



George Washington Chapter

Sons of the American Revolution

Newsletter



Washington

Visit us online at www.gwsar.org

Volume 21, Issue 8

November, 2020

October in The George Washington Chapter



New members sworn in -- Clockwise from above left: Sam Gilbert and his wife Elisavet Vrahapopoulou; Mike Hoffman; Ron O'Kelley, Lesley O'Kelley (wife), Jim O'Kelley (brother), Jan O'Kelley (Jim's wife); Glenn Spencer--all with George Washington Chapter President Jay Henn.

(Con't on Page 3)

President's Corner



Compatriots:

Thanks to all who attended our October Chapter meeting. We again welcomed Compatriots and guests (including Ben Franklin!) *"live"* at Belle Haven as

well as on-line via Zoom. I am particularly pleased that we inducted five new members – four in person and one virtually. Congratulations and welcome to our newest Chapter members Ron O'Kelley, Sam Gilbert, Glenn Spencer, Mike Hoffman and Mike Bell. Special thanks also to Chapter Registrar Rich Sherman for keeping those applications moving along even throughout the pandemic slowdown.

The October Chapter meeting was just the tip of the iceberg in a very busy month. On October 17th Chapter Secretary Rand Pixa journeyed to Yorktown to represent the Chapter and lay a wreath at the grave of Virginia Patriot Governor Thomas Nelson - buried at Grace Episcopal Church - as part of the annual Yorktown Victory Day celebrations. The following Saturday saw Chapter members spread across northern Virginia at multiple SAR ceremonies. Past Chapter President Dwight Whitney, resplendent in his Color Guard uniform, represented the Chapter at the Yowell Meadow Memorial Park in Culpeper, Virginia (along with Past Chapter Presidents Mike Elston and Ernie Coggins and Chapter member William Elston) as Compatriots from throughout Virginia gathered to commemorate the Culpeper Minuteman Battalion and to participate in the dedication of the Charters of Freedom Monument: replicas of the Declaration of Independence, the seven Articles of the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights cast in bronze plates, mounted to a stone base, and arranged precisely as one would see them on display at the National Archives.

That same morning, the George Washington Chapter conducted a grave

marking ceremony at the Trinity United Methodist Church in Alexandria. Led by Past President and Grave Marking Chair Paul Walden, we recognized and marked the graves of three Revolutionary War Patriots – John Longden, John Sloan and Joseph Smith. We were delighted to be joined by representatives of two other SAR Chapters (George Mason and Colonel William Grayson) and two Chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution (Kate Waller Barrett and George Mason).

At the end of the month we shifted gears to recognize outstanding Public Safety officers in both Alexandria and Prince William County. On Wednesday, October 28th, Public Safety Awards Chair John Blair led a Chapter delegation in presenting awards to deserving members of the Alexandria Sheriff's Office. The following day John led another Chapter delegation out to Prince William County to recognize first responders from the County's Department of Fire and Rescue Services. Thank you for your efforts, John!

If you read this and get the impression that we are a busy Chapter, dedicated to furthering the objectives and ideals of the SAR, you would be correct! If you read this and get the impression that we have enough Chapter representation at these events, you would be wrong! There is always room for more. I encourage you to check out the Upcoming Events included in every issue of the newsletter and make plans to attend (if you do not already) at least one Chapter meeting and one other Chapter event. I think you'll enjoy them both!

Yours in patriotism, and fraternally,

Jay Henn

President of The

George Washington Chapter



October in The GW Chapter (con't)



An excellent presentation by Dr. Franklin!

At our October meeting we heard from Ben Franklin himself on why he joined the Patriot cause!

Noted Franklin re-enactor Barry Stevens highlighted the infamous leak of the Hutchinson letters and the subsequent verbal abuse that Franklin, then agent for Massachusetts in London, endured before the British Privy Council in London on January 29, 1774.

This experience led Franklin to conclude that reconciliation with Britain was not possible.

Mr. Stevens was given a token of our appreciation, the Houdon bust of our namesake George Washington, by George Washington Chapter Vice President Tom Roth.



