

George Washington Chapter Newsletter

Alexandria, Virginia

Volume 22, Issue 3

Visit us online at www.gwsar.org

March, 2021

February in The George Washington Chapter 289th Anniversary of George Washington's Birthday With Wreath Laying at Washington's Tomb -- February 22nd



Clockwise from top left -- VASSAR Color Guard Commander Ken Bonner, (left) and Dave Cook, (right) President Fairfax Resolves Chapter; Jeff Thomas, VASSAR President, delivered the greetings with Dave Cook and John Blair, GW Chapter member, who delivered the SAR Pledge; Don Francisco, fifer-in-residence at Mount Vernon and GW Chapter member, played the National Anthem with Tom Roth, President GW Chapter, and Ken Bonner; Tom Roth and Jeff Thomas, after laying the GW Chapter wreath at the Tomb, with Ken Bonner and Dave Cook.

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President's Corner



Compatriots:

We in the GW Chapter had a very busy, exciting, and rewarding February, and it appears that 2021 is off to a great start despite COVID

restrictions. Our March meeting will feature a very interesting discussion by Dr. John R. Maass of his new book: *The Battle of Guilford Courthouse: A Most Desperate Engagement* (Military). Dr. Maass is an education staff member of the new National Museum of the United States Army. Many of us remember the excellent talk he gave to us several years ago based on his earlier book *The Road to Yorktown*. This meeting, which has already received a large number of RSVP's, will be Zoom only. Also, on March 13, some of us will be serving as Delegates to the Special National SAR Congress being held in Northern Virginia. Our own Mike Elston is organizing this meeting, which is being called to amend our national Constitution to permit virtual attendance at NSSAR Congresses in the future.

SAR activity in February began with the Virginia Society's Annual Meeting, which was held in large part via Zoom over the first week of the month. More detailed information about the outcome and highlights of the Annual Meeting is included in two other articles in this newsletter, and I strongly encourage you to review those articles. However, I would like to recognize and thank the over dozen George Washington Chapter members who attended and participated in the Annual Meeting: Jamie Callender, Ernie Coggins, Joe Dooley, Colin Eilts, Mike Elston, Jay Henn, Rand Pixa, Richard Rankin, Don Reynolds, Tom Roth, Richard Sherman, Dave Thomas, and Paul Walden.

Our February Chapter meeting, held on February 13 via Zoom, was very well attended and featured an interesting and

enlightening talk by Christian McBurney, an attorney and independent historian and author, who delivered a talk based on his book *George Washington's Nemesis: The Outrageous Treason and Unfair Court-Martial of Major General Charles Lee* during the Revolutionary War. We were joined by Catie Wasenko, President, Virginia Children of the American Revolution, and Stacy Wajciechowski, Sr. State President, V.S.C.A.R. President Wasenko discussed her Presidential Project to raise \$10,000 to restore historical unit flags flown at the Battle of Great Bridge. We announced at the meeting that our Chapter Board of Managers agreed that the Chapter would contribute \$500 to her project and encouraged our other members to contribute as well. Hopefully, you have all received the email blast sent last week with further information about this worthy project and how contributions can be made.

The Alexandria George Washington's Birthday Parade and the annual wreath presentation ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the American Revolution are normally major highlights in our calendar in February. Unfortunately, neither event could be held this year due to COVID-19 restrictions. However, with the creativity commonly found in our Chapter, we arranged and planned, under the leadership of Vice President Rankin, a substitute event to honor General Washington. On his actual 289th Birthday, February 22, 2021, in a highly appropriate sleet storm, we held a wreath presentation at General Washington's Tomb. I, joined by VASSAR President Jeff Thomas, presented the wreath on behalf of the George Washington Chapter. Richard Rankin served as Master of Ceremonies, and John Blair, Don Francisco, Scott Walker, Dave Hoffman, and Jack Coulter from George Washington Chapter also participated. We were joined by Dave Cook, and Ken Bonner from the Fairfax Resolves Chapter representing the VASSAR Color Guard. Everyone who attended deserves thanks for coming out in the icy weather for a 9:00 AM

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President's (from Page 2)

commemoration. Certainly no “sunshine patriots” there!

