



George Washington Chapter Newsletter

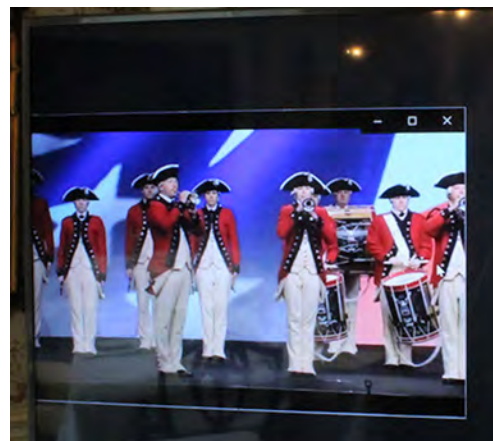
Alexandria, Virginia

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Visit us online at www.gwsar.org

October, 2021

September GW Chapter Meeting



The meeting at the Belle Haven Country Club was well attended (also by Zoom) and we were joined by Davis Wright, NASSAR President General. Also present--Dr. Cecilia Wright, PG's mother along with his children.



GW Chapter President Tom Roth, at left, welcomed PG Davis Wright, shown at right speaking to our members, and below, receiving a copy of the Houdon bust of George Washington, which is our Chapter's customary gift to speakers. GW Vice President Richard Rankin presented the bust.



(Con't on Page 3)

President's Corner

Compatriots:

Welcome to October and Fall 2021. This is really one of my favorite times of year. It's a time of taking stock but is also the time of new beginnings. No matter how far from the cycle of the school year we come, we still look forward to this season, after the Summer break, as the time of getting back together and renewing our community involvement. The Pandemic has certainly put a damper on our collective comfort level, in the short term, with that involvement, but has certainly not dampened our commitment to it. We in the George Washington Chapter have now restarted our live Chapter meetings, but have also committed to including members who are unable to attend by broadcasting these meetings through Zoom so that all of us can continue to participate. We also have an active program of live outdoor events coming up, in addition to our Chapter meetings. By the time you receive this newsletter we will have marked the graves of two revolutionary war patriots, *Lawrence Hooff* and *Peter Tatsapaugh*, in the St. Paul's Church portion of the Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex in Alexandria. On November 11, we will be honoring our veterans and placing a wreath at the Tomb of General Washington; and on December 18, we will be participating in Wreaths Across America by placing wreaths on the graves of veterans in the Alexandria National Cemetery. I encourage you all to check out upcoming events on our Chapter website -- www.gwsar.org -- as well as videos and images of past events.

Next month we will be electing our chapter officers for the coming year, and soon we will be sending out our request for renewal of membership dues and contributions. I encourage you to show your support for our new officers for 2022, and for the memory of the ideals our ancestors fought for, by



renewing your membership in this Chapter and the SAR for the year 2022.

Here is a summary of some of the activity in your chapter since our last newsletter was put to bed.

August 25--Public Service Awards Presentation – Alexandria Police Officers Shakita Warren and Bennie Evans – John Blair and Tom Roth attended and presented the awards. John Blair gave a short talk about the SAR.

August 28--Annual Seven Chapters Lunch Meeting, Graves Mountain Lodge, Syria, Virginia. Ernie Coggins attended this event.

August 31--Public Service Awards Presentation - Prince William County DFRS Technicians Lee Bergstreser and Nicholas Alexander received our Life Saving Awards. John Blair attended, presented the awards, and gave a short talk about the SAR.

September 10-11--Virginia Society SAR Semi-Annual Meeting, Berry Hill and Red Hill, Virginia. This event included among other things: (1) the dedication of a plaque honoring William Wirt Henry (grandson of Patrick Henry and first President of VASSAR), (2) the installation of the revived Patrick Henry Chapter (Both of these events were attended by Tom Roth), (3) Semi-Annual General Membership Meeting, and (4) American Flag retirement ceremony (both of these events were attended by Tom Roth, Mike Elston, Will Elston, Paul Walden, and John Turbyfil).

