



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. XIX

No. 4

April 2015

Message from the President

President and CEO of Colonial Williamsburg, Mitchell Reiss, will be our speaker for the 11 April lunch at the fort McGruder inn. He was selected for this position last fall and has already laid plans for significant enhancements to the Williamsburg experience. Please plan to attend. Contact valee@widomaker.com For your reservations.

Undeterred by rainy weather, Immediate past president, Bob Spencer, represented our chapter at the SAR event in North Carolina commemorating the 1781 battle at Guilford's Court House. On 17 March, he presented a wreath at the celebration of President James Madison's birthday. These activities garnered streamers for our chapter flag.

On Saturday 25 March I had the privilege of representing our chapter at the annual Youth Certificate of Citizenship Ceremony. This event is sponsored jointly by the Williamsburg Chapter of the DAR and the Jamestown Yorktown Foundation. Forty-one children of recently naturalized families from twenty-six countries participated. Guest speaker, Thomas Jefferson i.e. Bill Parker, reminded our new citizens that our constitutional government depends upon an involved citizenry.

The material these new young citizens mastered as a requisite for receiving their flag and certificate should perhaps be required reading for all Americans on a recurring basis.

- Don Swain

Bill Simpson Honored for "Revolutionary Controversies"



Williamsburg Sons of the American Revolution Chapter President Don Swain Presents a certificate of Appreciation and the Jefferson cup to Bill Simpson, three time President of the Fredericksburg SAR Chapter and Former VASSAR

President from 2009 to 2010 for his presentation of "Revolutionary Controversies." When did the Revolutionary War start? There is a good case for 1774; Who was the real Molly Pitcher? We may never know; and Did Patrick Henry really say "Give me Liberty or give me death". Impossible to prove.

Chapter/VASSAR Calendar

Upcoming SAR Events in Our Region & Beyond



APRIL 11th, 2015

Williamsburg Chapter Meeting

Williamsburg, VA

APRIL 18th, 2015

2015 Virginia History Day

Williamsburg, VA

APRIL 25th, 2015

President James Monroe's 257th Birthday

Westmoreland Co. Cemetery (p. 6)

APRIL 28th, 2015

President James Monroe's 257th Birthday

Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond (p. 6)

MAY 26th, 2015

Williamsburg Chapter Meeting

Williamsburg, VA

Memorial Day CW/SAR/DAR

JUNE 5th-7th, 2015

Lafayette's Hermione Voyage 2015

Yorktown, VA (p. 4)

<http://www.hermione2015.com/index.html#home>

JUNE 13th, 2015

Joint Williamsburg/Thomas Nelson Jr.

Chapter Meeting

Williamsburg, VA

JUNE 20th, 2015

Spencer's Ordinary Commemoration

Williamsburg, VA

JULY 4th, 2015

Independence Day

SAR-Bruton Parish/DAR-Berkeley Plantation

April 11th Chapter Luncheon

The Williamsburg Chapter invites all members and their ladies to attend the March luncheon meeting.

There will be an excellent guest speaker, President and CEO of Colonial Williamsburg, Mitchell Reiss. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Date: Saturday, April 11th, 2015

Location: Fort Magruder Inn
& Conference Center

6945 Pocahontas Trail (Rt. 60 east)

Social: 11:30 am

Meeting: 12:00 noon

Sign-up Form on page 5 for the Saturday

April 11th Meeting @ 12:00 noon.

**Reservations MUST be received not later than
Wednesday, April 8th.**

125th Annual Congress

June 25th – July 1st, 2015, Louisville, KY

The following is the passkey site for reservations for the Galt House Hotel and the SAR rate: <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/NSSAR15>

If you experience a problem while using this webpage, please contact Paul Callanan, NSSAR Congress Planning Chair at 906-273-2424 or email ltcmrsc@aol.com. He will contact the hotel and get them to correct the issue.

