



George Washington Chapter Newsletter in Alexandria, Virginia

Volume 24, Issue 8

Visit us online at www.gwsar.org

November, 2022

Two Veterans of the American Revolution and War of 1812 Honored

On October 15, the Sons of the American Revolution and the Society of the War of 1812 placed markers and conducted a grave marking ceremony at Flint Hill Cemetery in Oakton. The event was planned by Paul Walden, George Washington Chapter Grave Marking Chair and Vice President General for the Society of the War of 1812. Several days before the event, GWSAR Compatriot Luc Chevalier assisted Compatriot Walden in placing the markers and flags on the graves. The marker for John Chapman Hunter is unique in that it has the insignia of both the SAR and Society of the War of 1812 indicating his service in both conflicts. Compatriot Dale Corey, of the Col James Wood II Chapter, assisted in the design and procurement of this unique marker that will be used in future joint ceremonies with the Society of the War of 1812. Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution chapters participating included George Washington, George Mason, Col. William Grayson, Col. James Wood II, Sgt Maj John Champe and

Culpeper Minutemen. The Virginia Society SAR Color Guard included Chip Daniel, Richard Tyler, Paul Christensen, Ken Morris, Thad Hartman and, representing the War of 1812, Mike Lyman. The markers were officially dedicated by Thomas Roth, Historian, Virginia SAR and Mike Lyman, Past President, Society of the War of 1812 in VA.

The two veterans honored were John Chapman Hunter, who served as a Private in the 15th VA Regiment during the American Revolution and as a Major in the 60th VA Regiment in the War of 1812. He was later promoted to Brig. General. His home, "[Contemplation](#)", stood where the current Mosby Landing condos are on Chain Bridge Road. Hunter, as a fellow Mason with George Washington, also participated in the laying of the cornerstone of the US Capitol in 1793. The second veteran honored was William Whitaker who served as a Capt. in the Mass. 2nd Regiment in the War of 1812.

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*Front: Paul McComb, Richard Rankin, Chip Daniel, Paul Walden, Bill Bland, Rand Pixa.
Back: Tom Roth, Mike Lyman. Richard Tyler, Paul Christensen, Pete Davenport, Ken Morris, Thad Hartman, Allan Phillips, Ernie Coggins, Gene Thomas, Bill Wilson, Mrs. Scot Bryant, Scot Bryant.*



President's Corner

Compatriots:

With Autumn in a full and colorful display, there was no shortage of SAR events to attend and enjoy fellowship with your compatriots.

At our October Chapter Meeting, Will Elston, President of the Virginia Society, C.A.R. presented his leadership vision for his 2022-2023 tenure. President Elston's fund raising appeal received a very supportive response from our membership. With on-line donations still forthcoming, it appears even now that our chapter and member donations will be nearing a total of \$ 1,400.00; thanks to all who contributed to this successful year and continued our chapter's legacy as a big supporter of VACAR.

On October 15th, a grave marking ceremony honoring John Chapman Hunter and William Whitaker was held at Flint Hill Cemetery in Oakton. This joint ceremony included the Virginia Society of the War of 1812 and was led by Past President and Grave Marking Chair, Paul Walden.

In celebration of the 241st Anniversary of the Victory at Yorktown on October 19, VASSAR sponsored the Wreath Laying Ceremony at the grave of Governor Thomas Nelson, Jr. at Grace Episcopal Church in Yorktown; over 83 wreaths were presented. I represented our Chapter and laid our wreath by his tomb. I was joined at this ceremony by Past Presidents: Ernie Coggins, Mike Elston and Jay Henn and VACAR President, Will Elston, as compatriots from as far away as Ohio and Georgia gathered to commemorate at this National SAR event. Following the ceremony, we marched in the Yorktown Day Parade which is sponsored by the National Park Service.

Our 2023 Membership Renewal Season has started and by now you have received your



Renewal Form. The Renewal Form computes the base fee structure of \$ 90.00 for all three levels of SAR memberships: National, State and Chapter. This year's renewal form includes a user-friendly guide for right-sizing your donation amount to our chapter and specific chapter activities. By completing your renewal form, paying your amount on-line by clicking the "submit" button, you are all set for enjoying the new chapter year.