September 12 --Pentagon Chapter, NSDAR Commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the 9/11 Attacks on the Pentagon. This was primarily a virtual event, and was attended virtually by Vice President Richard Rankin who presented a wreath on our behalf.

September 18--September Chapter Meeting with remarks by President General Davis Wright.

September 18--Tomb of the Unknown Soldier - ANC, Presentation of Wreath by the President General.

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September GW Chapter Meeting (from Page 1)



Above left, PG Wright presented Chapter Registrar Rich Sherman with 2 additional oak leaf clusters to his Liberty Medal, which was in recognition of Rich being the top line sponsor on an additional 20 approved membership applications. Right, PG Wright presented former VASSAR and GW Chapter President, Don Reynolds, with the PG's Challenge Coin.



President General Wright inducted two new members to the SAR and the George Washington Chapter. Shown at left is Jonathan M. Jordan as PG Wright pins on the membership rosette. At right is Grant Aria Kuhnsmann who was accompanied by his wife Katherine and his father Compatriot David Kuhnsmann.

Biographies of Jonathan Jordan and Grant Kuhnsmann appear elsewhere in this newsletter.



GW Vice President Richard Rankin also presented PG Davis Wright with a bottle of aged rye whiskey distilled at the Mt. Vernon Distillery.



Arlington National Cemetery Wreath Laying



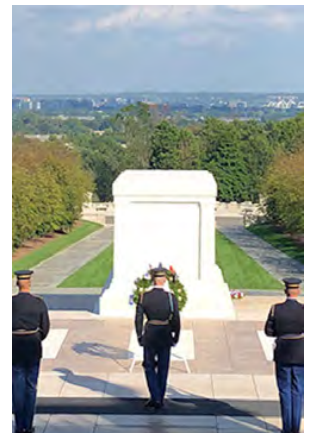
Tomb of The Unknown Soldier



President General Davis Wright's presentation of a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery on September 18, 2021. The presentation party consisted of President General Wright with VASSAR President Jeff Thomas on the front row, with George Washington Chapter President Tom Roth and VASSAR Color Guard Commander Ken Bonner on the second row.

At left, President General Wright and VASSAR President Jeff Thomas present the NASSAR wreath.

The Tomb of The Unknown Soldier will celebrate its 100th Anniversary on November 11, 2021.



October GW Chapter Guest Speaker

Dr. Glenn F. Williams

Dr. Williams' presentation, *"Let It Begin Here,"* highlights the key events in 1773-1774 leading up to the Lexington & Concord engagements.

On April 18, 1775 as the British marched off into the interior of Massachusetts, faulty planning and information prevented them from achieving their goals. This presentation will offer up new theories for British missteps and how the colonists found new confidence in their growing resistance to stand and fight the world's premiere army.

The British failures prompted a siege mentality, which the colonists gladly embraced, as they tightened their grip around Boston. Bunker Hill was the British attempt for a breakthrough of the siege, but it was a very costly attack and a short-lived success.

Dr. Williams will conclude his remarks with the arrival of Washington in Cambridge on July 3 to assume command and how Washington's leadership pulled the competing colonial militia into effective actions for freeing Boston.



LET IT BEGIN HERE!



The Battle of Lexington and Concord
Glenn F. Williams, Ph.D.



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

"Washington--a fixed star in the firmament of great names, shining without twinkling or obscurity, with clear, beneficent light."--Daniel Webster, August 2, 1826

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.

NASSAR Fall Trustee-Leadership Meeting

The Brown Hotel, Louisville, KY--Sept. 24-25, 2021

Several Members of the George Washington Chapter attended, including Mike Elston (Chancellor General), Joe Dooley (past President General), and Ernie Coggins (2nd VP VASSAR), along with dual chapter member Mike Tomme (past President General).



