

George Washington Chapter Newsletter

Alexandria, Virginia

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February, 2021

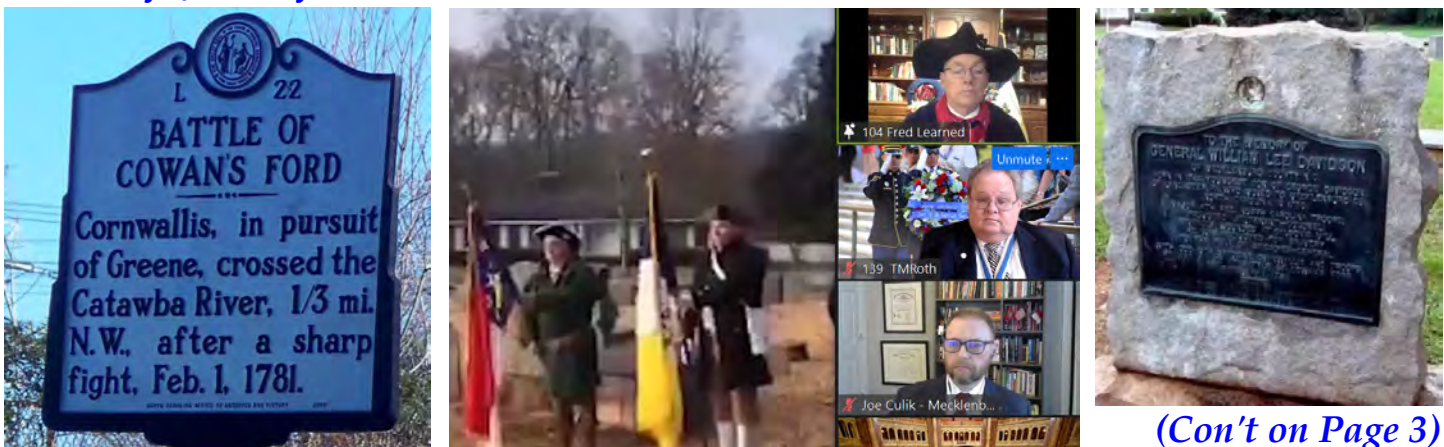
January in The George Washington Chapter

George Washington Chapter President, Tom Roth, represented the Chapter at various virtual meetings in January . . .

. . . at Col. James Wood II Chapter's commemoration of the Battle of Cowpens. This was held on January 16, 2021, at the grave of General Daniel Morgan, Mt. Hebron, Virginia . . .



. . . from the North Carolina Society's Battle of Cowans Ford Commemoration -- Saturday, January 30 . . .



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President's Corner



Compatriots:

As I write this column, we are in the midst of the virtual 2021 Annual Virginia Society Convention. Due to the requirements for

COVID protection and gathering size limitations, this year's Annual Meeting is being held in parts over the week of January 31-February 6, 2021, with the annual elections, awards presentations, and installation of 2021 Officers all taking place on Saturday, February 6, via Zoom. I expect that by the time you read this the meeting will have already taken place. However, the exciting news from the annual meeting will be for next month's report.

This column will deal with our very active and exciting January with a short look forward to our February chapter meeting on January 9.

We began the year and month with an exciting Chapter meeting. Although it was, unfortunately, an entirely virtual event, we had thirty-three members and guests joining us via Zoom, including one dual member who logged in from Tucson, and another, a new member, Nate Driscoll, who was inducted by Zoom from Alaska, where he is serving with the United States Army. Five new compatriots were inducted virtually: Jim Crawford, Scott (Kip) Payne, Nate Driscoll, Nick Metcalf, and Todd Wendt. We also had the pleasure of hearing from David M. Muraca, Vice President of Museum Content & Director of Archaeology, George Washington Foundation, who gave a very well received talk on *"Insights into George Washington's Youth from Recent Archeological Excavations and On-Site Research at Ferry Farm, Fredericksburg, Virginia"*.

Special thanks are due to the members who gathered again later in January

(Saturday, January 23) by Zoom for our annual Winter Planning Meeting (all 4 hours). We reviewed the Chapter's activity and accomplishments for the year 2020, and discussed the proposed 2021 Budget and how best to continue to improve and remain successful for the coming year.

