



# George Washington Chapter Sons of the American Revolution Newsletter



*Washington*

Visit us online at [www.gwsar.org](http://www.gwsar.org)

Volume 21, Issue 7

October, 2020

## September in The George Washington Chapter



**Receiving Certificates of Appreciation** -- Above from Left to Right: Don Reynolds, Covert Beach and Richard Sherman and to the right of all is GW President Jay Henn.



**New members sworn in** -- Above Left: Jim Bartholomew, and Above Right is Will Arritt, both with President Jay Henn.

(Con't on Page 3)

# President's Corner



## *Compatriots:*

With September's meeting we recorded another first for the George Washington Chapter – a “hybrid” in-person and virtual gathering. A number of compatriots, new members, prospective members and guests gathered in our habitual venue at the Belle Haven Country Club (appropriately socially-distanced, of course!) and a roughly equal number of compatriots and guests signed on via Zoom to round out the total attendance. In addition to inducting new members Will Arritt and Jim Bartholomew (welcome, gentlemen!) we were treated to a fascinating presentation on the Patriot Research System (PRS) by Chapter member Jamie Callender. Jamie challenged each and every Chapter member to complete four data confirmation and entry tasks associated with our personal SAR membership, and Vice President Tom Roth and I announced that we would recognize all who successfully completed those tasks with a certificate, SAR memento, and mention in the Chapter newsletter. Jamie's charts are posted on the Chapter website, or you may contact him directly for more information on the PRS.

As I've mentioned previously, our intent is to continue with these hybrid Chapter meetings at least through the end of the calendar year. I encourage you to consider joining us in-person; the Belle Haven staff did a wonderful job of setting up the meeting room and serving our members in a safe and responsible fashion. And, if you are still more comfortable participating virtually, please join us as well. We have plenty of room!

Remember, as well, that the Chapter is about much more than our monthly meetings, and there are multiple opportunities (both live and virtual) coming up that are very deserving of your

consideration and attendance. It may be too late to register by the time this issue of the newsletter hits the streets, but our Chapter will be represented on October 7th at a virtual wreath laying commemorating the 240th anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain (a decisive Patriot victory in South Carolina). Two weeks later, on October 17th, the SAR will recognize Governor Thomas Nelson with a wreath laying at the Grace Episcopal Church in Yorktown – normally just one of many events held during the Yorktown Day celebrations (most of which have been cancelled for this year). Details for the Nelson observance are still being finalized, but there will likely be opportunities for both virtual and in-person participation.

The following Saturday, October 24th, is a busy day on the SAR calendar. At 11:00 am, the George Washington Chapter will recognize three Patriots with a combined grave marking ceremony at the Trinity United Methodist Church Cemetery in Alexandria. I encourage as many of you as possible to join us for our largest 2020 grave marking event. That same day, also at 11:00 am, the SAR will be dedicating a memorial to the Culpeper Minutemen and installing the Charters of Freedom at Yowell Meadow Memorial Park in Culpeper. This event is a VASSAR Presidential Initiative, so I encourage you to consider participating in that dedication as possible.

Finally, at 9:00 am on Wednesday, October 28th, we will be presenting Public Safety Awards to members of Alexandria Sheriff's Office in Alexandria. If you live nearby and can spare an hour or so, please join us in recognizing some of the area's incredible first responders.

Yours in patriotism, and fraternally,

*Jay Henn*

*President of The*

*George Washington Chapter*



*George Washington*



## September in The GW Chapter (con't)



GW Chapter Compatriot Jamie Callender gave a great presentation on the Patriot Research System (PRS) and was given a token of our appreciation of the Houdon bust of our namesake George Washington by GW Vice President Tom Roth

Each and every Chapter member was challenged to complete four data confirmation and entry tasks associated with your Patriot ancestor.

*Editor's Note: I contacted Jamie and had a few questions about the process and sent in 2 photos to Jamie, (and updated the bio of my ancestor) and they were input the same day--AMAZING and very grateful--Pete Farley*

*(Con't. next Page*



# September in The GW Chapter (con't)



Above: These GREAT socks, shown at the GW Chapter Meeting in September, were worn by past Chapter President David Walker."

