



George Washington Chapter Newsletter

Alexandria, Virginia

Volume 24, Issue 2

Visit us online at www.gwsar.org

February, 2022

Celebrate General George Washington's 290th Birthday



Tuesday, February 22, 2022 – Online at 7pm EST

Join us as we celebrate George Washington's 290th birthday with a virtual birthday party!

Americans from across the country will gather in the comfort of their own homes to salute George Washington: A Man of Firsts, with an online program featuring:

- historians Joseph J. Ellis and Nathaniel Philbrick discussing why Washington matters today.
- a first look at the film for the upcoming museum exhibition Mount Vernon: American Icon.
- a birthday auction supporting Mount Vernon.
- a classical music concert on the piazza.
- a spectacular fireworks show over the Potomac.
- a birthday toast delivered to General Washington.

Proceeds from this event will support the restoration and preservation of George Washington's beloved home, Mount Vernon. Mount Vernon is not a government-funded park or agency. We rely on the generosity of friends like you for contributions needed to care for George Washington's historic estate.

President's Corner

Compatriots:

For those of us who like all things Washington, the month of February will be the Super Bowl with most events close by in our neighborhood.



We start off the month with our February chapter meeting on February 5 with Dr. Doug Bradburn, President and CEO of the Mount Vernon Ladies Association, as our speaker. We will be presenting Dr. Bradburn with the SAR Silver Good Citizenship Award. The following weekend of February 11-13, the VASSAR Annual Meeting will convene in Richmond at the Omni Hotel. Hotel registration information has been sent out and registration for the Annual Meeting is forthcoming.

Starting Monday, February 21, and rolling into Tuesday, February 22, four major events will occur: Feb. 21 (Monday), a joint SAR-DAR wreath laying at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House @ 11 AM; followed by the return of Alexandria's George Washington Parade (largest Washington parade in the nation) starting @ 1 PM. Please join us for both events and enjoy marching with your fellow compatriots through the streets of Old Town, Alexandria.

On Tuesday, February 22, our chapter will be laying a wreath at Washington's Tomb @ 9 AM. Later that same Tuesday evening starting @ 7 PM (EST), Mount Vernon will be hosting a virtual National George Washington 290th Birthday Celebration. Our chapter members will receive a computer link to view in the comfort of your home this 90 minute entertaining program on your desktop or laptop computer. This broadcast from Mount Vernon will be a patriotic and family friendly entertainment to honor the Washington legacy. As you noticed, there is no lack of exciting SAR events to attend & enjoy in February.

We return to our monthly chapter meeting on March 12 at the Belle Haven Country Club.

However, just before February starts, we will convene our virtual Winter Planning Meeting on Saturday, January 29 @ 10 AM. This planning meeting seeks to provide our membership with the opportunity to learn more about upcoming chapter activities and to provide an opportunity to give inputs as to operational issues facing our chapter. This meeting is especially valuable to new members and those members considering more involvement in chapter activities, but are not aware of all chapter opportunities.

Back on January 2, I traveled on behalf of our chapter to New Jersey to attend SAR wreath laying at Princeton and Trenton. Our VASSAR Color Guard was also in attendance. In a separate newsletter article, I will provide a fuller story and photos of that memorable day.

In the meantime, please make time in your schedule to attend these upcoming, but important chapter events. Your continued support of the George Washington Chapter is important to continue our growth and standing with our members at SAR events.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or any chapter officer during this upcoming year with your suggestions, questions, or concerns. Please visit our chapter website at www.gwsar.org for more information about upcoming events, payment options for luncheons, annual dues, and donations such as our recent campaign for the GW 290th Birthday Celebration. For those members wishing to stay connected 24/7 on their mobile device with our website software, Wild Apricot, visit the Apple App Store or Google Play Store to download the "Wild Apricot for Members" app.

We look forward to seeing you at these upcoming events and marching with us on George Washington's Birthday.

