



George Washington Chapter *Sons of the American Revolution* *Newsletter*



G. Washington

Visit us online at www.gwsar.org

Volume 20, Issue 3

March, 2019

GW Chapter--February in Richmond



The George Washington statue that stands outside the Old House Chambers in the Capitol at Richmond.

Photo by Jay Henn

(Feb. Con't on Page 3)

President's Corner



Compatriots:

During the month of February your Chapter has been very busy at the state and community levels. On February 8th and 9th, eleven George Washington Chapter

members attended the 129th VASSAR Annual Meeting at the Omni Hotel in Richmond, VA. During the meeting the George Washington Chapter was recognized for its 2018 performance under the leadership of past-president, Ernie Coggins. During the two-day meeting, the Chapter received numerous accolades, including streamers for the Chapter Excellence Award and for nominating State-level winners of the Best EMS Person of the Year (shared by Lieutenant Brian Marks and Technician Johnathon Hartmann of the Prince William County Fire and Rescue) and the Best Life Saver of the Year (Deputy Myrna Juarez of the Alexandria City Sheriff's Department). Special thanks goes to Public Safety Award Chairman, John Blair for his dedication and efforts in enabling the Chapter to recognize deserving first responders throughout the Northern Virginia area.

The Chapter also received streamers for support of VASSAR Youth Programs/Contests, History Day, the Lynchburg Plaque Dedication, and Night at the Ballpark and for contributions to Washington's Friends and Foes and the Brennan Fund, as well as two Graves Registrations gold stars. Individual Chapter members also took home honors. Chapter President, Dave Thomas received the Silver Roger Sherman medal in recognition for his dedicated service as VASSAR Registrar, and Chapter Registrar, Richard Sherman received the Virginia Service Medal. Two members also received commissions in the 1st Virginia Regiment: Colonel, Craig Batten and Captain, Richard Rogers. The Chapter is also very proud of

Compatriot Mike Elston's wife Julie, who was selected as the SAR Teacher of the Year in Virginia. Congratulations to all!

The February Chapter Meeting was also held at the VASSAR Annual Meeting with ten Chapter members in attendance, led by Vice President, Jay Henn. The meeting was brief but addressed several important issues. Looking ahead to September to the annual wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, at Arlington National Cemetery, action was determined to be necessary and immediate to secure a date for the ceremony. Vice President, Jay Henn responded and was successful in reserving Saturday, September 9, 2019 at 4:15 p.m. for this hallmark ceremony hosted by our Chapter, so mark your calendar for September to attend this high visibility and very patriotic Chapter event. Also, Compatriot Jamie Callender provided an overview of the NSSAR Patriot Research System and suggested the PRS as a worthy volunteer activity for members of the Chapter. The Chapter meeting was very productive and a hearty thank you is extended to those who attended.

On February 18th at 11 a.m., the George Washington Chapter along with other Northern Virginia VASSAR Chapters pulled double duty and participated in two events on this President's Day, one laying a wreath at the foot of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the American Revolution at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House (OPMH), and the other by marching in the 287th George Washington Birthday Parade through the streets of Old Town Alexandria, VA.

The wreath laying ceremony to honor the Unknown Soldier of the American Revolution is an annual event co-hosted by the George Washington Chapter and the Kate Waller Barrett Chapter, NSDAR. This year VASSAR made an excellent showing with most of the VASSAR Chapters in the Northern Virginia area presenting their respective Chapter wreaths, with the

(President's Corner Con't next page)

President's Corner (con't)

VASSAR Color Guard under the leadership of VASSAR Color Guard Commander, Paul Chase providing the pomp and circumstance and the good Rev. Thomas Costa offering words of remembrance and contemplation with the OPMH as the backdrop. For those attending, individuals had the opportunity to lay a red carnation on the tomb to pay their respects. The George Washington Chapter wishes to thank the Kate Waller Barrett Chapter, NSDAR and Regent, Claire Bennett for co-hosting this annual community event.