(Con't. next Page)

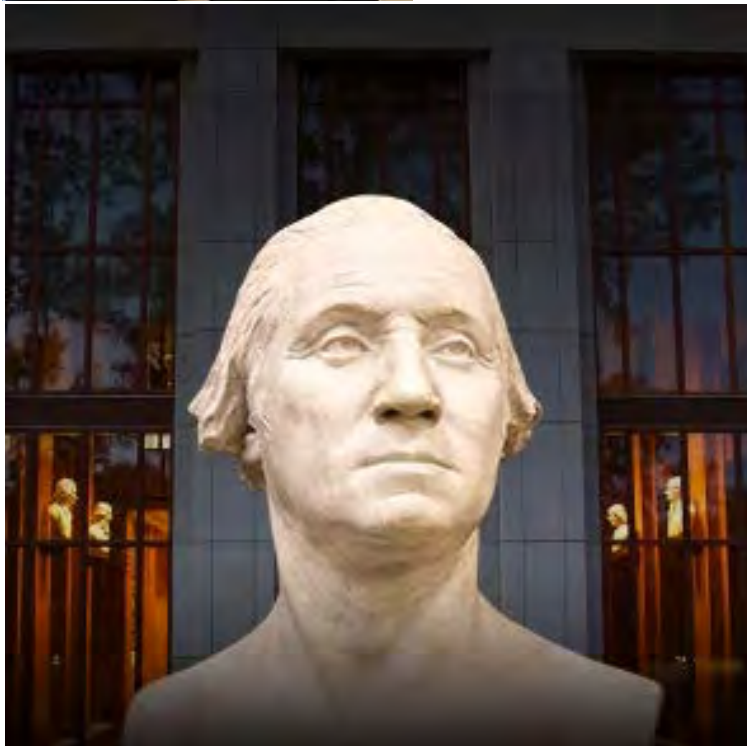
October in The GW Chapter (con't)



Above: Larry Lisle, past GWC President presents current George Washington Chapter President Jay Henn with Crossing the Dan Commemoration Ribbon. Larry who now resides in North Carolina represented the GWC at the event.



Left: Past GWC President Joe Dooley presented Jamie Callender with a Certificate of Appreciation.



"A citizen, first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen."-- Henry (Light Horse Harry) Lee-December 26, 1799.

"George Washington, Commander of the American armies, who, like Joshua of old, commanded the sun and the moon to stand still, and they obeyed him."--Ben Franklin.

President	Jay M. Henn: 703-447-0820
Vice President	Thomas Roth, III: 703-739-8811
Treasurer	Richard Rankin: 703-538-5805
Secretary	Rand Pixa: 703-622-7001
Registrar	Richard Sherman: 301-654-6319

The George Washington Chapter was chartered in its present form on April 2, 1954. With over 240 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:
Dave Thomas: 703-583-8791

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.

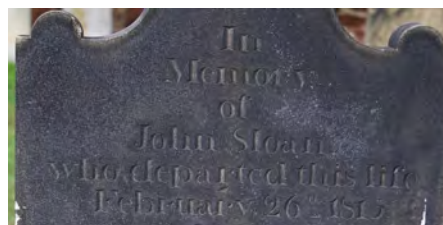
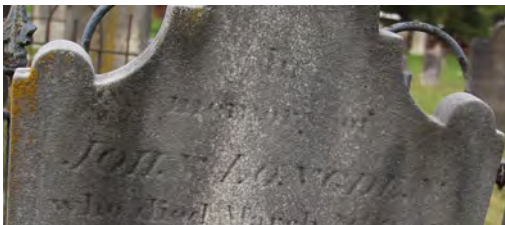
Grave Marking at Trinity Methodist Cemetery

On October 24, the George Washington Chapter memorialized three patriots of the American Revolution, John Longden, John Sloan, and Joseph Smith, at a grave marking ceremony at Trinity United Methodist Church Cemetery in Alexandria. Pastor Grace Han delivered the invocation. Paul Walden, Grave Marking Chairman, served as Master of Ceremonies. Wreaths were presented by the following SAR and DAR chapters: George Washington VASSAR, Kate Waller Barrett VADAR, Col. William Grayson VASSAR, George Mason VASSAR, and George Mason VADAR. The markers were then dedicated by VASSAR Historian, Thomas M. Roth, III. Andrew and Jack Mills served as Color Guards by posting the colors.

