



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



*Washington*

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

Volume 21, Issue 1

January, 2020

## December Joint Meeting of SAR Chapters George Washington & George Mason



*New officers of George Washington Chapter L-R: Jay Henn, President; Tom Roth, Vice President; Richard Rankin, Treasurer and Rand Pixa, Secretary. VASSAR President Pete Davenport on right administered the oath to all.*



*(Left) As Tom Roth and Richard Rankin observe, Past President Dave Thomas pins the neck ribbon on new President Jay Henn. (Right) Jay Henn presents the Distinguished Service Medal and Certificate to outgoing President Dave Thomas.*



*(Con't on Page 3)*

# President's Corner



## *Compatriots:*

It was a great honor to be inducted as the President of the George Washington Chapter by Virginia Society President Pete Davenport at our December Chapter

meeting, and to don the ceremonial neck ribbon worn by all Chapter Presidents. Over the years I have benefitted greatly from my SAR membership and from participating in many unique and inspirational events at the National, State and Chapter levels. As President, I commit to working with all of you to ensure that the George Washington Chapter continues to be at the forefront of the pursuit of the historical, educational, and patriotic objectives of the National Society.

This is, of course, a team sport. I look forward to working with your other new officers--Tom Roth (Vice President), Richard Rankin (Treasurer), and Rand Pixa (Secretary)--as we move into the year 2020. Most importantly, I wish to thank outgoing President Dave Thomas for his exemplary leadership and dedication to the Chapter. Dave will be continuing in a Chapter leadership role, joining the Board of Managers as a Manager-at-Large (Class of 2022).

It is somewhat traditional for incoming Presidents to establish a set of new initiatives for the upcoming year. I am going to hold off on doing so for two reasons. First, as many of you know, this year's SAR National Congress will be held in Richmond in July. Hosting a Congress is an honor--and a lot of work; planning and conducting a successful Congress will require the support of many, many Virginia SAR members. Several of our Chapter members are already deeply involved, and I am hoping that many more will volunteer in the coming weeks.

Second, planning and conducting a robust

Chapter Program--including Youth Awards, Public Safety Awards, Grave Marking, and other activities--requires the support and participation of many Chapter members. We are anticipating that several of our long-time Committee Chairman will be stepping down this year, and filling those very large shoes will be a priority for the leadership team. Given this turnover, Congress, and our commitments to all of our long-standing events (such as the George Washington Birthday Parade, the National Memorial Day Parade, Fourth of July at Mount Vernon, and the President General's Wreath laying at Arlington National Cemetery), any new initiatives will necessarily be dependent on the level of involvement from Chapter members.

In that vein, toward the end of January I will be holding a Winter Planning Workshop. More information on this meeting will be forthcoming, but I encourage all members to attend. Past Winter Meetings have been great opportunities for newer members to learn more about the activities and operation of the Chapter. If you are interested in becoming more active in the Chapter, providing suggestions on potential new activities, or just interested in what's going on, this is the meeting for you! It's true what they say: "the more you put in, the more you get out."

Before that, however, I hope to see you at our January Chapter meeting. As you'll read more about elsewhere in this issue, we will be joined by several Virginia SAR members who are helping to plan and coordinate volunteers for the 2020 Congress. In addition, we will be hosting Ms. McGowan (Mackie) Storage, President of the National Society of the Children of the American Revolution. Mackie will be presenting her National Project -- "*Foundation of Freedom*" and her efforts to raise funds for the restoration of Ferry Farm, George Washington's boyhood home. Our Chapter has been a long-time supporter of the C.A.R., and this will be an

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## *President's Corner (Con't)*

opportunity to learn about ongoing C.A.R. programs as well as to make a donation to their success.

Many thanks to all for your continued support of the George Washington Chapter. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or to any of our Chapter officers throughout the year with comments, ideas, or concerns. With your help, 2020 will be another banner year!

Happy New Year to all!