Additionally, you can call the hotel at 1-800- THE-GALT (1-800-843-4258). Then press "1" when prompted. Make sure you inform them you are with the SAR for the Congress to get the right room rate.

Speaking of rooms and rates, there are two types:

Deluxe Rivue Rooms (either two Queen or one King bed)
for \$125.00 per night plus taxes;

Executive Suites (two Queen beds) for \$145.00 per night plus taxes.

Now some miscellaneous information:

The closet in the regular rooms are like a normal hotel room about 36" of hanging space. The closet in a Executive Suite are about 48" long. Wifi is **free** in the room if you are listed as SAR.

Mini-refrigerators are available in the Executive Suites.

There are no refrigerators in the Deluxe Rivue Rooms.

Parking is \$10.00 per day. This is a price reduction.

Battle of Guilford County Courthouse

On Saturday, March 14, I was privileged to represent the Williamsburg Chapter at the 234th Anniversary of the Battle of Guilford County Courthouse near Greensboro, North Carolina. Unfortunately, the heady rain precluded all outdoor activities, so the ceremony was held indoors.

You may remember that in January and February, 1781, General Nathaniel Greene led his American Army in a race with British General Cornwallis northward through North Carolina in order to be first in the race to cross the Dan River (near South Boston, Virginia). Greene won this desperate race and gained time to re-supply and enlarge his Army. Cornwallis could not cross the Dan (because Greene had captured or destroyed all of the ferry boats), and turned back to re-enter North Carolina.



In March, 1781, Greene, with his Army restored and enlarged, re-crossed the Dan and headed into North Carolina. The two forces met at Guilford County Courthouse. Cornwallis had to deal with several problems, including the fact that his light infantry force had been killed, wounded or captured at Cowpens by General Morgan's American forces. Though outnumbered, Cornwallis won the day but at a terrible cost. British anti-war politician, Charles Fox, commented after the battle: "Another such victory would ruin the British Army".

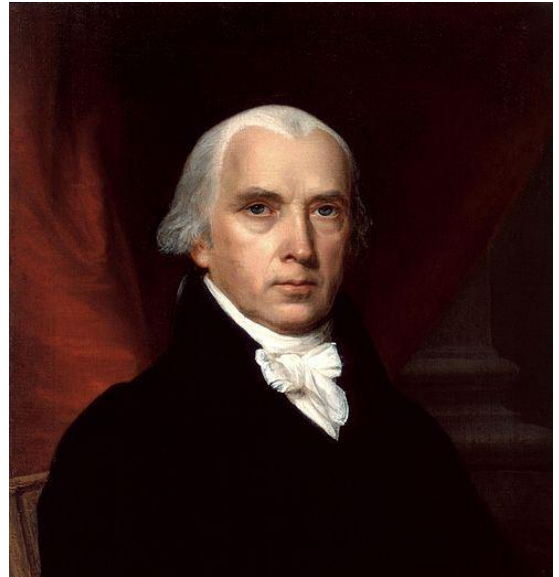
Greene, with a force of 4,500 men (including militia) reported approximately 70 killed, 185 wounded and 1,046 missing (the militia went home)

After the battle Greene continued south into South Carolina to dislodge the British. Cornwallis went on to Wilmington, North Carolina to re-supply his troops, and then moved into Virginia and, ultimately, to Yorktown.

- *Bob Spencer*

Birthday of James Madison

The Commemoration of the 264th Anniversary of President James Madison was held on Monday, March 16 at Montpelier, the former Madison family home. I represented our Chapter at the celebration on a magnificent day.



A detachment of Marines from Quantico Marine Base, including Colonel David Maxwell, Base Commander, led the ceremony. There were a large number of wreaths presented at the Madison family cemetery, including wreaths from the State of Virginia SAR, six Virginia SAR chapters, and the War of 1812 Virginia State Society.



