

George Washington Chapter Newsletter

Alexandria, Virginia

Volume 22, Issue 5

Visit us online at www.gwsar.org

May, 2021

Memorial Day Parade Taping in DC



Above--holding banner on left is Bill Wilson, Secretary of George Washington Chapter. On Far right are GW Past President Ernie Coggins and current GW President Tom Roth. (Members of the color guard are listed on Page 3)

On a frigid windy morning 16 members of the GW Chapter gathered on the Capitol Mall at the carousel in front of the Smithsonian to film a segment for the National Memorial Day Parade to be televised nationally Memorial Day 2021. Other compatriots from Northern Virginia as well as representatives of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Children of the American Revolution joined us also.

(Con't on Page 3)

President's Corner

Compatriots:

Last month I began this letter reminiscing about optimism which is natural in the Spring. We have been particularly lucky, or, perhaps, blessed, that in the U.S.

the rapid pace of vaccination is allowing us to increasingly venture out of our bubbles and reunite with friends, family, and professional colleagues.

Early this past Saturday morning, with a very brisk wind blowing out of the West, 16 of our members assembled on the National Mall with Compatriots from across Northern Virginia to participate in a pre-filming for the National Memorial Day Parade. This included nine new George Washington Chapter recipients of the Dooley-Carr-Elston Medal for participation in the parade, as well as eight new recipients from the other SAR chapters, the DAR and CAR. We were also joined by Sara Cox (State President, VSCAR) and by Stacy Wajciechowski (Senior State President, VSCAR). The finished and assembled product of this pre-filming is to be broadcast on Memorial Day. Special thanks are owed to Mike Elston for his work in coordinating and organizing this special event.

This coming Saturday, we are excited to be able to come together for a live Chapter lunch meeting at Belle Haven Country Club for the first time since November 2020. The meeting will also be streamed live via Zoom to those who cannot attend. Our featured speaker will be Elizabeth Maurer, who will speak to us on *"The Real Martha Washington"*. We will also be presenting JROTC Cadet 1st Lt. Asiyah Khan with her award as our Chapter's Enhanced JROTC Cadet for 2020, and recognizing some other Chapter members who were recognized at the virtual VASSAR Annual Meeting in February.



April was another busy and productive month for your chapter.

We began the month with a special ceremony on April 5, at the Alexandria Fire Department HQ, where VASSAR 2nd Vice President Ernie Coggins presented the VASSAR State Level Life Saving Award to Caroline Molivadis, our nominee.

Our Virtual April Chapter Meeting on April 9 was well attended, and we had a very well received presentation of *"Capt. William Croghan's Detachment and the Ten Crucial Days"* by Gabriel Neville concerning the activities of the 8th Virginia Regiment in connection with the Trenton-Princeton Campaign. We were also able to induct two new Compatriots, Larry Dicks and John Griffith. Please review their separate biographies published in the Newsletter to become better acquainted with these Compatriots.

The Thomas Jefferson Chapter and the Virginia Society commemorated the 278th Birthday of Thomas Jefferson with a celebration at Tuckahoe Plantation on April 11. Chapter Vice President Richard Rankin traveled to Charlottesville to present a wreath on our behalf.

On April 12, we participated virtually in the North Carolina Society's celebration of the anniversary of the *Halifax Resolves*. This is one of the dates listed on the NC State Flag and recognizes the instructions given by the NC convention to their delegates in Philadelphia to vote for independence. Although Virginia's resolution was the one acted upon, North Carolina's was the first in time. I presented a wreath on behalf of the Chapter and was joined by VP Richard Rankin.

The Fairfax Resolves Chapter celebrated its annual commemoration of *Patriots Day* (the anniversary of the Battles of Lexington and Concord) on April 18 both virtually and live. I presented a wreath on behalf of our Chapter virtually, and was joined by Richard Rankin and Ernie Coggins.

