



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.

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President's Message

At our October meeting we were treated to a very interesting presentation by Peggy Bellows, Editor of the Virginia Gazette, on Gazette publication during the Revolutionary War. There were no reporters, no photos and no ads in those days. Material consisted mainly of letters sent in to them and a big problem was shortage of paper. She then went on to discuss the Gazette's transition into the digital-age "revolution."

Yorktown Victory Day on Oct. 19th began with the usual wreath laying at the tomb of Thomas Nelson, Jr. Six SAR state societies, 14 Virginia SAR chapters and many members of the Williamsburg Chapter attended or participated in a colorful ceremony. Afterward, about 40 compatriots mustered on Church Street, marched down Main Street past the reviewing stand, and then fell out for a large SAR group photo. It was a beautiful day in every way.

On Oct. 22nd a roadside marker at Hayes, VA was dedicated in the area of the 1781 Battle of the Hook. This battle helped hasten the British surrender across the river in Yorktown. Virginia SAR President Ed Truslow brought greetings and your chapter president attended.

Do not miss our chapter's signature ceremony on Veterans Day. A great and expanded event has been prepared by Tom Campbell. It will include Colors, Fife and Drum, National Anthems, Procession of Revolutionary War Flags, a Speaker, Bag Piper, Wreath Laying, and a Bugler. We will gather at 11 AM on Nov. 11th for the cemetery behind the Governor's Palace in Colonial Williamsburg. After the ceremony we will move to the Fort Magruder Hotel for a luncheon meeting. The meeting will feature election of 2017 officers and board members. The speaker will be John Beakes, a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, whose subject will be Otho Williams, a superb Revolutionary War soldier and an example of George Washington's building of a team of military leaders.

I look forward to seeing you on Veterans Day.



- Harley



Chapter/VASSAR Calendar
Upcoming Events in Our Region & Beyond

November 11th 2016

Veterans Days Commemoration
Governor's Palace
Colonial Williamsburg, VA

November 12th-13th, 2016

Williamsburg-Yorktown
American Revolution Roundtable
 "The Southern Campaigns
 1775-1782 Symposium"
American Revolution Museum at
Yorktown.

December 9th 2016

Battle of Great Bridge
Commemoration
Chesapeake, VA

January 14th 2017

Joint Dinner Meeting
And Induction of Officers
With Thomas Nelson Jr Chapter
Newport News, VA

November 11th Chapter Luncheon

The Williamsburg Chapter invites all members and their guests to attend the November 11th luncheon. We look forward to seeing you there.

Date: Friday, November 11, 2016

Location: Fort Magruder Inn

Williamsburg

Meeting: 12:00

Please see the RSVP information on the last page of this newsletter.

Reservations MUST be received no later than
Wednesday, November 9th.

Registrar's Corner

November 10 will be the last Tidewater Genealogy Society bus trip to the DAR Library in Washington, D. C. If interested, contact Peggy Lutton at 757-753-4935 for details. A reminder: all applicants-in-waiting and prospects in the process of preparing applications are invited to attend the monthly luncheons of the Williamsburg Chapter, SAR. The newsletters always contain details about reservations. I want to express my appreciation to the new chapter members and those currently being processed for their patience while awaiting final NSSAR decision on their application. From the time I mail it to the VASSAR registrar until final approval is about 12 weeks at present; when delayed for VASSAR action it increases up to another month. It has been a habitual concern; steps to improve the system have been ineffective in the past.

- S.F. Ron Losee

Chapter Happenings



SAR President Speaks at Yorktown

SAR President General J. Michael Tomme Sr. spoke at Yorktown Day ceremonies conducted at the Grace Episcopal Church, burial location of Revolutionary War Patriot Gen. Thomas Nelson Jr.

Williamsburg SAR Chapter Members Attend Yorktown Days Commemoration

Members of the Williamsburg Chapter attended the Yorktown Days commemoration held at Grace Episcopal Church, where Gen. Thomas Nelson Jr. is buried.