January is usually a very busy month for SAR commemorations, in no small part due to the activities of Daniel Morgan and Nathaniel Greene in the Carolinas. Despite COVID the Sons of the American Revolution were able to keep up this tradition, with the active participation of many chapters, including most importantly for us, the George Washington Chapter. On January 16, the Col. James Wood II Chapter sponsored a live and virtual commemoration of the Battle of Cowpens at the grave of General Morgan in Mt. Hebron, Virginia. We joined them by Zoom to present a wreath in honor of General Morgan. On January 17, the South Carolina Society worked with the National Park Service to commemorate the anniversary of the Battle of Cowpens by among other things posting a video of greetings from the SAR President General and other SAR/DAR/CAR luminaries on the Cowpens National Battlefield Facebook Page. Your President and Chapter were listed as symbolic wreath presenters for this event.

The Reverend (and future Major General) Peter Muhlenberg's *"now is the time to fight"* sermon was commemorated by the Col. James Wood II Chapter on January 24 in Woodstock, Virginia. The George Washington Chapter participated by presenting a wreath via Zoom. January was ended with a Commemoration by the North Carolina Society of the Battle of Cowan's Ford on January 30. At Cowan's Ford on the Catawba River, a body of a few hundred North Carolina and South Carolina Militia under General William Davidson delayed the Catawba River crossing by Lord Cornwallis's 5000 man army long enough for the main American

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President's Corner (con't)

army to avoid a battle and continue its withdrawal to Danville, Virginia, after Cowpens. General Davidson lost his life in the battle, while Lord Cornwallis had a horse killed under him during the river crossing. The George Washington Chapter presented a wreath virtually.

If I have not/do not see you at the VASSAR Annual Meeting, I look forward to seeing you at our next Chapter Meeting on February 13. Due to the ongoing limitations on meeting group size due to COVID, this meeting is by Zoom only. Our featured speaker is Christian McBurney who will discuss his book, *George Washington's Nemesis: Unfair Court-Martial of General Charles Lee*.

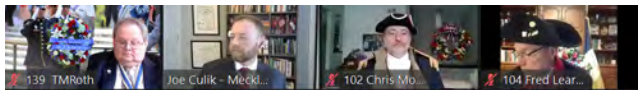
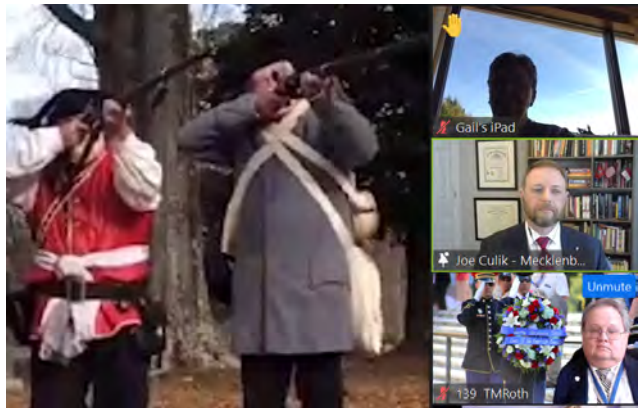
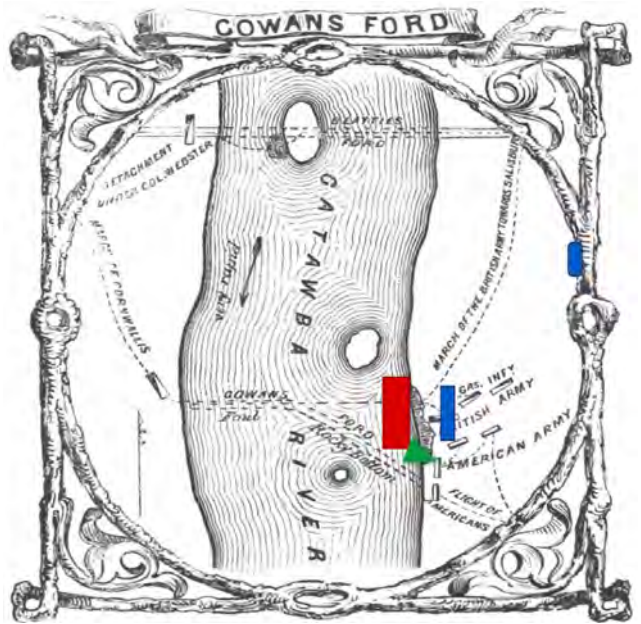
We will also be joined by V.S.C.A.R President Catie Wasenko, of Stafford, VA who will discuss with us her Presidential project to raise \$10,000 for the restoration and preservation of four battle flags used during the Battle of Great Bridge, VA. The Flags will be located at the Great Bridge Museum. She was as of last month only half way to her goal, and I hope our members will be able to generously assist as we have in the past. She will be joined by Stacy Wajciechowski, Sr. State President V.S.C.A.R.

Best Wishes to you all.

