



George Washington Chapter Newsletter

Alexandria, Virginia

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Visit us online at www.gwsar.org

May, 2022

April GW Chapter Meeting



A Family Affair -- GW Treasurer Bill Wilson (left) receives his SAR Life Membership and son, Doug (right) is inducted as a new member in the GW Chapter. GW President Richard Rankin presented both.



Left: Registrar Rich Sherman and GW President Richard Rankin welcome new member David Smith.



Right: New member Tyler Cuming with President Richard Rankin and Registrar Rich Sherman.



Above: GW President Richard Rankin pins rosette on new Chapter member Alexander Gilbert.

(Con't on Page 3)

President's Corner

Compatriots:

The famous words *"the shot heard round the world"* were immortalized by Ralph



Waldo Emerson as he referred to the April 19, 1775 fight for Concord's North Bridge and the earlier skirmish on Lexington's Green with British Regulars.

Our April 9th guest speaker, H.W. Brands, spoke about his most recent book, *"Our First Civil War-Patriots & Loyalists in the American Revolution,"* which focused on the difficult and divisive choices faced by both the Patriots and the Loyalists in that eight-year conflict. Our growing virtual audience for our speaker included 18 members from other SAR chapters, of which three are VASSAR Chapter Presidents.

Our May Chapter Meeting date has been moved to Saturday, May 7 due to a scheduling issue with Belle Haven Country Club. Our May 7 guest 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"*. Our May 7 chapter meeting will also recognize our chapter nominated JROTC candidate, Cadet Kyle Lovejoy. Cadet Lovejoy won the VASSAR Enhanced JROTC Competition. Cadet Lovejoy and his proud parents will be our guests during the luncheon.

Two of our chapter's annual keystone events are upcoming: the Memorial Day Parade on the National Mall on May 30 (check our chapter website for logistical details) and the iconic July 4th March to the Tomb. In addition, our 2022 Summer Planning Workshop will convene on Saturday, August 20 for the first time ever at a most appropriate location for our chapter. My separate message with more details will appear elsewhere in this newsletter.

Please visit our chapter website www.gwsar.org and go to the "Events" tab to register for upcoming meetings, pay for lunch on-line, or make a donation--all with one easy click. Enjoy our upcoming schedule of summer programs and outdoor SAR events. We look forward to seeing you at our May 7th Chapter meeting.

Richard E. Rankin

President

George Washington Chapter



Fairfax County Sheriff's Office Receives SAR Award



President Rankin and John Blair of The Public Service Awards Committee, present the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal and Certificate to Pfc. John Embrey, Fairfax County.

April GW Chapter Meeting (from Page 1)



Left -- H.W. Brands, by Zoom, spoke about his most recent book, *"Our First Civil War- Patriots & Loyalists in the American Revolution"*



Above: President Rankin presents the VASSAR Best Webmaster Award to Jamie Callender.



Above: Covert Beach with Tom Roth and former Chapter and VASSAR President Larry Lisle, who presented 2 streamers and one gold star that were earned on our behalf for attendance at the Battles of Moores Creek Bridge and Kings Mountain Commemorations and the 2022 Crossing of the Dan. At least 2 of these are National Events.

Right: Past GW President Tom Roth presenting Larry with the Virginia Society Chapter Service Medal (aka the "Pineapple Medal"). Tom awarded this to Larry last year in appreciation for his work in representing us at various events over the last 8 years in North Carolina and deep southside Virginia. Larry now lives in Hillsborough, NC.



Fairfax Resolves Grave Marking at New Jerusalem Lutheran Church, in Lovettsville, VA



Richard Rankin, Ernie Coggins, and Tom Roth attended the Fairfax Resolves Chapter's Grave Marking at New Jerusalem Lutheran Church in Lovettsville, Virginia. Five Graves were marked. President Rankin led the assemblage in the SAR Recessional and also presented the GW Wreath.



Left: VASSAR President Bruce Meyer presents VASSAR Patriot Graves Preservation Medal to Compatriot Edward Spannaus, MDSSAR.

Right: Our own "Man who is Everywhere" Ernie Coggins presents The VASSAR Wreath.



A joint event of the Fairfax Resolves Chapter, VASSAR and the SGT Lawrence Everhart Chapter, MDSSAR.