Peggy Bellows Speaks at October Luncheon

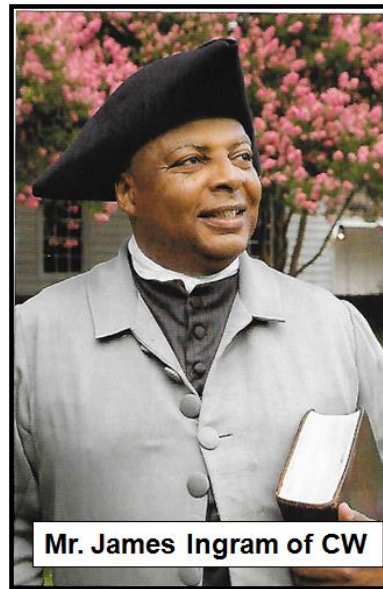
Harley Stewart, President of the Williamsburg Chapter, presents Peggy Bellows, Editor of the Virginia Gazette, with a certificate of appreciation and a Jefferson cup in recognition of her enjoyable remarks at the October luncheon meeting.

Sons of American Revolution Will Honor Veterans and “Forgotten Patriots” at Colonial Williamsburg on Veterans Day, November 11th

The Williamsburg Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, with the support of Colonial Williamsburg, will observe Veterans Day by conducting a wreath-laying ceremony at the Governor’s Palace Revolutionary War Cemetery, November 11, 2016. Last year over 200 people attended the ceremony, the largest crowd ever, and a Patrick Henry re-enactor spoke. The ceremony honored all veterans past and present along with the 158 “Forgotten Patriots” (156 men and 2 women) buried in unmarked graves in the garden cemetery behind the palace.

This year, the SAR will continue to emphasize the contributions of “Forgotten Patriots” during the Revolutionary War, including women and African Americans who fought for both the British and the Patriots...even though their freedom was not assured.

Gowan Pamphlet, a free man and minister, portrayed by Colonial Williamsburg’s James Ingram, will speak about life as a slave and their contributions during the revolution. Also, ladies from the Americale Franconia will represent the French contributions during the Battle of Yorktown and a procession of Revolutionary War flags will be featured by Boy Scouts of Troop 1932. The Veterans Day event will begin at 11:00 am on November 11, 2016 and admission is free.



Mr. James Ingram of CW



Americale French Ladies with Fleur de Lis

All In the Family

James Lawson Kemper is an illustrious name in Virginia history. Graduate of Washington College in Lexington in 1842 at age of 16; studied law and admitted to the bar in 1848; captain of volunteers in the Mexican War; five terms in Virginia House of Delegates, including Speaker 1851-1853 and VMI Board of Visitors 1857-1858.

In 1861 he was commissioned a colonel to command the 7th Virginia Infantry. Although having no formal military training, Kemper was the youngest brigade commander of the Confederacy leading one of the units in George E. Pickett's charge at the Battle of Gettysburg where he caught a mini ball in his left thigh that hounded him through life.

Captured at Gettysburg, he was exchanged for Union general Charles Graham. Unable to return to combat duty because of his debilitating wound, he commanded the Virginia Reserve and was paroled May 2, 1865 at Danville.

He reentered state politics in 1867 and helped found the Conservative Party during Reconstruction 1865-1877. Supported by such notables as Jubal Early, Fitzhugh Lee and John Singleton Mosby, Kemper ran for governor against the Republican candidate, winning by 25,000 votes in 1873. Hampered by Virginia's state war debt, he worked to reduce the budget, yet reform the prison system and expand the state school system.

James Lawson Kemper died at his home in Orange County, VA April 7, 1895.

In June, 2016 that name appeared on the Williamsburg Chapter, SAR, application of John Lynch in the slot for 5th great grandfather. The application was approved 4 October.

James Lawson Kemper's grandfather was John Peter Kemper who had a brother named John Kemper. John Kemper is Williamsburg Registrar Ron Losee's Patriot ancestor. Virginian cousins!!!



