



George Washington Chapter *Sons of the American Revolution* Newsletter



Washington

Visit us online at www.gwsar.org

Volume 20, Issue 2

February, 2019

George Washington Chapter Meeting in January



(Left) New GW Chapter President, Dave Thomas, reviewed his plans and goals for the 2019 year of his Presidency. (Right) New GW Chapter Vice President, Jay Henn, reviewed future Chapter and SAR events with members and guests prior to the end of a memorable meeting.

(Jan. Continued on Page 4)

President's Corner



Compatriots:

It may feel like winter, but remember spring is not that far away. Even with the wishful thoughts of an early spring, the George Washington Chapter continues to have an active

winter. One of the highlights of the January Chapter meeting was the presentation of the SAR 40 Year Service Pin to Compatriot Larry Lisle by past Chapter President, Paul Walden. During these years of service Larry served as past Chapter President (1986) and a past Virginia Society President (1996-1997). Currently, Larry lives in North Carolina and continues to represent the Chapter at various SAR events in Southern Virginia and North Carolina. The George Washington Chapter thanks Larry for his outstanding service through these 40 years.

Our guest speaker for the January Chapter meeting was Mr. John P. Murphy, a retired corporate attorney, historian, lecturer and living history interpreter at Gunston Hall, who spoke on *Understanding the Bill of Rights as Enacted by the Founders and its Metamorphosis Over the Centuries*. Mr. Murphy performed comparisons on select amendments of the Bill of Rights as written, and compared them with how they are perceived today. The talk was informative, lively and Mr. Murphy received many questions from those gathered. As a traditional memento of Mr. Murphy's talk, Vice President, Jay Henn presented him with the Houdon Bust, and gave a brief history about this most accurate likeness of George Washington.

As a reminder, please consider marching in this year's George Washington Birthday Parade on the historic streets of Old Town Alexandria, VA. The Monday, February 18th parade will begin at 1 p.m., with all participating Chapter members arriving at the muster point no later than 12:30. The new Virginia Society President, Peter Davenport, the VASSAR Color Guard and

the Frederick Fife and Drum Corps, along with Chapter compatriots, will be honoring the 287th birthday of George Washington. Details on the march will be communicated to members once released by the parade organizers.

Also, preceding the George Washington Birthday Parade, there will be a wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the American Revolution at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House beginning at 11 a.m. in Alexandria, VA. This is a combined DAR and SAR wreath laying event paying honor and remembrance to Revolutionary War soldiers who fought for our Liberty. Participating Chapter members should arrive no later than 10:30 a.m. Details of the ceremony will be communicated to members in the weeks ahead.

During the course of 2019, I will be encouraging my fellow compatriots to consider taking time and actions to honor your Revolutionary War patriot, by doing so, you so honor your patriot ancestor, your personal lineage and your family history by doing so. It's important for an organization such as ours to remember the service of our patriot ancestors, to remember the ideals they fought for, the personal risks they took, and to celebrate our own individual and family histories that make us who we are today.

Honoring your Revolutionary War patriot is not difficult, and can be achieved in many ways. For example. If you haven't written a patriot biography on the patriot your SAR membership is based on – take time to do so; if you haven't written a patriot biography on the patriot you submitted through a supplemental application, then again, take time to do so.

Once completed new patriot biographies can be posted to the Chapter's website, and by having our patriot biographies posted on the Chapter's website, their service is honored, and their memories live on in our

(President's Corner con't next page)

President's Corner (con't)

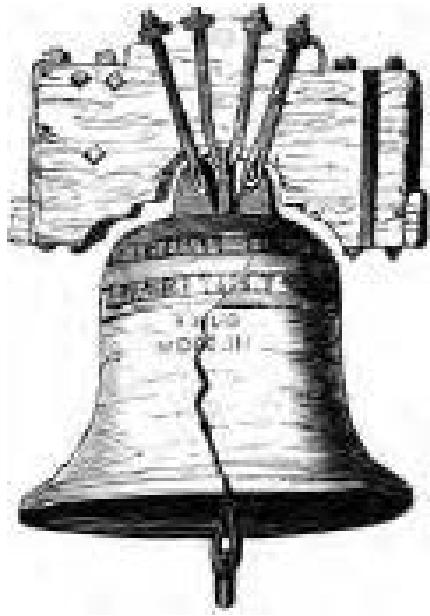
remembrance of them and in respectful honor to your family's history. If you have questions do let me know.