(Con't on Next Page)

President's (from Page 2)

We also participated in the fully live celebration of President James Monroe's Birth on April 24 at Highlands, James Monroe's home in Charlottesville overlooked by Monticello. The weather was classic mountain April, cool with a light cloud and rain which kindly held off until we were finished. I presented a wreath on behalf of the Chapter and was joined by Vice President Rankin for this and a tour of the grounds.

Earlier in April, past Chapter President Paul Walden participated in a separate local SAR sponsored event at Monroe's Birthplace, which was pre-filmed and posted to youtube on President Monroe's Actual Birthday, April 28. Paul placed a wreath in his capacity as President of the War of 1812 Society in Virginia.

We, and VASSAR, have a very busy couple of months coming up including a special celebration of Patrick Henry on May 28. Please see the upcoming events section in this Newsletter.

Tom Roth, III
President of
The GW Chapter



Memorial Day Parade Taping (from Page 1)



Below are listed the members of the Color Guard in attendance for the taping.

Dale Corey, Colonel James Wood II Chapter; *Joe Dooley*, Past President General NSSAR, Past President VASSAR, George Washington Chapter; *Mike Elston*, Past Vice President General International District, NSSAR Past President, VASSAR Past President, George Washington Chapter; *Darrin Schmidt*, Past Commander VASSAR Color Guard; *Bill Schwetke*, Past President VASSAR; *Jeff Thomas*, President VASSAR; *Mike Weyler*, Colonel William Grayson Chapter; Also in uniform was *Richard Sherman*, George Washington Chapter Registrar.

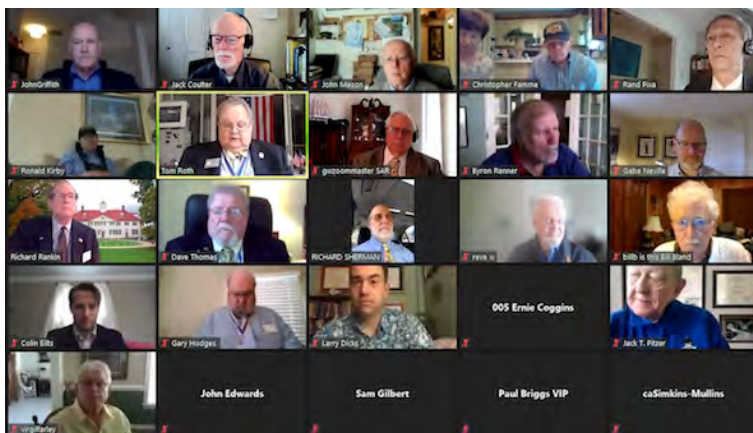
GW Chapter at Tuckahoe Plantation for Jefferson's 278th Birthday Celebration



Left--Tuckahoe, Jefferson's boyhood home, Above--VASSAR Color Guard. Below--GW VP Richard Rankin by GW Chapter Wreath and GW VP Rankin & Pat Kelly, SAR National Trustee & Past VASSAR President.



GW Chapter Meeting in April

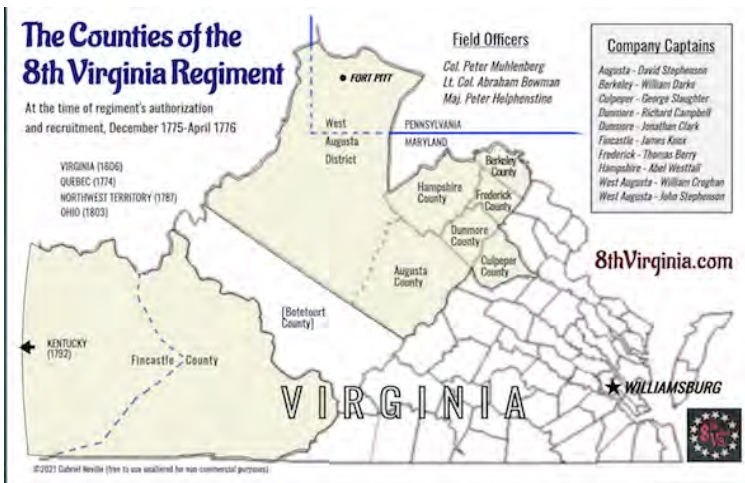


Chapter President Tom Roth, in 2nd row, 2nd column, opening the meeting. The speaker Gabe Neville is in 2nd row, 5th column.