Tom Roth, III
President of The George Washington Chapter



January in The GW Chapter (con't from Page 1)



... and on to the Col. James Wood II Chapter's Commemoration of Peter Muhlenberg's "time to fight sermon" January 24, Woodstock Virginia ...

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January in The GW Chapter (con't)

Chapter Sponsored Eagle Scout Placed 3rd in VASSAR Eagle Scout Essay Contest

The George Washington Chapter was represented in the 2020 VASSAR Eagle Scout Essay contest by Osvaldo Luis-Antonio Perez. His essay titled *"How Prisoners of War During the American Revolution Represented the American Spirit"* dealt with the experiences and treatment of American prisoners at the hands of the British.

Eagle Scout Perez placed third in the VASSAR competition. In so doing, he earned a \$300 VASSAR collegiate scholarship. He is an accomplished young American, with a bright future. We expect to have him join us at a future Chapter luncheon.

Osvaldo Luis-Antonio Perez began his trail to Eagle Scout as a Webelos Scout in Ft. Belvoir's Pack 118 where he earned the Webelos Badge and the Arrow of Light award. In 2014, he became a member of Troop 996 in Alexandria, VA, completing 63 merit badges before earning his Eagle Rank on December 8, 2019. He served as Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Troop Guide, and Scribe, and was selected to attend the Scouts BSA National Youth Leadership

Training (NYLT). He also attended the World Scout Jamboree in 2019, the High Adventure camp at SeaBase Bahamas in 2018, and the National Scout Jamboree in 2017. He was inducted into the Order of the Arrow, a brotherhood of honor campers, as an Ordeal member in 2016 and a Brotherhood member in 2018. LA's Eagle project was the Revitalization of Woodlawn Cemetery on Fort Belvoir, VA.

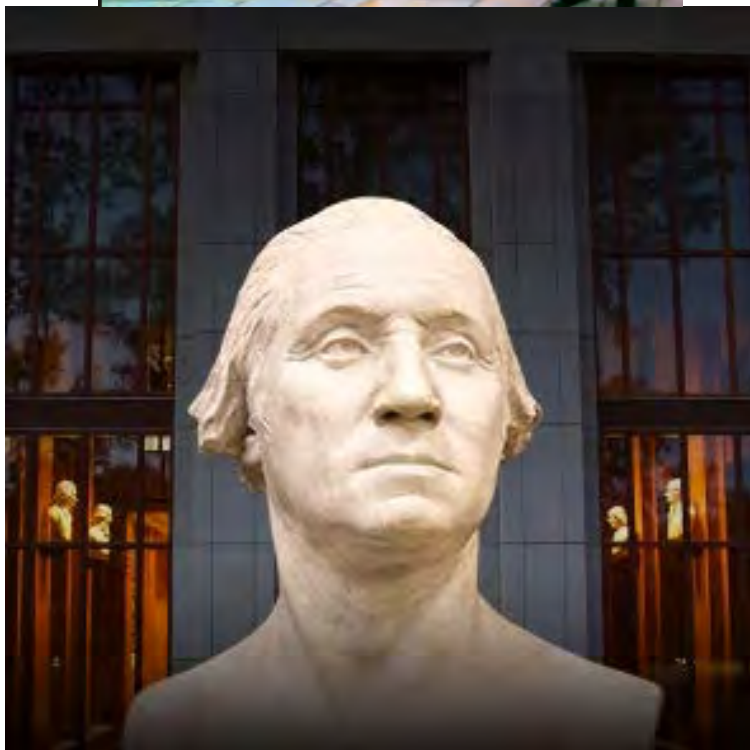
LA is a member of the senior class of West Springfield High School where he plays both guitar and bass guitar as a member of the Guitar Orchestra, Guitar Ensemble, and Jazz Guitar Combo. He is also a member of the Scholastic Bowl team, a competitive, academic, interscholastic extracurricular activity, and an active Parkour / Freerunner. LA currently works as a Math Tutor at Mathnasium of Alexandria and plans on attending James Madison University next year pursuing a degree in Computer Science.



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January in The GW Chapter (con't)

... "time to fight sermon" (con't)



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

"His example is complete; and it will teach wisdom and virtue to Magistrates, Citizens, and Men, not only in the present age, but in future generations."--John Adams--December 23, 1799.

President	Thomas Roth, III: 703-739-8811
Vice President	Richard Rankin: 703-538-5805
Treasurer	Rand Pixa: 703-622-7001
Secretary	Bill Wilson: 301-523-2690
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 customarily 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.