Your Chapter was also well represented (mostly virtual) at many other events in the month of February, including: the *Battle of Kettle Creek Commemoration* on February 12 (Ernie Coggins); the *Battle of Kettle Creek Commemoration* on February 13 (Jay Henn and Ernie Coggins); the *Crossing of the Dan Commemoration* on February 20 (Tom Roth presented a wreath on behalf of the Chapter, joined by Richard Rankin and Larry Lisle); and the *Commemoration of the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge* (Tom Roth presented a wreath

on behalf of the Chapter. Former President General Mike Tomme, a dual member of the GW Chapter, also attended and brought his own greetings to the event). Former Chapter President Paul Walden, VASSAR Public Education Chair, served as Master-of-Ceremonies for the *VASSAR Black History Month Commemoration at Elam Baptist Church Cemetery* on February 27 (more on this event may be found in a separate note below). I look forward to seeing many of you via Zoom in the month ahead, and seeing you again in person in the near future.

Tom Roth, III President of
The George Washington Chapter

February in The GW Chapter (from Page 1)



Left -- Richard Rankin, Vice-President GW Chapter, delivered the welcoming remarks with Dave Cook.

Below -- (L to R) Mike Hoffman, Don Francisco, Richard Rankin, Ken Bonner, Jeff Thomas, Tom Roth, Dave Cook, John Blair, Jack Coulter and Scott Walker. All except Bonner, Thomas and Cook are GW chapter members.



A virtual video of the event can be seen at <https://youtu.be/M7wTVyc8r8Ds>

Report on the 131st Annual Meeting of the Virginia Sons of the American Revolution

with Tom Roth

The Annual Meeting for the Virginia Society is usually a time for fellowship and reunion. Held over a long weekend in February in Richmond, we gather to elect our officers for the coming year, report on and recognize our achievements in the past year, remember those of our Compatriots who have passed away, and to celebrate and make plans for the year to come. This year's gathering was no different, except for absent food and virtual fellowship. Due to Covid-19, this year's annual meeting was held almost exclusively by Zoom, with only a small number of folks on site. The meeting events were held over a week long period beginning with the meetings of the Executive Committee and Board of Managers on February 1; continuing with the traditional educational workshops being held over the following week; and climaxing with the General Membership Meeting, Memorial Service and Awards, and Induction of New Officers on Saturday, February 6. Newly elected Virginia Society President Jeff Thomas ended the annual meeting with his inaugural address highlighting his Presidential Initiatives for the year 2021. Those goals are covered in further detail in a separate article.

The Chapter was very well represented at the meeting. Approximately 12 of our chapter compatriots attended.

We continue to have a visible and active presence in the leadership at the state and national level, and both the Chapter as a whole and a large number of our members were recognized at the annual meeting for their contributions to the SAR. Among others:

Ernie Coggins was elected as Virginia Society 2nd Vice President. **Tom Roth** (Ok, yours truly) was reelected as state Historian. **Dave Thomas** was re-appointed as an Assistant State Registrar.

A number of other members serve as

Committee Chairs or Members at the state and national level.

What follows is a listing of awards and recognitions announced at the Annual Meeting. We are working on making arrangements to properly present these awards later this Spring.

Carolina Molivadis, who was nominated by our Chapter, received the Best Life Saving Award 2020. **Oswaldo Luis-Antonio Perez**, our Chapter's nominee, was awarded 3rd Place in the Eagle Scout Scholarship Competition. **Jamie Callender** was recognized for the second year in a row as Webmaster of the Year for 2020. **Virgil "Pete" Farley**, our Newsletter Editor, was announced to have come in 2nd Place in the 2020 Newsletter Competition. While this is not an official award, it is a public honor and recognition of his skill and hard work.

A number of George Washington Chapter Members received personal recognition at the annual meeting for their services at all levels in the Sons of the American Revolution during the very trying year 2020.

Ernest B. Coggins was awarded the State Distinguished Service Medal by outgoing VASSAR President Bill Schwetke. Each State President may award this medal to only one person during his one year term of office.

The Lafayette Volunteer Service Medal is presented by the National Society to individuals who have provided at least 40 hours of significant volunteer service work to the National Society. Oak Leaf Clusters are awarded for each additional 40 hours of service. **Jamie Callender** was awarded 7 gold and 3 bronze Oak Leaf Clusters to his Lafayette Volunteer Service Medal. He was credited with an additional 2,790 hours of significant volunteer work.