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

"In mourning the loss of the Man of the Age, I equally mourn that of the long-tried patron--the kind and unchanging friend."--Alexander Hamilton, December 1799



The map shows the initial locations of the companies constituting the 8th Virginia Regiment. Croghan's company was from West Augusta County.



Gabe Neville spoke on Captain William Croghan's Detachment, 1776-1777. They started their journey at Fort Pitt, shown in this diorama.

(Con't on Page 10)



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.

May GW Chapter Guest Speaker Elizabeth Maurer

Martha Washington is an American icon who set the precedent as the first First Lady. Martha was more than a fluffy lady in a white cap. She was a socially adept, politically astute and an engaging woman who charmed almost everyone she met. She interacted with all the influential military and political leaders during the Revolutionary War and the two terms of her husband's Presidency. Find out how her contemporaries are viewed in "*The Real Martha Washington*".



Martha Washington (née Dandridge; June 2, 1731 – May 22, 1802) was the wife of George Washington, the first President of the United States. Although the title was not coined until after her death, Martha Washington served as the inaugural First Lady of the United States. During her lifetime, she was often referred to as "Lady Washington". She had first married Daniel Parke Custis, with whom she had four children, and was widowed by the age of 25. Two of her children by Custis survived to young adulthood. She brought her vast wealth to her marriage to Washington, which enabled him to buy land to add to his personal estate. The Washingtons did not have children together, but they did rear her two surviving children by her first husband, son John "Jacky" Parke Custis and Martha "Patsy" Parke Custis.

George Washington Chapter at Highland to Celebrate James Monroe's Birthday

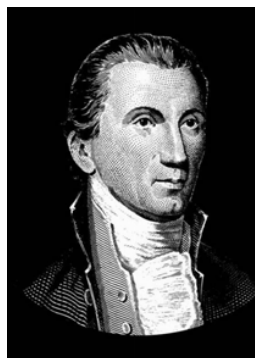


Left--George Washington Chapter Vice President Richard Rankin guarding the wreath from stray Redcoats until the presentation.

Right--The wreath was saved and presented by George Washington Chapter President Tom Roth to the applause and cheers of the multitude of compatriots.



The location of the event site at Highland is such that Monticello is looking down upon it from a neighboring mountain top.



(Con't on Page 8)

Upcoming Events

May 8, 2021–Saturday: George Washington Chapter Virtual Zoom Meeting

Belle Haven Country Club
Alexandria, Virginia

Luncheon Check-in: 11:30 am

Luncheon Served: 12:00 Noon

After Luncheon, *Hybrid Live/Virtual Zoom Meeting*: 1:00 pm

Speaker: Elizabeth Maurer

Topic: *The Real Martha Washington*

May 16, 2021–Sunday: 2:00 pm Wreath

Laying for 250th Anniversary of the Battle of Alamance

Alamance Battleground State Historic Site
5803 NC 62 South, Burlington, NC

May 28, 2021–Friday: VASSAR

Commemoration of the 285th

Anniversary of Patrick Henry's Birthday

Details will be forthcoming from VASSAR

June 5, 2021–Saturday: 10 am–12 Noon

241st Anniversary of the Battle of Ramsour's Mill

Lincolnton, NC

Event will be a Hybrid Meeting, both in-person and Zoom

Register for this event at: <https://www.ncssar.org/event/241st-battle-of-ramsours-mill-cg/>