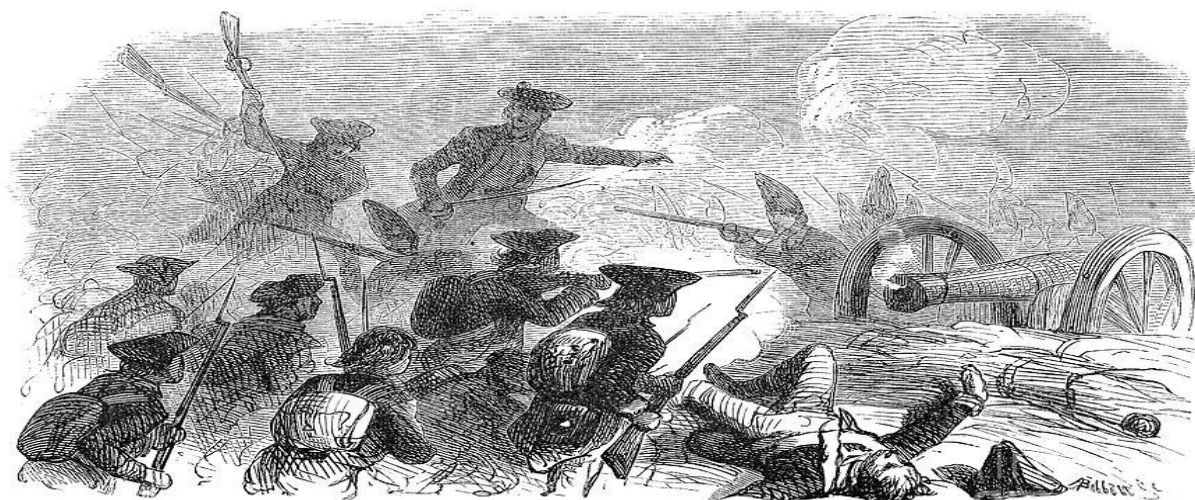
John Beakes Will Reveal Gen. Williams at November Luncheon

John Beakes graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1966 and served in nuclear submarines until 1974, when he began a business career of executive leadership in technology service companies. He is currently the Chairman of the Board of Next Century Corporation, which he co-founded in 2002, and President CEO of Operational Performance Solutions, Inc., which he co-founded in 2008.

John's lifelong passion for military history began in his youth, sparked by his father, who loved Civil War history and took the family on several trips to nearby Gettysburg. When John discovered that there was no published biography of the superb Revolutionary War combat leader from Maryland, John Eager Howard, he vowed to try to bring this story to life, and it is now available in *Cool Deliberate Courage: John Eager Howard in the American Revolution*, co-authored by John with Dr. Jim Picuch. With his growing interest in forgotten combat leaders of the Revolution, John co-authored *Light Horse Harry Lee in the War for Independence* with Dr. Picuch, and he recently published *Otho Holland Williams in the American Revolution*, a military biography of another superb Revolutionary War soldier. The purpose of these projects is to help convey the largely untold story of George Washington's success in building a team of outstanding military leaders from the young clerks, shopkeepers, farmers, and sons of the landed gentry who fought in the Continental Army.

Otho Holland Williams in the American Revolution is the third military biography in a series on General George Washington's best officers. Williams' exceptional military career began at the very outset of the Revolutionary War when, at 26, he joined a Maryland company of rifleman as a junior officer. He participated in the siege of Boston in 1776 and the defense of Fort Washington, where he was wounded and captured by the British during the fierce battle.

The Maryland legislature promoted Williams to Colonel of the Sixth Maryland Regiment while he was a prisoner of war, and, after he was exchanged, he commanded a regiment during the Battle of Monmouth in 1778. He was sent south in the spring of 1780, and participated in the heroic stand of the Maryland Line at the Battle of Camden. He commanded Nathanael Greene's screening force with skill and daring during the Race to the Dan River early in 1781. Then led his regiments in the Battle of Guilford Courthouse in North Carolina; and at Hobkirk's Hill and Eutaw Springs in South Carolina. He was awarded a sword by congress for gallantry in those actions. This talented infantry commander was promoted to Brigadier General after the Battle of Eutaw Springs, which Nathanael Greene called by far the most obstinate and bloody I ever saw. Otho Holland Williams returned to Baltimore soon after victory in the South was assured.



CAPTURE OF A REDOUBT AT YORKTOWN.

Williamsburg Chapter Officers

President	Harley Stewart	Registrar/Genealogist	Ron Losee
Vice-President	Jay Smith	Historian	William Greaif
Secretary	Roger Cross	Chaplain	Rev. Dr. Jim Henry
Treasurer	Jack Lee	Projects	Tom Campbell
Public Relations	Lew de Seife	Sergeant-at-Arms	George Bridewell

For information about the Williamsburg Chapter SAR please contact Harley Stewart, President, at hstewart9@cox.net.

Cut along dotted line

Reservation for the Saturday, November 11th 2016 Chapter Luncheon Meeting:

Please reserve _____ dinners at \$20.00

Name(s) _____

of Vegetarian Dinners _____

Please make checks payable to "Williamsburg Chapter SAR"

and mail to:

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(757) 221-6686

jackwleel776@gmail.com