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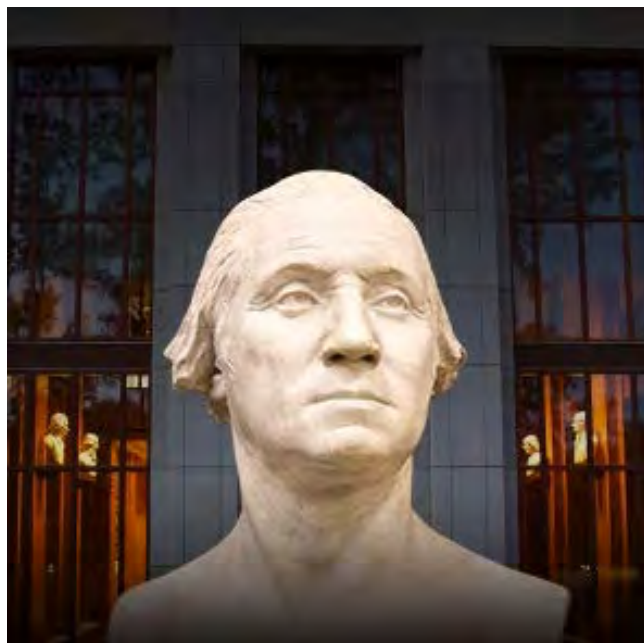
Electronic Payment Options & More

During the past renewal season, many members asked if our chapter had an electronic payment option for renewal dues and chapter luncheon meetings.

The Board of Managers authorized the creation of a three-member exploratory committee and learned that a fellow SAR Society, the District of Columbia SAR (DCSSAR), had similar issues and had started last year upgrading their website and IT operations with a cloud-based membership software system called "Wild Apricot" (WA). Specifically, WA is designed for clubs, associations and non-profit groups to help manage their many administrative membership tasks.

The Committee has engaged WA for a 90 day trial period. During this trial period, the Committee is testing the WA software by importing a sample chapter website and membership data. The Committee also wants to test the WA payment options to ensure timely recording of any member payment. It is important for the Committee to confirm that WA supports the end-to-end management features advertised.

The Committee will report to the Board of Managers and if the Board of Managers decides to implement a Wild Apricot solution, it would be a phased-in implementation over time and no chapter member would be left behind. Any action to implement WA would be fully communicated to our members via Newsletter and Chapter-wide Email blasts.



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

*"Without making ostentatious professions of religion, he was a sincere believer in the Christian faith, and a truly devout man"--
John Marshall*

<i>President</i>	<i>Thomas Roth, III: 703-739-8811</i>
<i>Vice President</i>	<i>Richard Rankin: 703-538-5805</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Rand Pixa: 703-622-7001</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Bill Wilson: 301-523-2690</i>
<i>Registrar</i>	<i>Richard Sherman: 301-654-6319</i>

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.

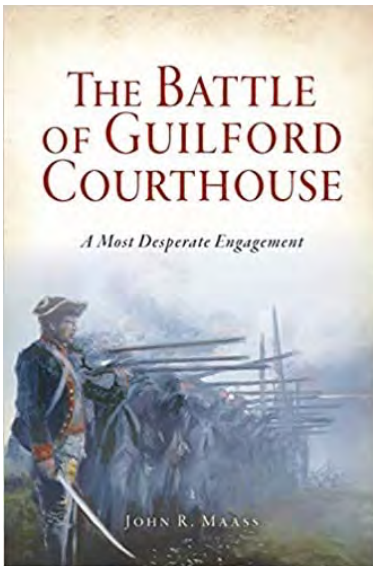
Immediate Past President:
Jay Henn: 703-447-0820

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.

March GW Chapter Guest Speaker

John R. Maass



The Battle of Guilford Courthouse: A Most Desperate Engagement
(Military) Paperback –
March 2, 2020

John R. Maass is an education staff member of the new National Museum of the U.S. Army at Fort Belvoir. Dr. Maass received a PhD in early American history at The Ohio State University. He is the author of several books and numerous articles on early U.S. military history, including *North Carolina and the French and Indian War: The Spreading Flames of War* (2013); *Defending a New Nation, 1783-1811* (2013); *The Road to Yorktown: Jefferson, Lafayette and the British Invasion of Virginia* (2015); and *George Washington's Virginia* (2017).

Around the North Carolina village of Guilford Courthouse in the late winter of 1781, two weary armies clashed on a cold, wet afternoon. American forces under Nathanael Greene engaged Lord Cornwallis's British army in a bitter two-hour battle of the Revolutionary War. The frightful contest at Guilford was a severe conflict in which troops made repeated use of their flintlock muskets, steel bayonets and dragoon swords in hand-to-hand fighting that killed and wounded about eight hundred men. Historian John R. Maass recounts the bloody battle and the grueling campaign in the South that led up to it, a crucial event on the road to American independence.