The Wreath Presenters

(Con't on Page 7)

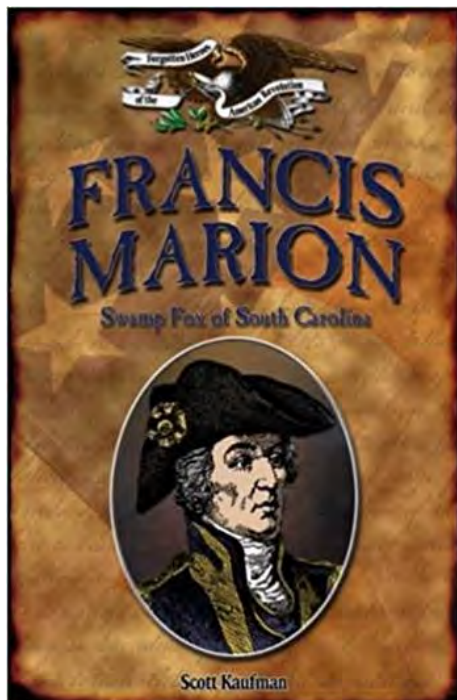
May GW Chapter Guest Speaker

Prof. V. Scott Kaufman is chair of the Department of History at Francis Marion University, where he teaches courses in U.S. military and diplomatic history. He has authored, co-authored, or edited twelve books on a variety of topics, including the presidencies of Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter, Cold War-era nuclear testing, international environmental policy, and a children's biography of General Francis Marion. He is presently working on two books: A comparative history of the Panama and Suez Canals, and a study of Americans' visions of the future since 1900.



Francis Marion & the Southern Campaign

General Francis Marion--who all too often has been portrayed inaccurately in popular culture--played a key role in the American patriots' victory over the British, yet that role is oftentimes ignored. This talk will give General Marion his just due, pointing out how his use of guerrilla tactics against one of the world's superpowers was important to America's independence.



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

Henry "Light Horse Harry" 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.

President's Special Announcement

We are pleased to announce the 2022 GW Chapter Summer Working Session will be held on Saturday, August 20th at the Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington at Mt. Vernon.

This library was opened in 2013 and contains over 45,000 square feet within a three story building located on 15 acres across from Mount Vernon's Main Entrance (Texas Gate).

Our working session will start at 10:00 AM. We are coordinating with the Library staff for arranging a hybrid meeting for both members attending in-person and members participating via a virtual connection.

Please mark your calendar now for this special event; we will have further updates by this summer.

Richard Rankin, President, George Washington Chapter



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.



May through the years with George Washington

- 1784** on the 4th--Washington attends first meeting of the Society of the Cincinnati.
- 1785** on the 17th--Washington elected president of the Potomac Canal Company.
- 1787** on the 25th--Washington elected president of Constitutional Convention.
- 1789** on the 14th--Congress officially adopts "*President of the United States*" as a form of address for new leader.
- 1802** on the 22nd--Death of Martha Washington.

Fairfax Resolves Grave Marking *(from Page 4)*



The VASSAR Color Guard participated and fired the traditional 3 musket volleys.



Anthony Wayne: the Madman of the Revolution

Anthony Wayne was born on January 1, 1745, in the Pennsylvania colony and was trained to be a surveyor in the real estate business. Although he quickly excelled in this profession (he helped settle at least 100,000 acres of land in Canada), Wayne eventually found himself answering a call to duty. His answer would be instrumental in securing the future of his country.

When the American Revolution began, Wayne decided to join the Continental Army. He quickly rose to the rank of Brigadier General while establishing a reputation as an aggressive and impulsive commander. His aggressive troop movements earned him the nickname "Mad Anthony". Wayne served with Washington through the New York and New Jersey campaigns, seeing combat at Brandywine Creek, Germantown, Paoli, and Monmouth Court House. However, his most impressive feat during the Revolution was a daring night attack he launched in July of 1779.

By this point, the Revolution had been fought to a bitter stalemate. To boost morale among the soldiers, General Washington ordered an assault on a British fortification at Stony Point, New York. Stony Point was a tall rocky outcropping that overlooked the Hudson River and was surrounded by a swampy terrain of mud and knee-deep water. However, Patriot intelligence revealed that the fort was garrisoned by only 700 British soldiers. Washington decided that the best plan was to launch a bayonet attack in the dead of night. The man selected to lead this attack was Mad Anthony Wayne.

With a force of 1,200 light infantry (handpicked from different regiments), Wayne moved into position about a mile from Stony Point. He then ordered all the Patriots to adorn their hats with white pieces of paper (to enable identification in the darkness). Wayne then divided his force into three separate columns. What he intended was a three-pronged attack on the



fort that would divide the British garrison. The element of surprise was crucial. At 11:30 PM on the night of July 15, the Patriots fixed bayonets and began advancing under the cover of darkness.