*Thank you,*

*Jay Henn*

*President*

*George Washington Chapter*



## *December Joint Meeting (con't)*



*(Left) Jay Henn presenting John Mason, our December speaker and direct descendant of George Mason, with Washington Houdon Bust and (Right) Mr. Mason with family.*



*Left--Mr. and Mrs. Philip Dennison attended the December Joint Meeting at the Mount Vernon Country Club. Sarah is the Development Director of the SAR Foundation.*



*Right-- Past GW Chapter President Paul Walden*

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# December Joint Meeting (con't)



(Above Left) The Torch is Passed--The exchange of the Gavel between George Washington Chapter Presidents--outgoing Dave Thomas and incoming Jay Henn. (Above Right) President & First Lady Henn.



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 255 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.





# GW Chapter at Yorktown Day



*October 19, 2019--President General John T. Manning, VASSAR President Peter Davenport, and George Washington Chapter President David Thomas along with other Compatriots from the Virginia and other State Societies assemble in front of the Yorktown Victory Monument after marching in the Yorktown Day Parade.*



*Left & Below Right--Master of Ceremonies, Past Pres. of the GW Chapter and VASSAR, Mike Elston with President General Jack Manning at the Wreath Laying Ceremony at Governor Nelson's Grave, Grace Church, Yorktown, VA.*



*Left:  
GW Chapter President Dave Thomas.*

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# GW Chapter in Yorktown (con't)



*The wreaths that were presented at the Grave of Governor Thomas Nelson, Grace Church, Yorktown, Virginia.*



*Compatriots at the Yorktown Museum of the American Revolution dinner the night before Yorktown Day.*



*Above--V.S.C.A.R. Senior State President Mike Elston and V.S.C.A.R. President Madeline Herring present the Virginia Society's C.A.R. wreath at the grave of Governor Thomas Nelson.*



*Left--V.S.C.A.R. Senior State President Mike Elston with the C.A.R. contingent at the Grace Church Wreath Laying at the grave of Governor Thomas Nelson.*



# Veteran's Day at Mount Vernon



*Above Left--GW Chapter President Dave Thomas Speaking at Tomb. Right--Claire Bennett of KWB Chapter DAR and Dave Thomas of GW Chapter SAR pay their respects at the Tomb.*



*Above Left--Color Guard advancing to the Tomb. Right--Rand Pixa of GW Chapter SAR and Laurel Wessman of KWB Chapter DAR, laid SAR wreath at the Tomb.*



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

*--Light Horse Harry Lee*

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# Veteran's Day at Mount Vernon (con't)



*GW Chapter Vice-President Jay Henn served as Master of Ceremonies.*



*Barbara McJoynt of Kate Waller Barrett Chapter DAR, gives the benediction.*

*Claire Bennett of KWB Chapter DAR, speaks. VASSAR Pres. Pete Davenport is in the foreground.*



*Our newest George Washington Chapter Compatriot and Resident Fifer at Mt. Vernon, Don Francisco leads the Star Spangled Banner*

*GW Chapter Compatriot Jack Coulter.*



# Wreaths Across America

Following a tradition of several years, on December 14, 2019 three compatriots of the George Washington Chapter--John Brigden, Jamie Callender and Jack Coulter--participated in the Wreaths Across America (WAA) ceremony at Alexandria National Cemetery (the oldest military cemetery in the U.S.). Our chapter was able to sponsor 192.5 wreaths this year, including post-deadline contributions. Nationwide, over two million volunteers participated in this patriotic event in over 2,000 locations.

*Remember the fallen, Honor those who serve, and Teach the next generation the value of freedom.*



*After the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and singing of the Star Spangled Banner, over 4,000 wreaths were placed on the gravestones.*



*Left--Jack Coulter and John Brigden.*

*Right--Jamie Callender.*



*Jack was able to honor his great-grandfather's 2nd cousin, fatally wounded at the battle of Chancellorsville.*





# January Speakers

The year 2019 was an incredibly busy and successful one for the Chapter, and 2020 is picking up right where we left off! For example, as you have no doubt heard, the National Society Sons of the American Revolution 2020 National Congress will be held in Richmond, Virginia, July 10th to 16th.

