



George Washington Chapter Newsletter

Alexandria, Virginia

Volume 22, Issue 8

Visit us online at www.gwsar.org

November, 2021

October GW Chapter Meeting



Top Left: President Tom Roth called the October meeting to order, observed by Secretary Wilson over Zoom. Top Right: Immediate Past President Jay Henn, as Chairman of the Nominations Committee, gave the report of the Committee. Below: Tom Roth is shown here flanked by Scott Walker and Richard Rankin.



(L) Chaplain Don Reynolds gave the Invocation and (R) Bill Bland led the members in the SAR Pledge.

The following members were nominated for election as officers for the year 2022: Richard Rankin, **President**; Rand Pixa, **Vice President**; William "Bill" Wilson, **Treasurer**; and Scott Walker, **Secretary**. Tom Roth was nominated for a 3-year term as an at-large member of the Board of Managers.

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President's Corner

Compatriots & Friends.

October is one of my favorite months with the weather cooling to just the right temperature, and family and friends regathering after the Summer break.

Your Chapter has had a very busy and successful month. But, before I discuss our events and activities, I remind everyone that we have come again to the season of membership renewal. You all should have received an email or, perhaps, two from the Chapter with information on how to renew your membership for next year. Please take the time to respond, and, hopefully, add a little extra to help us fund Chapter programs.

We began the month of October with two big events--on October 9, our October Chapter Meeting at Belle Haven Country Club, and a significant patriot grave marking ceremony at St. Paul's Episcopal Church Graveyard in the Wilkes Street Complex.

Our Chapter meeting began with the report of the Nominating Committee Chairman Jay Henn. The Committee this year consisted of Jay Henn, Dave Thomas, and Richard Sherman. Their nominees for 2022 officers were: Richard Rankin – *President*, Rand Pixa – *Vice President*, William “Bill” Wilson – *Treasurer*, and Scott Walker – *Secretary*. The Committee also nominated Tom Roth for a three year term as an at-large member of the Board of Managers ending in 2024. Elections for 2022 officers will be held at our November 13 Chapter meeting. We also received a presentation by Virginia Children of the American Revolution President, Sara Cox, on her Presidential Project to raise funds for handmade bricks to be used as part of the reconstruction of President James Monroe's birthplace. This was followed by an excellent presentation



on the Battles of Lexington and Concord by our old friend Dr. Glenn F. Williams, a Senior Historian at the U.S. Army Center of Military History, Fort McNair. A number of NSSAR and VASSAR awards were presented to members of the Chapter who are identified more fully in other parts of this Newsletter.

The Chapter Meeting was shortly followed by a grave marking ceremony for patriots Lawrence Hooft and Peter Tatsapaugh who are interred at St. Paul's Episcopal Church Cemetery in Alexandria. Among other things, Patriot Hooft was a pallbearer at George Washington's funeral and served on the first vestry of St. Paul's. Peter Tatsapaugh, an in-law of the Hooft family, was a Sergeant in Captain Peter Mantz's Company, Maryland Militia, September 1775-October 1776. VASSAR President Jeff Thomas dedicated the markers and the VASSAR Color Guard added dignity to the event by posting colors and firing a musket salute. We were also honored to have a number of Hooft descendants present for the ceremony. The Reverend Jenni Ovenstone, Senior Associate Rector of St. Paul's, gave the benediction and a reading from Ecclesiasticus. VASSAR Chapters that presented wreaths included George Washington, Col. Fielding Lewis, Col. James Wood II, George Mason, and Fairfax Resolves. The Kate Waller Barrett Chapter, VADAR, presented a wreath, as did the Virginia CAR.

Members of the Chapter also participated in many other patriotic events during October. Ernie Coggins presented a wreath on behalf of the Chapter at the [Yorktown Day Commemoration](#) at Governor Thomas Nelson, Jr.'s Tomb. Ernie was joined by Chancellor General Mike Elston who presented greetings on behalf of the President General Davis Wright.



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October GW Chapter Meeting (from Page 1)



NSSAR Chancellor General Mike Elston presented Jamie Callender with an oak leaf cluster in lieu of an additional award of the Meritorious Service Medal. The National Society honored Jamie for his over 15,000 hours of volunteer work on the national PRS system. Mike Elston also presented former President General Joe Dooley with Certificates of Appreciation from the National Society for his service as chair/vice chair of National Committees. Mike Elston also recognized Ernie Coggins for his service as Chairman of the National Knight Essay Contest.



President Roth presented past President Jay Henn his Virginia Society Medal (originally awarded last December). President Roth also presented Jay with a Certificate of Appreciation for his work as Chapter Americanism Committee Chair during 2021.