However, the southern column soon ran into mud up to their waists. Getting through this while cutting their way through the first abatis (defensive obstruction) around Stony Point cost them thirty minutes. During this time the defenders were awakened and began to fire at the advancing Patriots. By now however, all three columns had successfully closed the distance to the fort, and they immediately charged.

Due to the thick clouds that blotted out the moonlight, the British found themselves unable to effectively shoot the attackers. In desperation, the British commander (Lt.

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Upcoming Events

Date Change

May 7, 2022–Saturday: 11:30 am

George Washington Chapter

Hybrid Zoom Meeting

Virtual/Zoom Meeting: 1:00 pm

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).

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

Revolutionary War & War of 1812

Cedar Grove Cemetery

238 E. Princess Anne Road

Norfolk, VA

Sponsored by the Norfolk Chapter.

The ceremony will recognize the service of six Revolutionary War patriots and twenty War of 1812 patriots.

May 28, 2022–Saturday: 10:30 am

242nd Commemoration of

Buford's Massacre

Buford's Massacre Site

Buford's Crossroad, SC

May 30, 2022–Monday: 12:45 pm

Memorial Day

The traditional, "live" Parade is **ON**.

Compatriots will muster to march at 12:45; the Parade will begin at 2 pm.

On the Mall

Washington, D.C.

Colonial attire or blue blazers, ties, & khaki trousers for marching participants. Details will be provided as they become available.

June 3-5, 2022

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

More information: [https://](https://www.sarfoundation.org/education/sar-annual-conference-on-the-american-revolution/)

www.sarfoundation.org/education/sar-annual-conference-on-the-american-revolution/

July 4, 2022

61st Annual 4th of July March to Washington's Tomb

Mount Vernon Estate

Details will be forthcoming.

August 20, 2022–Saturday: 10 am

George Washington Chapter

Summer Working Session

Fred W. Smith National Library

3600 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway

Mount Vernon, VA



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.

Anthony Wayne (from Page 8)

Col. Henry Johnson) rushed most of the garrison to where the center column was attacking, leaving the fort's flanks almost completely unguarded. Among the first five Patriots to enter the fort was Pvt. Peter Francisco. After killing three British defenders (despite being stabbed) he ascended the walls and lowered the British flag. He and his four comrades then shouted, "The fort's our own!". Within just 25 minutes, the battle was over and Stony Point was captured.