James O' Kelley, President of the Thomas Jefferson Chapter, will join us at the January meeting to bring us up-to-date on "*all things Congress*." In particular, Jim (who is heading up the effort to identify volunteers across the Commonwealth to take on various duties leading up to and during the week of Congress) will be looking to fill some empty slots on his volunteer spreadsheet.

Jim will also be displaying the two powder horns and the two hand-made knives (one Jamestown design and one Yorktown design) that are being raffled off to help raise funds for Congress. You will also be able to purchase the limited edition 2020 Congress medal as well as the men's and ladies' Congress 2020 pins --also being sold to defray costs.

Jim will be joined by VASSAR National Trustee (and Past VASSAR President) Pat Kelly and Mark Brennan (also a Past VASSAR President and Past Mid-Atlantic Vice President General). Mark is currently serving as the Chair of the Congress Planning Committee.

But this is only the beginning! Thanks to Compatriot Mike Elston (currently finishing up a two-year term as the

Virginia Society, Children of the American Revolution Senior State President), we will also be joined by two distinguished Children of the American Revolution (C.A.R.) speakers. Ms. McGowan (Mackie) Storage, National President, C.A.R., will be presenting her 2019-2020 National Project "*Foundation of Freedom*" and her efforts to raise funds for the restoration of Ferry Farm, George Washington's boyhood home.

In a rare double-feature, we will also be hearing from Ms. Alexandra Salley, daughter of George Washington Chapter member Russell Salley. Alexandra, a member of the "Light Horse Harry" Lee Society, will be representing Ms. Madeline Herring, V.S.C.A.R. President, and speaking about this year's V.S.C.A.R. State Project, "*The Roar of the Revolution*." The "*roar*" in this case belongs to Patrick Henry, as funds raised by the State Project will benefit St. John's Church in Richmond -- site of Henry's "*give me liberty or give me death*" oration (and also a stop on one of the SAR 2020 Congress tours!).

As our members always have, please be prepared to show your support for these two worthwhile projects--and for the C.A.R. as a whole--by making a cash or check contribution at the end of each presentation. Donations are tax-deductible.

So, mark January 11th on your calendars and join us for a "*revolutionary*" meeting.

**Please note that our January meeting will be held at the Mount Vernon Inn on the grounds of Mount Vernon. It is not necessary to enter Mount Vernon itself to attend the meeting.**

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## --Pohick Church--

The Pohick Chapter of the Brotherhood of St. Andrews will hold its annual Morning Prayer and Breakfast in honor of George Washington's on Monday February 17, 2020 at 8:00 AM. The event starts with a Morning Prayer Service in Pohick Church. The service will be taken from the 1662 English Book of Common Prayers, as modified by Colonists in Washington's time. Following the service, a breakfast will be served in the Pohick Church common room and will feature a talk by a yet to be determine authority on George Washington or life during his era. All SAR members and their families are invited. The service is of course free, there is a \$10 fee for breakfast/lecture. For more information please contact Doug Smith at 703-867-2629 or [DLSmith100@AOL.Com](mailto:DLSmith100@AOL.Com).



# 2020 Congress Planning Guide

*The dates for the 2010 Congress are Saturday, 11 though Wednesday, 15 July 2020. This is a general schedule; the actual schedule has not been published.*

**Friday, 10 July:** Most attendees check in and register.

**Saturday, 11 July:** There are **two tours** scheduled. There is the **plantation tour** that will include three plantations: Berkeley, Westover, and Shirley, and a **tour to Yorktown** that will include the battlefield and the American Revolution Museum.

**Saturday evening:** The **Host Reception** will be held at the Virginia State Library.

**Sunday, 12 July:** The **Color Guard Breakfast** will be held at the hotel. (All **Virginia Color Guardsmen** are strongly encouraged to attend.) The **Memorial Service** will be conducted at the Monument Heights Baptist Church. The **First Lady's Tea** will follow at the church.

