



George Washington Chapter Newsletter

Alexandria, Virginia

Volume 24, Issue 3

Visit us online at www.gwsar.org

March, 2022

February GW Chapter Meeting



Below: Dr. Douglas Bradburn, President & CEO of Mount Vernon was presented with the SAR Silver Good Citizenship Medal for his stewardship of Mt. Vernon's legacy. At left is President Rankin and right is Joe Dooley.

Dr. Bradburn's appreciation letter to our chapter appears elsewhere in this monthly newsletter.

Above: Former NSSAR President General Joe Dooley, Dr. Douglas Bradburn and GW President Richard Rankin.



Dr. Bradburn giving his remarks to the chapter.



Right: President Rankin presenting Dr. Bradburn with a small replica of the Houdon bust.



President's Corner

Compatriots:

February is the Super Bowl for all things Washington and this month did not disappoint.



At our February 5th Chapter Meeting, our guest speaker was Dr. Doug Bradburn, President & CEO of Mount Vernon. Dr. Bradburn presented a behind-the-scenes look at Mount Vernon's current progress and upcoming challenges. Afterwards, our chapter presented Dr. Bradburn with the SAR Silver Good Citizenship Medal for his stewardship of Mt. Vernon's legacy. Dr. Bradburn's appreciation letter to our chapter appears elsewhere in this monthly newsletter.

At the conclusion of our meeting, many members drove to Mt. Vernon to attend the VASSAR Memorial Services for William "Billy" Lee, Patriot of the American Revolution. In spite of the bitter cold, many SAR and DAR chapters participated and presented wreaths to pay their respects to Washington's loyal manservant. I had the honor of presenting our chapter wreath.

On February 21, the George Washington Birthday Celebration returned to Alexandria to large crowds and spring-like temperatures. On that Monday morning, we gathered at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the American Revolution behind the Presbyterian Meeting House in Old Town for the annual wreath laying ceremony co-hosted by the Kate Waller Barrett Chapter, NSDAR and the George Washington Chapter. We were joined by dozens of other SAR chapter members and 22 VASSAR Color Guard members. The newly-installed VASSAR President, Bruce Meyer, joined us and presented remarks and the VASSAR wreath. I had the honor of presenting our chapter wreath at the tomb.

In the afternoon, our chapter members joined with other VASSAR chapters and the VASSAR Color Guard to march

through Old Town Alexandria in the Washington Birthday Parade. The parade was organized by the George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee on behalf of Alexandria. Our chapter has a standing member on the 19-person committee; many thanks to Compatriot Edgar Bates for ably representing the SAR on this important committee.

The next day was Washington's 290th Birthday. Accordingly, our chapter held a wreath laying at Washington's Tomb. Dr. Doug Bradburn, President of Mt. Vernon, joined us and presented remarks. VASSAR President Bruce Meyer joined me as we presented our chapter wreath in front of Washington's Tomb. The Tuesday evening finished with a National Celebration of Washington's 290th birthday on-line with programming from Mt. Vernon presenting noted guests and historians. The evening fireworks exploding over the Potomac and highlighting the Washington Mansion was a fitting end to 48 hours of the many birthday celebrations.

Looking ahead, our March 12 chapter meeting will feature David Smith as our featured speaker. David Smith will discuss his book, "The Armstrong Brothers". It is a story of three brothers from Pennsylvania serving during the Revolutionary War up until 1783. We will also have an updated report on the chapter's grave marking efforts and the recording of more PRS cemeteries in Virginia. At our April 9 chapter meeting, Dr. H.W. Brands will present his newly released book, "*Our First Civil War*," about the struggles between loyalists and patriots. We will also present a tutorial demonstration of our chapter's website software, Wild Apricot.

At our May 14 chapter meeting, we will be recognizing our chapter nominated JROTC candidate, Cadet Kyle Lovejoy. Cadet Lovejoy won the VASSAR Enhanced JROTC Competition and now advances to the National Competition. Cadet Lovejoy and his parents will be our guests during our May 14 meeting.