VASSAR President Jeff Thomas announces our \$25,000 donation to the SAR Museum and Ed. Center. Joe Dooley is on the right.

Virginia SAR compatriots and wives at Fall Leadership (dual members noted with an asterisk*): seated, left to right: John Barlow*, Nancy Barlow, Billie Brock, Virginia SAR President Jeff Thomas, Elizabeth Greaf, Cat Schwetke, Linda Robinson (Peter Moller's guest). Standing left to right: PG Mike Tomme*, Cilla Tomme, PG Lindsey Brock*, Lee Popham*, Chancellor General Mike Elston, Ken Morris, Dave Cook, Brett Osborn, Pat Kelly, Mike Weyler, Gary Green*, Virginia SAR 3rd VP Bill Greaf, Brooks Lyles*, Peter Moller*, Forrest Crain, Pete Davenport, Virginia SAR Assistant Secretary Tim Dioquino, Bill Schwetke.



October through the years with George Washington

1777 on the 4th--Battle of Germantown.

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

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

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

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

VASSAR Semi-Annual Meeting

Red Hill Plantation and Berry Hill Conference Center

The George Washington Chapter was well represented at the Virginia Society's Semi-Annual Conference held at Red Hill Plantation and Berry Hill Conference Center the weekend of September 10-11, 2021.

Members who attended included: Tom Roth, Chapter President and VASSAR Historian; Mike Elston, Chancellor General, NSSAR; Will Elston, First VP V.S.C.A.R.; Paul Walden, President, War of 1812 Society in Virginia; John Turbyfil, First Gentleman of the Virginia DAR.

On September 11, a Flag Retirement Ceremony was held during the morning General Membership Meeting in which Tom Roth, Mike Elston, Will Elston, Paul Walden, and John Turbyfil participated.

The delayed 2020 Scrapbook Competition was held during the Semi-Annual Meeting. The competition was light this year but very close. Our scrapbook, produced by GW Chapter Scrapbook Chairman Jack Coulter, was named as the Second Place Finisher, which entitles one to a mention from the podium.



Above--Members and spouses present for the 2021 VASSAR Semi-Annual Meeting.



Left--Chancellor General Mike Elston, former GW Chapter and VASSAR President, discussed certain national bylaws issues. Right--Paul Walden, former Chapter President and currently President of the War of 1812 Society in Virginia, joined in the Pledge of Allegiance during the General Membership Meeting.



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VASSAR Semi-Annual (from page 7)



Representatives of the Chapters present whose members participated in the Flag Retirement Ceremony on September 11. Paul Walden (GW Chapter Flag Chairman) is kneeling on front row left.



Clockwise from above left-- President Roth received the Chapter's Certificate of Recognition for 2020-21 participation in Wreaths Across America. Tom is shown here with Troy Foxwell, Mike Weyler, and Jeff Thomas. Above right--On Friday, September 10, 2021, the Virginia Society unveiled a plaque in honor of William Wirt Henry (first President of VASSAR) at Red Hill Plantation. Right--Tom Roth and another youthful chapter member received the Gold Roger Sherman Medal for work with committees at the Special 2021 National Congress in Washington, DC. They are shown here with Mike Elston, Tim Dioquino (VASSAR Assistant Secretary), Troy Foxwell (VPG Mid-Atlantic District), and VASSAR President Jeff Thomas.



Upcoming Events

October 19, 2021–Tuesday: 9:15 AM

240th Anniversary of the Battle of Yorktown

Start at Grace Episcopal Church, 111 Church Street, Yorktown, VA for the wreath laying at Governor Thomas Nelson, Jr's gravesite.

Unfortunately, the Parade, which was to follow the wreath ceremony, has been cancelled by the National Park Service.