Richard E. Rankin

President

George Washington Chapter, SAR

January GW Chapter Meeting



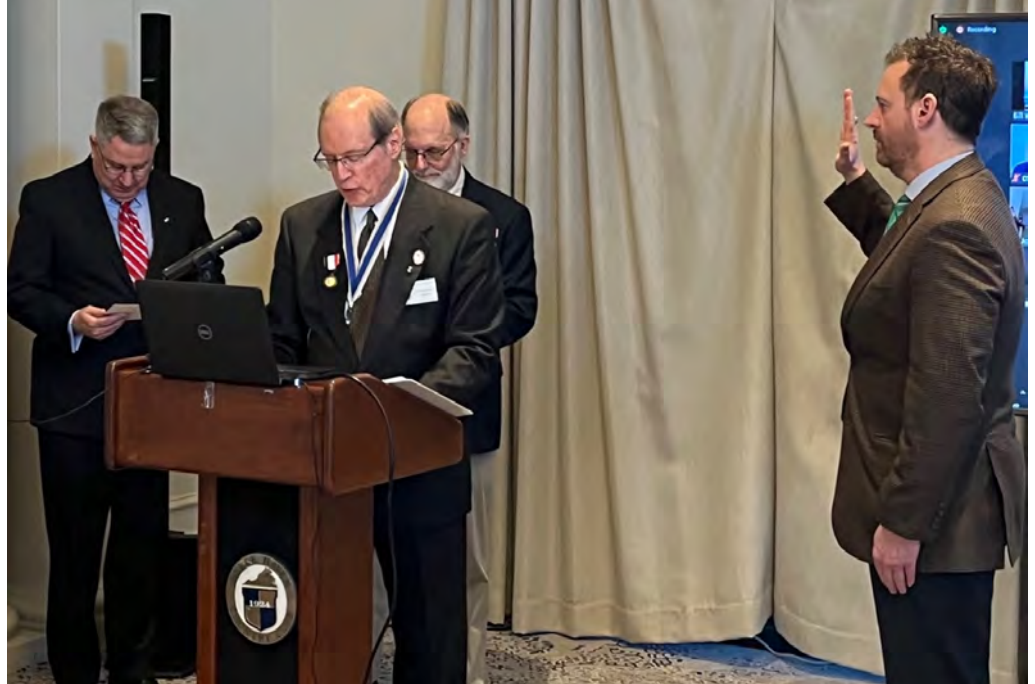
Left: GW President Richard Rankin.



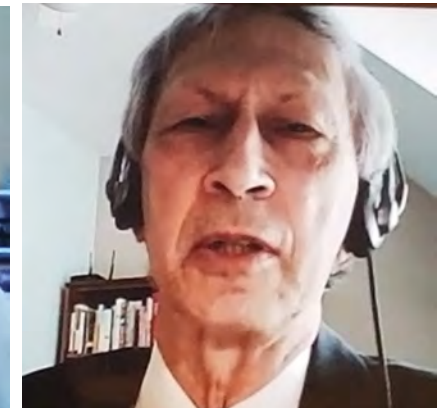
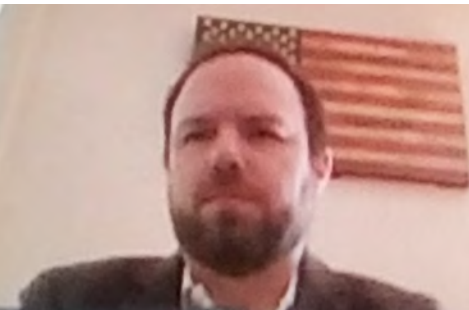
Right: President Rankin inducting new member John Edwards. (Rich Sherman, Registrar, is behind President Rankin.)



Above is GW Secretary Scott Walker.



Above: President Rankin inducts Quinn Lanzendorfer as new member Thomas Whitaker (left) and Registrar Rich Sherman observe.



... and virtually we have new member inductee Matt Croson at left; January Guest Speaker Welsch in middle; and at right is GW Vice President Rand Pixa.

GW Chapter Attends New Jersey NSSAR Commemorations

On January 2, GW President Rankin attended the National SAR Commemoration held at Princeton and Trenton. Davis Wright, PG National Society, SAR attended both events. After the Princeton Battle Reenactment (which was attended by over 300 people), a wreath laying ceremony was conducted at the Princeton Battlefield Colonnade & Memorial Grove. Next to the Grove was a burial site for unknown British and American soldiers killed during the January 3, 1777 battle from units including Lt. Colonel Charles Mawhood's 17th & 55th Regiments of Foot, Colonel Haslet's Delaware Regiment and General Hugh Mercer's Brigade. Later that afternoon, a wreath laying ceremony was held for the Battle of Assunpink Creek (Second Battle of Trenton) in Mill Hill Park, Trenton. Marge Caldwell Wilson, a Trenton City Council member, attended. Unfortunately, the Old Barrack's Museum was closed due to New Jersey C19 protocols.