(Photos courtesy of Tom Roth).



Above--Andrew Mills (Color Guard), GWSAR Compatriots Covert Beach, Don Reynolds, Jay Henn, Paul Walden, Luc Chevalier, Antoine Chevalier (Luc's father and recent Bronze Good Citizenship Awardee), Jack Mills (Color Guard), Tom Roth, Richard Rankin, Jack Coulter. (Below are the grave markers of our patriots.)



Left: Pastor Grace Han, Grave Marking Chairman and MC Paul Walden, GWC President Jay Henn.

- Culpeper Minutemen - Charters of Freedom Dedication

This was the dedication of a monument to our founding documents -- the Declaration of Independence, the seven Articles of the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. Replicas of these documents are in bronze plates, each mounted to a stone base, and arranged precisely as one would see them on display at the National Archives. The creator, Mr. Vance Patterson of Burke County, North Carolina, told the story how he and his wife conceived the idea for their home county several years ago, then founded Foundation Forward to propagate this idea to communities across the nation as an honor to these documents and to further access and promote education for citizens and visitors. His presentation to the audience of those who came to see the

unveiling was both uplifting and educational.

Thanks to the efforts of the Culpeper Minutemen Chapter and the support of the VASSAR Foundation and others, we are so fortunate to have Culpeper be included among the several communities having this monument thus far. I was proud to be there and participate in its unveiling. Thank you for presenting me the opportunity to participate.

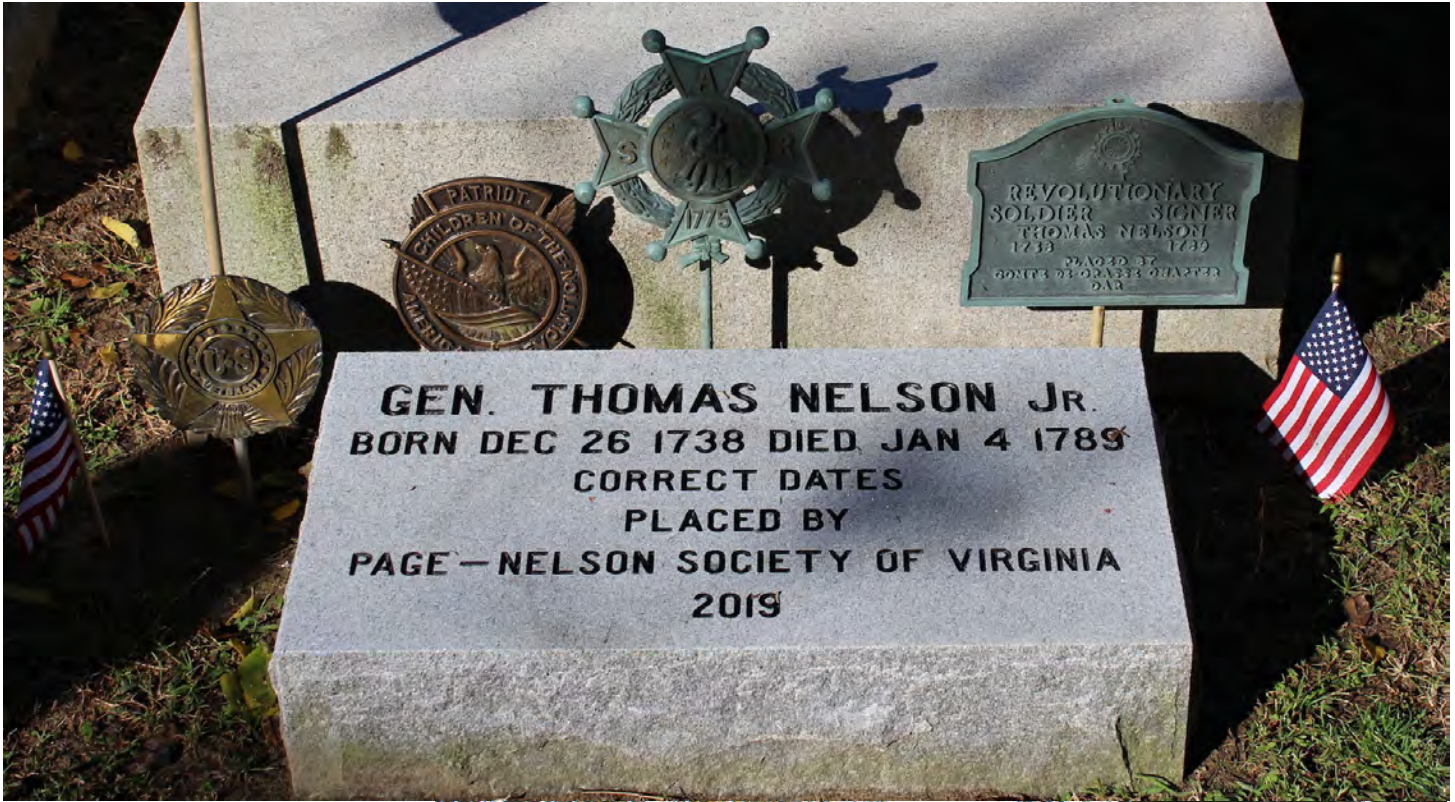
The VASSAR Color Guard, under the command of Ken Bonner, carried the SAR colors and gave a musket salute during the ceremony.