March through the years with George Washington

- 1674** on the 1st--Patent including Mt. Vernon land issued to John Washington.
 - 1761** on the 14th--Washington takes legal possession of Mt. Vernon.
 - 1776** on the 11th--Washington forms the Life Guard.
 - 1776** on the 17th--Washington leads Continental Army into Boston.
 - 1781** on the 1st--Articles of Confederation go into effect.
 - 1783** on the 15th--Washington delivers Newburgh address.
 - 1785** on the 25th--Washington hosts Mt. Vernon Conference.
 - 1787** on the 28th--Washington agrees to serve as delegate at Constitutional Convention.
 - 1789** on the 4th--The Constitution goes into effect.
 - 1793** on the 4th--Washington takes oath for second term as president.
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Upcoming Events

March 13, 2021–Saturday: 10:00 am
Special NSSAR Congress–NSSAR By-Laws Matters

Accredited Delegates Only
Northern Virginia Venue

March 13, 2021–Saturday: George Washington Chapter Meeting 11:00 am
Virtual Zoom Meeting

Speaker: Dr. John R. Maass
"Battle of Guilford Courthouse, A Most Desperate Engagement" on the March 15, 1781 Battle.

March 13, 2021–Saturday: 3:00 pm 240th Commemoration of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse

Virtual Zoom Presentation by NC SAR.
Contact: George Strunk at gkstrunk2@gmail.com for registration.
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-1:30 pm

(USMC presenting wreaths only) Madison Family Cemetery, Montpelier 11350
Constitution Highway Montpelier Station, Virginia 22957

NOTICE: Deadline for April Newsletter submissions is March 26, 2021--PLEASE send all information by that date--Thanks

March 20, 2021–Saturday: 10:00 am
Commemoration--Patrick Henry's Speech
Virtual Zoom VASSAR State Initiative
Wreath Laying and Re-enactment of Historic Speech
Historic St. John's Church
Richmond, VA
On-line Registration, contact Bill Haskins at: wmhaskins@comcast.net

April 10, 2021–Saturday: George Washington Chapter Meeting 11:00 am
Virtual Zoom Meeting
Speaker: Gabriel Neville
"Captain William Croghan & the 8th Virginia Regiment during Ten Crucial Days in 1776-1777"

April 12, 2021–Monday: 10:00 am
245th Commemoration of the Halifax Resolves
Virtual Zoom Presentation by the NCSAR
Visit NC State SAR website to register: https://www.ncssar.org/ecwd_calendar/calendar/



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

131st Annual Meeting for the VASSAR

(from Page 4)

Craig Batten was awarded the Lafayette Volunteer Service Medal and 3 bronze Oak Leaf Clusters. **Greg Bodge** was awarded 1 bronze Oak Leaf Cluster to his Lafayette Volunteer Service Medal. **Paul A. Walden** has served for several years as Editor of the Virginia Dispatches. He is stepping down from that role this year to serve as President of the War of 1812 Society in Virginia. Paul was awarded the Silver Roger Sherman Medal in recognition of his service as Editor of the Virginia Dispatches.

The **Virginia SAR Patriot Graves Preservation Medal** is a new medal which is being awarded this year for the first time. It is awarded to Virginia SAR, DAR and/or C.A.R. members who successfully enroll ten (10) patriot graves according to the guidelines of the Virginia SAR Revolutionary War Graves Preservation Program (VSRWGPP) and have complied with the following requirements:

- A. Identify a patriot and verify his/her service.
- B. Locate the burial spot and record the location of the cemetery by physical address and/or decimal latitude and longitude.
- C. If a gravestone or plaque exists, photograph and record its position in decimal latitude and longitude.
- D. Identify the caretaker of the grave and ensure that the proper form is completed to request funds from the VSRWGPP.
- E. Submit the completed form to the VSRWGPP administrator via email and/or U.S. Postal Service.

Paul Walden of the George Washington Chapter was honored with the Virginia SAR Patriot Graves Preservation Medal.

Thomas M. Roth, III received a Presidential Award Certificate from outgoing President Bill Schwetke in appreciation of his assistance in the preceding year.

