



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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September 2017

President's Message

The August 12th meeting was a great success. It was the first held in August in the memory of most members attending. Despite it being in mid-summer, over 50 attended and August will now be on our calendar in future years. The meeting featured a Table of Artifacts, which were memorabilia of Ron Losee and an extremely interesting collection it was. Ron presented his ideas for these tables at future meetings – proposing that members bring Revolutionary War artifacts to the September meeting.

Your president was privileged to present two SAR Certificates of Appreciation to two young men advancing to the rank of Eagle Scout at a Court of Honor of Troop 414 in Norge, VA. It was a very impressive ceremony led by outstanding scoutmasters. I stated that the patriotic leadership and service of these scouts represent the best hope for the future of this country, that our ancestors sacrificed so much to create. Our chairman, Heath Richardson, has been connecting our chapter to Courts of Honor of the eight scout troops in the First Colony District.

Another new item for August was our presence at an SAR table next to the DAR table at a Fair for arriving first-year students and families at W & M's Sadler Center. There was a large traffic of families past the SAR table, which was staffed by five members from 9 to 2. I was struck by three things. One could sense the initial wondering what SAR/DAR meant. It was most effective to engage passers-by in conversation. And, once engaged, many clearly were enjoying discussing their family histories – not a usual topic of conversation.

The VASSAR Semi-Annual Meeting will take place Sept.15-16 at City Center, Newport News, VA. There will be six interesting workshops on the evening of Sept. 15th with a general meeting and luncheon on Sept.16th. Make plans to attend either, all, or some of the programs.

- Harley

Chapter/VASSAR Calendar

Upcoming Events in Our Region & Beyond

September 3, 2017

**Commemoration
Battle of the Capes
Norfolk, VA
(Little Creek Base)**

September 9, 2017

**Williamsburg Chapter
Luncheon Meeting**

September 15-16, 2017

**VASSAR
Semi-Annual Meeting
Newport News, VA**

October 7, 2017

**Commemoration
Battle of King's Mountain
Greenville, SC**

October 19, 2017

**Yorktown Day
Wreath-laying and Parade
Yorktown, VA**

October 21, 2017

**Commemoration
Battle of the Hook
Gloucester, VA**

September 9th Chapter Luncheon

The Williamsburg Chapter invites all members and their guests to attend the September luncheon held at the clubhouse at Colonial Heritage. Please note that reservations are required and the reservation form is on the last page of this newsletter. We look forward to seeing you there.

Date: Saturday, September 9, 2017

Location: The Clubhouse

Colonial Heritage

Social: 11:30

Meeting: 12:00

**Please see the RSVP information on the last page of this newsletter.
Reservations MUST be received no later than Saturday, September 2nd.**

SAR Baseball Caps Are Now Available

SAR baseball-type caps are now available through the chapter. There will be a supply of them at the September luncheon. They are purchased by the chapter from NASAR at a cost of \$20, and are offered to members at the same price. Get yours now!



Registrar's Corner

This will be but a corner's worth of words from your registrar. Probably for the same reason there has been a lull in applications. I'm on a short vacation, but expecting applications will increase as summer ends. A dozen application worksheets have been sent out.

There will be a registrar's workshop in Newport News mid-September where I hope to learn some techniques to improve my efficiency.

We will have three new member inductions at the luncheon on 9 September and two so far are scheduled for 7 October.

The membership aspirations of SAR are boundless. 80,000 militia and Continental soldiers served at the height of the war plus 55,000 privateers. Most of these men left descendants and most of them remain unrecognized. So there is fertile ground for new members and supplemental patriots, if just a bit of searching is done.

- Jim Hess



Fly The Flag

Compatriots Gerald Sailors and Lynn Dievendorf were recently awarded a SAR flag certificate. They join a growing list of Williamsburg Chapter members who fly Old Glory 24 hours a day, properly illuminated, in accordance with the flag code.