(Con't on Page 5)

George Washington's Birthday Celebration in Old Town Alexandria



VASSAR President Bruce Meyer



Compatriots Ronald Kirby and Thomas Whitaker carry the SAR banner with Color Guard behind.



Left: Ronald Kirby at far left, GW President Richard Rankin, VASSAR President Bruce Meyer, and other guests and Color Guard. Thomas Whitaker is at far right.

Right: Color Guard ready to set off at start of parade.





Tomb of The Unknown Revolutionary Soldier at The Old Presbyterian Meeting House



Above: GW President Richard Rankin places rose on tomb and at right VASSAR President Bruce Meyer delivers remarks alongside DAR Kate Waller Barrett Chapter representative .

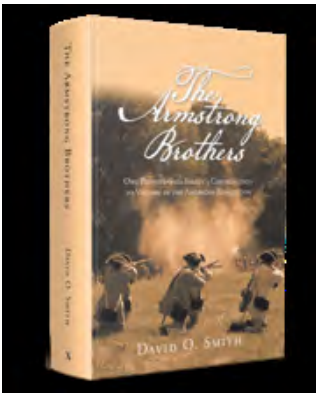


The Color Guard

Another happening from the Old Presbyterian Meeting House. Last October Rand Pixa was awarded a Certificate of Distinguished Service (along with other committee members) for his work on the Wild Apricot project, and a Bronze Roger Sherman Medal for his service as Treasurer and Master of all things Zoom. Past GW President Tom Roth was able to properly present them to Rand in person.



March GW Chapter Guest Speaker



David O. Smith, COL, USA (Ret.) reveals the story of *'The Armstrong Brothers'* *New historical study details one Pennsylvania family's contribution to victory in the American Revolution.* Author David O. Smith, in his latest publication titled *"The Armstrong Brothers"*

(published by Xlibris), invites readers to witness the American Revolution through the eyes of three young Pennsylvanians living on the frontier and see how it changed the course of their lives.

This is the story of three brothers, James, John and Hamilton Armstrong, whose combined wartime experiences encompassed almost the totality of the American Revolution from Canada in the north to South Carolina in the south and along the western frontier. At the outset of the Revolution, two joined the Continental Army, rose from the ranks to become officers, and served until the army was disbanded in 1783. The youngest brother remained home to work the farm, protected the family, and served in militia and "ranger" units that defended the frontier from repeated attacks from hostile Indian tribes. Through their journey, readers will learn how difficult it was to achieve American independence, how often the issue was in doubt, and the enormous debt people owe to the soldiers who fought for it.

"The Armstrong Brothers" will be of interest to those who are interested in early American history, military history in general, and/or the American Revolution in particular.



(Con't on Page 9)

Corner (from Page 2)

Our next chapter meeting will be this week on March 12. Please visit our chapter website (www.gwsar.org) and go to the "Events" tab to register and pay on-line with one easy click. Enjoy our upcoming Spring programs.

Richard E. Rankin

President, George Washington Chapter



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

"To his equals he was condescending, to his inferiors kind, and to the dear object of his affections exemplarily tender."--Henry Lee, December 26, 1799

<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.

Birthday Wreath Laying at Mount Vernon Tomb



L-R--Don Francisco (GW), Dave Cook (Fairfax Resolves), Jack Coulter (GW), (????), Richard Rogers (GW), John Blair (GW), John Thomas (Fairfax Resolves), Doug Bradburn, Ernie Coggins (GW), Richard Rankin (GW), Forrest Crane (Fairfax Resolves), Bruce Meyer, Tom Roth (GW)



Above: VASSAR President Meyer and GW President Rankin at front of Washington's Tomb.



A



B



C

A-Don Francisco performs National Anthem. B-Dr. Bradburn gives remarks. C-Jack Coulter reading SAR recessional.

March through the years with George Washington

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

Mount Vernon Commemoration of William Lee



GW Compatriot (and Mount Vernon Fifer in Residence) Don Francisco delivering his remarks.



VASSAR Historian Tom Roth delivering his remarks as Paul Walden listens.



VASSAR President Thomas standing behind the VASSAR wreath he presented.



Don Francisco performing while Paul Walden stands by.

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.