Wow, what a nice event!--*Dwight Whitney*



Above: Bill Schwetke, President of VASSAR gave remarks and right (standing 2nd from left) past GW President Dwight Whitney.

Yorktown Day - Nelson's Grave Marking



Right: Color Guard and wreaths at Patriot Thomas Nelson's Gravesite.



Left: GW Secretary Rand Pixa officially represented the Chapter and presented the Wreath.

Right: Will, Julie and Mike Elston.



October 29th PW County Presentations Department of Fire and Rescue Systems

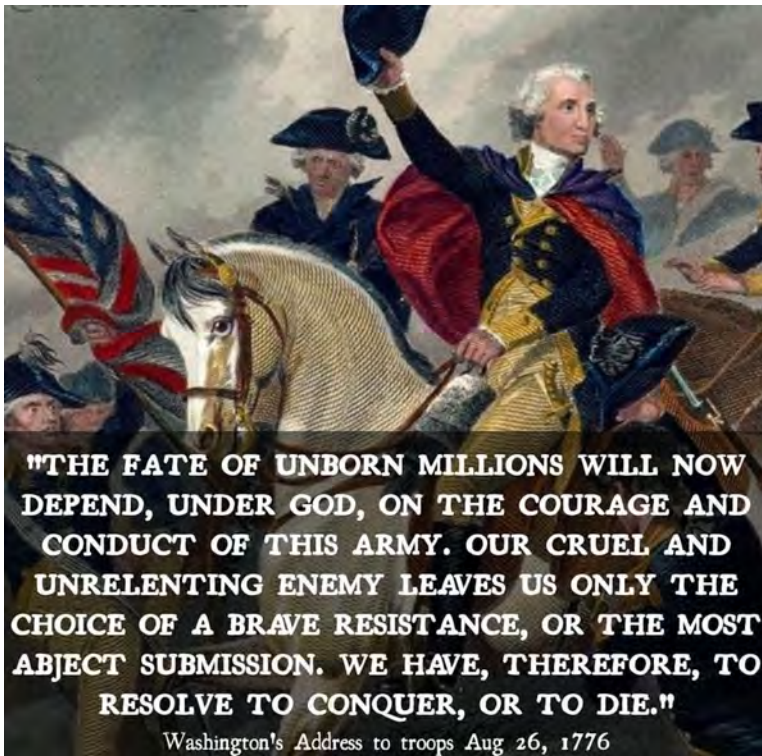


Left--First Row: Tech II Josh Owens, Tech. I Mollie Bodmer. Second Row: Deputy Chief James Forgo, Chief Timothy L. Keen, Awards Chairman John Blair, Assistant Chief Lance McClintock and Battalion Chief Jason Reese.