On February 18th at 1 p.m., the George Washington Chapter along with other Northern Virginia VASSAR Chapters marched in the 287th George Washington Birthday Parade. Led by the Frederick Town Fife & Drum Corps and the VASSAR Color Guard, and with compatriots from various Northern Virginia Chapters we marched along the parade route through Old Town Alexandria. Riding in convertibles, dignitaries included VASSAR President, Peter Davenport and VASSAR Color Guard Commander, Paul Chase. The George Washington parade organizers

(President's Corner Con't Page 9)

GW Meeting in February (con't)



(Clockwise from above)--As Past George Washington Chapter President Ernie Coggins observes, Past GW Chapter President Paul Walden received the Patriot Grave Marking Medal; Past VASSAR President Mike Elston greeting soon to be VASSAR President Pete Davenport; George Washington Chapter Member Richard Rogers received his commission as a Captain in the First Virginia Regiment. George Washington Chapter Vice-President Jay Henn (L) accepted on his behalf from past NSSAR President-General Joe Dooley (R). P-G Dooley is a dual member of the GW Chapter.

GW Meeting in February (con't)



(Left)--GW Vice President Jay Henn reported to the General Membership Meeting on the GW Chapter's activities during 2018. (Above)--Mike Elston, with daughter Emily, anticipating the start of the Saturday afternoon awards session in the Old House of Delegates Chamber in the Virginia State Capitol. Mike is currently Senior State President for the Virginia CAR, Emily is V-P Mid-South Region for the Children of the American Revolution.

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

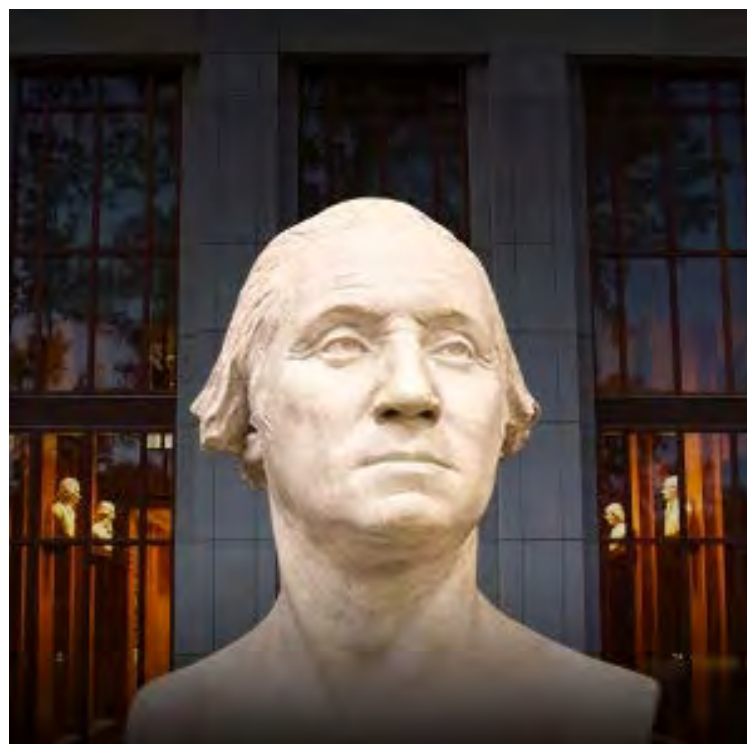
The George Washington Chapter was chartered in its present form on April 2, 1954. With over 245 members, it is Virginia's largest SAR chapter. Meetings are held at 11:30 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month (June, July & August excepted) at the Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, 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 February (con't)



(Below)--VASSAR Historian Tom Roth and past VASSAR President Don Reynolds (both GW Chapter members) discussing the finer points of digital cameras before the VASSAR Annual Board of Managers Meeting on Friday at the State Convention.

Top photo--The GW Chapter received the 2018 Chapter Excellence Award Streamer. V-P Jay Henn (3rd from right) accepted the Streamer on behalf of the Chapter. **Bottom photo**--Past Chapter President Ernie Coggins (shown with VASSAR Past President Pat Kelley) served as secretary for the Saturday morning General Membership Meeting.



GW Meeting in February (con't)



(Above)--Recipients of the Virginia State Service Medal with VASSAR Past President Pat Kelley (L) and George Washington Vice President Jay Henn (R). GW Past President Ernie Coggins looks on.