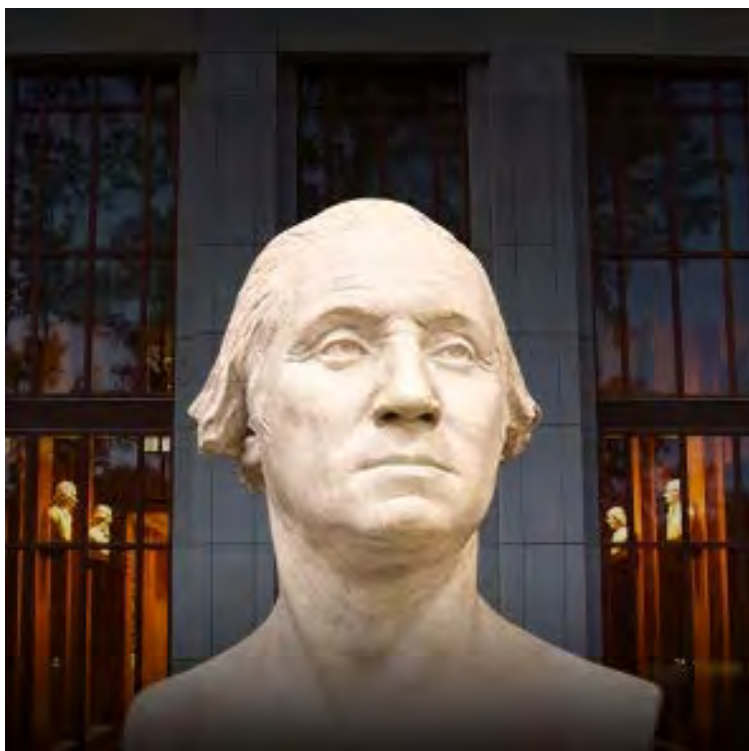


*"First in War . . . First in Peace . . . and First in the Hearts of His Countrymen"*

*--Light Horse Harry Lee*



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[www.gwsar.org](http://www.gwsar.org)*



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.

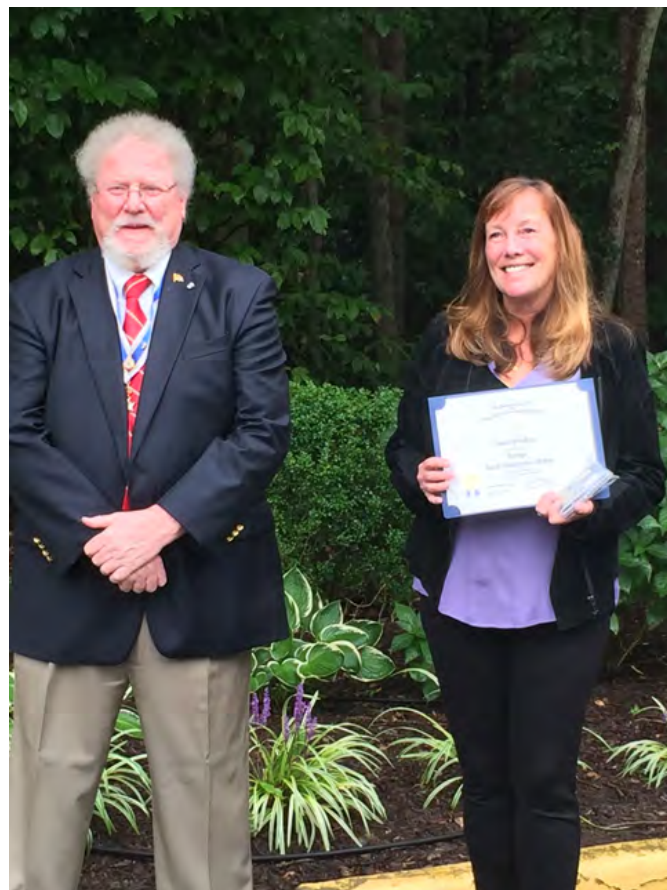
This newsletter is edited by **Pete Farley**. Inputs from Chapter officers, committee chairmen, and fellow Compatriots are always needed. Please send your inputs and comments to [nyyno7@cox.net](mailto:nyyno7@cox.net) or call 703-585-3163.