Above is George Washington President Richard Rankin.



Left: Lou Raborg, Commander NSSAR Color Guard; in the middle is Davis Wright, President General, NSSAR; and on far right side is Charles Morgan, President NJSSAR. The others are not identified.



Above: David Cook, President Fairfax Resolves Chapter; Marc Robinson, President Col. James Wood II Chapter; Richard Rankin, President George Washington Chapter; Brett Osborne, Col. James Wood II Chapter, VASSAR Color Guard.



Davis Wright, PG, NSSAR and Marge Caldwell Wilson, Trenton Council Member.

February GW Chapter Guest Speaker

Dr. Doug Bradburn



"Your Neighbor: Mount Vernon"

by Dr. Doug Bradburn

*President & CEO of George Washington's
Mount Vernon*

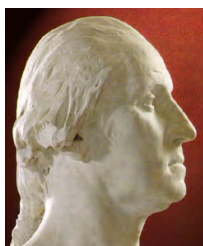
**The most visited historic home in
the United States**

As an award-winning author and well-known scholar of early American history, Dr. Bradburn has specialized in the American Founding leadership and the history of American Citizenship.

Dr. Bradburn will share his thoughts about Mount Vernon's current affairs and the future legacy of this iconic homestead.

Our chapter will be presenting the SAR Silver, Good Citizenship Medal to Dr. Bradburn.

Please join us in-person at Belle Haven Country Club or in our growing virtual audience, Saturday, February 5.



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

*"The character of Washington is worthy of
the best days of antiquity . . . it seems as if
we had recovered a lost life of some of those
illustrious men, whose portraits Plutarch
has so well delineated."--M. Fontanes, 1800*

<i>President</i>	<i>Richard Rankin: 703-538-5805</i>
<i>Vice President</i>	<i>Rand Pixa: 703-622-7001</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Bill Wilson: 301-523-2690</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Scott Walker: 703-216-4798</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 250 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:

Tom Roth: 703-739-8811

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 **temporarily** 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.

New GW SAR Member Biographies

Thomas Neil Whitaker is a native of Nashville, Tennessee, where he was active in sports and scouting. He attained his Eagle Scout award with Troop 47 in Donelson, TN. Mr. Whitaker earned his bachelor degree from Belmont University and holds two master's degrees.

Upon completing college, he joined the United States Army, serving in various positions as an Infantry and Civil Affairs Officer. His duty included two combat tours in Iraq where he earned the Bronze Star. Thomas retired from the Army with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

He is currently a government civilian with the Defense Threat Reduction Agency at Fort Belvoir where he is the Doctrine Team Lead. In this position, his focus is on writing military doctrine on countering weapons of mass destruction and nuclear operations. Additionally, Thomas serves as a U.S. Delegate to NATO's Doctrine and Terminology Panel for Chemical, Biological,

Radiological, and Nuclear Defense.

Prior to joining the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, Thomas served for nine years as a civilian with the United States Marine Corps at Quantico, VA.

Thomas is married to Ms. Soona Choe Whitaker from Seoul, Korea. He has four daughters and one grandson. Three of his daughters currently serve in the military. Thomas and Soona reside in Woodbridge, VA. They are active cyclists and hikers enjoying all of the scenic trails across the east coast. Last year they completed their longest one-day ride of 50 miles while biking in Pennsylvania.

Thomas' patriot ancestor, Colonel John Sevier, was a commander at the Battle of Kings Mountain. He led a force of over two hundred men from the Washington County, NC (now the state of Tennessee) militia that became known as the Overmountain Men. Later, Col. Sevier became Tennessee's first governor.

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January through the years with George Washington

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

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

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

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

President's Day is February 21st and on that date we observe the 290th Birthday of General George Washington.

James Robinson: A True Patriot

By John Haseltine

James Robinson was born in the colony of Maryland on March 21, 1753. He grew up as a slave of a plantation owner named Francis De Shields. Little did he know that his time as a slave would ultimately put him on the front lines of heavy combat and that his performance would help secure a country Independence.

In 1775, De Shields had James Robinson enlist in the Continental Army. He was promised emancipation for his service. He enlisted in a Virginia Light Regiment under the command of the Marquis de Lafayette. Robinson saw combat at the Battle of Brandywine Creek, where his regiment successfully covered the Continental Army's retreat. After that, he participated in several skirmishes against Loyalist and Native tribes that were allied to the British. However, Robinson's defining moment would come in what was the climax of the American Revolution, the Siege of Yorktown.