President Roth, on behalf of the Virginia Society, presented former Chapter President Paul Walden with the VASSAR Patriot Graves Preservation Medal, the Silver Roger Sherman Medal, and a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of his services to the Virginia Society as Editor of the Virginia Dispatches and in Patriot Graves Preservation.



Vice President Rankin presented Dr. Glenn F. Williams with a replica of the Houdon Bust in appreciation of his talk on the Battles of Lexington and Concord.

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October GW Chapter Meeting *(from previous Page)*



George Washington SAR Former Presidents in attendance at the Saturday, October 9, 2021, Luncheon Meeting.



Above Left--We were delighted to be joined during the meeting by current and past leadership of the Virginia Children of the American Revolution: Mike Elston, past Senior State President; the current State First VP; the current State President; and Stacy Wajciechowski, current Sr. State President. (Right) Compatriot Scott Walker led us in the SAR Recessional.



New GW Member

(Right) George Washington Registrar Rich Sherman presents newly inducted Tim Walker with Membership Certificate on October 5, 2021.



November GW Chapter Guest Speaker

Mark Edward Lender, Ph.D.

While the "Conway Cabal" is a fixture in the popular memory of the Revolutionary War, scholars of the Revolution have expressed doubts about any real threat it may have posed to Washington's command. Most academic historians have dismissed the Cabal as an annoyance by carping critics of Washington, but nothing more. Mark Lender takes a different view, and in his talk he will insist that the Cabal was real, and that the threat to Washington's position as commander-in-chief was wider, deeper, and more serious than previous studies have allowed. Mark Lender will discuss the nature of the Cabal, who was involved—he will name names—the motives driving their criticisms of the general, and the chief events that rocked the army and Congress as the Cabal unfolded.



THE USUAL SUSPECTS:

GENERAL WASHINGTON, HIS CRITICS, AND THE CONWAY CABAL RECONSIDERED



Mark Edward Lender
Kean University, Emeritus



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

"He deserved and enjoyed both success and repose. Of all great men, he was the most virtuous and most fortunate. In this world, God has no higher favor to bestow."—M. Guizot

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.

Marker Dedication for Gov. Thomas Johnson

On October 23, Compatriot Paul Walden attended the dedication and unveiling of a marker commemorating the first Governor of Maryland, Thomas Johnson (1732-1819), at his grave at Mount Olivet Cemetery in Frederick, MD. The event was sponsored by the Maryland DAR and SAR, as well as the Sgt. Lawrence Everhart Chapter, MDSAR, and the Thomas Johnson Society, MDCAR. Thomas Johnson was a delegate from Maryland to the Continental Congress. He served in the Maryland Assembly when the Declaration of Independence was signed. During the war, he served as Brigadier General in the Maryland Militia, in addition to manufacturing ammunition at Catoctin Furnace in support of the Revolution. President Washington later appointed Johnson to the commission that designed the federal capital at Washington.



Left: Paul Walden at Johnson's tombstone. Above: New marker dedicated at Gov. Johnson gravesite.



November through the years with George Washington

- 1752** on the 4th--Washington becomes a Freemason.
- 1752** on the 6th--Washington appointed Major in Virginia Militia.
- 1781** on the 5th--Death of Washington's stepson, John"Jacky" Parke Custis.
- 1783** on the 2nd--Washington bids farewell to army at end of Revolutionary War.
- 1789** on the 26th--First observance of the *"day of public Thanksgiving"* ordered by Washington at request of Congress.

Muster of The Culpeper Minutemen Battalion

October 23 – The Annual Commemoration of the Muster of the Culpeper Minutemen Battalion was held at Yowel Meadow Park in Culpeper, VA.

George Washington Chapter members attending were Tom Roth, Chapter President and VASSAR Historian, who participated by presenting a wreath, and Ernie Coggins, Past Chapter President and VASSAR Second Vice President.



*Left: Tom Roth,
Chapter President
and VASSAR
Historian.*



*Right: Ernie Coggins,
Past Chapter
President and
VASSAR 2nd VP.*



VASSAR Color Guard firing a musket salute.

Grave Marking-St. Paul's Cemetery, Alexandria

On October 9, 2021, the George Washington Chapter VASSAR conducted a grave marking ceremony for two patriots interred at St. Paul's Episcopal Church Cemetery in Alexandria: Lawrence Hooff, NSSAR Patriot 184360, born 1756, died 26 May 1834, who signed a Legislative Petition to Virginia House of Delegates, 27 May 1782, that included a request for a representative to the House of Delegates (formerly the House of Burgesses). Patriot Hooff was also a pallbearer at George Washington's funeral and served on the first vestry of St. Paul's. The second patriot honored was an in-law of the Hooff family: Peter Tatsapaugh, NSSAR Patriot 329280, born 1752, Lancaster, PA, died 5 October 1818 who was a Sergeant in Captain Peter Mantz's Company, Maryland Militia, September 1775-October 1776.