After the ceremony, I was able to take a tour of the restored mansion, Members of the duPont family paid for the restoration. The tour was led by a very knowledgeable guide. James Madison was available to greet visitors. Montpelier is approximately two hours from Williamsburg.

- *Bob Spencer*

Lafayette's Hermione Voyage 2015



The Hermione, the ship that reunited Lafayette and Washington and sealed our freedom sails again for America

Twenty years ago a small group met together and discussed the idea of reconstructing an exact replica of the Hermione. Now it is almost completed - originally one of the most authentically built Tall Ships ever. Meantime, the idea grew that the Hermione should sail to the USA - bringing to life the voyage made by Lafayette in 1780 and re-affirming the historic relationship between the United States and France. The Hermione's first voyage will take her across the Atlantic.

The itinerary for the Hermione Voyage 2015 will take the Hermione to Yorktown, Virginia (June 5th-7th2015), where she took part in the blockade that led to the surrender of Lord Cornwallis and his army. It will then move up the coast, close to Washington DC at Mt. Vernon and Alexandria, then stop in Annapolis, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, Greenport, Newport, Boston, Castine, and then Lunenburg/Halifax, Nova Scotia before heading back home to France.

For more information on the project and voyage, please visit: <http://www.hermione2015.com/index.html#home>



2015 SAR/DAR/CAR Bermuda Gunpowder Plot Trip

Compatriots,

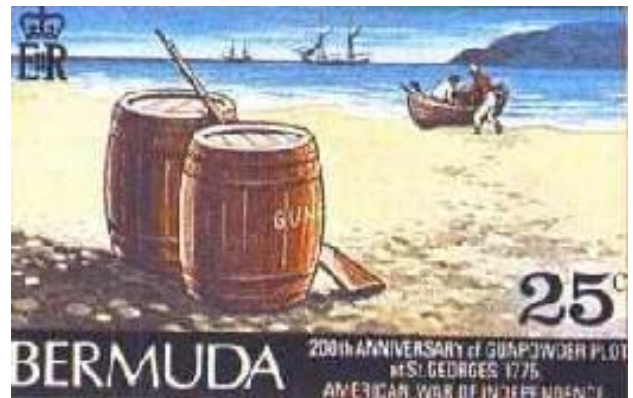
The SAR-DAR-CAR trip to Bermuda to commemorate the 240th anniversary of the Bermuda Gunpowder Plot will take place in August 2015. We are planning four (perhaps more) very special SAR-DAR-CAR events, including the dedication of two historical markers (at the site of the gunpowder magazine and near the birthplace of two Bermuda-born Patriots) and an interpretive sign (at Tobacco Bay Beach, where the gunpowder left shore for waiting American ships). We likely will have participation by the Governor, the Premier and the U.S. Consul General. But there will also be time for participants to enjoy the stunning beauty of Bermuda, from its pink sand beaches to its world-class golf courses!

Our headquarters is the Fairmont Southampton, one of the finest hotels on Bermuda -- and just a short walk from the world-famous Horseshoe Bay Beach.

This trip is open to SAR, DAR and CAR members and their families. All of the special events will be joint SAR-DAR-CAR events with official participation from all three organizations.

For more information, please contact me at elston.sar@gmail.com or you can peruse the preliminary itinerary at:

<https://prod.groupandevent.net/register/bermudapatriots>
To access the site, use the password gunpowder15. Registration and a \$200/person deposit will hold your place on the trip.