A number of our members were recognized with Certificates of Appreciation for their

services in various roles over the past 12 months:

Jamie Callender for service as Facilitator of the PRS Workshop at the 131st VASSAR Annual Meeting. **Mike Elston** for his service as Chairman of the 250th Anniversary Planning Committee and as State Chairman for 2021 Congress Planning Committee. We should note that Mike is also serving as Chairman for the Special National SAR Congress being held in Northern Virginia on March 13, 2021. **Paul Walden** for his outstanding Support as Virginia Dispatches Editor. **Richard Sherman** for his service as Chairman of the Virginia Knight Essay Competition. **Greg Bodge** for his service as Chairman of the Operation Ancestor Search Committee.

In addition to recognition of individual service, **The George Washington Chapter** as a group received extensive recognition for its collective performance and participation in the year 2020, and in one case for the 4 year period ending in 2020. These Awards are marked by additional streamers to be attached to our Chapter Flag and in a few cases with stars in lieu of an additional streamer. A list follows:

- 1) **Wreaths Across America Participation 2019-2020.** A Certificate from the National Society was also received.
- 2) **Graves Registration.**
- 3) **Chapter Excellence Award.**
- 4) **Sustained Achievements Revolutionary Grave Markings 2017-2020.** We cannot receive again until 2024.
- 5) **Sponsor Best Life Saver of the Year 2020.**
- 6) **100% Participation Flag Recognition Streamer.**
- 7) **Best Chapter Website of the Year 2020.**
- 8) **Contributor Brennan Fund 2020.**
- 9) **Participant 3 NSSAR Historical Events 2020.**
- 10) **Participant Culpeper Monument Dedication 2020.**
- 11) **Participant Boston Massacre Commemoration 2020.**
- 12) **History Day Support 2020.**



VASSAR President Jeff Thomas

"Presidential Initiatives"

During their inaugural addresses our new state Presidents customarily set forth a series of goals for the coming year in the form of a list of "Presidential Initiatives". President Thomas was no exception to this tradition. In his inaugural address last month, he set forth a bold set of goals for the Virginia Society for the coming year, which center on the need to actively engage in the public sphere in a disciplined manner to raise better awareness of the principals for the American Revolution. A detailed set of documents explaining his Presidential Initiatives has been placed in the member only section of the Chapter website. However, Jeff recently circulated a summary of his goals to Chapter Presidents, and we are now taking the opportunity to share them with you.

Please remember that volunteering to help our chapter in performing its part in these initiatives is also helping out the Virginia Society.

"Chapter Presidents,

"Thank you for all you do to support the SAR in your local communities. At our annual meeting earlier this month, I outlined my vision and initiatives for the Virginia SAR in the coming year. My entire focus is on building our presence and visibility in our local communities. Everything we do in the Virginia SAR begins and ends with our chapters. Each of our chapters represents the SAR in their communities and our overall success depends on the contributions of each chapter in raising our profile in the public square. Attached is the presentation I made at our annual meeting on my initiatives this year. Please share this information with all of your chapter members. Every member has a role to play in our success and it will take all of us to deliver our vision this year.

"These initiatives are focused in four primary programs of emphasis: **1) Youth Education** led by 1st VP *Bruce Meyer*. **2) Public Service Programs** led by 3rd VP

Bill Greaf. **3) Membership Growth** led by 2nd VP *Ernie Coggins*. **4) Telling Our Story** led by Assistant Secretary *Tim Dioquino*.

"Below I share some resources and needs in these programs of emphasis.

1. Youth Education—*Poster Contest and Patriot Chests.*

a. Now is the ideal time to reach out to your local elementary school to encourage their participation in your chapter's poster contest. Elementary school students in Virginia learn about the American Revolution in the 4th grade and teachers will complete that curriculum this spring. Teachers see our poster contest as a great individual project for students to supplement what they learned in the classroom, so email the 4th grade teachers in your local elementary school today. Attached is a sample flyer that can be sent to the teachers explaining the contest. Tom Hamill is our Poster Contest Chairman. You can reach him at tom.hamill65@gmail.com.

b. We have added 10 Flag Chests to our Patriot Chest program this year. Please let me know if your chapter is interested in one of these chests. Three have already been claimed. Attached is the script for this program. When you contact your 4th grade teachers about the poster contest, tell them about your Flag program at the same time. Provided below is also a link to a virtual Flag program on the VASSAR YouTube channel. <https://youtu.be/NFHiM0-b6IQ>. Charles Belfield is the Patriot Chest Program Chairman. You can reach him at belmo54@yahoo.com. See a Facebook message from Charles about the Patriot Chests at the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/100011090593877/videos/1344949665884707>