As we move into November & December, please mark your calendars and join us for the following events: Veterans Day (Friday) at Washington's Tomb on the Mt. Vernon estate to lay a wreath; we will be joined by the Kate Waller Barrett Chapter VADAR and the VASSAR Color Guard; the next day, Saturday November 12, will be our November Chapter Meeting at Belle Haven CC. We will be paying a special tribute to our many compatriot veterans; on December 3, the Battle of Great Bridge will be held in Chesapeake, VA (*this is a National SAR Event*); and on December 10, we will be convening our annual joint chapter meeting with the George Mason Chapter. All the 2023 Officers will be inducted by VASSAR President, Bruce Meyer. Please note, this venue has been changed to the Army-Navy CC at Arlington, off of 395.

As a reminder, we have several vacant leadership positions which are seeking volunteers. The two most urgent positions seeking volunteers are the Chair, Youth Activities Committee (the student Essay & Oration contests) and for the GWC Scrapbook Editor (custodian to the written records of our chapter activities). Please contact me or any of our chapter officers, if you would like to learn more about these exciting roles or the other open volunteer roles.



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President's (from Page 2)

Please visit our chapter website www.gwsar.org and go to the "Events" tab to register for upcoming meetings or SAR events; both can be done with one easy click.

Many thanks for your continued support of the GW Chapter. Your support is clearly helping to make 2022 a very successful year for the GW Chapter.



Fraternally,
Richard E. Rankin, President
George Washington Chapter

GW Chapter Officer Nominations



The following members were nominated for selection as George Washington Chapter officers for the year 2023: Rand Pixa, *President*; William "Bill" Wilson, *Vice President*; Scott Walker, *Treasurer*; and Scot Bryant, *Secretary*. Richard Rankin was nominated for a 3-year term as an at-large member of the Board of Managers.

Chairman of Scouting Committee



Marty Johnson presentation to Boy Scout Troop 996. He talked about SAR, the Eagle Scout essay competition and the importance of the American Heritage, Law and Genealogy merit badges.

There was a lot of interest!

Chapter Flag Retirement Ceremony



The George Washington Chapter will be conducting a Flag Retirement Ceremony at the beginning of the November 12, 2022 Chapter Meeting at Belle Haven Country Club. Chapter members are invited to bring their worn, unserviceable U.S. Flags for inclusion in the ceremony. Members who contribute a U.S. Flag for the ceremony will receive the SAR Flag Retirement Certificate. For questions, contact Paul Walden, Flag Chair, at PaulWalden@live.com.

Two Veterans (from Page 1)



Top Left: Tom Roth and Mike Lyman dedicate marker.

Bottom Left: John Chapman Hunter marker.

Above: GW Chapter President Richard Rankin, Past GW Chapter President and VASSAR Historian Tom Roth and Bill Wilson GW Chapter Treasurer.



Virginia SAR Color Guard Posts Colors.



Luc Chevalier assists Paul Walden in placing the marker.



New Members of GW Chapter



William Vincent Skyles was born in Chicago, Illinois, then moved to Sunnyvale, California in the early 1960s where he grew up.

He joined the Army in 1977 as a Radio Operator. While in the Army he attended Southern Illinois University Carbondale earning 115 semester hours in a Workforce Education but was unable to complete the degree due to a transfer.

Bill retired from the Army in 1997 and worked several different jobs. An old Army buddy hired him to manage a project at the Nevada Test Site. After 15 years he took early retirement from Northrop, then switched hats and became the Operations Officer for the same project as a GS-13 in 2015. He was promoted to a GS-14 as a Command Facility Manager for the Navy starting in 2018, then retired due to medical issues this past June.

Bill enjoys running, ... and running, ... and running. He has completed 64 Ultra Marathons in the past ten years. His longest distance was 200 miles in 74 hours through the mountains above Santa Barbara. The fastest 100-mile time was 22 hours and three minutes at the Javelina 100 in Arizona – he turned 60 during that race.

Bill's other hobbies include surfing, gardening, camping, and being an Amateur Radio Operator, general class license. He has been married to his wife Lisa for 25 years and has two sons and two daughters.



Scot Anthony Bryant is a life-long resident of Alexandria. He has been married to his middle school sweetheart, Vickie, for over 43 years. Vickie is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution's local Nelly Custis chapter. Together they raised one daughter and one son and now have two grandchildren.

In 1978 Scot began his professional career in non-profit accounting at Alexandria Hospital; followed by a brief stint as the Controller for two for-profit businesses in Alexandria. In 1984 he accepted a position as the Chief Accountant at another local organization: George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, Museum and Gardens, where he was initially charged with managing the finance department operations and its staff while also installing Mount Vernon's first computers and automated systems.