Chapter Grave Marking Chair Paul Walden who served as master of ceremonies

241st Anniversary of the Crossing of the Dan



Larry Lisle represented the George Washington Chapter at the 241st Anniversary Commemoration of the Crossing of the Dan, in South Boston, Virginia. The ceremony was held inside, but the wreath laying was at the site of the crossing (bright but cold day). The "7th Virginia Regiment of the Continental Line" had a number of members shooting muskets of the period and one rifle of the period. They also had a three-pound cannon which they fired off.



Knight Essay & JROTC Enhanced Cadet Award

Cadet Lovejoy received the JROTC Outstanding Cadet Award for the state. Cadet Lovejoy is shown with his parents at right & Below is Cadet Lovejoy with VASSAR President Jeff Thomas.



Chapter Registrar and VASSAR Knight Essay Chairman Rich Sherman (right), with VASSAR President Jeff Thomas presenting certificate & medal to this year's essay winner Kashvi Ramani.

Upcoming 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

April 9, 2022–Saturday: 11:30 am
George Washington Chapter Hybrid
Zoom Meeting

Belle Haven Country Club
Alexandria, VA

Speaker: Prof. H. W. Brands, author of his
headlining book, *Our First Civil War*

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

April 9, 2022--Saturday: 11:00 am
Multi-Chapter Event
Graves Mountain Lodge

For more information, see [https://](https://www.gwsar.org/Events)
www.gwsar.org/Events

May14, 2022–Saturday: 11:30 am
George Washington Chapter Hybrid
Zoom Meeting

Belle Haven Country Club
Alexandria, VA

Speaker: Prof. V. Scott Kaufmann, *on the*
impact on the Revolutionary War of the
campaigns of Francis Marion.

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

Speaker (from Page 2)

It should also be of regional interest in Pennsylvania because the three brothers grew up along what was then the frontier in Northumberland County and because many of the battles described occurred in or near the state.

David O. Smith is a distinguished fellow with the South Asia Program at the Stimson Center, a nonpartisan policy research center in Washington, D.C., and an independent consultant to Sandia National Laboratories on issues related to South Asia. He regularly participates in quasi-official (Track 2) engagements with senior Pakistan and India officials sponsored by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, the Woodrow Wilson International Center, and the U.S. Institute for Peace in Washington D.C. Smith retired from government service in May 2012 after serving in a senior position in the Defense Intelligence Agency. Prior to that, he was senior country director for Pakistan in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy) in the Department of Defense. During 31 years of active duty service in the U.S. Army, he spent 22 years dealing with politico-military issues in the Near East and South Asia, including two three-year tours of duty as U.S. Army Attaché in Pakistan. He retired as a colonel. He is a graduate of the U.S. Army War College, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Armed Forces Staff College, and the Pakistan Army Command and Staff College. Smith is also the author of "The Quetta Experience: A Study of Attitudes and Values Within the Pakistan Army" and "The Wellington Experience: A Study of Attitudes and Values Within the Indian Army."



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.



Battle of Moores Creek Bridge, NC



Larry Lisle (left) again represented the George Washington Chapter and was the only Virginian to participate in the ceremony. Therefore, the George Washington Chapter is the only chapter in the Commonwealth to get credit for attending this event. There was no representation from the State SAR. Nearly 1,000 North Carolina patriots repulsed a larger force of Loyalists on their way to meet British regulars at Brunswick, NC. At the end of the short conflict, over thirty loyalists and only one patriot were killed.



George Washington Chapter and VASSAR Annual Meeting

On February 11-12, 2022 the Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution (VASSAR) held its Annual Meeting at the Omni Hotel in Richmond, Virginia. Among the highlights, R. Bruce Meyer was installed as the 102th VASSAR President by Troy Foxwell, Vice President General of the Mid-Atlantic District, NSSAR. Our chapter saw 13 members and two spouses attend the meetings.

Over the course of the two-day meetings, the George Washington Chapter was recognized multiple times for the achievements of its individual members and the Chapter as a whole, and for the achievements of individuals sponsored by our various Chapter Public Safety and Youth Awards programs.