(Middle)--Saturday morning The VASSAR Color Guard stepped off. Included in the Color Guard is a State CAR officer who is also a George Washington Chapter Member.

(Right)--George Washington Chapter Member Craig Batten received his commission as a Colonel in the First Virginia Regiment from past NSSAR President-General Joe Dooley.



Table of Contents

GW Chapter SAR 2018 Scrapbook

The Table of Contents is a summary of the documentation contained in the 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.

Leadership of GW Chapter

January 2018

- George Washington Chapter Meeting at Belle Haven Country Club--13 Jan., 2018
- January newsletter

February 2018

- VASSAR Annual Meeting in Richmond, VA--9-10 Feb., 2018
- George Washington Birthday Parade in Alexandria, VA--19 Feb., 2018
- Wreath Laying at Old Presbyterian Meeting House in Alexandria, VA--19 Feb., 2018
- February newsletter

March 2018

- George Washington Chapter Meeting at Belle Haven Country Club--10 March 2018
- Patrick Henry Commemoration in Richmond, VA--17 March 2018
- James Madison Birthday Celebration in Montpelier, VA--March 2018
- March newsletter

April 2018

- George Washington Chapter Meeting at Belle Haven Country Club--14 April 2018
- James Madison Birthday Celebration in Westmoreland County, VA--21 April 2018
- April newsletter

May 2018

- Contribution to Mount Vernon's Friends and Foes Project, VA--3 May 2018
- George Washington Chapter Meeting at Belle Haven Country Club--12 May 2018
- Grave Marking at Presbyterian Cemetery in Alexandria, VA--12 May 2018
- Memorial Day Parade in Washington, DC--28 May 2018
- May newsletter

June 2018

- Declaration Day Ceremony at Gunston Hall, VA--9 June 2018

July 2018

- Independence Day Wreath Laying at Mount Vernon Estate, VA--4 July 2018
- Naturalization Ceremony at Mount Vernon Estate, VA--4 July 2018
- Wren-Darne Cemetery Dedication at Freedom Hill, VA--14 July 2018
- July newsletter

September 2018

- George Washington Chapter Meeting at Belle Haven Country Club--8 September 2018
- Wreath Laying at Arlington National Cemetery--8 September 2018
- Semi-Annual VASSAR Meeting in Charlottesville, VA--14-15 September 2018
- Constitution Day Ceremony at Pohick Church--16 September 2018
- September newsletter

October 2018

- Plaque Dedication Ceremony Honoring Revolutionary War Patriots and War of 1812 Veterans at Lynchburg, VA--6 October 2018
- Presentation of SAR Eagle Scout Certificate at Mason Neck, VA--11 October 2018
- George Washington Chapter Meeting at Belle Haven Country Club--13 October 2018
- Celebration of 237th Anniversary of American Victory at Yorktown, VA--19 October 2018
- GW Chapter Honors Sheriff and Deputies with Public Safety Awards in Alexandria, VA--24 October 2018
- October newsletter

November 2018

- Military Burial Ceremony for Compatriot Bob Carr at Arlington National Cemetery--2 November 2018

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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 William Flynn, Private John Whitehead and Private George Simmers thus honoring 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 William Flynn (1760-1837) Patriot William Flynn was born in Lundenburg County, Virginia on 30 Oct 1760. During the Revolution he served as a Private in the Virginia Militia as follows: 1779, nine weeks under Colonel Peachy; 1780, six months under Captain Doodale and Colonel Falkner; and 1781, six months under Majors Duvall and Boyce, and Colonel Decks. Patriot Flynn was allowed a pension on account of the above service, certificate number 23327. He married first Elizabeth Adams about 1789 and second Nancy West in Greenwood County, South Carolina on 22 Aug 1794. He died in Edgefield District, South Carolina on 30 Aug 1837 and was buried in Old Star Fort Cemetery, Greenwood County, South Carolina.