# SAR Bronze Good Citizenship Award

On September 12, 2020 the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), George Washington Chapter, awarded the SAR Bronze Good Citizenship Award and Medal to Mrs. Janet MacLure. The award was made in recognition of Mrs. MacLure's tireless and gracious service to military veterans as an Arlington Lady (Air Force) and a wide range of meaningful activities supporting military families, as well as her diverse volunteer service in support to the youth and disadvantaged in Prince William County.



*At Right is Past President of the GW Chapter Dave Thomas presenting the award and medal to Mrs. MacLure.*



## Compatriots: 2021 Dues Renewal Notice

We trust you and your family are well and safe after a very challenging year. We are planning for a robust schedule of Chapter activities next year and look forward to your participation.

Your personalized 2021 Membership Renewal Form is expected to be mailed the week of October 12 to your "address-of-record."

This renewal form will allow you to take care of your SAR dues obligations: National, State and Chapter. The renewal form will also allow you to update any personal information changes (such as, a new mailing address, phone number or email account) and remind us of your delivery preference (either by US Mail or Email) for receiving our excellent newsletter during the year.

This is a great opportunity to show your support for the George Washington Chapter and the goals of the SAR. Your basic dues payment will enable the Chapter to continue to conduct a wide variety of activities, including sponsorship of various youth programs (including orations and essay contests, JROTC and Eagle Scouting) and honoring our Patriot ancestors with grave markings and other recognition ceremonies.

We appreciate your annual dues payment, but would encourage you to make a generous donation beyond your dues payment to support our many Chapter activities, such as our Public Safety Awards program (for local police, fire and EMT personnel serving our community). Our Public Safety Awards program was ranked the most outstanding within the SAR. Your tax exempt donation will allow us to expand to an even wider range of deserving activities.

Please check your mail box during the week of October 12 for your 2021 Membership Renewal Form. In the meantime, if you have any questions about your upcoming renewal, please contact our Chapter Treasurer, Richard Rankin at [brandywinecreek@aol.com](mailto:brandywinecreek@aol.com)



# William Ellery -- A True Patriot

by Compatriot John Edward Haseltine

William Ellery was born on December 22, 1727, in Newport Rhode Island. He grew up as the son of a merchant and entered Harvard University when he was only 16. He successfully graduated in 1747. When he returned to Newport, Ellery became a merchant like his father and got involved in the trading business. However, he quickly discovered that this profession was not in his best interest. After working as a customs collector and as a clerk for the Rhode Island General Assembly, he decided to enter politics. Little did he know, he was about to play a role in the future of a nation.

In the year 1776, one of Rhode Island's delegates to the Continental Congress (Samuel Ward) suffered an untimely death while the issue of Independence was being discussed. Since it was the smallest of the colonies, the Rhode Island legislature knew that at least two representatives were needed to make their population's voice heard. By this point William Ellery had already made his position on matter clear to his countrymen.

In the aftermath of the Battles of Lexington and Concord, Ellery became a major advocate for armed resistance against British occupation. He was quoted as saying, *"You must exert yourself. To be ruled by Tories, when we may be ruled by Sons of Liberty, how debasing! There is liberty and fire enough, it only requires the application of the bellows. Blow, then, a blast will shake this country!"* His patriotic words inspired thousands of Rhode Islanders to move into Massachusetts and join the growing Continental Army that was converging on Boston. Due to his ardent viewpoints and distinguished credentials, the Rhode Island chose Ellery to become their second delegate on May 4. Less than two weeks later, Ellery joined fellow delegate, Stephen Hopkins at the Second Continental Congress down in Philadelphia.

After the Patriot stand at Bunker Hill, the sons of liberty made the decision to sign the Declaration of Independence. Ellery later

wrote, *"I was determined to see how they all looked as they signed what might be their death warrant. I placed myself beside the Secretary Charles Thomson and eyed closely as he affixed each name to the document. Undaunted resolution was displayed in every countenance"*.

When it was his turn to sign, Ellery made his signature big and clear. It was the second-largest signature after John Hancock.

After the signing, William Ellery was placed on Congress's Marine Committee and was instrumental in smuggling supplies and clothing to the Continental Army. However, he was prevented from returning to his home in Newport due to the city being captured and occupied by the British. Despite this setback, Ellery continued to serve in the Continental Congress until the end of the war.