In the month of September 1781, the American and French armies had successfully trapped the British army under the command of Charles Cornwallis at the port city of Yorktown, Virginia. In order to force Cornwallis to surrender, the Americans and French needed to capture the redoubts and fortifications outside that overlooked his position. If these were taken, Cornwallis would be dangerously exposed to artillery and sniper fire.

The Virginia Light Regiment was among those assigned to assault redoubt 10 on the British perimeter. These assaults were led by Lafayette and Alexander Hamilton. The attack began on October 14, at 6 PM. James Robinson and his regiment were among the very first to charge the redoubts. As soon as they reached the position, they pulled out axes and chopped their way through the abatis (wooden barricade). Robinson was the first man to enter the redoubt. He then personally killed three British soldiers in hand-to-hand combat. Within just thirty

minutes of fighting, redoubt 10 was captured.

The loss of the redoubts ultimately led to the surrender of Cornwallis's army. Just five days later, the British army officially surrendered to the Continental Army. Their defeat at Yorktown was the final nail in the coffin for the British in their attempt to quell the American Revolution. A year and a half later, they signed the Treaty of Paris and granted the United States their independence.

For his courage and valor at the Siege of Yorktown, James Robinson was personally commended by the Marquis De Lafayette. The latter personally awarded Robinson a Gold Medal of Valor. Upon his return to Maryland, Robinson expected to be granted his freedom due to his distinguished service. However, he discovered that his master (Francis De Shields) had passed away before his arrival. One of De Shield's sons decided to sell Robinson to a new plantation owner down in the deep south.

For the next three decades, Robinson worked for a farmer named Calvin Smith. By 1812, he was working on a farm down in Louisiana. Then, just as he was beginning to despair that he would never be free, another war broke out between the United States and Great Britain. James Robinson was approached by a man named Andrew Jackson who offered to free all slaves who enlisted in his army. Despite having doubts, Robinson agreed to enlist one more time.

For the next three years, Robinson served in the American army during the War of 1812. Like the Revolution before, he would once again distinguish himself on the battlefield. In the waning days of the conflict, the British Army launched an invasion of Louisiana and converged on the city of New Orleans. To counter this, Jackson pulled a ragtag army of regulars, militiamen, marines, Choctaw warriors, and even French pirates.

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James Robinson (from previous Page)

On January 8, 1815, the two armies met. In one of the most spectacular engagements of the War of 1812, Jackson's army shattered the attacking British as they charged his fortifications. During the battle, James Robinson personally killed six enemy soldiers with his rifle and bayonet. When it was over, the British retreated after suffering more than 2,000 casualties. The Americans suffered just over 60.

For a second time, James Robinson had distinguished himself on the battlefield. And for a second time, he was denied his freedom. Jackson reneged on his promise and returned Robinson to his owner (Robinson would never forgive him). For another 15 years, he remained a slave before finally obtaining his freedom in 1830. Robinson then became an ordained minister and moved to the state of Ohio. Eventually he and his family moved to Detroit, Michigan, where he wrote a book that narrated his life. Robinson continued to live in Detroit until his death on March 27, 1868, at the great age of 115. He is believed by some to be the last living veteran of the American Revolution.

For more than 151 years, the service and story of James Robinson were forgotten by the American people. It wasn't until 2019, that the Michigan's chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution finally decided to give him a long overdue ceremony. After locating his grave and long forgotten documents that detailed his service, the SAR and the American Legion built a military headstone for the deceased Robinson. On June 22, they replaced the headstone and conducted a 21-gun salute in his honor. Although he never lived to experience it, James Robinson finally received the recognition for all that he did for the United States of America.



Patriot William "Billy" Lee to be Honored

The VSSAR Public Education Committee will conduct its annual commemoration of Black History Month by honoring Patriot William "Billy" Lee with a ceremony and wreath laying at his final resting place at the Slave Cemetery on the Mount Vernon estate. You are cordially invited to attend. The ceremony will start promptly at 3:30 pm on Saturday, February 5, 2022. Details on entrance, parking, etc. will be forthcoming. Participants will not have to pay the customary entrance fee. Please register at the following site: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1FAIpQLSdv9tJSo1wGQ5ElwGOjPzzVRLdhvBc3mK6B59dnsWYrTsQMTA/viewform?usp=sf_link



For two decades, William Lee accompanied Washington nearly everywhere. As manservant, or valet, Lee assisted his master with myriad tasks, from delivering messages to laying out clothes to tying a silk ribbon around his hair. An excellent horseman who was described as muscular and athletic, Lee also rode in Washington's beloved fox hunts.