The March newsletter will cover the late January Chapter Winter Working Meeting, and results from the 2019 VASSAR Annual Meeting in Richmond. Look forward to seeing you at the parade.

Dave Thomas

President

George Washington Chapter



Concord Hymn

By Ralph Waldo Emerson

**Sung at the Completion of the
Battle Monument, July 4, 1837**

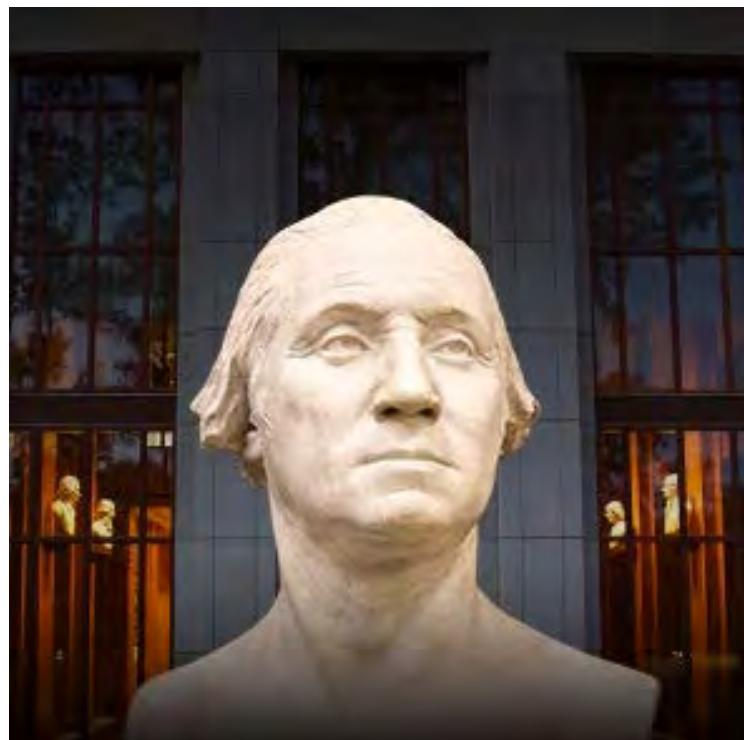
*By the rude bridge that arched the flood,
Their flag to April's breeze unfurled,
Here once the embattled farmers stood
And fired the shot heard round the world.
The foe long since in silence slept;
Alike the conqueror silent sleeps;
And Time the ruined bridge has swept
Down the dark stream which seaward creeps.
On this green bank, by this soft stream,
We set today a votive stone;
That memory may their deed redeem,
When, like our sires, our sons are gone.
Spirit, that made those heroes dare
To die, and leave their children free,
Bid Time and Nature gently spare
The shaft we raise to them and thee.*



GW Meeting in January (con't)



Mr. John Patrick Murphy addressed the Chapter on "Understanding the Bill of Rights, as Enacted by the Founders and its Metamorphosis Over the Centuries." Vice President Jay Henn presented Mr. Murphy with the Houdon bust of the General, and Mr. Murphy expressed his appreciation for the gift to the Chapter, as Vice President Jay Henn observes.



President	David R. Thomas: 703-583-8791
Vice President	Jay M. Henn: 703-447-0820
Treasurer	Thomas Roth, III: 703-739-8811
Secretary	Richard Rankin: 703-538-5805
Registrar	Richard Sherman: 301-654-6319

The George Washington Chapter was chartered in its present form on April 2, 1954. With over 280 members, it is Virginia's largest SAR chapter. Meetings are held at 11:30 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month (June, July & August excepted) at the Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, Virginia.

