



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. XXI

Number 3

March 2017

President's Message

At the Virginia Society SAR annual meeting on February 10-11 our chapter was awarded nine streamers, which featured excellence, fundraising (over \$5,000 for the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown) and scrapbook (awarded best-in-the-state) as prepared by Bill Greaif, our chapter historian. Five of our members attended the general meeting. Bill Greaif and I attended the Workshop and the Memorial/Awards Ceremony, while yours truly "carried our flag" at the closing Banquet. Mike Elston was installed as Virginia Society president and declared three initiatives, each containing three items, in a "Call to Arms." The next semi-annual meeting of the society will take place on September 15-16 at the Newport News City Center.

We had a huge, record-breaking, turnout of 84 sign-ups for the chapter meeting on February 18. The new location at the Colonial Heritage Clubhouse was very agreeable to us all and went very smoothly, thanks to the advance work of Jay Smith, Eric Ely and Bob White.

It was our annual Ladies/Valentine's Day gala with red roses and settings supplied by Bill Greaif at each of eleven tables. The room was just beautiful! The program featured induction of four new members, six awards for chapter service, and three more First-Virginia Regiment awards.

The speaker at the meeting was Meredith Poole, staff archeologist of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, a position she has held for 31 years. She gave a thorough and well-presented history of archeology at CW. Featured facts were 90 years of work, only 20% of the Historic Area fully excavated, and a shift from pre- to during- the Revolutionary War Period, e.g., the recently completed Armory. Artifacts are estimated at 60 million now in the collection.

Look for the Grand Opening of the Museum of the American Revolution at Yorktown March 23 to April 4, 13 days, one for each state. Virginia Day will be on April 1.

- Harley



Chapter/VASSAR Calendar

Upcoming Events in Our Region & Beyond

March 6, 2017

**Board of Managers
Meeting**

March 11, 2017

**Monthly Luncheon Meeting
Colonial Heritage Clubhouse
12:00**

March 11, 2017

**Battle of Guilford Courthouse
Commemoration
Greensboro, NC**

March 16, 2017

**James Madison Birthday
Commemoration
Montpelier, VA**

Registrar's Corner

I continue to receive SAR inquiries, but, of course, not all respond to my quick invitation to fill out the application or fall by the wayside in the process. So please continue to recruit! Send me an email with a prospect's email address and I will do the rest.

March 11th Chapter Luncheon

The Williamsburg Chapter invites all members and their guests to attend the March luncheon at our new location in the Colonial Heritage clubhouse. We look forward to seeing you there.

Date: Saturday, March 11th, 2017

Location: Colonial Heritage Clubhouse
Williamsburg
Meeting: 12:00

**Please see the RSVP information on the last page of this newsletter.
Reservations MUST be received no later than Saturday, March 5th.**

For those interested in their own genealogy research, the next Tidewater Genealogy Society bus trips to Washington, DC and the DAR Library and/or National Archives are April 18th, Aug 16th and Oct 18th. The trips leave Williamsburg at 6am, arrive at the DAR Library at 9am and depart at 4pm. With a stop at Fredericksburg for dinner, you are back in Williamsburg by 9pm with no traffic worries. Cost only \$60/members, \$75/non-members. Contact Petty Lutton, TGS Trip and Membership Coordinator at 757-753-4935 or email her at peggylutton57@gmail.com.

I would also like to mention The Presidents Book, a red notebook at the entrance to each luncheon. You are all strongly encouraged to submit a short biography of yourselves and your patriot ancestor. Far fewer than half of our members have a page in the book. Sad. Check it out and take a few minutes to post your own story.

- Jim Hess

Chapter Happenings

New Members Inducted

The Williamsburg Chapter inducted four new Members at the February luncheon.

L – R Michael Boyer, James Fiorito, Beverly Fiorito, Roger Hall, Ann Hall, Heath Richardson, Johanna Richardson, Harley Stewart, Chapter President, Jim Hess, Registrar.



Jack Lee and Ron Losee Awarded Medals for Chapter Service

Jack Lee and Ron Losee were awarded the SAR Meritorious Medal for long, and faithful, service to the Williamsburg Chapter. L – R Jack Lee, former Treasurer, Ron Losee, former Registrar, Harley Stewart, Chapter President.



First Virginia Regiment Awards

The award was given to members who contributed to the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown. The Williamsburg Chapter led all other VA SAR Chapters in contributions.

L-R Ward Gypson, John Holt, Richard Snyder, and Harley Stewart, Chapter President.

Chapter Happenings Cont'd

Roger Sherman Medal Awarded

The Roger Sherman Medal for faithful and significant service to the Williamsburg Chapter was awarded to L – R Richard Newsome, Editor and Web Site manager, George Bridewell, Sergeant-at-Arms, by Harley Stewart, Chapter President.