*This Trumbull painting also depicts William Lee in stylized dress--George Washington, by John Trumbull, c. 1780.
Courtesy The Metropolitan Museum of Art.*

Upcoming Events

February 5, 2022–Saturday: 11:30 am
George Washington Chapter Hybrid
Zoom Meeting

Belle Haven Country Club
Alexandria, VA

Speaker: Doug Bradburn

President & CEO of Mt. Vernon

Please confirm attendance on Chapter Website under Events tab; On-line luncheon payment option available on Chapter Website.

February 5, 2022–Saturday 3:30 pm
Memorial Service for Patriot William Lee
(George Washington's manservant)

Slave Cemetery

Mt. Vernon Estate

For more information: please contact Paul Walden at paulwalden@live.com.

February 11-12, 2022–Friday & Saturday:
2022 Virginia SAR Annual Meeting
Omni Hotel

Richmond, Virginia

Additional details on Chapter website.

February 19, 2022–Saturday:
241st Anniversary of the Crossing of the Dan

South Boston, VA

Further details from Mike Geisinger at 434-476-2454 or Anne Raab at 434-470-1350.

February 21, 2022 –Monday: 11:00 am
Wreath Laying at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House for Unknown Revolutionary Soldiers

323 South Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA

Joint SAR/DAR ceremony.

February 21, 2022–Monday: 1:00 pm
Alexandria's George Washington Parade

Details for both Monday, February 21 events will be updated on the Chapter website.

February 22, 2022–Tuesday: 9:00 am
George Washington's 290th Birthday
Wreath Laying

Washington's Tomb

Mt. Vernon Estate

Ceremony will end at 9:30 am

Please register your attendance on our Chapter Website.

February 22, 2022–Tuesday: 7-8:30 pm
National Virtual Celebration of George Washington's 290th Birthday

The link for this national observance will be provided to members.

February 25–March 5, 2022

Virginia History Day (District 5)

February 26, 2022–Saturday: 10:00 am–noon

Commemoration of the Battle of Moore's Creek

Moore's Creek Battleground

Currie, NC

For more information, see <https://ncssar.org/event/battle-moores-creek-2/>

March 3, 2022

National SAR 2022 Spring Leadership Meeting

The Brown Hotel

Louisville, KY

For more information, see <https://www.sar.org/events/>

March 12, 2022–Saturday: 11:30 am
George Washington Chapter Hybrid
Zoom Meeting

Belle Haven Country Club

Alexandria, VA

Speaker: David O Smith, author of the Revolutionary War through the experiences of "The Armstrong Brothers"

Please confirm attendance on Chapter Website under Events tab; On-line luncheon payment option available on Chapter Website.

March 16, 2022–Wednesday:
Wreath-Laying at the Tomb of James Madison

Montpelier, Orange, VA

Members' Note:
Details for events are updated on the Chapter website at www.gwsar.org. Please remember that you must be logged in to view SAR member's-only events in addition to public events.



New GW SAR Member Biographies

John Robert Edwards grew up in Honolulu, Hawaii. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Hawaii and was commissioned into the U.S. Air Force in 1995. He continues to serve on active duty after a career flying the B-52, B-1 and training aircraft to include commanding a bomber squadron, flying training group, and bomber wing. He was also assigned to numerous staffs in the Pentagon and earned three graduate degrees at the Air Force's Air University and George Washington University. He and his wife, Jenn, a graduate of the College of William and Mary, have three children who are active in Boy Scouts, Civil Air Patrol, and dancing Hawaiian Hula. They reside in Alexandria, VA. He enjoys reading, history, water sports, outdoor sports and fitness, and is a volunteer with several organizations. John and his father have worked together on their family's genealogy for several years, which led him to discovering SAR. He is also appreciative of all the support SAR provides to our military, youth and first responders. He looks forward to being an active member of the program and passing on his knowledge to his children. John's patriot ancestor is James Huie, born 1744 in Ireland, a soldier in the North Carolina Militia and later a Constable in Rutherford County, which is between Charlotte and Ashville. Thereafter, he moved to Clayton Co., GA where he died in 1828.