November 11, 2021–Thursday: Time TBA Veterans Day at Mount Vernon Wreath Laying at Washington Tomb (SAR & DAR)

Mt. Vernon Estate

3200 Mount Vernon Highway

Mt. Vernon, VA 22121

(please confirm attendance on Chapter Website under Events tab)

November 13, 2021–Saturday: 11:30 AM George Washington Chapter Hybrid Zoom Meeting

Belle Haven Country Club

Alexandria, VA

Speaker: Mark Edward Lender, Ph.D.

"Cabal! The Plot Against George Washington"

(please confirm attendance on Chapter Website under Events tab)



New Member Biographies

Jonathan Jordan was born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia, and earned his BA at Oglethorpe University in 1994. A job opportunity for his then girlfriend, now wife, brought them to the DC area in 1998. After a brief stint with the Arlington County Fire Department (where his engine company was among the first to arrive on the scene of the Pentagon attack on September 11th), he joined the Metropolitan Police Department of Washington DC in 2002. Over the past two decades, he has worked in various investigative and intelligence roles and is currently assigned as a Detective to the Homicide Branch.

In addition to working lots of overtime, raising two rambunctious boys, and driving his lovely wife crazy by buying too many books, Jonathan is also an occasional poet whose work has appeared in The Potomac Review, Modern Age, Louisiana Literature, Chronicles, Carolina Quarterly, and many other cultural and literary publications.

After arriving in the area, Jonathan was struck by the abundant history in the region, particularly in his new home in the Old Dominion. The fact that a simple day trip might take him driving past such mythic places as Mount Vernon and Monticello, Manassas and Spotsylvania, quickly revived his ardent boyhood love of history. So he began his own family research, gathering stories from older relatives and delving into the rabbit-hole of genealogy. Among his many fascinating discoveries, he learned that he is a descendant of Patriot Stephen Pace, who was himself a descendant of Richard Pace, one of the Ancient Planters of the early Jamestown colony. Stephen Pace was born in North Carolina in 1747 and served in the North Carolina Line of the Continental Army in the Revolution. After the war, Stephen Pace's family migrated to South Georgia, where he passed away in 1822.

Jonathan looks forward to membership in the Sons of the American Revolution. He

Grant Kuhnsman grew up in Great Falls, VA. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from James Madison University in 2012 and a Master of Science degree from Eastern Michigan University. Since matriculating into the workforce, Mr. Kuhnsman has spent over a decade supporting federal intelligence agencies. He is passionate about emerging technology adoption and how new technologies can advance, protect, and steward US interests and equities around the world.

Mr. Kuhnsman currently resides with his wife, Katherine, at their home in Bethesda, MD. Prior to moving to Maryland in 2019, Mr. Kuhnsman volunteered for several years with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department as an emergency vehicle operator and licensed medical technician. He enjoys spending time with family, to include his best bud and dog, Houston.

Mr. Kuhnsman was drawn to GWSAR after witnessing firsthand the many positive impacts the organization has made and continues to make in our community. He is most excited about programs to recognize local first responders and events that assist newly naturalized citizens to our great nation.

Grant's ancestor, George Gilbert, was born in Montgomery Co. PA in 1753. He served as a sergeant in the 3rd Co., 4th Btln. of the Philadelphia Co. militia. He died in PA in 1838 at the age of 85.

looks most of all to set an example for his sons in our forgetful age, striving to give them not just the assurance of a bright future, but the rooted gift of a wonderful history and heritage, as well.

**Please welcome our
new members.**



Chapter Recognition at the 2021 NSSAR Annual Congress

The Chapter received recognition from the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution at the 2021 Annual Congress held in Renton, Washington.

The Chapter received a Certificate in recognition of our support for the Wreaths Across America Program during 2020-2021.

Chapter Registrar **Richard Sherman** received 2 oak leaf clusters to his Liberty Medal.

Jamie Callender received the Oak Leaf Cluster from NSSAR to his Meritorious Service Medal in recognition of over 15,000 hours of volunteer work in connection with the PRS.

Mike Elston received the Meritorious Service Medal for his work as Chairman of the Special 2021 Congress.