Immediate Past President:
Ernie Coggins: 703-241-2807

Ride Share: Members in need of a ride to a chapter meeting or a chapter sponsored event may contact the Amenities Committee Chairman, Don Reynolds, at (703) 765-4947.

This newsletter is edited by **Pete Farley**. Inputs from chapter officers, committee chairmen, and fellow compatriots are always needed. Please send your inputs and comments to nyyno7@cox.net or call 703-585-3163.

GW Meeting in January (con't)



Compatriot Hank Foresman was awarded a Certificate of Appreciate in recognition of his work with the Chapter's youth awards competitions. Hank is flanked by President Thomas (L) and Immediate Past President Coggins (R).

Compatriot Eric Callender was honored with the Virginia Society Chapter Service Medal in recognition of his excellent and long time work developing and maintaining our Chapter website. Eric is seen with President Dave Thomas (L) and Immediate Past President Ernie Coggins (R).



George Washington

GW Meeting in January (con't)



Compatriot Don Kellerman was awarded the SAR Meritorious Service Medal in honor of his long and faithful service to the Chapter in many capacities. Nancy Kellerman, wife of Campatriot Don Kellerman received the SAR Martha Washington Medal in recognition of her long time support of the Chapter. Don and Nancy are seen here with (L) Dave Thomas, GW Chapter President, and (R) Ernie Coggins, Immediate Past GW Chapter President.



The Man

The Myth

The Legend

GW Meeting in January (con't)



Bonnie Henn (member of the DAR and wife of Jay Henn) received the SAR Medal of Appreciation from Immediate Past Chapter President Ernie Coggins in recognition of her long and generous support of the Chapter and Jay. Chapter President Dave Thomas (L) assisted.

George Washington Chapter Scrapbook

The purpose of the George Washington Chapter scrapbook is to serve as a permanent record of all the activities, patriotic and social, that chapter members have performed over the years. In addition to eight chapter luncheons, held at Belle Haven Country Club and Mount Vernon Country Club, we participated in over 27 events in 2018, ranging in locations from Arlington to Yorktown. These events have earned Americanism points for our chapter, as documented in the scrapbook. In addition, I have listed the obituaries of those compatriots who have passed away in 2018.

The Table of Contents (*to be inserted in the next newsletter*) is a summary of the documentation contained in this 175-page volume. If enough members indicate an interest in examining the scrapbook, we can make it available for viewing before and after the chapter luncheon meetings.

A few years from now, the chapter officers may wonder “How did we perform that ceremony in 2018?”, or “How many chapter members marched in a parade?”. The scrapbook will serve as a reminder for that information. Most of the scrapbook information will consist of the excellent monthly features within our newsletter, currently edited by Pete Farley.

In order to supplement that information, I request that any members furnish me with any printed brochures describing SAR activities in which you have performed, citations of chapter activities in local newspapers, and obituaries of deceased compatriots.

Thank you,
Jack Coulter,
Scrapbook Committee Chair
Email: cojack2@cox.net

Revolutionary War Patriots of the George Washington Chapter

During 2019 the Chapter is placing more focus on honoring Revolutionary War patriots, and there's no better way to honor these men than to read the Patriot Biographies submitted by Chapter Members. Take a moment to read the Patriot Biographies of Private Benjamin Elston and Captain Zachariah Johnston and thus honor their memories and service. If you wish to read more Patriot Biographies, they can be found on the George Washington Chapter website: www.gwsar.org--under Honoring/Patriot Biographies.

Private, Benjamin Elston (1759-1845)

Benjamin Elston volunteered for the New Jersey Militia in October 1777 and served six months as a private in Captain Lanes Company. He then re-enlisted as a Minute Man for an indefinite period in the same Company, serving approximately 18 months in that capacity. According to his pension affidavit, he participated in the Battle of Springfield (New Jersey) in which the town was taken and burnt by the British and several smaller skirmishes. During the course of his service in the militia, he saw Generals Washington, Greene and Wayne with the troops. His father, David Elston, served as a sergeant in the same Company of the New Jersey Militia. After the war, Benjamin Elston was a farmer who moved first to North Carolina and later to Kentucky in search of better land. He died in Kentucky at age 85. He and his wife, Elizabeth Long, had five children between 1790 and 1799. His widow received an annual pension of \$20 for his service in the Revolutionary War. His son, John Elston, served in the Mounted Kentucky Volunteers during the War of 1812 and fought at the battle of the Thames River in Ontario, Canada, under the command of General William Henry Harrison (later elected 9th President of the United States).