After two years of wearing two hats as both Chief Accountant and as Systems Manager, Mount Vernon offered Scot his choice between what had grown into two full-time positions. He says that he chose "The fun one" and so his full-time shift from accounting to information technology began. As Mount Vernon's Director of Information Technology Scot led the implementation of each automated system at Mount Vernon, including: Accounting and Financial Reporting, Retail Inventory Control and Point of Sale for the Restaurant,

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November GW Chapter Guest Speaker

Dr. Michael J. Crawford

Part 2: The Naval Career of John Barry

Dr. Michael J. Crawford joined the Naval Historical Center in 1982 specifically to work on the book *Naval Documents of the American Revolution Volume 9*. From 1990 to 2008 he served as head of the Early History Branch. In 2008 the Naval Historical Center became the Naval History and Heritage Command and Dr. Crawford became Senior Historian, a post he held until his retirement in 2017. In addition to the role of Senior Historian, Dr. Crawford also served as Head of the Reference Branch and Deputy Director of Histories and Archives Division.

During his 35-year tenure with the Naval History and Heritage Command, Dr. Crawford wrote or co-authored 17 books including *Against All Odds: U.S. Sailors in the War of 1812* (2004), *Naval Documents of the American Revolution Volumes 9-12* (1964-2015), *The Naval War of 1812: A Documentary History* (1985-2002), *The Reestablishment of the Navy, 1787-1801: Historical Overview and Select Bibliography* (1995), *The World Cruise of the Great White Fleet: Honoring 100 Years of Global Partnerships and Security* (2008), and *The Spanish-American War: Historical Overview and Select Bibliography* (1998).

He also wrote or assisted with 60 other items including book reviews, articles and encyclopedia chapters.

In addition to his 40+ public appearances, such as teaching events and interviews, he participated in over 30 panels and discussions on naval history, including the Needs and Opportunities Speaker Series and Naval History Workshop. Dr. Crawford also joined, and at times took a leadership role in, organizations such as the American Historical Association, Society for History in the Federal Government, and Society for Military History.



"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.

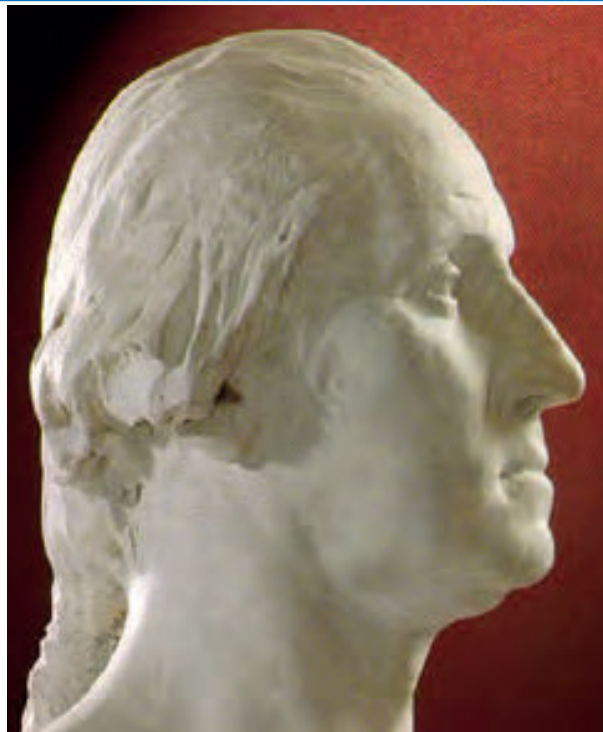
Immediate Past President:

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.

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.