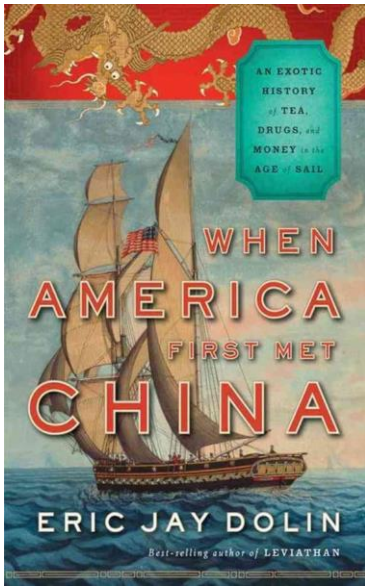
Feel free to share this with other SAR and DAR members in your local area who you think may be interested in the trip. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

- Mike Elston

April Book Raffle Selection

The selection for April's Book Raffle is entitled "When America First Met China: An Exotic History of Tea, Drugs, and Money In the Age of Sail" by Eric Jay Dolin, Liveright Publishing Corporation, 500 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY. 10110, 2012.

Raffle tickets are \$1.00 each or 7 for \$5.00, and can be purchased at the Chapter meeting.



1760s Chinese Wallpaper

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, April 11th 2015 Chapter Meeting:

Please reserve _____ dinners at \$20.00

Name(s) _____

of Vegetarian Dinners _____

Please make checks payable to "Williamsburg Chapter SAR"

and mail to:

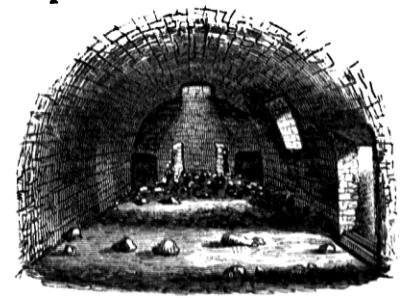
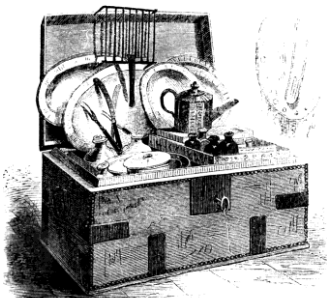
Jack Lee

521 Newport Ave.

Williamsburg, VA 23185-4012

(757) 221-6686

valee@widomaker.com



The James Monroe Memorial Foundation

*908 S Charles Street
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401*

*George William Thomas, Jr.
President*

February 25, 2015

Please reply to: Peter E. Broadbent, Jr.
Vice President
c/o Christian & Barton, LLP
909 E. Main Street
Richmond, VA 23219
804-697-4109
pbroadbent@cblaw.com

Dear Lineage/Patriotic Society Leader,

I am writing to ask that you pass along to your officers and members the following information regarding the activities in April to celebrate President James Monroe's 257th birthday.

This year, the actual birthday (April 28) ceremonies for President Monroe in Richmond (at Hollywood Cemetery) and in Westmoreland County (at the Monroe birthplace farm south of Colonial Beach) will occur on a different schedule, but we hope you can attend both events.

Westmoreland County Ceremony – Saturday, April 25

Starting at **10:00 a.m.**, at the Birthplace, the 257th anniversary ceremonies are expected to include local and state elected officials and federal officials. The formal ceremony will commence at **10:30 a.m.** Lunch will be provided afterward at the Moose Lodge nearby. Come to see the latest exhibits at the Visitor Center and learn the latest update on the Foundation's plans to rebuild the Birthplace house. There will be an opportunity for lineage societies to present wreaths. See www.monroefoundation.org for the Birthplace location.

Hollywood Cemetery Ceremony – Tuesday, April 28

This year our annual wreath-laying ceremony at President Monroe's tomb in Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond will be at **11:00 a.m.** (subject to any changes by the Army, which conducts the ceremony). This is an impressive ceremony, with a speech on behalf of the President delivered by an Army general, a proclamation by the Governor, the Fort Lee color guard and band, and wreaths presented by the President, our Foundation, and various lineage societies.

We invite your participation and hope that attendance and participation at the annual Monroe birthday events will become a regular goal for all Virginia lineage societies which seek to honor our history.

*National Historic Landmark
Founder-Donors and Co-Regents of James Monroe Law Office Museum
and Memorial Library, Fredericksburg, Virginia*