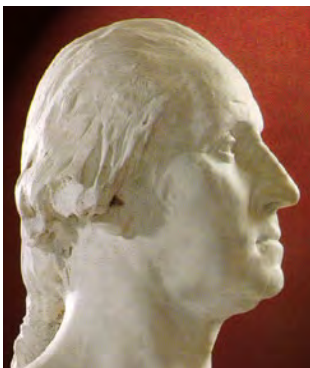


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"Presidential Initiatives" (from Page 9)

"National SAR Events--I want to encourage all chapters to take advantage of the opportunity to participate in virtual National and State SAR events at this time. We only had 5 of our 28 VASSAR chapters take part in the Battle of Kettle Creek event last weekend, one of the best programs I have seen in the last year. Only 13 of our chapters are currently signed up to support our own VASSAR Crossing of the Dan national event this coming weekend. These are great opportunities to bond with our fellow compatriots, learn about other SAR societies and events, and help the Virginia SAR lead the way in honoring our Patriot ancestors in these challenging days. The next opportunity to attend a virtual national event is the Battle of Moore's Creek on Saturday, February 27th, commemorating the end of British rule in North Carolina. I hope to see your chapter there. You must register by Saturday, February 20th, at the following link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe3wIHtLvIthY4Bg_T4wiRSRDdnRUP9CPSiCTY0M_0ajeum_A/viewform?gxids=7628

(GWC President's note – We have included the foregoing events in the interest of accurately reflecting President Thomas' intentions even though these events have passed. However, similar events are upcoming, including the annual Commemoration of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse on March 13, and the Richmond Chapter's annual celebration of Patrick Henry's Liberty or Death Speech on March 20. Please review your email blasts from our Chapter Secretary and the upcoming events section both in this newsletter and on the chapter website for further opportunities to participate in these and other national SAR events)



"Communications--We need to enhance our VASSAR communications committee. If you or some of your compatriots have hands-on experience with Zoom, websites, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Weebly, Wordpress, blogs or newsletters, we need your talent. We also need one or more editors for our own Virginia Dispatches newsletter. This is a great way to learn about Virginia SAR chapters and activities. The newsletter is supported by Weebly, a very user-friendly tool that is easy to master. Please answer the call today. If you or someone you know can help support these efforts, please contact Communications Committee Chair Bruce Meyer at esr-sar@charter.net.

(GWC President's note – your chapter will also welcome volunteers who are willing to help with public relations, photography, our website and other technical areas. If you are interested in helping or wish to recommend someone who can, please reach out to me at tmroth3@earthlink.net.)

Thank you for all you do to support the Virginia SAR and our patriotic, historical and educational mission."

Libertas et Patria

Jeff Thomas

President

Virginia SAR



"Presidential Initiatives" (from Page 10)

Virginia SAR Initiatives 2021-22: Lift Your Voice Vision Statement

Build our brand in the public square so that we are highly regarded for the principles we affirm, recognized as leaders in the communities we serve and widely known for our educational, historical and patriotic mission.

Four primary programs of emphasis:

Youth Education--**1)** Chapters make at least one Patriot Chest presentation to an elementary school--Chairman: *Charles Belfield*. **2)** Chapters participate in the SAR Elementary School Poster Contest--Chairman: *Tom Hamill*. **3)** Chapters participate in at least one joint event with a local C.A.R. society--Chairman: *Larry McKinley*. **4)** Raise \$30,000 in Support of Youth Programs and Educational Initiatives--Chairman: *Rick Elofson*.

Public Service Programs--**1)** Chapters develop and sponsor at least one Signature Event in their community--Chairman: *Dale Corey*. **2)** Chapters participate in at least one community public service event--Chairman: *Mike Weyler*.

3) Chapters present at least one SAR Public Service Medal in the community--Chairman: *Bill Collier*. **4)** Commemorate the Life of Patrick Henry--Chairman: *Eric Monday*. **5)** Honor our Patriot Ancestors--Chairman *Bill Schwetke*.

Net Membership Growth--**1)** Recharter the Patrick Henry Chapter at Red Hill--Chairman: *Jim O'Kelley*. **2)** Implement programs that promote growth through recruiting, retaining and engaging members--Chairman: *Ernie Coggins*. **3)** Build member engagement at the Semi-Annual and Annual Meetings--Chairman: *Tim Dioquino*.