In terms of State Officers, Ernie Coggins was elected State First Vice President; Tom Roth was reelected as State Historian; Dave Thomas was re-appointed by President Meyer as an Assistant VASSAR Registrar; and Richard Rankin to serve as a Vice President of the new Northern Region.

For Individual Awards, Jamie Callender was awarded Webmaster of the Year. VASSAR established a new state level public service award this year named the "John Blair Public Service Award".

Fittingly, John presented the first such award given to a chapter which enters a candidate in all five public safety awards categories. More Individual Awards were awarded as follows: Patriot Grave Marking Medal (Ernie Coggins and Tom Roth); Virginia Society Medal (Paul Walden); Silver Roger Sherman Medal (Ernie Coggins and Tom Roth); Lafayette Medal (multiple Oak Leaf Clusters to Jamie Callender, Greg Bodge and Craig Batten).

As to Chapter Awards, we received 7 streamers (ribbons): the Best Chapter Website 2021; Sponsor, Best JROTC Cadet 2021; Participant, Youth Programs & Contests 2021; Chapter Excellence Award 2021; Lift Your Voice 2021-22; 100% Participation-Flag Retirement Program 2021; and Participant-Flag Retirement Program 2021. There was a Star for the Chapter Excellence Award denoting contributions to the Leatherwood Project. Although no actual award was presented, our chapter placed Second in the Scrapbook Competition.

I was delighted to see so many of our members at the Annual Meeting and the long list of awards presented to our chapter and also to our chapter members.

