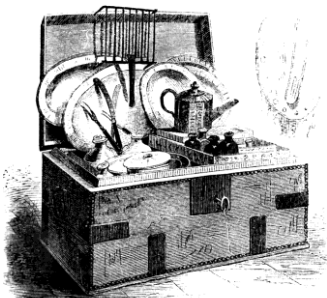
Jack Lee

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Black Tie Optional