

George Washington Chapter Newsletter

Alexandria, Virginia

Volume 24, Issue 4

Visit us online at www.gwsar.org

April, 2022

March GW Chapter Meeting



George Washington Chapter President Richard Rankin inducting new members Drew Flavell (left) and Ken Rich (right).



David O. Smith delivering his remarks on "The Armstrong Brothers" . . .



. . . and GW President Rankin presenting the Houdon bust in appreciation.



Left: Ken Rich, Rich Sherman and David O. Smith get acquainted at the Chapter meeting.



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President's Corner

Compatriots:

By the time you read our April Newsletter, Springtime will be in a full gallop and luring us to join the many outdoor SAR events in the coming months.

Also arriving this Spring, will be your 2022 SAR Membership Cards. All cards will be mailed to your address-on-record, as posted on our website's Wild Apricot system. If your address has changed, please contact our Chapter Secretary, Scott Walker at scottwalker2363@gmail.com for updating our records.

Our next Chapter Meeting will be April 9th and will offer some unique features. During the members induction ceremony, a father-son team will be highlighted: son, Doug Wilson, for his induction; and his father, Bill Wilson (our Chapter Treasurer) for enrollment in the Life Membership plan of the National Society. Our luncheon speaker is nationally acclaimed author, H.W. Brands discussing his newly released book, *"Our First Civil War-Patriots and Loyalists in the American Revolution"*. We will close out our April 9th meeting with a tutorial and live demonstration of our chapter's website software, Wild Apricot. Chapter Vice President and Zoom Master, Rand Pixa, will illustrate the ease of logging in, paying on-line for luncheons, making donations to our annual fundraisers or to Wreaths Across America. A Q&A Session will follow Rand's demonstration for both our in-person and virtual audiences.

Our current fundraiser appeal is for Revolutionary War Patriot, Physician General William Brown, who is buried at Pohick Church. Doctor Brown's original transcription burial stone is worn and difficult to read. We are seeking to raise funds for a standalone epitaph with the words from his burial stone clearly



displayed and attesting to the greatness of this patriot. We are seeking sufficient chapter "earnest money" to qualify for supplemental funding from VASSAR's Knight-Patty Trust Fund. Help us reach our goal by visiting our website and clicking the donation tab. Donations are tax deductible and always appreciated. Donations to the William Brown plaque count toward the \$250 annual donation to chapter grave marking programs which qualifies a member for the chapter's James Craik Medal. Dr. Craik was George Washington's personal physician and Physician General of the U.S. Army (1798-1800).

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 meeting. Also, our luncheon speaker will be Dr. V. Scott Kaufman, Chair of the Francis Marion University's Department of History. Dr. Kaufman will be talking about his book which highlights Francis Marion and his wartime exploits as the *"Swamp Fox"*.

Looking ahead, two of the chapter's annual keystone events are upcoming: the Memorial Day Parade (hopefully, on May 30, but negotiations are pending to finalize a parade day) and the iconic July 4th March to the Tomb at Mount Vernon. More details will be forthcoming next month on our website.

Please visit our chapter website www.gwsar.org and to the "Events" tab to register for upcoming meetings and to pay on-line with one easy click. Enjoy our upcoming schedule of Spring programs and outdoor events.

Richard E. Rankin

President, George Washington Chapter



March GW Chapter Meeting (from Page 2)



Left: Compatriot Craig Batten explained to the Chapter attendees how he locates cemeteries with Patriot burial sites to enter them into the PRS database.

Right: President Rankin presents the Lafayette Volunteer Service Medal to Craig Batten for his work identifying Virginia Patriot grave sites.

... note from Tom Roth--"It's true Richard is presenting the medal to Craig. But that seems to have been a mistake by VASSAR in terms of handing things out. Craig actually got the medal last year, and was awarded oak leaf clusters to the medal this year."



Right: GW President Rankin presenting Award Streamers received by the Chapter at the 2022 VASSAR Annual Meeting to Master at Arms Covert Beach.



New Champe Chapter of the Virginia SAR



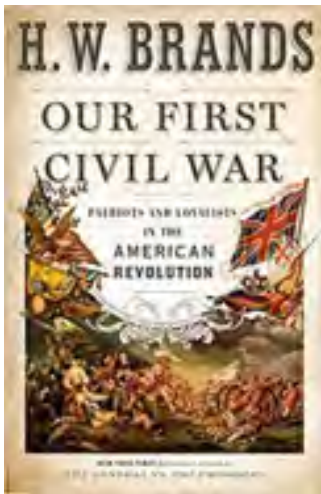
Troy Foxwell (r) installed initial officers for the new chapter – (r-l) Ken Bonner President, Barry Schwoerer, and Wayne Rouse. VASSAR President Jeff Thomas observes (l)”.