**Monday, 13 July:** **Opening Session of Congress, Youth Awards Luncheon, Recognition Night.**

**Tuesday, 14 July:** **The Mid Atlantic District Breakfast, Second Session of Congress and the Lady's Luncheon** will be held. **Elections.**

**Tuesday evening:** The **President General's Banquet** will be held at the hotel.

**Wednesday, 15 July:** The **Final Session** of Congress. **Wednesday tours** will include a tour of the **Virginia State Capital** and a tour to **Historic Saint John's Church**. This church was the first one built in Richmond and is the site of Patrick Henry's "*Give me liberty or give me death*" speech. Both of these tours will then proceed to **Shockoe Hill Cemetery**. A **Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony** is planned.

**Wednesday evening:** The **Installation Banquet** for the incoming President General. National committee meetings will be conducted usually on Sunday and Monday.

The **Congress Hotel** is the **Richmond Marriott**. Reservations for the entire Congress should be made from Saturday, 11 July with check out on Thursday, 16 July. Those planning a Saturday tour should consider checking in to the hotel on Friday, 10 July.

## VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

You do not need to attend the entire Congress. However, as the Congress will be held in Richmond, it would be a good time to attend. Also, given that the Virginia State Library is a premier genealogical research facility, you could have an opportunity to do some research.



*More Details Are Forthcoming*





# Upcoming Events

**January 11, 2020–Saturday: George Washington Chapter Meeting-11:30 am**  
Speakers: Ms. McGowan (Mackie) Storage (*President, National Society Children of the American Revolution*)/Ms. Alexandra Salley (*"The Roar of the Revolution"*). Mr. James O'Kelley /Mr. Patrick Kelly /Mr. Mark Brennan (SAR 2020 Congress-- Richmond)  
**Mt Vernon Inn**  
**3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway**  
**Mount Vernon, Virginia 22121**  
**NOTE: New Address**

**February 7-9, 2020–Friday-Sunday: 130th Annual Meeting of the Virginia Society (VASSAR)**

Omni Hotel  
100 S 12th Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

**February 8, 2020–Saturday: George Washington Chapter Meeting-TBD**  
VASSAR General Meeting Room  
Omni Hotel  
100 S 12th Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

**February 17, 2020–Monday: Wreath Laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the Amer. Revolution-11:00 am**  
Old Presbyterian Meeting House  
321 S. Fairfax Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

**February 17, 2020–Monday: George Washington Birthday Parade-1:00 pm**  
Details: TBD  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314  
**(Jack Evans Chapter Medal)**

**March 14, 2020–Saturday: George Washington Chapter Meeting- 11:30 am**  
Speaker: Charles Haberlein  
*Finding and Exploring the Sunken Aircraft Carrier Yorktown*  
Belle Haven Country Club  
6023 Fort Hunt Road  
Alexandria, Virginia 22307

**April 18, 2020–Saturday: Graves Mountain Multi-Chapter Meeting**  
Details: TBD

# January Chapter Workshop

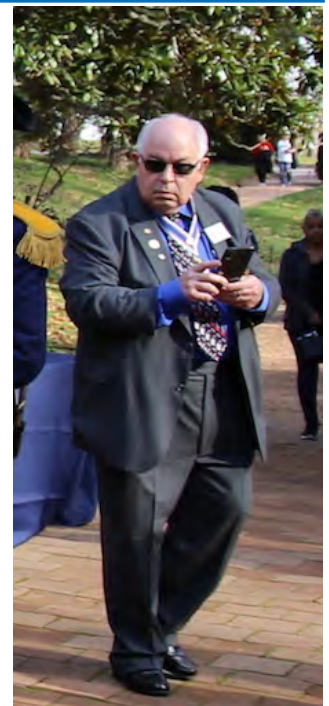
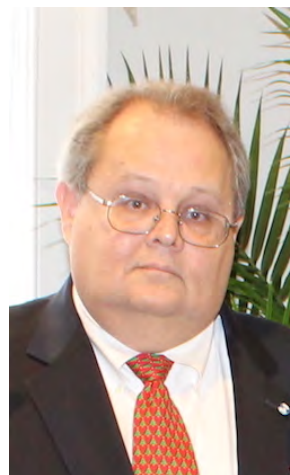
Please make plans to join your fellow Chapter members at the annual Winter Planning Workshop. This year's Workshop will be held on Saturday, January 25th from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm in the Parish Hall (downstairs) of the historic Pohick Church, located at 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton, VA 22079.