Private John Whitehead (1735-1787) John Whitehead was born in New Kent County, Virginia in 1735 to Lewis Whitehead (1697-1759). He came to Amherst County, Virginia, in about 1760, bringing with him his young wife, Sarah Burcher Whitehead (1739-1792). The deed book of Amherst County shows he purchased, in 1762, a tract of land of 125 acres on the head waters of Huff Creek in what is now the Sardis neighborhood. John Whitehead was the type of sturdy farmer of that period who felled the forest timber and

made the wilderness a habitable land. During the revolution he was a staunch patriot and was a member of a company raised in Amherst by Colonel William Cabell. He served under the Marquis de Lafayette in the Virginia campaign and was present at the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown. A bounty land warrant and record of his service as a soldier in the cavalry of the Virginia Continental Line are available from the National Archives From the book "Whitehead Family Tree, Virginia Roots: 1600-1900", by Bert Tiger Whitehead: "Ruth Dafoe Whitehead finishes her account of John Sr. and Sarah's family as follows: Spring in Amherst County again. Twenty-seven Aprils had come and gone since that first spring when Sarah had drunk in the beauty of the season. Sarah had been young then and strong and well. Now she was fifty-two, with grown children. This April, John had left her. She was a widow with a houseful of children."

Private George Simmers (1755-1835) During the early days of the Revolution, Patriot George Simmers volunteered for service as a Private in the Pennsylvania militia, Lancaster County regiment, under Brig. General George Mercers Flying Camp in August 1776. Patriot Simmers participated in multiple military events. He was first garrisoned at Ft. Lee, New Jersey on the Hudson River, and was part of the force that desperately evacuated Ft. Lee on November 20, 1776, following the loss of Ft. Washington, effectively handing it over to General Cornwallis. As part of General George Washington's force, he experienced being chased by the British through New Jersey. And at the Battle of Trenton, he was part of Brig. General James Ewings 1,000 man blocking force, one of the three prong attacks, that couldn't cross the Delaware River on the night of 24 December 1776

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Patriots--from Page 8

due to heavy ice on the river. Patriot Simmers was discharged from the Pennsylvania militia in January 1777, but re-joined the Pennsylvania militia in August 1777 prior to the Battle of Brandywine on September 11, 1777. Patriot Simmers survived the Battle of Brandywine and concluded his enlistment by guarding captured Hessian soldiers because of his ability to speak German. Patriot Simmers died in 1835 at 79 years of age.

President's Corner (from Pg. 3)

recognized our units participation by awarding the Frederick Town Fife & Drum Corps with a 1st place for Youth Bands, and a 2nd place for Community or Adult Bands, in addition, the VASSAR Color Guard led by VASSAR 1st Vice President, Bill Schwetke received a 2nd place for Honor Guards & Color Guards.

The George Washington Chapter wishes to thank the Col. William Grayson, George Mason, Fairfax Resolves, Culpeper Minutemen and the Thomas Jefferson Chapters for their participation in this nationally recognized community event honoring the birth of George Washington. It was a very enjoyable and patriotic event for all who participated.

In April we celebrate the 65th anniversary of our Chapters founding in 1954, please join me in celebrating and recognizing one of the most respected and unique Chapters in the entire National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution by attending the April Chapter meeting.

Dave Thomas

President

George Washington Chapter



Scrapbook--from Page 7

- George Washington Chapter Meeting at Belle Haven Country Club--10 November 2018
- Historic Marker Dedication at Pohick Church--10 November 2018
- Honoring Veterans at Sunrise Assisted Living at Mount Vernon, VA--10 November 2018 (including SAR Award to Rev. Thomas Costa of Pohick Church)
- Veterans' Day Wreath Laying at George Washington's Tomb at Mount Vernon, VA--11 November 2018
- November newsletter

December 2018

- Joint Meeting of the George Mason and George Washington Chapters at Mount Vernon Country Club--8 December 2018
- Wreaths Across America Ceremony at Alexandria National Cemetery--15 December 2018

- December newsletter

+Americanism Awards

- The Chapter earned 7,059 Americanism points and 6,925 President General's Streamer points