The Sergeant Major John Champe Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution was installed as a new Virginia Chapter of the SAR on February 12, 2022 at Historic St. Johns Church in Richmond, Virginia. This Chapter is based in and around Leesburg and is named after a Revolutionary War soldier who at Gen. Washington's request pretended to desert to the British and provided vital intelligence. The new Chapter is a restarting of an older Chapter of the same name based in Leesburg.

Troy Foxwell, Vice President General for the Mid-Atlantic District installed the officers of the new Chapter and presented Ken Bonner, its new President with his gavel. A number of George Washington Chapter members attended the installation, including: Ernie Coggins, Joe Dooley, Paul Walden, Tom Roth, Richard Rankin, John Blair, Jamie Callender, and others.



April GW Chapter Guest Speaker



H. W. Brands
author of
*"Our First Civil
War--Patriots and
Loyalists in the
American
Revolution"*

From best-selling historian
and Pulitzer Prize finalist
H. W. Brands comes a

gripping, page-turning narrative of the American Revolution that shows it to be more than a fight against the British: It was also a violent battle among neighbors forced to choose sides, Loyalist or Patriot.

H.W. Brands taught at Texas A&M University for sixteen years before joining the faculty at the University of Texas at Austin, where he is the Dickson Allen Anderson Centennial Professor of History. His books include:

'Traitor to His Class, Andrew Jackson,' 'The Age of Gold', 'The First American', and 'TR'.

Traitor to His Class and The First American were finalists for the Pulitzer Prize.

**Join US to
Honor Five Virginia
Revolutionary War Patriots
Special Grave Marking Ceremony**



**New Jerusalem Lutheran
Church Cemetery**

Sunday, 10 April 2022, 3:00 PM
12942 Lutheran Church Road,
Lovettsville, VA 20180

Register by 8 April 2022

Details on gwsar.org



*"A citizen, first in war, first in
peace, and first in the hearts of
his countrymen."*

*Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee,
December 26, 1799.*

President	Richard Rankin: 703-538-5805
Vice President	Rand Pixa: 703-622-7001
Treasurer	Bill Wilson: 301-523-2690
Secretary	Scott Walker: 703-216-4798
Registrar	Richard Sherman: 301-654-6319

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.

SAR Annual Conference on the American Revolution: War on the Frontier

Registration is now open for the 2022 SAR Annual Conference on the American Revolution, the topic of which is The American Revolution on the Frontier.

As the Revolution unfolded on the east coast, Americans also fought vigorously in the west. The American Revolution on the frontier illustrates the continental extent of the war and its ideology. How similar was the Revolution in the West to the Revolution in the East? How did Native Americans factor in the Anglo-American conflict? And how did the war impact settlements in the West, both during and immediately following the conflict?

For more information, and to register to attend this conference, please go to <https://www.sarfoundation.org/education/sar-annual-conference-on-the-american-revolution/>

By signing the Declaration of Independence, the fifty-six Americans pledged their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor. Nine died of wounds during the Revolutionary War. Five were captured or imprisoned. Wives and children were jailed, mistreated, or left penniless. Twelve signers' houses were burned to the ground. No signer defected. Their honor, like their nation remained intact.



April through the years with George Washington

- 1732** on the 5th--Washington baptized.
- 1743** on the 12th--Death of Washington's father, Augustine.
- 1759** on the 7th--George and Martha Washington, along with her two children, Patsy and Jacky Custis, arrive at Mount Vernon.
- 1783** on the 15th--Congress ratifies preliminary peace treaty to end Revolutionary War.
- 1789** on the 16th--Washington leaves Mt. Vernon to become president.
- 1789** on the 30th--Washington inaugurated as first president of the United States.
- 1792** on the 2nd--Washington approves legislation establishing U.S. Mint.

Broadwater Family Grave Marking

The Fairfax Resolves Chapter and the Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia conducted a special grave marking ceremony at grave of Col. Charles Broadwater and his son, Lt. Charles Guy Broadwater in a residential area of Vienna, Virginia. Col. Broadwater was a signer of the Fairfax Resolves and along with Col. George Washington was a delegate to the Virginia Convention assigned to present the Resolves to the Convention. Ernie Coggins, Richard Rankin, Paul Walden, and Tom Roth attended.