Equipping our members to tell our story in the public square--**1)** Formation of the new Virginia SAR Public Education Committee--Chairman: *Paul Walden*. **2)** Develop a comprehensive External Relations strategy for the Virginia SAR--Chairman: *Bill Schwetke*. **3)** Develop comprehensive training in chapter communications--Chairman: *Bruce Meyer*. **4)** Memorial to William Wirt Henry, Founding President of the Virginia SAR--Chairman: *Tom Roth*.

More George Washington Chapter Activities



Left -- VASSAR President Schwetke awarding GW Compatriot Ernie Coggins the State Distinguished Service Medal--(Note: President Schwetke is only allowed to yearly give this medal to one person. So this is a major honor for Ernie).

Right -- Ernie Coggins (on left) being virtually installed as Second Vice President of VASSAR by the President General.



George Washington Birthday Parade 2020 The "Three Marthas"

Kendall, Kerrienne, and Kellah Bardwell in the 2020 George Washington Day Parade for their second consecutive year with their grandfather, Bill Wilson, Secretary of the GW Chapter of VASSAR. They are wearing Martha Washington ensembles and their parade medal given to them by the SAR. The GW Chapter refers to them as the "Three Marthas". They were very disappointed that this year there was no parade! The girls are members of the Hungerford Resolves CAR in Potomac, MD and serve as the Co-Chairs of the American Heritage Committee. They recently reported on George Washington's favorite breakfast food, "hoe cakes" with butter and honey with 3 cups of tea. If you want their recipe, just ask their grandfather and the three Marthas will email it to you. They will be back in the 2022 parade with GrandPa Bill!



Black History Month at Elam Baptist Church with Paul Walden

VASSAR observed Black History month by leading a ceremony at the Elam Baptist Church Cemetery in Ruthville, VA on February 27th. VASSAR, in 2008, placed a monument to the 26 Patriots of Color from the community at this same location. President Jeff Thomas gave greetings, and the Rev. Helen Washington-Randall, Pastor of Elam Baptist Church, served as Chaplain. Judith Ledbetter, Director of the Charles City County Richard M. Bowman Center for Local History, spoke on the history of these 26 Patriots and how they were identified. A descendant of one of the patriots also spoke at the ceremony.

Paul Walden, VASSAR Public Education Chair, served as Master of Ceremonies. Regrettably, the turnout was small given the restrictions on public gatherings due to the pandemic. In the photos below, President Jeff Thomas and Judith Ledbetter speak at the event.



Left--VASSAR President Jeff Thomas and Right--Pastor Judith Ledbetter speak at the event.

Making Waves Through History



Project Patrons

The Virginia Society of the Children of the American Revolution invites you to become a General, Colonel, Captain or Private, by supporting State President Catie Wasenko's fundraising project to reproduce four (4) regimental battle flags at the Great Bridge Battlefield and Waterways Museum!

Great Bridge Museum, located in Chesapeake, Virginia, was the site of the December 9, 1775 Battle of Great Bridge. V.S.C.A.R. will be working with the Great Bridge Battlefield and Waterways Museum to raise funds to reproduce the flags to be displayed in cases. They are: The King's Colours, The 14th Regiment of Foot Colours, The 2nd Virginia Regiment Flag and The Culpeper Minutemen Flag.

We appreciate your support of the State Project! Donors will be recognized in the State Conference Banquet Program at the following levels:

\$500.00 - General	\$100.00 - Colonel
\$50.00 - Captain	\$25.00 - Private

Name to be listed in the conference program: _____

(or you may choose to remain anonymous)

Person/Organization making the donation:

_____ S.A.R./DAR/C.A.R. Chapter or Society

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Donation Amount: \$ _____

Please make all checks payable to V.S.C.A.R., Inc.

Mail form and checks to:

Rebecca Slaughter, Senior State Treasurer
14333 Ferndale Road, Dale City, VA 22193

Thank you for your generous support!

Pass the Tricorne Hat -- You may also make your contributions to the project by check payable to "George Washington Chapter, VASSAR" and mailed to Rand Pixa, Treasurer, George Washington Chapter, 4614 Upland Dr., Alexandria, VA 22310; these virtual-hat contributions will be consolidated and forwarded to V.S.C.A.R.



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