During this session Chapter officers will discuss plans for the upcoming year and solicit feedback from members on potential Chapter activities. This is your chance to be heard!

Our Winter Workshops have been great opportunities for newer members to learn more about the activities and operation of the Chapter. If you are interested in becoming more active in the Chapter, providing suggestions on potential new activities, or just interested in what's going on, this is the meeting for you! It's true what they say: "the more you put in, the more you get out."

**A GREAT BIG  
THANK YOU  
TO OUR  
PHOTOGRAPHERS**

*Tom Roth (Below)  
GW Chapter Vice  
President and  
VASSAR Historian.*



*Ernie Coggins (Above)  
GW Chapter Past  
President and VASSAR  
Asst. Secretary.*





# THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY WANTS YOU ! TO:

**ATTEND \* ENJOY \* PARTICIPATE  
& VOLUNTEER FOR THE**

**2020 NSSAR CONGRESS  
RICHMOND, VA**

**FRIDAY 10 JULY THROUGH THURSDAY 16 JULY 2020**



**SEE WEBSITE: [2020SARCONGRESS.ORG](http://2020SARCONGRESS.ORG)**

**NATIONAL MEETINGS, BANQUETS, AWARDS, EVENTS  
LOCAL TOURS OF YORKTOWN, JAMES RIVER PLANTATIONS,  
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH (PATRICK HENRY'S SPEECH)  
SHOCKOE CEMETERY (CREDIT TOWARDS GRAVE MARKING MEDAL)  
AND STATE CAPITOL**



**VIRGINIA SOCIETY  
2020 CONGRESS  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA**

# **RAFFLE**

## **MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO VASSAR**

LET US HELP YOU KEEP YOUR POWDER DRY  
TWO POWDER HORNS FOR RAFFLE

**TICKETS \$15.00 EACH**

LET US HELP YOU CUT THROUGH RED TAPE  
TWO HAND MADE KNIVES:  
YORKTOWN AND JAMESTOWN DESIGNS

**TICKETS \$25.00 EACH**

POWDER HORN TICKET@**\$15.00** EACH

NUMBER OF TICKETS\_\_\_\_\_

YORKTOWN KNIFE TICKET@**25.00** EACH

NUMBER OF TICKETS\_\_\_\_\_

JAMESTOWN KNIFE TICKET@**25.00** EACH

NUMBER OF TICKETS\_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED \$\_\_\_\_\_**

## **MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO VASSAR**

**MAIL TO:**

**PAT KELLY**

**2228 WILLIAMSBURG ROAD**

**CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA 22901**

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## **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 Jay Henn at [jaymhenn@gmail.com](mailto:jaymhenn@gmail.com)



# 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 you are 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: 11:30 a.m., Saturday, January 11, 2020

**Mount Vernon Inn, adjacent to George Washington's Mount Vernon**

### --Please Note a Change in Venue--

Due to ongoing restoration activities at both the Belle Haven and Mount Vernon Country Clubs, our January Chapter meeting will be held at the Mount Vernon Inn, located adjacent to George Washington's Mount Vernon.

**The Mount Vernon Inn requires the selection of your entree prior to our chapter meeting. Please select one entree from the following dinner entrees for each attendee in your group by checking the entry:**

       *Chicken Florentine*,        *Sun-dried Tomato Crusted Snapper*,        *Vegetable Scampi*

**You may make your reservation in one of two ways.** First, you may complete this form and mail it with your check to the Treasurer's 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 [brandywinecreek@aol.com](mailto:brandywinecreek@aol.com). To help ensure receipt, please put **"RESERVATION"** followed by your last name in the subject line and your dinner entree choice. 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 **Monday, January 6th**, so that we may provide the Mt. Vernon Inn 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, January 11, 2020**

(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:

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

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