Williamsburg Chapter Wins Best Scrapbook Award

The Williamsburg Chapter bested 26 Virginia Chapters to win the Best Chapter of the Year Scrapbook for 2016. It will reside at the Swem Library, at William & Mary. L-R Bill Greaf, Historian, Harley Stewart, Chapter President.



Meredith Poole, CW Archeologist, Presents to the Williamsburg Chapter of SAR

Meredith Poole, staff archeologist at Colonial Williamsburg, presented “10 Things You Didn’t Know About Archeology” to the Williamsburg SAR Chapter at the February Luncheon. L-R Jay Smith, Vice President, Meredith Poole, CW, Harley Stewart, Chapter President.



Chapter Happenings Cont'd

Chapter Color Guard

Our chapter color guard participates in outdoor events such as Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and the commemoration of the battles at Green Springs and Spencer's Ordinary.

We are currently looking for volunteers to increase our membership. Our goal is to be able to provide five participants (three flag bearers and two guards with firelocks) at some of the events. Past experience with unexpected illness and scheduling conflicts suggests that we need at least five more volunteers.

We normally wear uniforms such as our patriot ancestor might have worn. If you do not already have a colonial type uniform, we can provide information about obtaining one. If your ancestor was in a Continental Army or State unit, we can help you to identify the type uniform he probably wore. If he was in a militia unit, there is a good chance he wore a hunting shirt. That then would be the first article to acquire in building a militia uniform.

If you are interested in joining, donating or loaning a uniform, or just finding out more about our chapter color guard, please contact our color guard committee chairman, Bob White, Email zq4@widomaker.com or phone 757-751-4030.



Perhaps you are unable to participate in the color guard, but you have a colonial-type uniform hanging in the closet that you would be willing to donate, or loan, for use by our color guard. That would be very much appreciated as we expand our membership.



The Battle of Guilford Courthouse

March 15, 1781

Following the Battle of Cowpens, Cornwallis pursued the Continentals across North Carolina before halting his tired British troops at the Dan River. The Continentals escaped into Virginia, where Greene continued to build up his forces in preparation to face off against Cornwallis' troops. By March 14, Greene's soldiers had returned to North Carolina and were camped around Guilford Courthouse, near the present-day city of Greensboro (named for General Greene).

At the Battle of Guilford Courthouse on March 15, 1781, some 1,900 British soldiers under Cornwallis went on the offensive against Greene's 4,400 to 4,500 Continental troops and militia. The battle raged for around two hours before Greene ordered his troops to retreat, giving the British a tactical victory but enabling Greene's army to remain mostly intact. More than 25 percent of Cornwallis's men were killed, wounded or captured during the battle. One British statesman, Charles James Fox (1749-1806), said of this result: "Another such victory would ruin the British army."

Cornwallis did not pursue Greene's army. Instead, the British commander abandoned his campaign for the Carolinas and eventually led his troops into Virginia. There, on October 19, 1781, following a three-week siege by American and French forces at Yorktown, Cornwallis was forced to surrender to General Washington and French commander Jean-Baptiste-Donatien de Vimeur, Comte de Rochambeau (1725-1807). The Battle of Yorktown was the last major land battle of the Revolutionary War, which officially ended with the 1783 Treaty of Paris, in which Great Britain formally recognized the independence of the United States.



Another Signer of the Declaration of Independence

Thomas Heyward's wealthy, South Carolina, landowner father would spare no effort to ensure his son had the best education as he grew up in the 1750s. That meant when Thomas finished his studies at the best school in the area, he would be shipped off to England to complete his legal preparation. He emulated due diligence in the study of the legal profession, and, as was common for the rich, traveled and studied intensely afterwards while visiting the countries of Europe.

He enjoyed a rare opportunity of contrasting the industry and simplicity of his colonial countrymen with the "indolence, luxury, licentiousness, pride and haughtiness" as one author puts it, "so prevalent on the old continent." There was a prevalent belief among the British that the colonists were "second-class citizens."

He was happy to return to his native country and engaged in the profession of law. In 1775 he was called to Philadelphia to replace distinguished Thomas Rutledge whose presence was required at home to assist in defending the state against an impending invasion. The loudest opponent of the Stamp Act, Thomas found himself, at age 29, among the four South Carolina delegates who signed the Declaration of Independence.

In 1778 he returned to South Carolina and his 26,000 acre plantation and in 1780 found himself leading a militia unit against a contingent of the British Army which was ravaging the countryside around Charleston. Captured on 27 August along with 28 other colonial ringleaders he was shipped to St. Augustine where he was imprisoned for 11 months.