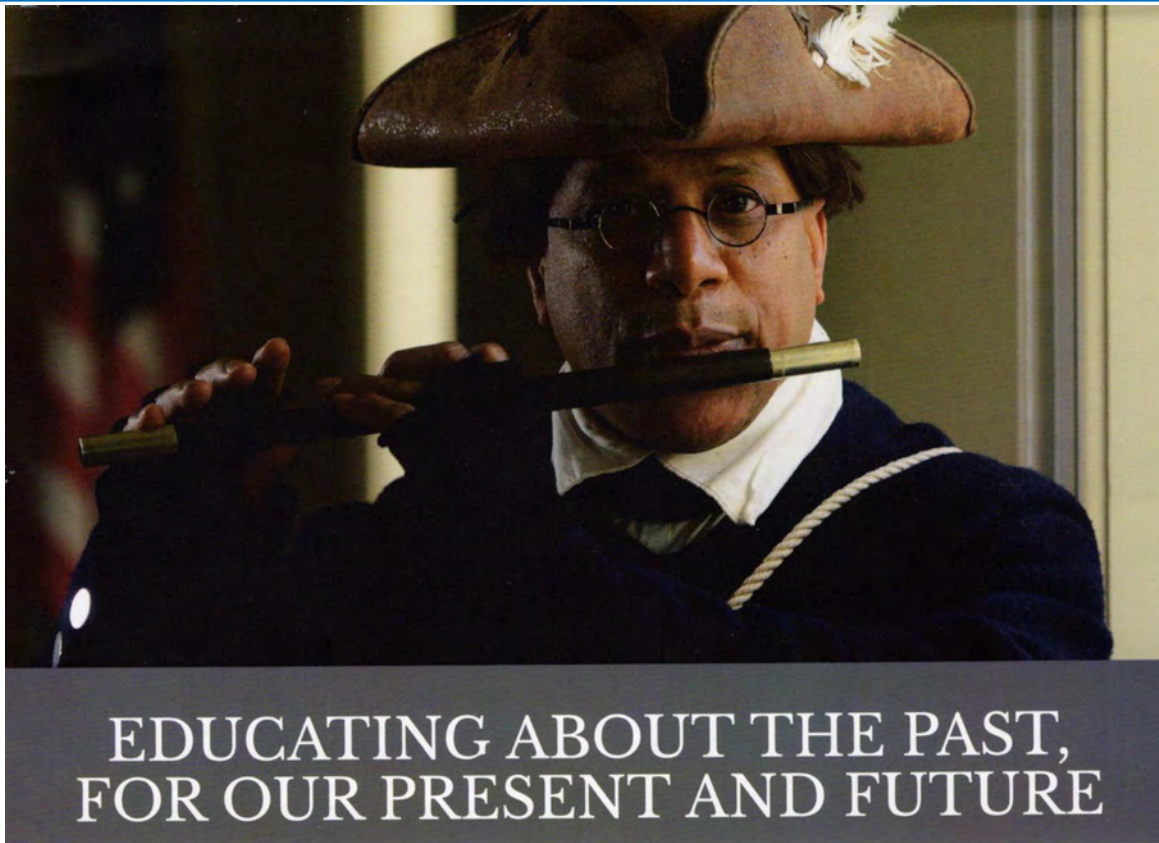
Epilogue

The American casualties at Stony Point were 15 KIA and 83 wounded (including Anthony Wayne who was shot in the head). The British casualties were 20 KIA, 74 wounded, and more than 500 captured (including Johnson). Just two days later, however, Washington ordered Stony Point to be abandoned since he doubted that it could be kept from a British counterattack. Most of the British POWs were later released or exchanged for Patriot POWs.

Regardless of this setback, Wayne's successful attack at Stony Point had succeeded in boosting the morale of the Continental Army. The victory inspired thousands more Americans to enlist in the army and continue fighting for independence.

Anthony Wayne continued to serve in the Continental Army for the rest of the Revolution, seeing combat in several more battles including Washington's final victory at Yorktown. In 1795, Wayne led a successful invasion against a large army of Iroquois, Shawnee, and Huron warriors. In what would become known as the Northwest Indian War, Wayne successfully crushed a force of 1,300 warriors at the battle of Fallen Timbers (present day Maumee, Ohio). He died a year later, on December 15, 1796. Today he is remembered as one of the bravest and most daring generals of the American Revolution. He truly is someone to be held in high regard.

By John Haseltine



EDUCATING ABOUT THE PAST,
FOR OUR PRESENT AND FUTURE

*Compatriot (and Mount Vernon Fifer in Residence) Don Francisco is shown in Mount Vernon Estate's current exhibit titled **Mount Vernon: The Story of An American Icon.***

New Member Biographies

William Douglas Wilson Jr. -- Doug was born in 1968 in Charleston WV to our current chapter Treasurer Bill Wilson and his wife Miriam; the family moved to Maryland when he was five. He graduated from Churchill HS in Potomac MD where he played soccer and then went to the Univ. of SC, where he majored in economics and was a placekicker for the Gamecocks football team. In the spring of 1991, barely 6 weeks from graduation, he lost control of his motorcycle and crashed. He had minor injuries on the rest of his body but suffered a traumatic brain injury due to not wearing a helmet. He was in a coma for eight days, in the hospital for 3 months, then spent years learning to walk and talk again. During that time, kids encouraged and inspired him to accept his disability and helped him relearn his sports skills.

In due course, Doug became a strong advocate for the importance of helmets and was instrumental in getting Maryland to pass its motorcycle helmet law. He also advocated for similar measures in other states. He helped found the Potomac Adaptive Basketball Association, and he founded the annual *"Thumbs Up"* 5k race that benefits the Brain Injury Association of Maryland. In 1996, he was nominated by US Senator John Chafee of RI as a person of

the year, with his accomplishments entered into the Congressional Record. In that year he was also the Montgomery County man of the year and an Olympic torch bearer. He supports other causes including the American Heart Assn. and the Special Olympics.

Today, Coach Doug, as he is fondly known, is President and lead instructor for Coach Doug Academy, Inc., a DC-based non-profit dedicated to preparing youth to become tomorrow's leaders through important life lessons and the building of self-esteem. He integrates class content with science and technology and leverages a variety of non-competitive sports programs for skills training, coordination and stronger bodies. His efforts impact thousands of children each year. As Doug puts it, "For me, this line of work is something that's agreeing with me. I always thought I would go into business. But the accident is something I cannot change and why I say it was a positive. Each day it's a pleasure to go to work with kids and teach them."