Captain, Zachariah Johnston (1742-1800)

Zachariah Johnston was born 26 Sep 1742 in Augusta County, Virginia, to William and Ann Johnston. He attended Liberty Hall Academy and later was a trustee of Washington College. Johnston was a prosperous farmer by the time the American Revolution began. In 1776, he was appointed a captain in the county militia. Johnston's company actively patrolled against Indian uprisings, and, in 1781, participated in the Virginia campaign which led to the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown. He also represented Augusta County in the House of Delegates from 1778 to 1791, and served as chair of the House committee on religion and helped pass the "act for establishing religious freedom" in 1786. After he moved to Rockbridge County, Virginia, in 1792, he represented that county in the House of Delegates in 1792 and 1797-1798. An opponent of paper money, and a proponent of court reform and payment of British debts, Johnston supported the federal Constitution in 1788. As Augusta County's representative to the ratifying convention, he was influential in having his section of the state unanimously vote for ratification. In the 1790s, Johnston was interested in connecting Virginia's western rivers to the Potomac River. Johnston owned three plantations in Rockbridge County, one in Augusta County, and lands in Kentucky. He married Ann Robertson (d. 1818), and they had eleven children. He died 7 Jan 1800 in Rockbridge County



March Speaker

Please join your compatriots at our March meeting to hear historian Mark Maloy speak on the pivotal Revolutionary War engagements at Trenton and Princeton. Mr. Maloy is a historian currently working for the National Park Service in Virginia, specifically the George Washington Memorial Parkway which administers important historic sites such as Arlington House.

He holds an undergraduate degree in History from the College of William and Mary and a graduate degree in History from George Mason University. Mr. Maloy has worked at numerous public historic sites and archaeological digs for the past ten years.

Among the sites he has previously worked at include the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site, the Civil War Defenses of Washington, Fort Sumter, Fort Moultrie, Middleton Place Plantation, Fairfield Plantation and Pocahontas' village Werowocomoco.

His interest in history was sparked by visiting George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate as a child. When not working he is an avid Civil War and Revolutionary War re-enactor, living historian, and regular contributor to the blog Emerging Revolutionary War (emergingrevolutionarywar.org).

From November 2018

During our November 10, 2018 meeting Chapter President Ernie Coggins awarded a Good Citizenship Certificate and Pin to a young Compatriot who was joined by two officers of the Children of the American Revolution.



Celebrating the 65th Anniversary of the George Washington Chapter

This April the George Washington Chapter will celebrate its 65th anniversary. In tribute the Chapter newsletter will have articles throughout the year focusing on the Chapter. This month, the founding and chartering of the Chapter.

CHAPTER HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT

The SAR began its activities in Alexandria on February 16, 1940 when the President and Secretary of the Virginia Society met with members of the Society living in the area who had signified their interest in forming a chapter in the city, so closely identified with the life of General Washington.

As a result, The Virginia Society at its February 22, 1940 annual meeting, held at Williamsburg, chartered the General George Washington Chapter, to meet in Alexandria.

The first officers were:

President - Lester A. Washburn
Secretary - Treasurer - Raymond H. Julian
Chaplain - Rev. Edward Randolph Welles
Historian - Raymond H. Douglas

This early Chapter dissolved itself into the Headquarters Chapter in mid-1951. The present Chapter was chartered by The Virginia Society on April 2, 1954 under the title of The George Washington Chapter. Why the military title was dropped does not appear on the record.

Our charter members were as follows:

J. C. Herbert Bryant
S. Cooper Dawson, Jr.
James M. Duncan, Jr.
James M. Duncan, III
Robert V. H. Duncan
John H. Marion
Thomas Moncure

Francis W. Null
Fitzhugh L. R. Opie
Walter E. Sanford, Sr.
Walter E. Sanford, Jr.
Charles C. Smoot, Jr.
Thomas A. Sommers, Jr.
Braxton H. Tabb, Jr.