If you do also, contact Valosec@aol.com

Boy Scouts Honored

On August 19th, your president awarded Certificates of Recognition to Christopher Spalthoff and Michael Spalthoff (twin sons of the scoutmaster) at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor of Troop 414 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Norge, VA. It was a very inspiring and moving experience. Thanks to Heath Richardson for the work you are doing in arranging these Eagle Scout COH recognitions. You must be very proud of being part of the Troop 414 leadership and the great work it is doing on behalf of the youth of our country.



Chapter Happenings



Two new members were inducted into the Williamsburg Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution at the August luncheon, bringing membership to over 160. L-R Bruce Buchanan, Karen Buchanan, Ryan Smurthwaite, Williamsburg SAR Chapter President, Harley Stewart.

Dr. Dennis Cogswell spoke about the Honeymoon of George and Martha Washington in Williamsburg, and of Jack Joulette's ride to save Thomas Jefferson. L-R Jay Smith, Chapter VP, Dr. Cogswell, and Harley Stewart, Chapter President



Jim Hess, Registrar/Genealogist of the Williamsburg SAR Chapter is shown receiving a supplemental certificate. Jim researched his lineage and found 21 direct ancestors that were involved in the Revolutionary War. L-R Jim Hess, Harley Stewart, President of the Williamsburg SAR Chapter.

Chapter Happenings



Williamsburg Chapter representatives manned an SAR table at the William and Mary Merchants' Fair held on the campus on September 25th. The fair was held to welcome incoming freshman and their families to the college and the community. The members manning the table over three shifts were: Pictured at the top left, Steve McGuffin, Historian, and Jack Lee, Chaplain. Below, Harley Stewart, President and Don Swain, Past President and bottom left are Steve Riddle, DAR Liaison and Harley Stewart (pulling a double shift).



Chapter News

Artifact Table Debuted at August Luncheon



Compatriot Ron Losee provided display artifacts at the Williamsburg Chapter, SAR August luncheon as examples of items members should contribute to similar display tables for designated historical periods in the months ahead.

Featured for the Revolutionary War period was a gentleman's travel trunk once owned by the Hamtramck family of Michigan and West Virginia. John Hamtramck was a militia captain in the War and served with Anthony Wayne at the Battle of Fallen Timbers. His son, a sergeant during the War of 1812, a graduate from West Point in 1819, spent five years as Indian agent at St. Louis and was a colonel in the 1st Virginia Regiment in the War with Mexico in 1846.

Also displayed was a French Charleville flintlock pistol of the type issued to Continental Marines during the Revolutionary War.

The September luncheon will feature Revolutionary War artifacts exclusively; Compatriot Tom Campbell is the coordinator for member items donated for display. Contact him at tcampbell13@cox.net for information.

Chapter News



Patriots Remembered



A plaque was dedicated to honor 14 patriots of the American Revolution and 9 of the War of 1812 in a ceremony at the historic Pohick Church in Lorton, VA on Saturday, July 29th. The Church was the colonial parish of George Washington, George Mason and others and the final resting place of 5 patriots of the Revolution. The plaque was provided by the Virginia Society, SAR, and the Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia. The names and services of the patriots were read and about 25 wreaths were presented by Virginia Societies – VASSAR, WAR of 1812, C.A.R., SAR chapters, and DAR chapters. Pictured above is Williamsburg Chapter SAR President Harley Stewart with the Chapter wreath.

VASSAR Semi-Annual Meeting September 15-16

This year’s semi-annual meeting will be slightly different than previous meetings. The Board of Managers meeting will be held on Friday afternoon at 2 p.m. followed by dinner on your own. We will then offer six different workshops in the evening (three from 7 to 8 pm and three from 8 to 9 pm) consisting of Registrar/Genealogy, Admin/Awards, Color Guard, Chapter Governing, Americanism and Membership Recruiting/Retention.

Plans also include an informative and entertaining Friday night ladies’ program presented by Ms. Emily Elston, VA C.A.R. State President. Room reservations at the Marriott at City Center in Newport News, may be made now. Meeting registration forms and more detailed information on the workshops and programs will be available soon.