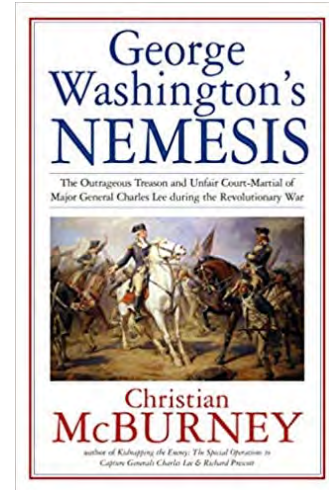
Immediate Past President:
Jay Henn: 703-447-0820

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.

February Chapter Guest Speaker

Christian McBurney



Revolutionary War Historians and biographers of Charles Lee have treated him as either an inveterate enemy of George Washington, or a great defender of American liberty. Neither approach is accurate. According to author Christian McBurney, absolute objectivity is required to fully understand the war's most complicated general. McBurney's new book, *George Washington's Nemesis: The Outrageous Treason and Unfair Court-Martial of Major General Charles Lee during the Revolutionary War*, relies on original documents (some newly discovered) to combine two dramatic stories involving the military law of treason and court-martials, creating a balanced view of one of the Revolution's most fascinating personalities.

General Lee, second in command in the Continental Army led by George Washington, was captured by the British in December 1776. While a prisoner, he prepared and submitted to his captors a military plan on how to defeat Washington's army as quickly as possible. This extraordinary act of treason, arguably on a par with Benedict Arnold's heinous treachery, was not discovered during his lifetime. Many historians shrug off this ignoble act, but it should not be ignored. Less well known is that throughout his sixteen months of captivity and even after his release, Lee continued communicating with the enemy, offering to help negotiate an end to the rebellion.

February through the years with George Washington

1731/32 on the 11th--Birth of Washington (*old-style calendar*).

1732 on the 22nd--Birth of Washington (*new-style calendar*).

1789 on the 4th--Electoral College unanimously elects Washington first president.

1792 on the 20th--Washington signs legislation creating U.S. Post Office.

**President's Day is February 15th and on that date we observe
the 289th Birthday of General George Washington**

Upcoming Events

February 13, 2021–Saturday: **George Washington Chapter Meeting-11:00 am**
Virtual Zoom Meeting

Speakers: Ms. Stacy Wajciechowski, *Senior State President of Virginia Society C.A.R.*
Ms. Catie Wasenko, *Virginia State President, Children of the American Revolution (C.A.R.)*
Mr. Christian McBurney, *“George Washington’s Nemesis-the Unfair Court-Martial of Major General Charles Lee”*

February 15, 2021–Monday: **Wreath Laying at Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the American Revolution-11:00 am**
Old Presbyterian Meeting House
321 S. Fairfax Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
Church and Burial Grounds Closed

February 15, 2021–Monday: **George Washington Birthday Parade-1:00 pm**
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
Parade Cancelled Due to COVID

February 20, 2021–Saturday: **240th Anniversary Commemoration of the Crossing the Dam-10:00 am-11:00 am**
South Boston-Halifax County Museum
1540 Wilburn Avenue
South Boston, VA

February 22, 2021–Monday: **289th Birthday of George Washington, Wreath Laying at GW Tomb-9:00 am**
Mount Vernon, Virginia
COVID Protocols limited to 10 attendees

February 27-28, 2021–Saturday-Sunday: **Anniversary of the Battle of Moore’s Creek Bridge-10 am**
<https://www.facebook.com/moorescreeknps/>
200 Moore's Creek Drive
Currie, NC 28435

March 13, 2021–Saturday: **George Washington Chapter Meeting 11:00 am**
Virtual Zoom Meeting
Speaker: Dr. John A. Maass
“Battle of Guilford Courthouse, A Most Desperate Engagement” on the March 15, 1781 Battle

March 15, 2021–Monday: **240th Anniversary of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse Wreath Laying-TBD**
Nathanael Green Monument
Guilford Courthouse Nat'l. Military Park
2332 New Garden Road
Greensboro, North Carolina 27410

March 16, 2021–Tuesday: **270th Birthday of James Madison Wreath Laying Ceremony-1:00 p.m.**
Virtual Zoom Meeting
Madison Family Cemetery, Montpelier
11350 Constitution Highway Montpelier Station, Virginia 22957



The George Washington Chapter Needs You !!

The Chapter needs a few good photographers to help us in our efforts to send out information (**with Photos**) to all our members.

The pay does not exist but the back-slapping, recognition, handshakes (*after Covid19*) and admiration will be earth-shattering.

Please contact one of the Chapter officers and begin your extraordinary adventure.

Thank you from the Editor

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