Until March, 1976, the Chapter functioned without either a written constitution or bylaws, governed only by the applicable provisions of the Constitutions and Bylaws of the State and National Societies. On March 6, 1976 the membership ratified the January 10, 1976 version of the Chapter's current Constitution and Bylaws. The appended Constitution and Bylaws include amendments approved by the membership; and they are current and complete as of the date indicated.



The SAR 40 Year Service Pin was awarded to Compatriot Larry Lisle by past Chapter President, Paul Walden. During these years of service Larry served as past Chapter President (1986) and a past Virginia Society President (1996-1997). Above (L-R) are President Dave Thomas, Larry Lisle and Paul Walden.

The majority of photos in this newsletter and previous editions are attributed to Tom Roth, the George Washington Chapter Treasurer, Historian--and Excellent Photographer.

Go West--GW Patriot



As many of you know, Past Chapter President Paul Briggs and his wife, Gina, decamped from Virginia to Idaho last Summer. After his presidency, Paul continued to be very active in the Chapter. In recognition of his leadership and continued efforts, particularly with Wreaths Across America, Paul was awarded the Bronze Roger Sherman Medal. Unfortunately, circumstances did not permit the award presentation to take place at a Chapter meeting, so the medal and certificate were mailed to Paul. Recently, he sent an acknowledgement. It reads in part, "Thank you for honoring my support of the George Washington Chapter activities and the Wreaths Across America Program. This is very gratifying to me personally, and I especially want to acknowledge the support of the teams and members who were so instrumental to any endeavor I had a leadership role in. It is the individual efforts of our members that will ensure that we continue to rank as a great chapter." He continued, "I sure miss the camaraderie of the monthly meetings and other chapter events. Say 'hello' to everybody, and a Happy New Year to all! Semper Fi... ." Paul is a great leader, and we shall miss him. We wish him and Gina the very best.

Past President Ernie Coggins

Chapter President Dave Thomas (L) was awarded the SAR Meritorious Service Medal in honor of his outstanding service as Chapter Registrar, Secretary, and Vice-President, by Immediate Past Chapter President Ernie Coggins.



Suggestions for Luncheon Speakers?

Are there specific topics that you would be interested in hearing more about from our luncheon speakers? Do you have specific individuals in mind that would be of interest to the Chapter membership? Are you aware of historical or other organizations that provide speakers to groups such as ours? If so, please email or call Vice President Jay Henn, who heads the Program Committee, at jaymhenn@gmail.com or (703) 447-0820 with your thoughts and suggestions. Many thanks to those who have already passed along some excellent suggestions!

Upcoming Events

08-10 February–Friday-Sunday:
129th Annual Meeting--VASSAR
Omni Hotel
Richmond, Virginia

09 February–Saturday: **George Washington Chapter Meeting--10:00 am**
During the VASSAR Annual Meeting
Room: **James River Salon C**
Omni Hotel
Richmond, Virginia

16 February–Saturday: **The Crossing of the Dan--10:00 am**
The Prizery
700 Bruce Street
South Boston, Virginia

18 February–Monday: **Wreath Laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the American Revolution--11:00 am**
Old Presbyterian Meeting House
321 S. Fairfax Street
Alexandria, Virginia

18 February–Monday: **George Washington Birthday Parade--1:00 pm**
[*Details Forthcoming*](#)
Alexandria, Virginia

23 February–Saturday: **253rd Anniversary of the Leedstown Resolutions**
Ingleside Vineyards
5872 Leedstown Rd.
Oak Grove, VA 22443

28 February-2 March–Thursday-Saturday:
NSSAR Spring Leadership Meeting
Brown Hotel
335 W Broadway
Louisville, Kentucky 40202

2 March–Saturday: **National History Day (Virginia District V)--Time TBD**
Mount Vernon High School
8515 Old Mount Vernon Rd
Alexandria, VA 22309