Below: Tech. II Josh Owens, Deputy Chief James Forgo, Chief Timothy L. Keen and Awards Chairman John Blair.



George Washington



"THE FATE OF UNBORN MILLIONS WILL NOW DEPEND, UNDER GOD, ON THE COURAGE AND CONDUCT OF THIS ARMY. OUR CRUEL AND UNRELENTING ENEMY LEAVES US ONLY THE CHOICE OF A BRAVE RESISTANCE, OR THE MOST ABJECT SUBMISSION. WE HAVE, THEREFORE, TO RESOLVE TO CONQUER, OR TO DIE."

Washington's Address to troops Aug 26, 1776

There is still time to renew your 2021 SAR Membership!

If you have not yet paid your 2021 membership dues, please immediately contact our Chapter Treasurer, Richard Rankin, at brandywinecreek@aol.com.

The Treasurer will begin submitting Chapter members' dues payments to VASSAR later next week. We want to ensure your dues payment is received in a timely manner to maintain your membership in good standing for next year.

***Do not let your membership
lapse. Renew today!***

Upcoming Events

November 8, 2020–Sunday

Veterans Day Commemorative Wreath and Recognition Ceremony -2:00 PM

Col. William Preston DSR Chapter and Officers of VA DAR District VII

ZOOM Event–Based in Roanoke– Invite Specifically to GWC, GMC, Col. William Grayson, and Fairfax Resolves.

November 11, 2020–Wednesday: Veterans Day at Mount Vernon–2:15 pm

Mt. Vernon Estate

3200 Mount Vernon Highway

Mount Vernon, Virginia 22121

Limited Attendance Allowed by Mt. Vernon

November 14, 2020–Saturday:

George Washington Chapter Meeting- 11:55 am Lunch; Speaker, Program & Zoom-12:45 pm

Speaker: Matthew R. Costello, Ph.D., Vice President of the David M. Rubenstein National Center for White House History, White House Historian, The White House Historical Association

“The Property of the Nation: George Washington’s Tomb, Mount Vernon, and the Memory of the First President”

Belle Haven Country Club

6023 Fort Hunt Road

Alexandria, Virginia 22307

This meeting is live and Zoom – The speaker will be by Zoom also.

November 21, 2020–Saturday: Grave Marking Revolutionary War and War of 1812–10:00-11:00 am

Ebenezer Baptist Church

20421 Airmont Rd

Bluemont, Virginia 20135

Sponsored by William Grayson Chapter

VASSAR Presidential Initiative

POSTPONED DUE TO COVID 19

November 21, 2020–Saturday: Grave Marking Revolutionary War and War of 1812–12:30–2:30 PM

Ketocin Baptist Church

16599 Ketocin Church Road

Purcellville, VA 20132

Sponsored by William Grayson Chapter, VASSAR and Society of the War of 1812

Contact for additional info: Curtis Robb: curtis.robb@icloud.com

VASSAR Presidential Initiative

December 5, 2020–Saturday: Battle of Great Bridge–245th Anniversary

11:00 am–12:00 pm

Chesapeake City Hall

306 Cedar Road

Chesapeake, VA 23322

VASSAR Presidential Initiative

December 12, 2020–Saturday: Joint Meeting of the George Mason and George Washington Chapters-11:55 AM Lunch, 12:45 PM Program and Speaker.

ZOOM begins at 12:45

Installation of 2020 Officers

Speaker: Mr. William Schwetke, President VASSAR

Mount Vernon Country Club

5111 Old Mill Road

Alexandria, Virginia 22309

December 19, 2020–Saturday: Noon Wreaths Across America

Alexandria National Cemetery

1450 Wilkes Street

Alexandria, Virginia 22314

January 9, 2021–Saturday: George Washington Chapter Meeting-11:30 am

Speaker: David Muraca.