June 11, 2021–Friday: 2021 SAR Annual

Conference on the American Revolution

Providence, Rhode Island

June 12, 2021–Saturday: 11:00 am

Culpeper Minute Men Chapter, VASSAR

Flag Day with Flag Demonstration

Event will be at Culpeper Minute Men DAR Monument by Yowell Meadow Park

Culpeper, Virginia

June 25, 2021–Friday:

2020 (Covid-delayed) SAR Annual

Conference on the American Revolution

Detroit, Michigan

July 4th–Sunday: 60th Annual "March to the Tomb"

Mt. Vernon

Alexandria, Virginia

Chapter Marching up the Bowling Green, followed by wreath laying at the Tomb

Starting times and registration link to be advised next month

July 12-14, 2021–Monday through

Wednesday: 131st National SAR Congress

Renton, Washington

July 17-18–Saturday and Sunday: 11:00 am

Signing of the Fairfax Resolves

Details for this event will be forthcoming



(See additional May events on Page 11)



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

James Monroe's Birthday (from Page 6)



Left--aerial view of James Monroe's Highland.

**263rd
Anniversary of
James Monroe's
Birthday, the last
U.S. President to
have served in
the American
Revolution.**



Above--Virginia SAR Color Guard with Ken Bonner, Commander.



Left--George Washington Chapter president Tom Roth gives a tip of his hat to the adoring crowd.



Presentation of VASSAR 2020

State Life Saving Award

The Sons of the American Revolution recently recognized Carolina Molivadis of the Alexandria Fire Department with the *Sons of the American Revolution Life Saving Award*.



At right the recipient, Carolina Molivadis, speaks with Ernie Coggins, past president of the George Washington Chapter.



Above: At left is Tom Roth, GW Chapter President; in middle is Ernie Coggins, past president of the GW Chapter and to his left is Carolina Molivadis; at far right is compatriot John Blair, ceremony organizer.



*Mount Vernon in
July 1796.*

*Watercolor by
Benjamin Latrobe.*

GW Chapter in April (Con't from Page 5)

New Members

Larry Dicks was born and raised in Washington state, earning his BA in 2006 from the University of Idaho while concurrently serving in the Marine Corps Reserve. Later, in 2014 he earned a Master's Degree in Diplomacy from Norwich University in VT. In 2008 he accepted a commission in the Air Force, and is still serving as an Intelligence Officer. He has deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan, Djibouti, and into the Western Pacific aboard the USS Blue Ridge. He currently holds the rank of Major, and serves as the Chief of Analysis for the 613th Air Operations Center (613th AOC) at beautiful Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam.

Larry's wife Brenna is an Air Force vet herself, having served as a Weapons Officer on the storied B-52, and is in her final year of law school at the University of Hawaii. Larry expects that an assignment in the DC area is forthcoming, and they intend to make a permanent home here.

For Larry, lineage societies are the logical nexus of his interests in history, political science, and Genealogy; he joined the SAR as a way to learn about and honor his favorite Patriot ancestor, John Peter Corn. Larry is also a proud member of a handful of other lineage societies either through descent or outright from his own military service.

The patriot John Peter Corn was born in 1751, in Albemarle County VA. In February of 1776, he enlisted as a regular in Col. Dangerfield's 7th Virginia Regiment and fought with the regiment through the early campaigns, and was wounded in a skirmish near Philadelphia. He nursed his wounds while wintering at Valley Forge. At the end of his 2-year commitment and still not recovered, Pvt. Corn went home to Virginia. In early 1781, he helped gather supplies and men, then participated in the battle of Guilford Court House. Later that year, he married Hannah Parr. After a few years, seeking better opportunities, he headed south into North Carolina and settled in Henderson County, not far from Asheville.

Larry Dicks



His family continued to grow and of his 15 children, several fought in the war of 1812. Pvt. Corn died in 1843 at the age of 92. He lives on, however, as a well know patriarch of the area. Due to his large family, and those of his 3 other patriot brothers, many in Appalachian North Carolina and Tennessee consider themselves a part of a significantly large "Corn" family.