After the US had become independent, William Ellery continued to serve in the Congress until 1786. After that, he became an advocate for abolishing slavery. In 1790, President George Washington appointed Ellery as Collector of Customs for the city of Newport, a post he held for the next thirty years. In the last years of his life, he reflected on his contributions to American independence and the life he had lived. He wrote, *"I have been a clerk of the court, a quack lawyer, a member of Congress, one of the lords of the Admiralty, a judge, a loan officer, and finally a Collector of the Customs and thus, not without great difficulty, but as honestly, thank God, as most men, I have got through the journey of a varied and somewhat anxious life"*.



(Con't. on Page 10)

# Virginia Society–Semi-Annual Meeting

## September 18-19, 2020

The Virginia Society's Semi-Annual Meeting was held this year at Berry Hill Plantation in South Boston, Virginia the weekend of September 18-19, 2020. The Berry Hill Plantation and Conference Center is a restored 1840's era mansion and is considered one of the premier examples of a Greek revival mansion in the U.S.

The Semi-Annual meeting opened and closed with a parade of flags by the VASSAR Color Guard and a single gun artillery salute provided by VASSAR Chancellor Eric Monday. As previously announced, the compatriots present debated and approved a number of mostly technical changes to the VASSAR Constitution and By-Laws to simplify operations and bring them more into line with the NSSAR Constitution and By-Laws. The assembly also endorsed the proposed slate of nominees for NSSAR General Officer positions previously endorsed at the Atlantic Middle States Association Meeting in August. This includes our own Mike Elston, who is nominated to serve as Chancellor General for the 2021-2022 term. Elections for those offices will be held during the 2021 National Congress.

The VASSAR Nominating Committee also presented its nominations for officers for the year 2021. From the George Washington Chapter, Ernie Coggins was nominated to serve as Second Vice President, and Tom Roth to continue in office as Historian. Elections for those offices will be held at the 2021 VASSAR State Convention to be held the first weekend in February.

On Friday, John Blair presented a very well received workshop on Public Safety Awards and how he developed relationships and worked with local, police, fire, and Sheriff's departments to identify worthy recipients for these awards. Richard Sherman, Chairman of the VASSAR Knight Essay Contest Committee, discussed the

nature of the contest, scheduling, and how best to conduct it on the local level. He also reminded the assembly of the historical connection between VASSAR and this competition, which was originally established by a George Washington Chapter member. Ernie Coggins currently chairs the NSSAR Knight Essay Committee. Tom Roth used up many electrons performing photographic duties during the weekend.

George Washington Chapter Members, Ernie Coggins, Mike Elston, Will Elston, Tom Roth, John Blair, and Richard Sherman attended the VASSAR Semi-Annual Meeting, together with Linda Blair and Julie Elston. Dual George Mason-George Washington Chapter member and Chairman of the NSSAR Foundation, Joe Dooley was also very much in evidence.

George Washington Chapter members also received a number of awards and recognitions:

**Dave Thomas**–*Certificate of Appreciation*–Service and support for the VASSAR 2020 Annual Meeting

**Ernie Coggins**–*Bronze Congressional Appreciation Medal* (Sam Adams medal)

**Ernie Coggins**–*Certificate of Appreciation*–Service on the NSSAR Knight Essay Committee

**Greg Bodge**–*Certificate of Appreciation*–VASSAR Service as Chairman of the Operation Ancestor Search Committee

**Jamie Callender**–*Certificate of Appreciation*–Service and support for the VASSAR 2020 Annual Meeting

**John Blair**–*Virginia Society State Service Medal* (Madison Medal)–Services to Public Safety Awards

**Mike Elston**–*Certificate of Appreciation*–Service on the NSSAR Bylaws Committee

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# Semi-Annual Meeting (con't)

**Mike Elston**-*Virginia Society State Service Medal* (Madison Medal)-Services to SAR – CAR relations

**Mike Elston**-*Bronze Congressional Appreciation Medal* (Sam Adams medal)

**Richard Sherman**-*Liberty Medal*

**Richard Sherman**-*Certificate of Appreciation*-VASSAR Service as Chairman Knight Essay Committee

**Paul Walden**-*Liberty Medal* (Gold oak leaf in lieu of additional award)



*Left: William Schwetke, President VASSAR presenting certificates to Stacy Wajciechowski and Mike Elston.*