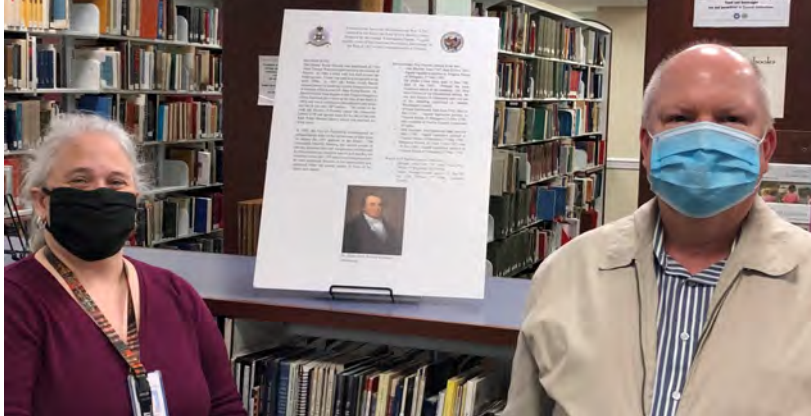
VP-The George Washington Foundation

Belle Haven Country Club

6023 Fort Hunt Road

Alexandria, Virginia 22307





Left: In the photo, Paul Walden and Ms. Patricia Walker, Local History and Special Collections Branch Manager.

Poster of Patriots Presented to Alexandria Library

On November 4, Paul Walden, Past President George Washington Chapter VASSAR and current President, Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia, presented a poster describing the service of five patriots of the American Revolution and two of the War of 1812 to the Local History and Special Collections Room in the Kate Waller Barrett Branch of the Alexandria Public Library. This was the result of several discussions on placing a plaque memorializing these patriots on the library grounds; however we were unable to obtain permission to do so. As a consolation, we offered to place a poster in the library memorializing these patriots in time for Veterans Day. The Patriots of the American Revolution who were interred on the library grounds are John Butcher, William Hartshorne, John Saunders, Benjamin Shreve, and perhaps the most famous, Dr. Elisha Dick, one of the attending physicians at General Washington's death. The War of 1812 patriots interred at the site are John Morgan and Thomas Smith.



--November Speaker -- Dr. Matthew Costello

Our November speaker will be Matthew Costello, Ph.D. Dr. Costello is Vice President of the David M. Rubenstein National Center for White House History, and Senior Historian for the White House Historical Association. He will be speaking to us about his book *"The Property of the Nation: George Washington's Tomb, Mount Vernon, and the Memory of the First President."* It was published by University Press of Kansas in fall 2019 and was a finalist for the Washington Library's 2020 George Washington Book Prize.

Dr. Costello will be joining us via Zoom.

Matthew joined the Association in November 2016 after completing his Ph.D. and M.A. in American history at Marquette University. He received his B.A. in history and political science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He previously worked on the George Washington Bibliography Project for the George Washington Papers at the University of Virginia. He has received research fellowships from Marquette University, the Virginia Historical Society, the United States Capitol Historical Society, and the Fred W. Smith National Library at Mount Vernon. He has published articles in *The Journal of History and Cultures*, *Essays in History*, *The Dome*, and *White House History*. Matthew also teaches a course on White House history at American University.

Signed copies of his book may be available from the Mt. Vernon Book Store and from the White House Historical Society.

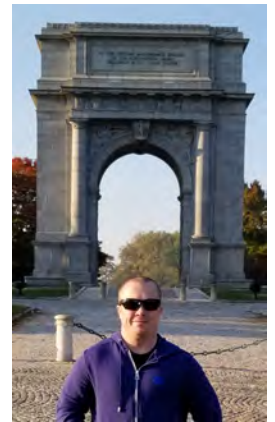
The March to Valley Forge



William Trego's "The March to Valley Forge, December 19, 1777"



GW Compatriot Craig Batten recently visited Valley Forge National Historical Park, located west of King of Prussia, PA. Valley Forge is known for being George Washington's encampment from December 1777 to June 1778. Craig did his own driving tour and followed the tour signs on the road around the park. There is also a walking path throughout the park for walking tours. There are many things and scenery to see but the main sites are the memorial arch (right) and George Washington's HQ building (left).



November through the years with George Washington

1752 on the 4th--Washington becomes a Freemason.