Doug's patriot ancestor was Windsor Pearce. Born around 1750, he was a soldier in Charles Polk's company of NC foot soldiers. He died in 1823 in Randolph Co., NC.

Dave Smith was born and raised in Independence, Missouri. He graduated from the University of Missouri in 1969 and received a commission through ROTC as a 2LT of field artillery. In 31 years of military service he served in Germany, Korea, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan where he was twice the U.S. Army Attaché. He retired as a colonel and is a graduate of the U.S. Army War College, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, the Armed Forces Staff College, and the Pakistan Army Command and Staff College. In a second career with DoD, he spent the next 12 years in the Pentagon as the Senior Director for

Pakistan in the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense (Policy) and the Senior Defense Intelligence Analyst for Pakistan.

In "retirement" since 2012, he is currently a Distinguished Fellow of the Henry L Stimson Center, a Washington-based nonpartisan think tank, and is a contractor for Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque NM. He is the author of three books: *The Quetta Experience: A Study of Attitudes and Values Within the Pakistan Army*, published by The Woodrow Wilson Center in 2018; *The Wellington Experience: A Study of Attitudes and Values Within the Indian Army*,

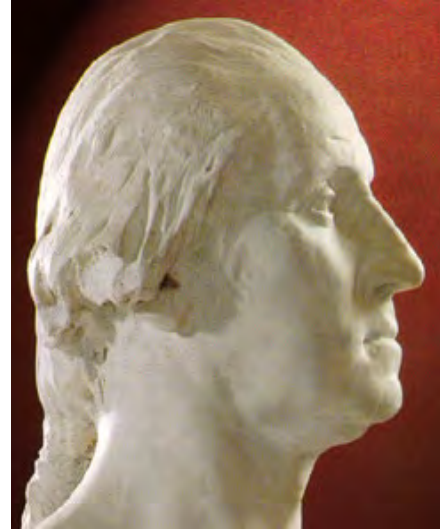
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New Member Biographies *(from previous Page)*

published by the Stimson Center in 2020; and *The Armstrong Brothers: One Pennsylvania Family's Contribution to Victory in the American Revolution*, published by Xlibris in 2021.

His Patriot ancestor is James Vinson born around 1732 who, as the Sheriff of Northampton County NC during the Revolution, supplied provisions and performed other patriotic services for which he was recognized (and remunerated for) by the state of North Carolina.

He died there in October 1797.



Alexander Prodromos Gilbert is the son of SAR member Dr. Sam Gilbert and Dr. Elisavet Vrahopoulou. He was born in Summit, New Jersey and moved with his family to McLean, Virginia in 2000. Alex is bilingual in English and Greek. After graduating from St. Albans in Washington, DC in 2011, he studied Mechanical Engineering at MIT in Cambridge, MA. During his senior year, Alex met Ana Lucia Morales, a sophomore at the Boston Architecture College. After graduation in 2015, Alex moved to Los Angeles to join an industrial design firm, RKS Design. Upon her graduation, Ana also moved to California for a job in West Hollywood. They got engaged in July 2020, adopted a genius puppy named Margo and moved to Austin, Texas in October 2020. There, Alex founded his own consumer product

development company called "Mass Product Development", where he is contracted to transform ideas from "napkin" sketches to prototyping to mass production. Alex and Ana are getting married on June 30th on the island of Paros, Greece. Alex is very honored to join the Sons of the American Revolution.

Alex' SAR Patriot ancestor, Richard Carter Stubblefield, was born in 1763 in Guilford County, North Carolina and was just a teenager when he signed up for the Revolution in 1781. He served three months until the end of the war as a private in the North Carolina Militia under Captain William Bethel of Guilford County, Col. James Martin's regt. His father, Richard Stubblefield, Sr., also served in the war effort by supplying provisions.



The Public Service Awards Committee's presentation of the Law Enforcement Commendation Award to Sergeant Charlette Mitchell (posthumously) received by her family.

From L-R: Alexandria City Manager James Parajon, Alexandria Councilman Canek Aguirre, Charlette's Daughter Alexis N. Young, Charlette's Daughter Jhonaé N. Mitchell, SAR Representative John Blair, SAR Representative Tom Roth, Chief Don Hayes.