VASSAR President Jeff Thomas dedicated the markers and the VASSAR Color Guard added dignity to the event by posting colors and firing a musket salute. We were also honored to have a number of Hooff descendants present for the ceremony. The Reverend Jenni Ovenstone, Senior Associate Rector of St. Paul's, gave the benediction and a reading from Ecclesiasticus. VASSAR Chapters that presented wreaths included George Washington, Col Fieldling Lewis, Col. James Wood II, George Mason, and Fairfax Resolves. The Kate Waller Barrett Chapter, VADAR, presented a wreath, as did the Virginia CAR.



Left: GW President Tom Roth greeted our visitors and introduced distinguished members and guests.



Right: GW Vice President Richard Rankin led the SAR Pledge.



Descendant of Patriots Tatsapaugh and Hooff.

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Upcoming Events

November 11, 2021–Thursday: 1:00 pm
Veterans Day at Mount Vernon Wreath Laying at Washington Tomb (SAR & DAR)

Mt. Vernon Estate

3200 Mount Vernon Highway

Mt. Vernon, VA 22121

Enter via the Purple Heart Gate *(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; On-line luncheon payment option available on Chapter Website).*

December 4, 2021–Saturday: – 11:00 am
NSSAR 1775 Battle of Great Bridge Commemoration

Great Bridge Battlefield &

Waterways Museum

1775 Historic Way

Chesapeake, VA 23320

For more information contact: Kenneth Hawkins at: drklhawkins@gmail.com



December 18, 2021–Saturday: 12 Noon
Joint Meeting George Mason/ George Washington Chapters

Installation of 2022 Officers

Mount Vernon Country Club

5111 Old Mill Road

Alexandria, VA 22309

Speaker: Jeff Thomas, *VASSAR President*

Hybrid Zoom Meeting *(please confirm attendance on Chapter Website under Events tab; On-line luncheon payment option available on Chapter Website).*

December 18, 2021–Saturday: 9:30 am
Wreath Across America (WAA)

Alexandria National Cemetery

1450 Wilkes Street, Alexandria

The starting time, attendee limitations & C19 protocols may be updated.

For information contact: Jack Coulter, WAA Coordinator at cojack2@cox.net



Chapter Activities and Volunteer Opportunities

Tom Roth, President

Despite COVID and all of the limitations that still imposes on us, VASSAR and its Chapters are working through them to remain as active as ever, if not more so. There are numerous opportunities for participation, live and virtually in the coming weeks and months. Please review the list of upcoming events in this newsletter and on our new website for further information.

There are also numerous opportunities for personal involvement. This does not mean necessarily taking on a leadership position, but helping out with specific needs or projects. We are looking for members who might be interested in assisting in all of our Chapter activities, and encourage you to reach out to me or to our other officers if you have an interest or questions. Our contact information can be found in this newsletter.

Here are a few specific areas in which opportunities exist:

Website: Our Webmaster is looking for computer savvy Chapter members who would be interested in assisting him with the tasks of updating website content and general website management.

Public Safety Awards Committee: We are looking for members who are willing/able to assist our Public Safety Awards Chairman in the logistics of this Committee, e.g., ordering medals and certificates.

Videography: In order to reach the largest possible audience, we are looking for members who can help us with recording and live broadcasting of our meetings and other events through Zoom, or other platforms.

Photography: We encourage all of our members to record their experiences and to share them with us so that we can memorialize the events in our scrapbooks, newsletters, and website. We also need members who are willing to serve as photographers for chapter events and to

serve as photo editors (helping to select and edit photos for chapter publications).

Public Speaking: We would like to hear from members who would be interested in making presentations in regarding the SAR and the revolutionary period to schools and to civic groups, either virtually or in person. Of particular interest would be presentations based on the VASSAR Patriots Chest and Flag Chest Programs. These are scripted presentations of objects provided in the Chests.

Public Relations: We are looking for a member who can be responsible for reaching out to local media outlets, keeping them abreast of our activities and encouraging attendance at our public events.