1752 on the 6th--Washington appointed Major in Virginia Militia.

1781 on the 5th--Death of Washington's stepson, John "Jacky" Parke Custis.

1783 on the 2nd--Washington bids farewell to army at end of Revolutionary War.

1789 on the 25th--First observance of the "*day of public Thanksgiving*" ordered by Washington at request of Congress.

Alexandria Police Department Awards



Left: Alexandria Sheriff Dana Lawhorne, Compatriot David Kuhnsman, GW VP Tom Roth, Deputy Jason Bebow, Deputy Julio Ocasio and Awards Chairman John Blair.

Right: Alexandria Sheriff Dana Lawhorne, Deputy Devon Neckles, GW VP Tom Roth, Compatriot David Kuhnsman, Officer Shakita Warren, Awards Chairman John Blair and the Alexandria Assistant Chief.



... and the central figure here is our own big man and jack of all trades the one and only Ernie Coggins.

Special thanks to Ernie and Tom Roth for all the photos we share here.

Members Only Section of GWSAR.ORG

It's There For You!



In case you have never established a Members Only linkage, or you have forgotten your username & password, I am here to remind you of how you do it and what you'll find there when you visit this part of the George Washington Chapter's website.

Go to our Chapter website and click on the Members Only Login link (far right side) at the top of the Home page on the Chapter's website and then use either your website account (username and password) or social media account to gain access. For those that either don't have an account or have forgotten their username and/or password, I can help you with that if you send me an email at:

WEBMASTER@GWSAR.ORG

I will need to verify who you say you are, so include your full name, email and phone number you provided for your GW Chapter membership and your State and/or National SAR numbers, if you know them. With this information, I can verify your account and then provide you with your password so you can gain access.

There is also another sign on option if you have a social media account (Google / Twitter / LinkedIn / Instagram / Amazon / Microsoft / Yahoo). The website will use your social media account to verify who you are thus providing easy and seamless access. I use a Google Chrome browser and am thus always logged into my Google account, so I use the "Login With Google" button and I get right in without having to remember another username and password. Use whichever option you are most comfortable with.

After gaining access to the Members Only site, you have access to the following information:

- Membership Directory – the latest and historical versions dating back to 2013
- References - SAR Brochure / Application Form / Grave Markings Research Material
- Reports – Americanism / Committee
- GWSAR Business – Approved Budgets / Chapter Board Meeting Minutes

This is your section of the website and it can host anything you think is important to share exclusively with the members of this Chapter. If you have some ideas, please share them.

Jamie Callender, Webmaster



George Washington Chapter, Virginia SAR

Luncheon Meeting Reservation Form

Lunch: 11:55 AM, Saturday, November 14, 2020

Chapter Meeting & Zoom: 12:45 PM

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

Our November speaker will be Matthew Costello, Ph.D. Dr. Costello is Vice President of the David M. Rubenstein National Center for White House History, and Senior Historian for the White House Historical Association. He will be speaking to us about his book *"The Property of the Nation: George Washington's Tomb, Mount Vernon, and the Memory of the First President"*. It was published by University Press of Kansas in fall 2019 and was a finalist for the Washington Library's 2020 George Washington Book Prize.

The October meeting will feature both in-person and Zoom attendance. The Zoom link will be provided in an email to all members. **For those wishing to attend the luncheon, you may make your reservation for the luncheon 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. Please make checks payable to [George Washington Chapter, VASSAR](#).

Second, you may email our Chapter Treasurer at brandywinecreek@aol.com. 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. Check & Cash payments will be collected at the door.

For both methods, please make sure that your reservation is received no later than **Tuesday, November 10th**, 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, November 14, 2020**

(1) Compatriot Name: _____

(2) Guest Name(s): _____

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

\$ _____ is enclosed.

Return this form and check to:

Richard E. Rankin, Treasurer
1207 Lincoln Avenue
Falls Church, VA 22046-2532

Given health restrictions, no social hour will be held at this meeting. Luncheon will start at 11:55 AM and Chapter Meeting starts at 12:45 PM, followed by the presentation and the meeting will conclude by 2 PM.