+Citations in The SAR Magazine

- Spring 2018: VASSAR President Mike Elston presents SAR Silver Good Citizenship Medal to Congressman Rob Wittman
- Fall 2018: Compatriots attending President General Warren Alter's wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery
- Fall 2018: George Washington Chapter's latest Independence Day Commemoration at George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate

+Compatriot Obituary Notices

Thank you,

Jack Coulter, Scrapbook Committee Chair

Email: cojack2@cox.net

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, we're honoring Past-Presidents and Past-VA State Presidents originating from the Chapter--as a reminder that all these men dedicated themselves, through hard work and personal sacrifice, striving to meet the goals of the Chapter and the ideals of the SAR and the Virginia Society. We thank and honor these fellow compatriots for their service to the Chapter and the larger Sons of the American Revolution.

Year	Past President	VA Past-Pres.
1954	Robert V. H. Duncan	1960-1961
1955	Robert V. H. Duncan	
1956	Fitzhugh L. R. Opie	
1957	S. Cooper Dawson, Jr.	
1958	Henry A Schauffler	
1959	Braxton H. Tabb, Jr.	1977-1978
1960	Dwight M. Agnew	
1961	Bruce C. Gunnell	1964-1965
1962	James M. Thompson	
1963	Donald W. Baldwin	1969-1970
1964	Caldwell N. Dugan	
1965	Wilfred J. Smith	
1966	Sidney S. King, Jr.	
1967	Braxton H. Tabb, Jr.	
1968	Benjamin S. Jones	
1969	Joseph S. Coulter	
1970	Seymour R. Young	
1971	Jerome L. Loomis	
1972	Donald B. Wilson	
1973	Wesley H Schmidt, Sr.	

Year	Past President	VA Past-Pres.
1974	James L. Mayer	1987-1988
1975	Donald L. Miller	
1976	George S. Knight	1982-1983
1977	Frank L. Calkins	
1978	William E. Young	
1979	Stanley E. Price	
1980	Moses M. Gibson III	
1981	W.D. Crittenberger, Jr.	
1982	William J. Millard, Jr.	
1983	Lockwood R. Dory II	
1984	Richard G. Sauner	1990-1991
1985	W. Edward Dakin	
1986	Lorance Dix Lisle	1996-1997
1987	William A. Pearce	
1988	Carlos J. Ricketson	1993-1994
1989	Richard W. Scott, Jr.	
1990	Peter W. Pedrotti	
1991	William H. Trotter, Sr.	
1992	R. Thomas Perkins	
1993	William T. Dutton	
1994	Donald F. Reynolds	2000-2001
1995	Robert A. Crawley, Jr.	
1996	Robert A. Crawley, Jr.	
1997	Michael J. L. Greene	
1998	Michael J. L. Greene	
1999	Louis A. Beach	
2000	Louis A. Beach	
2001	Charles D. McGuire	
2002	Charles D. McGuire	
2003	Richard P. Kusserow	

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

Year	Past President	VA Past Pres.
2004	Richard P. Kusserow	
2005	C. Russell H. Shearer	
2006	C. Russell H. Shearer	
2007	William K. Torrans	
2008	William K. Torrans	
2009	David W. Walker	
2010	Robert F. Carr	
2011	Robert F. Carr	
2012	F. Paul Briggs	
2013	Michael J. Elston	2017-2018
2014	Scott A. Wagoner	
2015	Dwight E. Whitney	
2016	Gregory O. Bodge	
2017	Paul A. Walden	
2018	Ernest B. Coggins, Jr.	

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!



Annual Memorial for George Washington

Continuing a long standing tradition, Pohick Episcopal Church in Lorton, Virginia conducted an annual Morning Prayer service in memory of George Washington on February 18. The service followed the same liturgy used by the Church of England in Washington's time. The Priest in Charge for Pohick, Rev. Dr. Lynn Ronaldi, delivered the homily. George Washington Chapter compatriots Bill Bland and Paul Walden served as ushers. The service was followed by a breakfast in the Parish Hall prepared by the Brotherhood of St. Andrews with guest speaker, Kevin Butterfield, Executive Director of the Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington at Mount Vernon.