James Fiorito Appointed to Head Teacher of the Year Committee

President Harley Stewart has appointed James Fiorito, a member since November, 2016, to replace Howard Perley as Teacher of the Year committee chairman. Howard, who has served the chapter well for several years, was forced to resign for health reasons.

September Luncheon Speaker: James Thompson



James Thompson grew up in Wilmington, Delaware where he studied art at the Delaware Art Museum. He studied Philosophy as an undergraduate and graduate student at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. As a graduate student, he lived across the Rivanna River from Monticello on the Shadwell farm of Jefferson's eldest daughter, Martha Jefferson Randolph. During his four years there, he commenced what has been a continuing investigation into "the philosophy" of Thomas Jefferson. He has written seven books. Commonwealth Books of Virginia published *The Birth of Virginia's Aristocracy* in 2010, *The Dubious Achievement of the First Continental Congress* in 2011, and *Thomas Jefferson's Enlightenment – Paris 1785* in 2014.

In his recently published book, *George Washington's Mulatto Man – Who was Billy Lee*, author James Thompson connected the dots from events that began more than twenty-five years before Americans declared their political independence and ended more than twenty-five years after they achieved it to form a picture of the relationship between George Washington and a mulatto man in his household. The great majority of these events are known through comments in George Washington's personal papers, which Mr. Thompson has explored in detail.

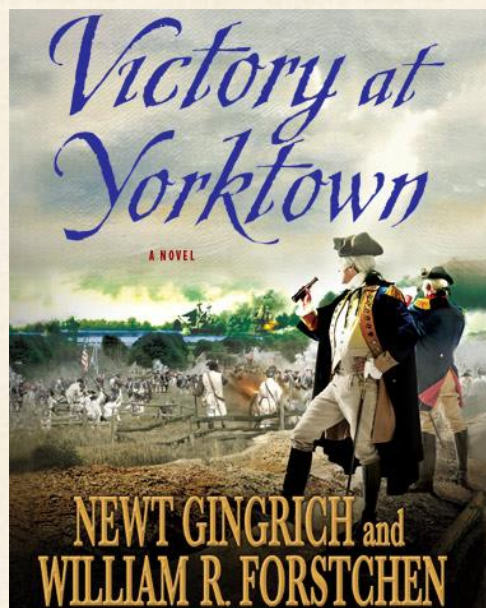
While his book is about the relationship George Washington had with "mulatto man William" and explains why Washington freed "Billy Lee" and bestowed on him a lifetime annuity, the talk Mr. Thompson plans to give on 9 September will focus on a subject more appropriate for today, being the unique personal qualities and actions that made George Washington "the greatest man in history." Washington's courage, leadership, and selfless vision were instrumental in bringing about the modern political age in which government is "of the people, by the people and for the people."



September Book Raffle

The book to be raffled at our September luncheon meeting is entitled VICTORY AT YORKTOWN, a novel written by Newt Gingrich and Williams R. Forstchen. Although written as a novel, it is based on historical events and George Washington, whose bold leadership led up to the victory of the American cause at Yorktown. What makes this book special is that it is autographed by Newt Gingrich!

Participate in the book raffle and this special book could be yours!! Cost is only \$1 per ticket or \$5 for seven tickets. Raffle tickets will be available at the welcome/check-in table at our luncheon on September 9th.



2017 Williamsburg Chapter Officers

President	Harley Stewart	Registrar/Genealogist	Jim Hess
Vice-President	Jay Smith	Historian	Steve McGuffin
Secretary	Roger Cross	Chaplain	Jack Lee
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, September 9, 2017. Chapter Luncheon:

Please reserve _____ regular meals at \$20.00

Name(s) _____

Vegetarian meals _____ # Vegan Dinners _____ # Gluten free meals _____

Please make checks payable to "Williamsburg Chapter SAR"

and mail to arrive by September 2nd:

SAR

PO Box 3622.

Williamsburg, VA 23187

(631) 219-6616

hsaprof@gmail.com