Color Guard and Colonial Attire: Participation in SAR Events in Colonial Military Attire (or even civilian attire) is strongly encouraged by the SAR at all levels and enhances both our visibility in the community and your Chapter's credit (Americanism Award Points) within the Virginia and National Societies. I wish to particularly encourage members to consider participation at the chapter and state level in colonial uniform in the VASSAR Color Guard. One role of great importance (which we do not have at present) is having at least one member who is able/willing to carry the George Washington Chapter's own traveling flag as part of the VASSAR Color Guard at GW Chapter events.

Patriot Research System: One of the tenets of the SAR is to cherish, honor, and preserve the memory of those Patriots who served during the American Revolution in order that their descendants could be endowed with those inalienable rights that we now enjoy. The George Washington Chapter needs your assistance as we set out to validate the Patriot Research System (PRS) data for our Chapter Compatriots

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Volunteer Opportunities *(from previous Page)*

and Patriots. Your participation in this challenge helps to ensure the memory and ideals of the Revolution are kept alive. We are looking for three Chapter Compatriots to take up this challenge--**how about you?**

Other Activities: Here are a couple more, of many, areas in which our broader membership can be particularly helpful on a simple basis: (1) identifying people who regularly fly the American Flag and who might be eligible / willing to receive an SAR Flag Certificate, (2) identifying and helping our Youth Program chair to recruit middle school teachers who would be interested / willing to sponsor the SAR Brochure and Poster Competitions in their classrooms. Please feel free to contact me if this interests you and I can put you in contact with the Chapter's experts on these programs.

Alexandria Sheriff Lawhorne Retires



George Washington Chapter presentation of the Silver Good Citizenship Award to retiring Alexandria Sheriff Dana Lawhorne.

From Left--Richard Rankin, John Blair, Sheriff Lawhorne and Tom Roth.

President's Corner *(from Page 2)*

On October 19, Compatriot Coggins also presented a wreath on behalf of the Chapter at the dedication of a marker at Charles Church in Yorktown by the *Order of Founders and Patriots of America*.

I presented a Wreath on October 23 at the Culpeper Minutemen Chapter's Annual Commemoration of the *Muster of the Culpeper Minutemen Battalion* at Yowell Meadow Park in Culpeper. I was accompanied by Ernie Coggins, Past Chapter President and VASSAR 2nd VP.

On October 30, I and several other Chapter members attended the VASSAR/Fairfax Resolves Chapter Commemoration of the *250th Anniversary of George Washington's Grist Mill*. Ernie Coggins participated in the ceremony by leading the SAR Pledge. Chapter Registrar Richard Sherman also attended and participated by leading the SAR Recessional.

Of course, this is only a small bit of the many things our members are doing at the local, state, and national levels in the SAR.

Best wishes . . . Tom Roth, III

President of The George Washington Chapter

Grave Marking (from Page 8)



Left: GW Past President Jay Henn led the Pledge of Allegiance



Above: Dale Corey, Past President of the Col. James Wood II Chapter, led the singing of "America."



Above: The Rev. Jenni Ovenstone, Senior Associate Rector, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, gave the invocation.



Left: President Roth presented the Bronze Roger Sherman Medal to VASSAR Color Guard Commander Ken Bonner in recognition of his help (and that of the Color Guard) with GW Chapter events of the past 2 years.

Right: Members of the VASSAR Color Guard presented the Colors in front of Patriot Hooff's family vault. On the left is Paul Walden.



Above: The VASSAR Color Guard rendered a musket volley salute following the dedication of the markers. Right: Paul Walden and descendants of Patriots Tatsapaugh and Hooff in dedicating the Grave Markers

250th Anniversary of Washington's Grist Mill



October 30 – Fairfax Resolves and VASSAR Event. GW members present: Tom Roth, GW Chapter President and VASSAR Historian; Ernie Coggins, Past GW President & VASSAR 2nd VP; Richard Sherman, GW Registrar. *Right: Ernie participated by leading the SAR Pledge. Left: Richard attended in Colonial Militia attire and participated by leading the SAR Recessional.*



Yorktown Day Commemoration



October 19 – Yorktown Day, Commemoration at Governor Thomas Nelson, Jr.'s Tomb.

Left: Ernie Coggins, Past Chapter President and VASSAR 2nd VP Presented a Wreath on behalf of the Chapter. Right: Mike Elston, Past Chapter and VASSAR President & Current Chancellor General, brought greetings on behalf of the President General. Below: 2nd row, second from left is Mike Elston and to his right in picture is Jeff Thomas, VASSAR President.



... same day in another cemetery in Yorktown

October 19 – Order of Founders and Patriots of America – Charles Church Cemetery, Yorktown, Marker Dedication for 17th Century Founders.

Ernie Coggins presented a wreath on behalf of the GW Chapter.