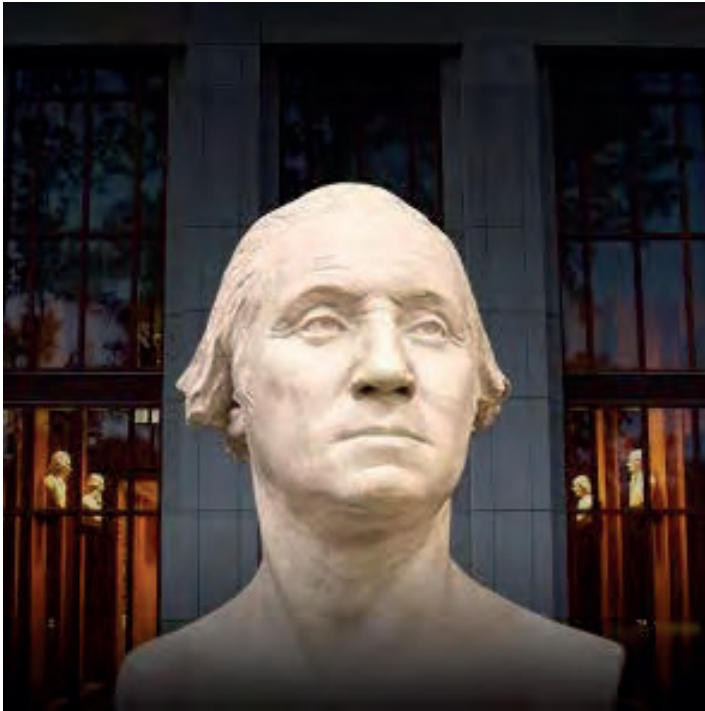
November through the years with George Washington

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

New Members *(from Page 5)*

William Vincent Skyles *(continued)*

Bill's patriot ancestor is Alexander Buchanan, born 1752 in Scotland, who served under Captain William Tucker, Hunterdon County, New Jersey as a private during the American Revolution. He was married to Rachael Van Schaick and they had 12 children. He died in 1824 in Ohio.



Scot Anthony Bryant *(continued)*

Food Court, Gift Shops and Admission Ticket Sales, Membership and Fund Raising, and Curatorial Collections Management. Scot also directed all AV Services and Distance Learning programs at Mount Vernon. As technology advanced, Scot spearheaded the design and implementation of several iterations of Mount Vernon's website, including eCommerce integration to their back-end applications.

In addition to his non-profit, historic preservation work at Mount Vernon, Scot has collaborated with or provided consulting services to the White House Historical Association, U. S. Capitol Historical Society, Ford's Theater, Stratford Hall, Monticello and Colonial Williamsburg.

Scot's Patriot Ancestor, Charles Bowles, was born about 1758 in Goochland Co., Virginia. He enlisted February 1, 1776, serving two years in the 5th Virginia Regiment under Captain Richard C. Anderson. He was discharged February 15, 1778 and then married in 1780. Charles Bowles died in Amherst Co., Virginia, August of 1816.



Wreaths Across America

Dear Compatriots,

Wreaths Across America is an annual non-profit effort with the goal of decorating every grave of our nation's veterans during the Christmas season using evergreen wreaths adorned with red ribbons.

Originally targeted for Arlington National Cemetery, the effort has grown to include veterans' graves at many other cemeteries "adopted" by civic and patriotic groups such as ours. For more information on WAA and the involvement of the George Washington Chapter, visit this website <https://www.wreathsassamerica.org/VA0726>.

George Washington Chapter President Richard Rankin has asked me to again take the lead in this year's Wreaths Across America (WAA) project. I have volunteered to undertake the challenge, and I am requesting you to assist in making this successful.

For the past few years, the George Washington Chapter has participated under the leadership of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars Chapter at Alexandria National Cemetery at 1450 Wilkes Street. Our chapter goal has always been to raise a corporate donation of at least \$1,500 to provide 100 wreaths at \$15 each. With around 290 chapter members each doing their part, this goal should be reachable. In 2018 we actually raised \$2,800, a new chapter record.



This year's WAA national wreath laying date is Saturday 17 December 2022 at 9:30 am. At this time, we believe that there will be no limitations on the number of persons attending the ceremony. Even if you cannot attend the wreath laying, I request that you still support WAA by making a financial contribution to this worthwhile effort.

What you need to do is:

Donate to the WAA representative (me) by cash or check at the 12 November Chapter luncheon meeting at Belle Haven Country Club.

Send a check written to George Washington Chapter VASSAR with the notation "WAA". Please donate an amount sufficient to purchase at least one wreath, or ideally multiple wreaths at \$15 each. The check may be mailed to: GW Chapter VASSAR "WAA", 8025 Lynnfield Drive, Alexandria, VA 22306. The deadline for composite submission by the George Washington Chapter to WAA is 28 November 2022.

Contribute through the Wild Apricot app on the George Washington Chapter website.

Since WAA honors veterans who have served on our behalf in the past, as well as those currently serving in the field, it is clearly a worthy cause, and our chapter goals are modest. Please lend your patriotic and financial support at whatever level you can afford. We would like to make a strong showing this year. Your chapter is counting on you!

