



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 signers' houses were burned to the ground. No signer defected. Their honor, like their nation remained intact.

Vol. XX

M1

January 2016

Message from the President

Our busy, successful 2015 Williamsburg Chapter SAR year is completed. The 2016 leadership slate will be inducted on Saturday, 9 January at our joint meeting with the Thomas Nelson Jr. chapter. We will be honored to have VASSAR president, Reverdy Wright as our guest and he will conduct the installation ceremony for both chapters.

During the past year, our Williamsburg SAR members have attended events commemorating the patriotic legacy of our forefathers across Virginia, North Carolina, Maryland, Tennessee and even Bermuda. However, perhaps of most significance are the local events where our chapter members have played critical roles. These included the Memorial Day events with Colonial Williamsburg, James City County Freedom Park sign unveiling, Church on the Main memorial marker ceremony that included the induction of a new member, distribution of 100s of flags during the 4th of July concert, leadership roles in the annual 4th of July service at Bruton Parish Church, joining with the DAR at several commemorations, and the outstanding Veterans Day celebration at the Colonial Williamsburg Governor's Palace.

These events, in combination with our exceptional "Newsletter" and web page must continue to be our special missions. Our chapter's responsibility for leadership of these local events is critical to the continued honoring of our revolutionary war heritage. I believe that it is only through our continued participation in these activities that we can truly claim the honor of being called, "SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION"

-Don Swain

Registrar's Corner

"I'm not absolutely sure, but I believe the Williamsburg chapter, SAR, set some sort of record for itself this year by joining 21 brand new members. That would not have been possible were it not for our steadfast, loyal members who talk with friends about the organization and encourage others to join. Let's top that number in 2016! We have six good candidates awaiting their approval in January-February; their applications have been submitted and await final NSSAR action. Seven supplemental applications were submitted and approved for our members this year also. Being your registrar is a great job and I'll hang around one more year. I'm meeting the nicest, darned people!"

- S.F. Ron Loebe

Chapter/VASSAR Calendar

Upcoming SAR Events in Our Region & Beyond

January 9th 2016

Annual Joint Dinner with Thomas Nelson Jr. Chapter

January 15-16 2016

**Battle of Cowpens
Gaffney, SC
(Hosted by SCSSAR)**

February 6th 2016

**Battle of Cowen's Ford
(Hosted by NCSSAR)**

February 12-13th 2016

**Crossing of the Dan
South Boston, VA
(Hosted by NCSSAR and VASSAR)**

February 19-20th 2016

**VASSAR Annual Meeting
Omni Hotel
Richmond, VA**



January 9th Chapter Dinner

The Williamsburg Chapter invites all members, and their ladies, to attend the annual joint dinner meeting with the Thomas Nelson Jr. chapter. Virginia Society SAR president, Reverdy E. Wright, will be our guest and will officially install the 2016 officers. We look forward to seeing you there. The price is \$25.00 per person.

Date: Saturday, January 9th 2016

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

Social: 6:30 pm

Meeting: 7:00 pm

**Sign-up Form on page 5 for the Saturday
January 9th Meeting @ 7:00 pm.**

**Reservations MUST be received not later than
Wednesday, December 30th.**



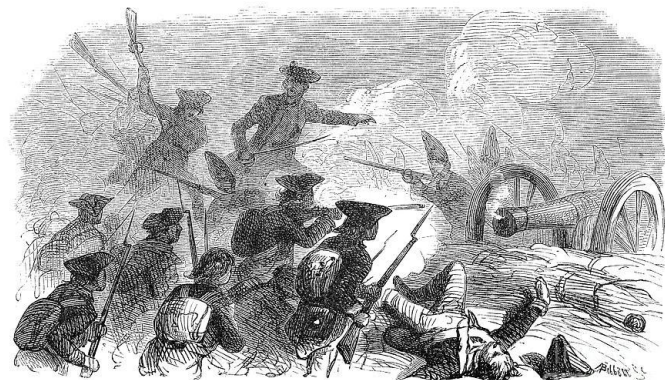
*Happy New Year from the
Williamsburg Chapter of
SAR*