Upcoming Events

09 March--Saturday: George Washington Chapter Meeting--11:30 am

Speaker: Mark Maloy, National Park Service (*Battles of Trenton and Princeton*)
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 Nat'l 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

4 July--Thursday: 58th Annual Independence Day Wreath Laying at Mt. Vernon

3200 Mount Vernon Highway
Mount Vernon, Virginia 22121

5-10 July--Friday-Wednesday:

129th Annual SAR Congress

Orange County Hilton
3050 Bristol Street
Cosa Mesa, California 92626

9-11 August--Friday-Sunday:

Atlantic Middle States Assn. Conference

Hilton Christiana
Newark, Delaware

14 September--Saturday: George

Washington Chapter Meeting - 11:30 am

Speaker/Topic: TBD
Belle Haven Country Club
6023 Fort Hunt Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22307

19-21 September--Thursday-Saturday:

NSSAR Fall Leadership Meeting

Brown Hotel
335 W Broadway
Louisville, Kentucky 40202

12 October--Saturday: George Washington Chapter Meeting - 11:30 am

Speaker/Topic: TBD
Belle Haven Country Club
6023 Fort Hunt Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22307

9 November--Saturday: George

Washington Chapter Meeting - 11:30 am

Speaker/Topic: TBD
Belle Haven Country Club
6023 Fort Hunt Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22307

14 December--Saturday: Joint Meeting of the George Mason and George

Washington Chapters Meeting - 11:30 am

[Installation of 2020 Officers](#)
Mount Vernon Country Club
5111 Old Mill Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22309



Honoring General George Washington



George Washington Chapter and VASSAR Marching Unit in Alexandria's 2019 George Washington Birthday Parade

Marchers pictured include Bill Wilson with his three grand-daughters; Tim Dioquino, President Fairfax Resolves Chapter, Don Reynolds, Past President VASSAR; Richard Rankin, Secretary GW Chapter; Mike Weyler; Dave Cook; Carlisle Bean; Pete Davenport, President VASSAR; Gene Thomas, Chaplain VASSAR; Paul Chase, VASSAR Color Guard Commander; Joe Dooley, former President-General NSSAR; Ken Morris, President GM Chapter; Ron Kirby; Jay Henn, Vice President GW Chapter; Dave Thomas, President GW Chapter; Ernie Coggins, former President GW Chapter. Other Compatriots present but not shown above include Photographer Tom Roth, also Treasurer GW Chapter and VASSAR Historian; Bill Schwetke, First V-P VASSAR, and Don Deering, former President Maryland Society and Director Frederick Town Fife & Drum Corps.



Pete Davenport, President of the Virginia Society, rode in Washington's Birthday Parade. President Davenport was driven by Ernie Coggins, Past President GW Chapter accompanied by Ken Morris, President GM Chapter. President Davenport was followed by Paul Chase, Commander of the VASSAR Color Guard and Dr. Benjamin Franklin in a car driven by Don Reynolds, Past VASSAR President, and accompanied by Gene Thomas, VASSAR Chaplain.



George Washington Chapter SAR with the Virginia Society Color Guard stepping off for the George Washington's Birthday Parade in Alexandria, VA.

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Honoring General George Washington



(Above)--The Frederick Town Fife & Drum Corps preparing to lead the SAR marching unit in the George Washington Birthday Parade.



(Right)--Compatriots in period dress.



Chapter Receives Awards at State Meeting

On February 8-9, 2019 the Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution (VASSAR) held its 129th Annual Meeting at the Omni Hotel in Richmond, Virginia. Among other highlights, NSSAR Mid-Atlantic District Vice President General Lou Raborg installed the George Mason Chapter's Peter M. Davenport as VASSAR's 99th President, succeeding Patrick M. Kelly (Thomas Jefferson Chapter).

During the two-day meeting, an outstanding turnout of eleven members looked on as the George Washington Chapter received numerous accolades, including streamers for the Chapter Excellence Award and for nominating State-level winners of the Best EMS Person of the Year (shared by Lieutenant Brian Marks and Technician Johnathon Hartmann of the Prince William County Fire and Rescue) and the Best Life Saver of the Year (Deputy Myrna Juarez of the Alexandria City Sheriff's Department). Special thanks goes to Public Safety Award Chairman John Blair for his dedication and efforts in enabling the Chapter to recognize deserving first responders throughout the northern Virginia area.