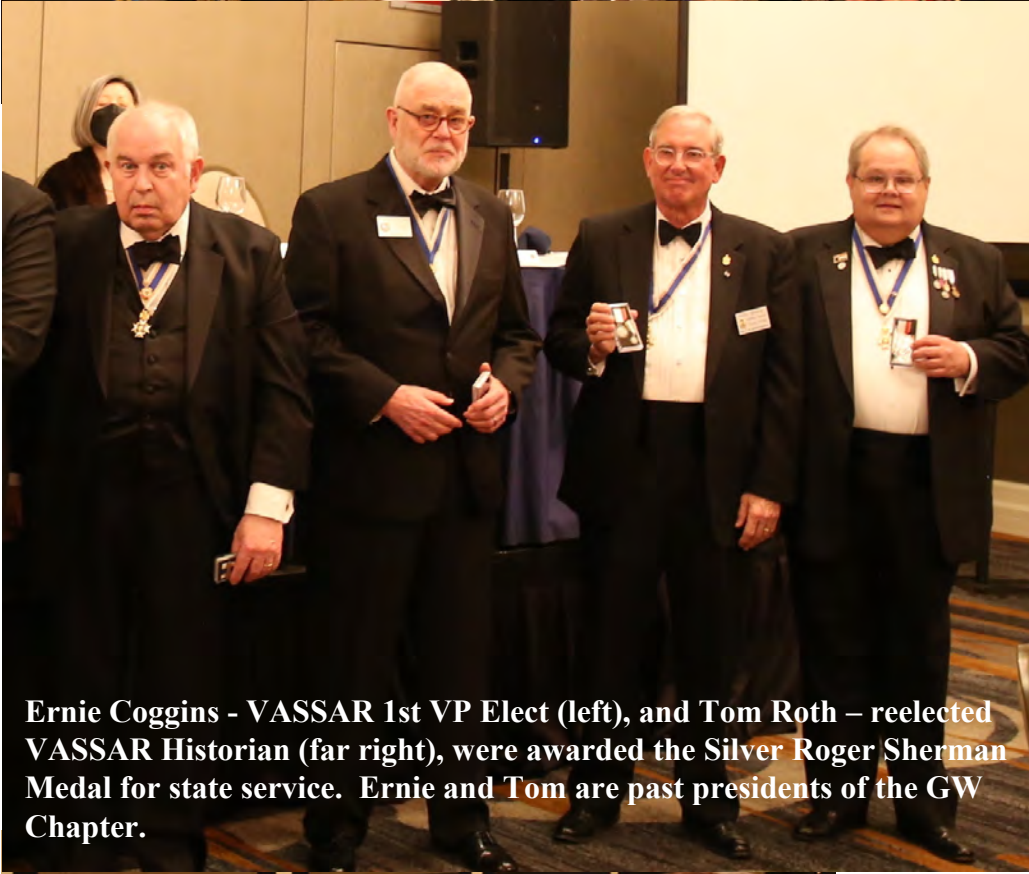
Richard E. Rankin



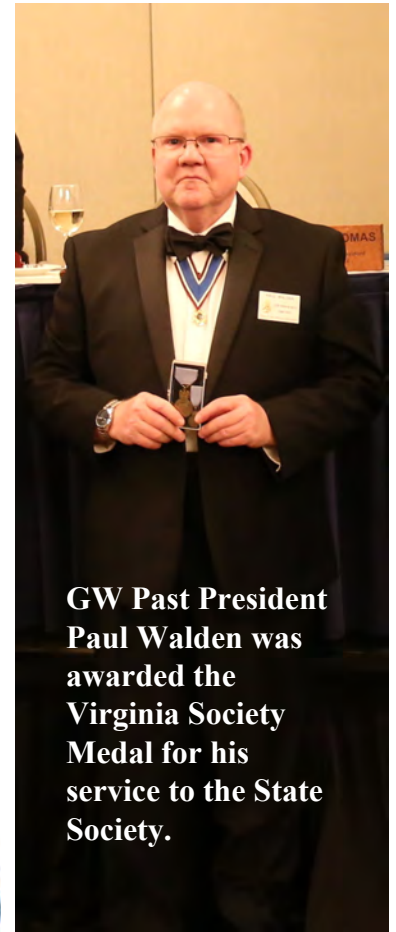
Above: GW Past President and our resident photographer Tom Roth is shown with Dr. Bradburn and Joe Dooley.

The Editor's ancestor, Summers Co. in WV.

VASSAR Meeting/Presidential Installation



Ernie Coggins - VASSAR 1st VP Elect (left), and Tom Roth – reelected VASSAR Historian (far right), were awarded the Silver Roger Sherman Medal for state service. Ernie and Tom are past presidents of the GW Chapter.



GW Past President Paul Walden was awarded the Virginia Society Medal for his service to the State Society.



Above--Webmaster Jamie Callender (center) and Master at Arms Covert Beach (right) prepare to enjoy the Banquet.

Right--Joe Dooley and Paul Walden (left) observe the VASSAR Color Guard's Change of Command Ceremony.



VASSAR Meeting Chapter Awards Ceremony



Tom Roth and Ernie Coggins received the Patriot Grave Marking Medal (having participated in marking 15 patriot grave over the past 14 months). VASSAR President Thomas is on the left.

Above: President Rankin received from VASSAR President Jeff Thomas, the Streamer recognizing our Chapter as the sponsor of the Best 2021 JROTC Cadet.

Left: GW Compatriot John Blair presented the first "John Blair Award" to the President of the Ft. Harrison Chapter (which also nominated 4 of the state public safety awards winners.)



Right: Webmaster Jamie Callender received the Streamer recognizing the GW Chapter Website as the Website of the Year for 2021 (3rd year running).



GEORGE WASHINGTON'S
MOUNT ★ VERNON

February 8, 2022

Richard E. Rankin, President
George Washington Chapter
Virginia Society, SAR
P.O. Box 77
Mount Vernon, VA 22121

Richard,

Thank you for your kind invitation to speak at the George Washington Chapter meeting on February 5 to provide a behind-the-scenes look at Mount Vernon's current progress and upcoming challenges. I was particularly happy with the enthusiasm shown by so many SAR members about Mount Vernon's legacy and was happy to answer questions, which were very much on point.

I was honored to receive the prestigious SAR Silver Good Citizenship Medal. Thank you very much, and I appreciate the SAR's support for our stewardship of Mount Vernon's legacy. I look forward to my next opportunity to see you at the estate.

The work of the SAR is critical and allied to the mission of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, which is to help Americans understand the legacy and sacrifice that helped create the freedoms that we so enjoy.

My very best regards,



Douglas Bradburn, Ph. D.
President & CEO

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