Matthew Franklin Croson grew up in Herndon. He attended high school at Bishop O'Connell in Arlington. In his youth, he was a competitive soccer player as a member of the Olympic Development Program and two-time captain of the O'Connell Varsity soccer team. He was a member of the National Honor Society and represented his high school at Boys State. He lives in Alexandria with wife Kate and two daughters, Cora and Annabel.

Matt received a four-year Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps scholarship to Villanova University where he majored in Economics. He spent his summers in college training to be a Naval Officer as an exchange student at the Imperial Japanese Naval Academy and underway on a Japanese warship and a U.S. submarine. Matt was in Surface Warfare Officer School in Newport, RI during the 9/11 terrorist attacks and deployed as part of Operation Enduring Freedom in response to the attacks on the USS Oak Hill. After his deployment, Matt was assigned as the Deputy Antiterrorism Officer for Commander Navy Regional Mid-Atlantic and earned his MBA from Old Dominion University.

After his active-duty time in the Navy, he continued his military career as a reservist at Commander Navy Installations Command while also working as a civilian for the U.S. Department of Justice. Matt is currently the Chief of the Security Compliance Team at DOJ and manages security incidents and security compliance across the globe for DOJ and its subordinate agencies, to include FBI, DEA, ATF, U.S. Attorney Offices, and the U.S. Marshals Service.

Matt is active in his church; he also coaches multiple youth sports teams in soccer, basketball, and tennis both under CYO and with the city of Alexandria.

He is a patriot with a profound passion for our country and its founding. He spends a week every year with his family in Williamsburg to begin each summer and tries to educate himself and his family about the founding of this great Republic and the brilliant revolutionaries that gave us our Shining City on the Hill. Matt's patriot ancestor, Jacob Teem, was born around 1735 in Germany and settled northeast of Charlotte, NC where he signed an oath of allegiance and provided services and supplies to the revolutionary army. He

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Member Biographies *(from previous Page)*

died there sometime after 1810.

Matt is honored to stand with other Sons of the American Revolution to share and spread the founding fathers' teachings and beliefs.

Dr. Quinn Edward Lanzendorfer is a native of Twin Rocks, Pennsylvania. He left a career in the Banking and Financial Services industry supporting Fortune 100 companies in 2005 to begin a career with the U.S. Federal Government as a civilian Acquisition Program Manager and relocated to the Washington D.C. area. He currently serves as a Chief of Enterprise Services and resides in Vienna, Virginia. Quinn graduated from Mount Aloysius College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and Minors in Information Technology and History. He received a Master of Science degree in Information Systems Management and a Doctor of Science degree in Information Systems and Communications from Robert Morris University. Dr. Lanzendorfer has established himself as an Information Scientist, publishing research in several international scholarly journals in the areas of Knowledge Management, Data Science, and Software Acquisition Management. He is a member of the Sigma Chi social fraternity and the Alpha Iota Mu honors

fraternity. In his free time, he enjoys playing guitar and being a "retired" Musician, fitness, researching genealogy, and intermittently teaches Undergraduate and Graduate coursework at as an Adjunct Professor and Lecturer.

In addition to potential networking, volunteering, and future leadership opportunities, he became interested in joining the Sons of the American Revolution approximately ten years ago when he learned of his patriot ancestor Phillip Skelly. Phillip Skelly, an Irish immigrant, served as one of Captain William Phillips' Rangers during the American Revolution. On July 15, 1780, Captain Phillips' was ambushed by British-influenced Iroquois in the Woodcock Valley of Central Pennsylvania. Captain Phillips was taken prisoner and was escorted to Detroit; but most of his troop, including Phillip Skelly, were killed in the attack. Phillip Skelly's son, Felix, was taken hostage as well, but escaped in Ohio and found his way to safety at Fort Pitt. Phillip Skelly's sons, Felix and Patrick, went on to serve in the Continental Army and fought at the Battle of Yorktown, where Patrick was killed and Felix survived.

A monument was erected in 1933 near Saxton, Pennsylvania, where the bodies were found to pay tribute to the sacrifice of Captain Phillips' Rangers.



*Please join George Washington
Chapter Treasurer Bill Wilson
and his three granddaughters,
"The Three Marthas"
February 21, 2022
Monday at 1:00 pm
in Alexandria's
George Washington Parade*