The Battle of Cowpens

After the British scored victories in South Carolina, at Charleston (May 1780) and Camden (August 1780), Major General Nathanael Greene, commander of the Continental army's Southern campaign, decided to divide Patriot troops in the Carolinas in order to force the larger British contingent under General Charles Cornwallis to fight them on multiple fronts—and because smaller groups of men were easier for the beleaguered Patriots to feed. Brigadier General Daniel Morgan took 300 Continental riflemen and some 700 militiamen with the intention of attacking the British backcountry fort, Ninety-Six. In response, Cornwallis dispatched Banastre Tarleton with 1,100 Redcoats and Loyalists to catch Morgan, whom he feared might instigate a broad-based backcountry Patriot uprising. Morgan, nicknamed Old Wagoner because he served as a wagon driver during the French and Indian, prepared for the encounter with Tarleton by backing his men up to a river at Cowpens, a pastureland in present-day Spartanburg County and north of Ninety-Six.

As Tarleton's men attacked, Morgan instructed the militia to skirmish with them but to leave the front line after firing two rounds. The British mistook the repositioning of the Americans as a rout and ran into an unexpected volley of concentrated rifle fire coupled with a cavalry charge and followed by the return of the militia. Tarleton escaped, but Morgan's troops decimated his army.

American rifles, scorned by Britain's professional soldiers, proved devastatingly effective in this engagement. More than 800 British troops were killed, wounded or captured. The Americans suffered less than 100 casualties in the first Patriot victory to demonstrate that they could outfight a similar British force without any other factors, such as surprise or geography, to assist them. The victory provided an important morale boost, and later that year, in November, the Americans would defeat the British at Yorktown, Virginia, the last major Revolutionary War battle.



CAPTURE OF A REDOUBT AT YORKTOWN.

Battle of Great Bridge Commemoration

On Saturday December 5th Ed Truslow presented the Williamsburg Chapter wreath at the ceremony commemorating the 240th anniversary of the Battle of Great Bridge. The 1775 patriot victory eliminated Norfolk as a supply base for British forces for the rest of the war. The Battle of Great Bridge is one of the four Virginia Society commemorations recognized by the National Society and attended by National Society officers. Thomas Nelson, Jr. Chapter president Bruce Meyer stands on Ed's left.



Left: The SAR Color Guard, under the command of Darrin Schmidt, presents the colors at the Great Bridge ceremony. Co-host Norfolk Chapter President Maury Weeks is at the Podium.

Below: Color Guard Commander Darrin Schmidt, makes ready to parade the colors, as the bagpiper, far right, makes ready to play.





Below right: The Law Enforcement Commendation Medal was awarded to Major Gregory Riley of the Williamsburg Police Department on Dec. 8, 2015. Presenting the award to Major Riley is Donald Swain, President of the Williamsburg Chapter of the SAR.



Above left: Fire Safety and EMS Commendation Medals were awarded to Sr. Fire Rescue Technician Charles Shaw of the James City County Fire Department on Dec. 8, 2015. Pictured above from left to right are Fire Chief Ryan Ashe, Shaw, Donald Swain, President of the Williamsburg Chapter, and Asst. Fire Chief John Galganski.

2016 Williamsburg Chapter Officers

- President Harley Stewart hstewart9@cox.net
Vice-President Jay Smith jay.smith92346@gmail.com
Secretary Roger Cross rogercross@msn.com
Treasurer Jack Lee valec@widomaker.com
Public Relations Lew de Seife ldeseife@cox.net
Registrar/Genealogist Ron Losec valosec@aol.com
Historian William Greaf hcaprof@verizon.net
Chaplain Rev. Dr. Jim Henry thedawgsdedit@cox.net
Projects Tom Campbell tcampbell113@cox.net
Sergeant-at-Arms George Bridewell gbridewell@aol.com

Cut along dotted line

Reservation for the Saturday, January 9th 2016 Chapter Dinner:

Please reserve _____ dinners at \$25.00

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

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valec@widomaker.com