*Above: Attendees in front of the Mansion at Berry Hill Plantation. Below Left: Color Guard and Right: Ernie needs more coffee !*



*(Con't on Page 12)*



# Upcoming Events

**October 7, 2020–Wednesday:**  
**240th Anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain-10:30 AM-11:30 AM**  
Kings Mountain Chapter NCSA  
Daniel Morgan Chapter, SCSAR, NSSAR  
ZOOM Event--Register for Wreaths by 9/30/20

**October 10, 2020–Saturday:**  
**George Washington Chapter Meeting-11:55 am; Program & Zoom-12:45 pm**  
*Speaker:* Dr. Benjamin Franklin (Barry Stevens)

*"Making of a Patriot – The Hutchinson Letters Leak and the Privy Council"*  
Belle Haven Country Club & Zoom  
6023 Fort Hunt Road  
Alexandria, Virginia 22307

**October 10, 2020–Saturday:**  
**Battle of Point Pleasant Memorial Service-8:00 PM**  
Live Pre-Recorded Event to be broadcast followed by Virtual Wreath Presentation  
Reply by September 30, 2020  
**NSSAR Event**

**October 10, 2020–Saturday:**  
**Originally May 9, 2020–Saturday:**  
**The Raid on Martin's Station**  
**CANCELLED DUE TO COVID 19 – confirmed per W. Schwetke**

**October 17, 2020–Saturday:**  
**Thomas Nelson, Jr. Wreath Laying–10:00 am-11:30 am**  
Grace Episcopal Church  
111 Church Street  
Yorktown, VA 23690  
**Limited onsite with possible virtual components.**

**VASSAR–Presidential Initiative**

**Yorktown Victory Day Parade–10:30 am–11:30 am**  
210 Church Street  
Yorktown, VA 23690  
**CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19**

**October 24, 2020–Saturday:**  
**Culpeper Minutemen Memorial Dedication–Time TBD**  
Yowell Meadow Memorial Park Culpeper, Virginia

**VASSAR–Presidential Initiative**

**October 24, 2020–Saturday:**  
**Grave Marking – Graves of John Longden, NSSAR Patriot 232684, John Sloan, NSSAR Patriot 329188, Joseph Smith, NSSAR Patriot 292528-11:00 AM**  
Trinity United Methodist Church Cemetery  
Alexandria, Virginia

**October 28, 2020–Wednesday:**  
**Public Service Awards Presentation – 9:00 am**  
Alexandria Sheriff's Office  
2003 Mill Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314

**November 11, 2020–Wednesday: Veterans Day at George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate–2:00 pm**  
3200 Mount Vernon Highway  
Mount Vernon, Virginia 22121

**November 14, 2020–Saturday:**  
**George Washington Chapter Meeting-11:55 am; 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 & Zoom  
6023 Fort Hunt Road  
Alexandria, Virginia 22307

**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**

*(Continued next page)*

# Upcoming Events

**November 21, 2020—Grave Marking  
Revolutionary War and War of 1812—  
3:30-4:00 PM**

Ketocin Baptist Church

16599 Ketocin Church Road, Purcellville,  
VA 20132

Sponsored by William Grayson Chapter  
**VASSAR Presidential Initiative**

**December 5, 2020—Saturday: Battle of  
Great Bridge—245th Anniversary  
11:00 am—12:00 pm**

Great Bridge Battlefield & Waterways  
History Foundation

Historic Way, Chesapeake, VA 23320

**VASSAR Presidential Initiative**

**December 12, 2020—Saturday: Joint  
Meeting of the George Mason and  
George Washington Chapters Meeting—  
11:30 am—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

## Ellery (from page 6)



He passed away on February 15, 1820, at  
the age of 92.

Out of all the 56 signers of the Declaration  
of Independence, William Ellery is one of  
the least appreciated. However, I see him  
as an interesting figure who dedicated his  
life to helping those around him in the best  
way possible while securing the future of  
our country. He truly is a person who  
should be held in high regard.