*Fraternally,
Jack Coulter*



Upcoming Events

Nov 11: Veterans Day Wreath Laying at General Washington's Tomb

Mount Vernon at 1:00 pm

(Coat and tie, or colonial era uniform or attire)

Nov 12: Chapter Meeting

Belle Haven Country Club at 11:30 am

Michael Crawford, The Continental Navy, Part 2: The Naval Career of John Barry

Dec 3: 247th Commemoration of the Battle of Great Bridge at 11:00 am

Great Bridge Battlefield & Waterways Museum

1775 Historic Way, Chesapeake, VA



Dec. 10: Joint Chapter Meeting at 11:30 am *(George Washington & George Mason Chapters)*

Army-Navy Club
Arlington, VA

Dec 17: Wreaths Across America

Alexandria National Cemetery

(please contact Compatriot Jack Coulter for participant information)

Jan 14, 2023: Chapter Meeting at 11:30 am
Location TBD

Feb 9-12, 2023: VASSAR Annual Meeting,

Berry Hill Resort

South Boston, VA

Feb 18, 2023: Grave-marking for Phillip

Fendall at 11:00 am

Alexandria, VA

Feb 20, 2023: George Washington Birthday Parade

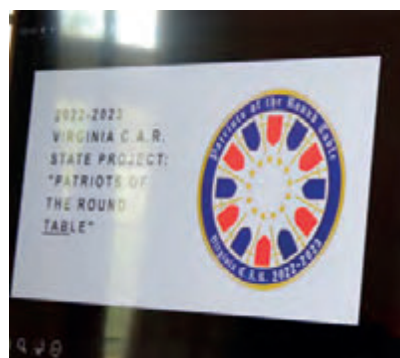
Alexandria, VA *(Jack Evans Chapter Medal for first-time participants)*

Mar 11, 2023: Chapter Meeting at 11:30 am
Location TBD

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.



October GW Chapter Meeting

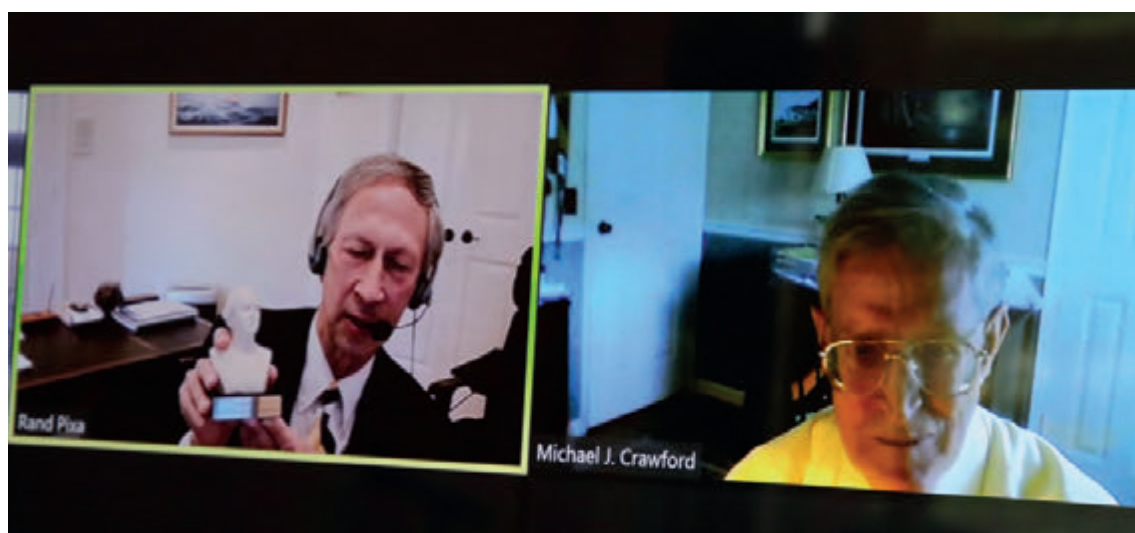


Will Elston, President of the Virginia Society, C.A.R. presented his leadership vision for his 2022-2023 tenure.



GW Chapter President Richard Rankin gives contribution to Will Elston, President of the Virginia Society, C.A.R.

Right: GW Chapter VP Rand Pixa presents the Houdon Bust (by Zoom) to Guest Speaker Michael Crawford.