Ernie Coggins received an oak leaf cluster to his Meritorious Service Medal for his work as Chairman of the Credentials Committee for the Special 2021 Congress.

Ernie Coggins also received a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of outstanding personal service serving as Chairman of the Knight Essay Committee 2020-2021.

Tom Roth received the Gold Roger Sherman Medal for service as a Deputy Chairman of the Credentials Committee for the Special 2021 Congress.

Will Elston received the Gold Roger Sherman Medal for service as a Deputy Chairman of the IT Committee for the Special 2021 Congress.

Joseph W. Dooley received Certificates of Appreciation in recognition of outstanding personal service as Vice-Chairman of the S.A.R. Education Center & Museum Committee Ad Hoc 2020-2021, and as Chairman of the King's College London Partnership Committee 2020-2021.

President's Corner *(from page 2)*

September 20--Constitution Day Proclamation Signing by the Mayor of Alexandria – Alexandria City Hall – sponsored by the John Alexander Chapter NSDAR. Tom Roth and Richard Rankin attended.

September 23-25--Louisville--NSSAR Fall Leadership Conference.

October 2 --Reconstructed James Monroe Birthplace, Grand Opening Celebration – Colonial Beach, Virginia. Tom Roth presented a wreath. Mike Elston, Will Elston, Greg Bodge, Isaac Bodge, Ernie Coggins, and Paul Walden also attended and participated.

October 4--Presentation of SAR Silver Good Citizenship Medal to retiring Alexandria City Sheriff Dana Lawhorne by the George Washington Chapter. John Blair, Tom Roth, and Richard Rankin attended.



*Tom Roth, III
President of The
George Washington
Chapter*

Constitution Day in Alexandria

The John Alexander Chapter, NSDAR held a ceremony on September 20 in honor of Constitution Day. This event took place in the Alexandria City Council Chambers and featured the reading and signing of a Proclamation by Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson recognizing Constitution Week in Alexandria. The John Alexander, Kate Waller Barrett, Nelly Custis, Dr. Elisha Dick, and Mt. Vernon Chapters NSDAR Co-sponsored this event. GW President Tom Roth was present and recognized as representing the George Washington Chapter. VP Richard Rankin joined Tom. The only other SAR member present was Dave Embrey of the Maryland Society who performed and educated the crew on the Fife in the 18th Century Army.



Above are GW VP Richard Rankin, Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson, GW President Tom Roth and Dave Embrey of the Maryland Society.



Above -- the ladies of the NSDAR hosted the Constitution Day Ceremony and at Right Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson signs the Proclamation.



Civil War Trust now American Battlefield Trust

The Civil War Trust organization has saved over 50,000 acres of Civil War battlefields over many years. And now they have taken on the saving of Revolutionary War battlefields and changed their name to **American Battlefield Trust**.

Go to the site <https://www.battlefields.org>

Click on **Learn** tab and then on drop down **Revolutionary War** on left.



Very well put together and the information is outstanding. The Southern Campaign animation is 15 minutes long and is great!



Last year, the Trust even added its first Revolutionary War Battle App for Yorktown, which has since become the most downloaded app in the Trust's collection.

The next app to be offered by the Trust will bring more Revolutionary War sites into our collection. Currently in production, The Liberty Trail Mobile App will offer a variety of interpretive tools, including GPS-enabled audio and augmented reality, for over 30 battlefield sites in South Carolina. Drawing from extensive, ongoing research on the Southern Campaigns, these tours will introduce you to often-overlooked battlefield sites and the experiences of the people who participated in the battles.

The Liberty Trail Mobile App will also feature information on restaurants, recreational activities, and other historic and cultural sites, so visitors can add these experiences to their travel itinerary. The first version of The Liberty Trail Mobile App will be available by the end of summer 2021 and, as with all mobile apps developed by the American Battlefield Trust, it will be free and available for download through the App Store and Google Play.