John Griffith

John Griffith grew up in Summit, New Jersey, and currently lives in Falls Church. He has a bachelor's degree in geography from Middlebury College in Vermont, a master's degree in geographic information systems (digital mapping) from the University of Washington in Seattle, and a master's in strategic security studies from the National Defense University, where he conducted thesis research on climate change and conflict. He then spent 10 years in the private sector as a consultant and project manager with Environmental Systems Research Institute (Esri), a California-based software company.

In 1998, John joined the Department of State as a Foreign Service officer and has served at U.S. diplomatic missions overseas in Lithuania, Germany, Taiwan, South Africa,

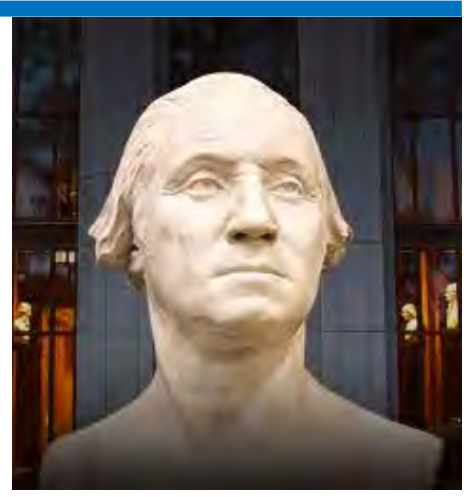
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GW Chapter in April (Con't)

Egypt, and France. He is currently Director of Ocean and Polar Affairs at the State Department where he works on issues related to the Arctic and Antarctic, ocean conservation, and maritime security.

John and his wife Cherie have a 24-year-old son, Neil, who lives and works in Seattle. John's interests include history, skiing, kayaking, and golf. He is also a drummer and has played in various rock, blues, country, and jazz bands over the years. John was inspired to join SAR by his interest in history, and by his sister who became a member of the DAR last year.

Patriot Ancestor: Born in 1747, John Langdon was a Boston bookseller and joined the Massachusetts militia as a Captain-Lieutenant in May 1776. He was later incorporated into the regular Continental Army, and in February 1777, he received a commission as Captain in Col. Henry Jackson's Additional Continental Regiment (aka the Massachusetts 16th). He served in Jackson's regiment from February 1, 1777, to October 23, 1778; he was with Washington at Valley Forge and took part in the Battles of Monmouth and Rhode Island. He died in Boston sometime after 1820.



May through the years with George Washington

- 1784** on the 4th--Washington attends first meeting of the Society of the Cincinnati.
- 1785** on the 17th--Washington elected president of the Potomac Canal Company.
- 1787** on the 25th--Washington elected president of Constitutional Convention.
- 1789** on the 14th--Congress officially adopts "*President of the United States*" as a form of address for new leader.
- 1802** on the 22nd--Death of Martha Washington.

Additional May Events

- May 13** Virginia SAR Speakers Series – Historian General Bill Stone 7:00pm Zoom
- May 15** Ebenezer Baptist Church Monument Dedication – Loudoun Co 10:00am Live
- May 22** Shockoe Cemetery Monument Dedication – Richmond TBD
- May 25** Virginia SAR Social Hour – Trivia Night with Historian Tom Roth 7:00pm Zoom
- May 29** Battle of Waxhaws National Commemoration – Lancaster SC

Martin's Station

National Commemoration

Onsite Wreath Laying Ceremony at the General Joseph Martin Monument Historic Henry County Courthouse



Saturday, May 8, 2021, 1:00pm

1 East Main Street, Martinsville, VA

**Martin's Station and Col. George Waller Chapters
Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society**

To Register: email your name, title and chapter to President Andy Doss at andydoss@vt.edu by Saturday, May 1st stating if you will participate in the event (yes/no), wreath laying (yes/no) or Color Guard (yes/no)

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.