A--The VASSAR Color Guard participated and fired the traditional 3 musket volleys. B--Paul Walden, President of the War of 1812 Society in Virginia and past president of the GW Chapter co-sponsored the event and assisted in dedicating the new Markers. C--The Fairfax Resolves Chapter presented Paul Walden with a Certificate of Appreciation in honor of his assistance with the ceremony.



D--George Washington Chapter President Richard Rankin presented a wreath on behalf of the Chapter.

E--VASSAR First VP and Past GW President Ernie Coggins gave remarks and also presented a Virginia Society wreath.



John Stark: The Last Eagle

John Stark was born to Scottish immigrants on August 28, 1728, in Londonderry, New Hampshire.

When he was eight, he and his family moved to the growing town of Derryfield (present day Manchester). At the time, Derryfield was a large farming community dangerously close to the American frontier. In 1752 Stark and a friend were abducted by Abenaki warriors. While in captivity, Stark was forced to run the gauntlet, however he stubbornly defied his captors at every opportunity. His defiance ultimately earned their respect and led to his adoption into the tribe. He was released in the spring of 1753 after a year in captivity. Despite his harrowing ordeal, John Stark's defiant spirit had only gotten stronger. It would become an invaluable asset to his country's future. Stark saw combat in the French and Indian War while served as a scout for the British. After the war ended, he retired as a captain. He returned to Derryfield, married his fiancée (Elizabeth "Molly" Page), and tried life as a farmer. However, 12 years later, John Stark was called to the army again. This time he would be fighting against the same army that he had once served.

After joining up with the Continental Army, Stark was placed in command of the 1st New Hampshire Regiment. During the battle of Bunker Hill, his unit was instrumental in stopping the second British assault on the Patriot line. Stark was able to successfully predict how many redcoats would be attacking their position. He quickly placed his men in a staggered formation and waited for the British to approach. As soon as they were in close, the 1st New Hampshire laid them to waste and drove them down the hill in complete disarray. Stark and his unit successfully repulsed a total of three charges and were the only ones to not be driven from their position by the British.



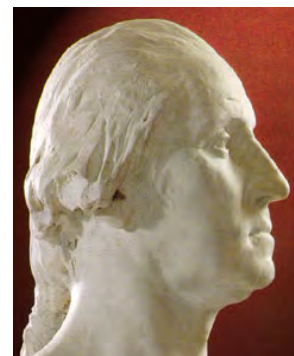
Stark saw combat at the battles of Trenton and Princeton. However, upon learning that he had been overlooked for a promotion, he angrily resigned from the Continental Army on March 23, 1777, and returned to New Hampshire. Although Stark intended to never rejoin the Continental Army, he never gave up on the Revolution and vowed to continue fighting against the British.

Little did he know, he would not have to wait long.

In the summer of 1777, a large British army under the command of General John Burgoyne invaded from Canada. Their intention was to cut New England off from the other colonies by taking control of New York. After capturing Fort Ticonderoga from the patriots, Burgoyne then laid siege to nearby Fort Stanwix. However, his advance was being constantly heckled by scattered groups of patriot militia (namely the Green Mountain Boys). He learned that they were getting their ammunition and supplies from a small town at the border of New York and the Vermont territory. It was a little town called Bennington.

Knowing that he needed more supplies, Burgoyne quickly dispatched 1,600 soldiers to seize the town. It was a joint force of British, Hessian, and Loyalist soldiers under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Friedrich Baum. The plan hit a snag almost immediately when Baum's artillery units became stuck in mud along the trail. Since

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Upcoming Events

April 2, 2022–Saturday: 1:00 pm
Patriot Grave Marking—John Holker
Old Chapel Cemetery
3605 Bishop Meade Road
Boyce, VA 22646
(intersection US 340 & VA 255)

Sponsored by Col. James Wood Chapter

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://www.gwsar.org/Events>

April 10, 2022–Sunday: 3 pm
Marking of Multiple Patriot Graves
New Jerusalem Lutheran Church
12942 Lutheran Church Road
Lovettsville, VA 20180

Sponsored by Fairfax Resolves Chapter

April 12, 2022
Thomas Jefferson's Birthday

April 12, 2022–Tuesday: 10:00 am
246th Commemoration of the Signing of the Halifax Resolves
Halifax, NC

Sponsored by the Halifax Resolves Chapter

**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
members-only events in
addition to public events.**

April 24, 2022–Sunday: 3:00 pm

Patriot's Day

*Honoring the eight Lexington Militiamen
killed April 19, 1775*

Lexington Minutemen Memorial
Arlington National Cemetery
Sec. 1-297-34

April 28, 2022–Thursday: TBD
**Wreath laying in honor of President
Monroe's 264th Birthday**