09 March–Saturday: **George Washington Chapter Meeting--11:30 am**
Speaker: Mark Maloy
Belle Haven Country Club
6023 Fort Hunt Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22307

16 March–Saturday: **238th Anniversary of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse Wreath Laying--10:00 am**
Nathanael Greene Monument
Guilford Courthouse National Military Park
2332 New Garden Road
Greensboro, North Carolina 27410

16 March–Saturday: **268th Birthday of James Madison Wreath Laying Ceremony-- 1:30 pm**
Madison Family Cemetery, Montpelier
11350 Constitution Highway
Montpelier Station, Virginia 22957

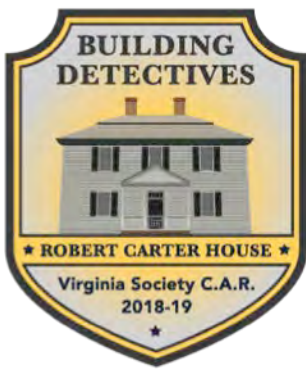
13 April–Saturday: **George Washington Chapter Meeting--11:30 am**
Speaker: **TBD**
Belle Haven Country Club
6023 Fort Hunt Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22307

20 April–Saturday: **James Monroe Birthday Celebration--[*Details Forthcoming*](#)**
Birthplace Monument Site
4460 James Monroe Highway
Colonial Beach, VA 22443

11 May–Saturday: **George Washington Chapter Meeting--11:30 am**
Speaker: **TBD**
Belle Haven Country Club
6023 Fort Hunt Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22307

May--[*Details Forthcoming*](#)
The National Memorial Day Parade
National Mall
Washington, D.C





2018-2019 State Project:
Building Detectives at the Robert Carter
House 2018-2019 State Theme:
"History Has its Eyes on You"



The V.S.C.A.R will raise funds for to benefit Colonial Williamsburg's "Building Detectives" program. This is a unique program that will help our members learn more about colonial buildings and their structure, historic preservation efforts, and the lives of men like Robert "King" Carter, who played an integral role in the early history of our nation.

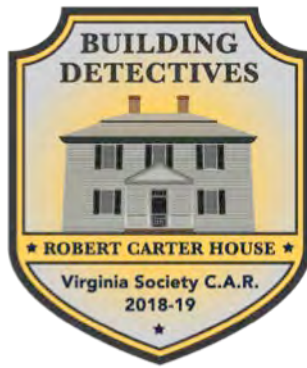
"Building Detectives" is an original program at the Robert Carter House in Colonial Williamsburg that immerses guests of all ages in architectural investigation. Architectural historians guide groups of six to eight through the house, helping them learn to see historic structures through the eyes of experts with the care that the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation brings to its work. Visitors are given flashlights, magnets, and simple observation tools to distinguish the modern from the colonial work inside the house to reveal the changes Robert Carter III of Nomini Hall made to the home of his grandfather, Robert "King" Carter, in the 1760s.

The program is not a guided tour, but rather a directed hands-on interaction with the Robert Carter House. It has been extremely popular, selling out in both of the summers it has previously run. This popularity highlights the appeal of seeing such an interesting historic structure through the lenses of experts as well as visitors' curiosity about architecture. The program will add a decorative arts element to show guests how historians decide what furniture and decorations are appropriate for this type of home.

The house was originally built by Robert "King" Carter in 1726 close to the Virginia Governor's Palace. "King" Carter served as acting governor of Virginia between 1726-1727 and was one of Virginia's wealthiest plantation owners and businessmen. His grandson, Robert Carter III, made significant changes to the home beginning in 1762. Robert Carter III sat on the Virginia Governor's Council, but later provided aid to the American cause in the Revolution. He was a fervent supporter of a plan to emancipate Virginia's slaves and himself was responsible for the largest manumission of slaves before the Civil War. Both of these men had an early impact on Virginia both before and after the Revolution, and guests of this program learn about their lives and impact throughout the tour.