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Individual Chapter members also took home honors. Chapter President Dave Thomas received the Silver Roger Sherman medal in recognition for his dedicated service as VASSAR Registrar, and Chapter Registrar Richard Sherman received the Virginia Service Medal. Two members also received commissions in the 1st Virginia Regiment: Colonel Craig Batten and Captain Richard Rogers. The Chapter is also very proud of Compatriot Mike Elston's wife Julie, who was selected as the SAR Teacher of the Year in Virginia. Congratulations to all!

VOLUNTEER FOR CONGRESS 2020

As many of you have heard, the Virginia Society is hosting the Sons of the American Revolution National Congress in 2020, to be held in Richmond next July. This is a great honor and opportunity for Virginia, and as you might imagine will require a lot of support from SAR Chapters and members throughout the Commonwealth. If you are interested in volunteering to help make the 2020 Congress a success, please contact Vice President Jay Henn at jaymhenn@gmail.com.

Respects for Unknown Revolutionary Soldier



Paul Chase, Commander VASSAR Color Guard and Dave Thomas, President GW Chapter, receiving directions from Claire Bennett, Regent of the Kate Waller Barrett Chapter DAR.



The VASSAR Color Guard presented the Colors, which were furthered honored by the Pledge of Allegiance.



DAR and SAR Members, along with members of the public, paid their respects by placing flowers on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the American Revolution.



Claire Bennett gave remarks honoring the revolutionary patriots buried at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House.

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Respects for Unknown Revolutionary Soldier



Dave Thomas, President, George Washington Chapter preparing to place a wreath at the tomb, together with Mike Weyler, of the Col. William Grayson Chapter and . . .



. . . Dave Thomas (R) and Mike Weyler (L) placing wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the American Revolution.



(Left) The Rev. Tom Costa in Colonial clerical garb led the prayers at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House. (Below) Mr. & Mrs. Tom Costa



Oral History Opportunity

Roughly a dozen past Chapter Presidents are still active in the George Washington Chapter. If you would be interested in reaching out to these individuals and capturing the memories and highlights (or lowlights!) of Chapter leadership, please contact V-P Jay Henn at jaymhenn@gmail.com.

Commemorating 1766 Leedstown Resolutions

23 Feb 2019, Oak Grove, VA

Compatriots from nine VASSAR Chapters (Fairfax Resolves, George Mason, Col. William Grayson, Culpeper Minutemen, James Monroe, Richard Henry Lee, Thomas Jefferson, Thomas Nelson, Jr., and George Washington) attended the 12th annual commemoration of the signing of the 1766 Leedstown Resolutions. The event, hosted by the Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Society, was held at the Ingleside Vineyards in Oak Grove, VA. The Leedstown Resolutions were signed by 115 men on 27 Feb 1766 in protest of the 1765 Stamp Act and other intolerable acts enacted by Parliament. The Rev. Charles Sydnor, President of the Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Society, and Chris Flemer with Ingleside Winery, gave opening remarks. The VASSAR Color Guard presented and posted colors, which always adds to the dignity and solemnity of these events. Gina Pezzuto played several pieces on the violin. Charles Belfield, of the James Monroe Chapter, discussed the significance of the Leedstown Resolutions and read the names of the patriots who signed this document. Several members in the audience were descendants of these signers. Then, the Fifth President of the United States, James Monroe (portrayed by James Harrison III) discussed his life and place in U.S. History. VASSAR President Peter Davenport then gave closing remarks, followed by presentation of wreaths by a number of VASSAR and VADAR chapters, as well as the Virginia Society Order of the Founders and Patriots of America. The event was followed by a delicious lunch of fried oysters and fried chicken.

Paul Walden represented the George Washington Chapter in presenting a wreath, as well as having the honor of meeting President Monroe.



*(R)--Charles Belfield
discussing
Leedstown
Resolutions*

*(L)--VASSAR
President Peter
Davenport*

*(Below)
Paul Walden
and President
Monroe*





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.