Monroe Tomb
Hollywood Cemetery
512 S. Cherry Street
Richmond, VA

April 30, 2022–Saturday: TBD
Patriot Grave Marking: Francis Summers
Summers' Cemetery
6250 Lincolnia Road
Alexandria, VA

*Sponsored by Fairfax Resolves Chapter &
Henry Clay Chapter, NSDAR*

May 14, 2022–Saturday: 11:30 am
George Washington Chapter
Hybrid Zoom Meeting

Belle Haven Country Club
Alexandria, VA

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

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

May 14, 2022–Saturday: 11:00 am
Commemoration of Gen. Joseph Martin
(replaces observance of Martin's Station)

Historic Henry County Courthouse
1 East Main Street
Martinsville, VA

May 21, 2022–Saturday: 11:00 am
Joint Grave Marking & Plaque Dedication

Cedar Grove Cemetery
238 E. Princess Anne Road
Norfolk, VA

Sponsored by the Norfolk Chapter

May 30, 2022–Monday: TBD
Memorial Day

*Commemorative details will be provided as they
become available*

John Stark: The Last Eagle *(from Page 8)*

he expected Bennington to be defended by less than 100 militiamen, Baum decided to divide his force into two groups. He left 700 behind under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Heinrich Breyman to recover the artillery. He then continued to march on Bennington with the other 900.

What Baum didn't know was that the Patriots of Vermont and New Hampshire were aware of the former's advance. The New Hampshire Legislature quickly dispatched John Stark to raise an army. Within six days, Stark had mustered an army of 1,600 soldiers and marched into Vermont. Before departing, he sent Seth Warner who commanded Vermont's Green Mountain Boys to pick up another 400.

Instead of waiting for Baum to arrive at Bennington, Stark decided to head him off. On August 15, Stark's army arrived at the Walloomsac Heights where the British had set up camp. The following day, Stark arrayed his army in four groups. He intended to launch a pincer movement (or double envelopment) against Baum. At 3 PM, Stark gathered his men and shouted, *"There are your enemies, the Red Coats and the Tories! They will be ours tonight or Molly Stark sleeps a widow!"*.

Spurred on by Stark's words, the Patriots then launched their attack. They quickly overran the first fortifications and easily wiped out the Loyalist ranks. The Patriots then turned their attention to the British and Hessian fortifications. With their superior marksmanship, they picked off the officers and scattered the force. Lt. Col. Baum attempted to break out by launching a saber charge with his remaining force. But he was mortally wounded by a patriot volley. The rest of his command were either killed or captured.

The Patriots began to celebrate their victory by looting the camp and gathering the prisoners. However, during their celebration another enemy force entered the battlefield. It was the other half of Baum's army under the command of Heinrich

Breyman, and they were ready to fight. Stark quickly attempted to pull his men back into formation. But his army was too far spread out to mount an organized defense.

Just when it seemed that the Patriots would be routed a large volume of fire ripped into British/Hessian force. It was Seth Warner and the Green Mountain Boys. Now with an army of 2,000, Stark quickly reorganized his men and launched a counterattack. Under the weight of patriot numbers, Breyman watched his army get cut down in droves. Realizing that he was in danger of being surrounded, he quickly ordered a retreat. He had lost a quarter of his army and all his artillery. After five hours of heavy fighting, the Battle of Bennington was over.

The British/Hessian force had been virtually annihilated. They lost 207 killed, 700 missing & captured, and nearly all were wounded. The Patriots' casualties were: 30 killed and 40 wounded. John Stark's victory at Bennington had devastating consequences for General Burgoyne. The latter had lost a significant portion of his army and his supplies. His plans to cut off New England had been ruined. Two months later, Burgoyne was decisively defeated at the Battle of Saratoga and surrendered with 8,000 soldiers.

For his part, John Stark was commended by George Washington for his excellent leadership that led to the American victory. He continued to serve with distinction until the end of the Revolution. Stark then retired as a major general and returned to his farm in Derryfield (later Manchester). In 1809, veterans of the battle returned to the sight to commemorate their victory. Although Stark wished to attend, he was in ill health and too weak to travel. Instead, he sent a letter to his former soldiers. It read, *"Live free or die: Death is not the worst of evils"*.