The funds raised by the V.S.C.A.R will contribute to the continuation of the program for the summer of 2019. The funds are used to pay the costs of the two interns, who are experts in the fields of architectural history and preservation. Additionally, the program hopes to update the visuals inside the house with better likenesses of the Carter family and what elements of the house, such as the wallpaper, would have looked like. All funds raised will be used to support the educational efforts of this program, so that as many visitors as possible can enjoy it. The V.S.C.A.R. will receive recognition for the donation inside the home during the 2019 summer.

Fundraising goal: \$7,500-\$10,000



“Building Detectives”

Project Patrons

The Virginia Society of the Children of the American Revolution invites you to become a V.S.C.A.R. Private, Lieutenant, Major General, or General by supporting State President Molly McCue's fundraising project for “Building Detectives” at the Robert Carter House in Colonial Williamsburg!

“Building Detectives” is an original program at the Robert Carter House that immerses guests of all ages in architectural investigation. Architectural historians guide small groups through the house, helping them learn to see historic structures through the eyes of experts. Visitors are given flashlights, magnets, and simple observation tools to distinguish the modern from the colonial work inside the house to reveal the changes Robert Carter III of Nomini Hall made to the home of his grandfather, Robert “King” Carter, in the 1760s.

The funds raised by the V.S.C.A.R will contribute to the continuation of the program for the summer of 2019 as well as important signage additions to enhance the visitor experience. History has its eyes on you, so don't throw away your shot to contribute to “Building Detectives”! We appreciate your support of the State Project. Donors will be recognized in the State Conference Banquet Program at the following levels:

\$25 Private

\$50 Lieutenant

\$100 Major General

\$500 General

Name to be listed in conference program: _____
or Anonymous

Person/Organization making the donation: _____

S.A.R./D.A.R./C.A.R. Chapter or Society Name: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Donation Amount: \$_____ Please make all checks payable to V.S.C.A.R., Inc.

Thank you for your generous support!
Mail form and checks to:
Rebecca Slaughter, Senior State Treasurer
14333 Ferndale Road,
Dale City, VA 22193



George Washington



George Washington Chapter, Virginia SAR

Luncheon Meeting Reservation Form

Chapter Meeting: 11:30 a.m., **Saturday, March 9, 2019**

Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, VA 22307

Please join us for our March Chapter meeting and luncheon. Our speaker will be Mark Maloy, speaking on the pivotal Revolutionary War engagements at Trenton and Princeton. Mr. Maloy is a historian currently working for the National Park Service in Virginia, specifically the George Washington Memorial Parkway which administers important historic sites such as Arlington House. Mr. Maloy has worked at numerous public historic sites and archaeological digs for the past ten years. His interest in history was sparked by visiting George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate as a child. When not working he is an avid Civil War and Revolutionary War re-enactor and living historian

You may make your reservation in one of two ways. First, you may complete this form and mail it with your check to the address below. The cost of the meal is **\$35.00** per person (**\$12.00** for a child). Please make checks payable to [George Washington Chapter, VASSAR](#). Second, you may email the Chapter Treasurer at tmroth3@earthlink.net. To help ensure receipt, please put **"RESERVATION" followed by your last name** in the subject line. You will receive an email confirming receipt of your reservation. Payment will be collected at the door. Checks are preferred over cash, and, if paying with cash, exact change is appreciated.

For both methods, please make sure that your reservation is received no later than **Tuesday, March 5th**, so that we may provide the Club with our anticipated attendance. Walk-ins (members and guests who have not made reservations) will be charged **\$40.00**.

Please provide the following information when making reservations:

Meeting Date: Saturday, **March 9, 2019**.

(1) Compatriot Name: _____

(2) Guest Name(s): _____

Please note any special meal requests (i.e., vegetarian, children's) for member and/or guest

(3) A check payable to **George Washington Chapter, VASSAR** in the amount of

\$ _____ is enclosed.

Return this form and check to:

Thomas M. Roth, III, Treasurer
1200 First Street, Apt 431
Alexandria, VA 22314

Check-in and social begin at 11:30 a.m. with a cash bar. The meeting will be called to order at 12:00 noon and is typically concluded by 2:30 p.m. Valet parking is available.