# October Speaker -- Ben Franklin

Our October meeting will feature a visit  
from Dr. Benjamin Franklin (aka Barry  
Stevens). Dr. Franklin will be discussing  
his experiences in London following his  
leak of certain letters from Massachusetts  
Governor Thomas Hutchinson and his  
verbal abuse by Solicitor General  
Alexander Wedderburn before the British  
Privy Council on January 29, 1774, and  
how this led him to realize that there  
could be no conciliation with Britain.

Barry Stevens has been presenting  
Benjamin Franklin since 2005. He was  
tending campfire while participating as a  
member of the First Virginia Regiment (a  
company of Revolutionary War re-  
enactors). Visitors to the campfire would  
address him as "Ben" with such frequency  
and certainty that he outfitted himself as  
this special 18th Century gentleman and  
actually began answering their questions!

His education of Dr. Franklin has led him  
to read and study extensively on the life  
and times on this American personality.

That study is ongoing and without end. It  
has taken him to locations throughout the  
Colonies known to Dr. Franklin and even  
to Le Procope restaurant in Paris, France.



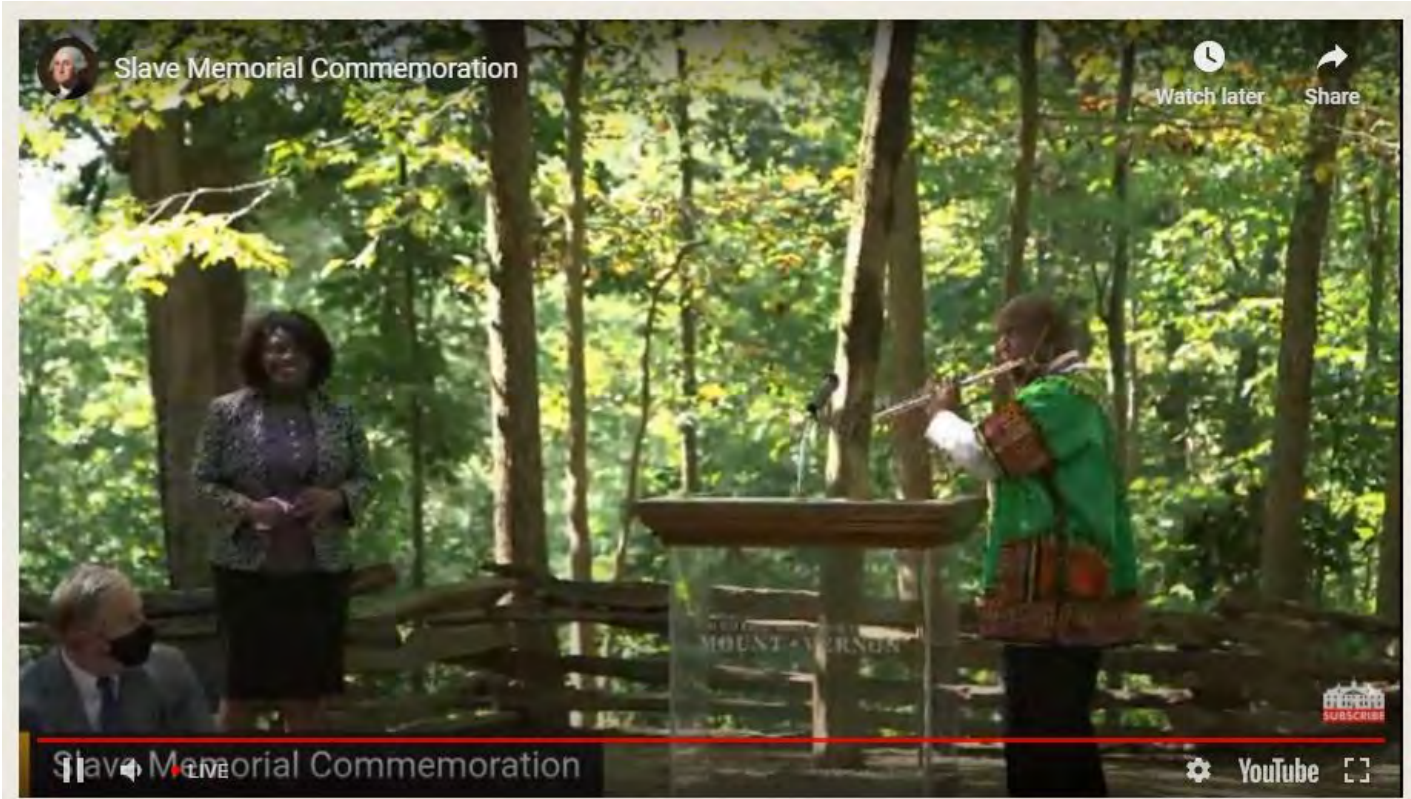
*Amazing  
resemblance!*





# Mt. Vernon Slave Commemoration

## October 3rd, 2020



*Compatriot Don Francisco played Amazing Grace for the annual Slave Memorial ceremony at Mount Vernon, October 3, 2020*