Left: GW Chapter President Richard Rankin presents Eric Atkisson the War Service Medal and Certificate.



UPDATE from John Blair

Presentation of the *Life Saving Award* to PFC Andrew Arvelo -- *"PFC Andrew Arvelo while off duty and traveling with his family, encountered a vehicle accident and administered CPR which saved a human life".*

Right are GW Chapter President Richard Rankin, PFC Arvelo and John Blair.



Three patriots on a backroad

Three farmers who saved the Revolution

These three farmers also happened to be soldiers who had fought in the American Revolution. Their names were John Paulding, Isaac Van Wart, and David Williams, and all three had fought very bravely in the cause of independence. However, their greatest contribution would not be on any major battlefield, but on a solitary backroad trail in Westchester County, New York. The small but important action that took place there would ultimately save the American Revolution.

Early on the morning of September 17, 1780, Paulding, Van Wart, and Williams were walking in the woods searching for some lost cattle. All three were experienced yet exhausted soldiers who had seen heavy combat, and all three were wishing they could be home with their families. Little did they know, they were on a collision course with immortality.

At approximately 9 AM, the three soldiers noticed a rider galloping towards them. They stopped the rider and told him to identify himself. The rider identified himself as, John Anderson, a businessman from New York. However, Paulding became suspicious when the rider commented on how the three must be from the "*lower party*" (a term for American Loyalists in New York). After a bit of small talk, Paulding succeeded in getting the rider to admit that he was a British officer riding between the lines. Upon hearing this, the three patriots quickly placed the officer under arrest and searched his clothing.

After pulling off his boots, they discovered six sheets of paper, one of which contained a diagram of the fortifications of West Point. The patriots quickly deduced that this man was a spy in possession of sensitive information, pocketed the



Benedict Arnold

information, and took the officer to the nearest Patriot fortification. Before entering, the British officer attempted to bribe the three with money. Paulding angrily refused saying, "*No, by God, even if you give us ten thousand guineas, you should not stir a step!*" The three turned the prisoner and the six sheets over to Lt Col John Jameson who, after reading the documents, discovered something shocking.

The officer was identified as Maj. John André, and he was carrying documents that gave valuable intelligence as to the structure of West Point. Most disturbing of all was that the documents had been given to André by West Point's commanding officer. His name was Benedict Arnold, a highly decorated soldier and close friend of George Washington. However, due to his disfavor with the American Congress, Arnold had decided to betray the American cause and turn over West Point (while Washington was present) to the British Army.

Upon learning of the treachery, George Washington was so furious that he ordered Arnold's arrest and the preparation of a court martial. Unfortunately, by the time the order went out, Arnold had already learned of André's capture and quickly fled to British lines. Washington sent an envoy to General Sir Henry Clinton of the British Army, with an offer to exchange Major André for Benedict Arnold. Although Clinton had very little regard for Arnold, he declined the offer. Since André had been captured while disguised as a civilian, he was classified as a spy and sentenced to hang. On October 2, 1780, John André was executed.

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Three farmers

(from previous Page)

As for the three patriots who had captured André, George Washington immediately ordered them to be brought to him. Washington was so grateful that he ordered that Paulding, Van Wart, and Williams each receive a lifetime pension of \$200 a year for preventing *"one of the severest strokes that could have been mediated against the revolution."* All three received the first ever military decoration awarded by the American Congress (the Fidelity Medallion) as well as the thanks of Congress. Once the Revolution ended, each was given 200 acres of farmland by the New York legislature. John Paulding passed away on February 18, 1818, Isaac Van Wart on May 23, 1828, and David Williams on, August 2, 1831. All three were buried with full military honors.

During the American Revolution, there were numerous incidents that changed the course of history. The capture of Major John André was one of them. By performing their duty to their country, these three men prevented a terrible betrayal and saved the Revolution.

-- By John Haseltine



Yorktown Day Celebration

Chris Melhuish, VASSAR Color Guard Commander and Brooks Lyles, NSSAR Color Guard Commander at Yorktown.



Below: Richard Rankin, President, George Washington Chapter and Pat Kelly, French Society SAR, Past President VASSAR at Dedication Ceremony for Admiral De Grasse in Yorktown.

Below: Richard Rankin, President, George Washington Chapter & GW Chapter Wreath at Grace Episcopal Church in Yorktown.



Governor Thomas Nelson