His plantation was torched and over 100 of his slaves were captured and sent to Jamaica for work on British sugar plantations. Thomas nearly lost his life when he fell overboard while being transferred to a ship headed for Philadelphia to complete a prisoner swap. He survived by hanging on the ship's rudder until he could be hauled aboard.

After the end of the war he returned to his home state of South Carolina and resumed his judicial duties. He was instrumental in forming the state's constitution in 1790. Judge Heyward died in 1809, at age 64.

Compatriot Will Phillips of the Williamsburg Chapter is a descendant of Thomas Heyward Jr.

Wallace Gusler, Master Gunsmith is the Featured Speaker for the March Luncheon.

Mr. Gusler will talk about Firearms of the Virginia frontier, types, examples, etc. and designs that led up to the Revolutionary War.

Wallace Gusler is a native Virginian who grew up in Fort Lewis Hollow at the foot of Fort Lewis Mountain in Roanoke, County.

In about 1954 Wallace' father, Lester Gusler, decided to replace a family longrifle burned in a house fire years earlier. He purchased a full-stocked, iron-mounted, .32 caliber, squirrel rifle and, when he had trouble getting the old percussion rifle to fire, Wallace asked if he could try it. Mr. Gusler handed it over and, as they say, "the rest is history."



Above: Wallace Gusler, master gunsmith for Colonial Williamsburg discusses a period firearm with a visitor

When he came to Williamsburg in 1962, Wallace could make every part of a rifle by hand, except the barrel. He set out to rediscover the process of hand forging rifle barrels. Wallace had become the first person in modern times to recreate all the processes of making a rifle with 18th-century technology. During the winter of 1967 Colonial Williamsburg documented making a complete rifle in the film *The Gunsmith of Williamsburg*. Released in 1968, this 58-minute film is still the best selling video of the trades series.

In 1972 Wallace left the Gunsmith Shop to become the Curator of Mechanical Objects. Two years later he became Curator of Furniture. In January of 1985, Wallace transferred to the Department of Conservation as Chief

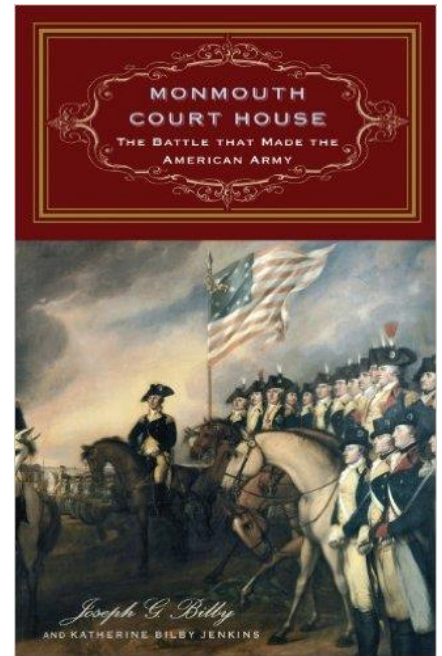
Conservator, Furniture and Arms, and in June of 1987, he was promoted to Director of Conservation. In the spring of 1994 Wallace returned to the position of Master Gunsmith. Wallace retired after over forty years with Colonial Williamsburg.



Book Raffle for March Luncheon

The raffle book for March is "MONMOUTH COURT HOUSE, The Battle that made the American Army" written by Joseph Bilby and Katherine Bilby Jenkins. It's a story of the battle at Monmouth Court House, New Jersey, how it came to be and its influence on the course of the Revolutionary War and American history. Essentially a draw, the battle marked the first time in the war that the Continental Army was able to hold a battlefield, fighting the full force of the British army to a standstill.

Raffle tickets are available for purchase at the meeting. Tickets are \$1 each or 7 for \$5.



2017 Williamsburg Chapter Officers

President	Harley Stewart	Registrar/Genealogist	Jim Hess
Vice-President	Jay Smith	Historian	Steve McGuffin
Secretary	Roger Cross	Chaplain	Rev. Dr. Jim Henry
Treasurer	William Greaif	Newsletter Editor	Richard Newsome
Public Relations	Lew de Seife	Sergeant-at-Arms	Eric Ely
At-Large	Ron Losec	At-Large	Tom Campbell

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

Cut along dotted line

Reservation for the Saturday, March 11th 2017 Chapter Luncheon:

Please reserve _____ regular meals at \$20.00

Name(s) _____
 # of Vegetarian meals _____ # of Vegan Dinners _____ # of Gluten free meals _____

Please make checks payable to "Williamsburg Chapter SAR"

and mail to arrive by March 4th:

SAR

PO Box 3622.

Williamsburg, VA 23187

(631) 219-6616

hsaprof@gmail.com