## October through the years with George Washington

**1792** on the 1st--Thomas Jefferson visits Mt. Vernon to convince Washington to take a second term as president.

**1789** on the 3rd--Washington issues his first Thanksgiving Proclamation as President.

**1777** on the 4th--Battle of Germantown.

**1792** on the 13th--Cornerstone of the White House is set, Washington is in Philadelphia.

**1781** on the 19th--Cornwallis surrenders to Washington at Yorktown.



# Semi-Annual Meeting (con't)



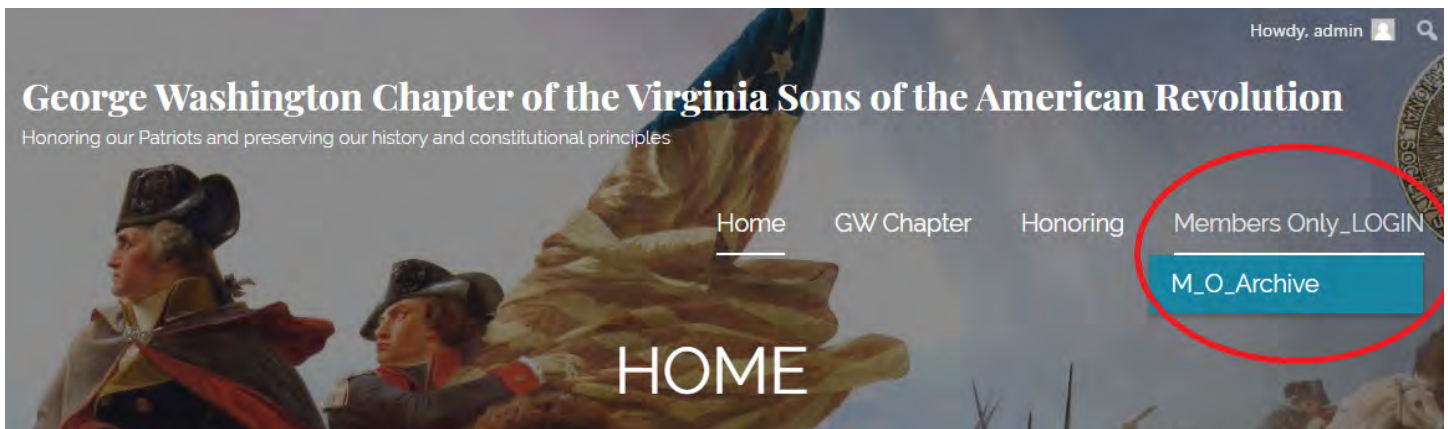
*Clockwise from Above Left--Mike Elston receiving the Bronze Congress Appreciation Medal (Sam Adams Medal) from Chancellor-General Pete Davenport; John Blair presenting his session on Public Safety Awards; Ernie Coggins and Rich Sherman receiving Certificates of Appreciation; John Blair receiving the Virginia Society State Service Medal (Madison Medal) from VASSAR President Bill Schwetke; Rich Sherman receiving the Liberty Medal with Bill Schwetke.*





# 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](mailto: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

**Chapter Meeting: 11:55 AM, Saturday, October 10, 2020**

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

Our October meeting is your opportunity to hear *from Ben Franklin himself* on why he joined the Patriot cause! Noted Franklin re-enactor Barry Stevens will highlight 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 conciliation with Britain was not possible.

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](mailto: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, October 6th**, 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, October 10, 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 current state health restrictions, no social hour will be held at this meeting.  
The luncheon will start at 11:55 AM and the Chapter Meeting will start at 12:45 PM,  
followed by the presentation and the meeting will conclude by 2 PM..*