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John Stark: The Last Eagle *(from previous Page)*

John Stark continued to live in Manchester for the rest of his life. He died on May 8, 1822, at the age of 93. At the time of his death, he was the last living general of the American Revolutionary War. In 1945, the state of New Hampshire officially adopted the words, "*Live Free or Die*" as the state motto. To this day, John Stark is remembered as one of the greatest and most noble leaders of the American Revolution. His courage and patriotism continue to inspire thousands across the United States. He truly is someone to be held in high regard.--*By John Haseltine*

New Member Biographies

Drew Flavell was born in raised in Connecticut and traveled throughout New England growing up, which likely sparked his interest in American history and its roots. He graduated from college in Connecticut and joined the Navy there. Along the way, he graduated from the Naval War College Command and Staff College, Salve Regina University with a Master's in International Relations, and the Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, California with an MBA. He completed his career in the Navy at the Pentagon where he still works as a civilian, and lives in the Wessynton section of Alexandria with his wife Melissa. He's a stained-glass artist in his spare time, but it's his interest in genealogy and American History, coupled with his 30-year Navy career in support of the nation, that led him to find a home here in the SAR with like-minded men.

Drew's patriot ancestor is his 5th great grandfather Benjamin Mills. Private Mills first answered the call to Service at Dorchester Heights, Massachusetts in March 1776. Drew's search for Private Mills' final resting place led him to Vinalhaven, a small Island off the coast of central Maine. While searching for an unmarked cemetery he was told to go "that way over a dirt road and after several hills, take a right onto another dirt road, and look for an overgrown grassed-over road on the left." Venturing a quarter mile into that "grassed-over road," he found a cemetery in a clearing with a deteriorated fence, almost covered in green ferns with headstones throughout showing just above them. After a search he found the headstone that read "Benjamin Mills, died April 13, 1827, A soldier of the Revolution" - he had found his patriot grandfather.

Kenneth Michael Rich was born in Connecticut and grew up in the San Francisco bay area. He joined the U.S. Navy, serving in a variety of tactical and shore assignments during his 26 year career.

While stationed in Rota, Spain, he deployed with Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron Two (VQ-2) throughout Europe and the Mediterranean theatre, providing secure communications in support of reconnaissance operations following the bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut, the highjacking of the Achille Laurel cruise ship, Freedom of Navigation operations within the Gulf of Sidra, and subsequent support to joint military operations against Libya.

As a member of the Naval Security Stations' Rifle and Pistol team, he participated in a number of Navy and Interservice rifle and pistol matches for two years. During one of these matches, he won the "Secretary of the Navy Trophy Award Rifle" for qualifying #1 of 146 shooters.

While assigned as the Senior Presidential Communicator, Washington-Moscow Direct Communications Link (aka "The HOTLINE"), he oversaw daily operations and coordinated system modernization efforts with his Russian counterparts. He was selected to be the first in the HOTLINE's history to represent the

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New Member Biographies *(from previous Page)*

HOTLINE on the U.S. delegation for bilateral negotiations with the Russian Presidential Communications Directorate held at the Kremlin, Moscow.

Mr. Rich retired from the U.S. Navy as a Cryptologic Technician (Communications) Master Chief Petty Officer and accepted a position with the U.S. Federal Government. He manages secure communications services for all Naval Intelligence activities ashore and niche services afloat as the Telecommunications Services Division Head, HOPPER Information Service Center, Office of Naval Intelligence.

Mr. Rich is married to his high school sweetheart, the former Patricia A. Herr of Spanaway, Washington. They have five children, and five grandchildren.

Although he has always been interested in the Sons of the American Revolution, he only recently applied for membership after his sister, Miss Donna J. (Rich) Stewart, now a member of the DAR, discovered one of their ancestors served in the American Revolution.

Mr. Rich's patriot ancestor, Abel Abell, was his 4th Great Grandfather (father of Martha Abell Rich, who married Amos A. Rich. A true patriot, Abel enlisted on 7 Apr 1777 at the age of 19 as a private in Lt. Smith's Company, the brigade of Gen. Erastus Walcott, stationed at Peekskill, NY Mar-June 1777. He was discharged 11 May 1777, and re-enlisted 4 June 1777 as a private in Captain Warner's Company, "Connecticut Line" formation of 1777-1781.

126 Anniversary VA DAR Gala



*VASSAR members attending the 126 Anniversary VA DAR Gala dinner.
They all have DAR member spouses. GW Past President Jay Henn is 4th from left.
GW Compatriot John Turbyfil is 2nd from right.
He is also husband of LeAnne Turbyfil, VA DAR Regent.*