



George Washington Chapter Sons of the American Revolution



Newsletter

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VASSAR President Bob Bowen leads the massed colors of Virginia's SAR Chapters in the Yorktown Day Parade.
Photo by Pamela McPherson

Don't Miss the November Meeting

Mr. Steven C. Powers, the guest speaker for the November meeting, comes to us with glowing recommendations. He is a native of Northern Virginia with a lifelong interest in Washington's history. A professional engineer, Mr. Powers works for Parsons Management Consultants at Reagan National Airport, where he has overseen construction projects for over 16 years. He will present an interesting and informative talk about Andrew

Ellicott's and Benjamin Banneker's original 1791-92 boundary stones, most of which still mark the 40-mile perimeter of Washington DC and Arlington County. His illustrated presentation will cover the origins of DC's boundary; Ellicott's survey to establish correct lines around the 10-mile-square federal territory; Banneker's role; the preservation movement that began early in the 1900s to ensure survival of the historic stones; and the condition of the boundary stones today.

Stevens grew up in Springfield and earned his civil engineering degree from Virginia Tech. He is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and an active member of the National Capital Boundary Stones Committee. Stevens makes regular “inspection tours” of all the boundary stones. His interest in DC’s historic boundary grew out of an elementary school project done with his daughter years ago.

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Highlights of the October Luncheon

Guest speaker Dr. Mark Skousen’s description of Benjamin Franklin was highlighted by readings of correspondence between Franklin and Madame Brillon. He was assisted by his wife Jo Ann who read Madame Brillon’s responses to letters she received from Franklin - an interesting insight to the years that Franklin spent in Paris. An expert on Franklin, Dr. Skousen has published a book, *The Completed Autobiography by Benjamin Franklin*, which traces the last 33 years of Franklin’s life. This book is an important bit of history, as the autobiography that Franklin wrote was published in 1757 and thus provided no information on his most productive years as an inventor, businessman, and diplomat.

Dr. Skousen is a direct descendent of Franklin through an illegitimate lineage. He enlightened those attending on the unique contribution Franklin made to American history and the victory in the American Revolution. Unlike other of the nation's founders, Franklin would have been world famous in his own right, even without the events surrounding the Revolution, largely because of inventions such as the Franklin Stove, the lightening rod (and his work with electricity), and bifocals. Franklin's autobiography was required reading in American classrooms until the 1920s because of his extremely accomplished life achievements, after having come from humble origins to independent wealth by the age of forty. Of course, the descriptions of his intrigues with low women were censored in the authorized classroom version.



Following the luncheon, Dr. Skousen signed copies of his book for Dan McGuire, Kenan Torrans and others.



VP Briggs presents the coveted bust of Washington to Dr. Skousen.

This is a small sample of what you missed if you did not attend last month's superb presentation:

Key among Franklin's contributions to the American Revolution was his successful negotiation of French and Spanish alliances. As an example of the impact of these allies, at the culminating Battle of Yorktown, half of the troops, the successful naval blockade by Admiral De Grasse, and all of the uniforms, muskets, ammunition and many of the cannons were supplied by the French.

Franklin contributed the words "self evident" to the Declaration of Independence, he supported a unicameral legislature in the Constitution but later compromised, and he was suspected of British sympathies by political opponents because he enjoyed

London and his son was a loyalist. He is considered by many scholars second only to Washington in importance in the nation's founding.

Dr. Skousen's *Completed Autobiography* is written exclusively in Franklin's own words, gleaned from painstaking research of 50 volumes of Franklin's personal papers. It was indeed a privilege to have a scholar the stature of Dr. Skousen at our meeting.

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We were honored to have our Chapter's Past President Dave Walker with us at this luncheon, where he was presented the NSSAR Meritorious Service Medal by Chapter President Bob Carr.

New Members Welcomed to the Chapter

The George Washington Chapter continues to grow. At this luncheon two new compatriots were inducted. They are John D. Curley and Robert A Whitehead, Jr.



Here our newest members with friends and members of their families are presented to the luncheon meeting guests by President Carr. In the photo, from left to right: President Carr, Ms. Joan Madren, John Curley, Robert Whitehead, Jr., Mrs.

Whitehead, and Robert's parents Mr. and Mrs. Robert Whitehead, Sr.

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President's Column

Dear Fellow Compatriots:

I would like to take this opportunity to report on a number of happenings and events that have occurred since my last report and to look forward at the events the Chapter will be involved in during the month of November.

The Color Guard – Washington's Life Guards

We are making significant progress in the establishment of the George Washington Chapter Color Guard – "Washington's Life Guards". To date, six volunteers have submitted their measurements for uniforms – Don Reynolds, Mike Elston, Ray Hawn, Scott Wagoner, Dwight Whitney and myself. We could use a couple more volunteers. The Sutler of Mount Misery, G. Gedney Godwin of Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, indicates that the uniforms can be provided in two months. However, the acquisition of the helmets is another matter. His supplier is a retired person who only works three days a week. It will take him two to three months or more to construct the six helmets we need.

During the research on "Washington's Life Guards," contact was made with the Sons of Liberty Chapter in Los Angeles, California, which has a "Washington's Life Guards" color guard. One of the founders of this color guard was an advisor to Paramount Studios when they produced the movie "The Patriot." After completion of the movie the studio placed the helmets used in the movie on permanent loan to the chapter. They have offered to loan us sufficient helmets in January if our guard is ready to participate in the General Peter Pace Gala. I will keep you informed on the progress made.

229th Yorktown Victory Celebration

On October 18, the Hawns and Carrs traveled to Yorktown to participate in the two-day celebration of the 229th Anniversary of Victory at Yorktown. On Monday evening we, along with many other chapter members from across the Eastern United States, attended a celebratory dinner at the Fort Eustis Officers Club hosted by The Yorktown Day Association and Colonial National Historical Park.

The meal was great, friendships were renewed and the entertainment was different.

On Saturday morning we enjoyed a light breakfast hosted by the Comte de Grasse Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution followed by a VASSAR sponsored wreath-laying ceremony at the grave of Governor Thomas Nelson, Jr. at Grace Episcopal Church, Yorktown.



At 10:30, the Yorktown Day Parade kicked off and fun was had by all. The Chapter and our Colors participated in both of these ceremonies.

Upcoming Events in November and December

On Veterans Day, Thursday, November 11, our Chapter will be involved in two wreath-laying ceremonies to recognize and honor two great Revolutionary War Patriots, General George Washington and Dr. Elisha Cullen Dick.

The first is the Chapter's annual Veterans Day wreath-laying ceremony at George Washington's Tomb at Mount Vernon, which will take place at 2:00 PM. This event is performed in coordination with the Kate Waller Barrett Chapter, NSDAR and will be conducted by Vice President Paul Briggs.

The second is the placing of a granite SAR grave marker at the grave of Dr. Elisha Cullen Dick, which is located in the front yard of the Kate Waller Barrett Library located at 717 Queen Street in Alexandria. This event will take place at 2:30 PM and is a joint event with the DC Society, Fairfax Resolves and George Washington Chapter SAR and the Dr. Elisha Dick Chapter, NSDAR.

On November 13, the monthly meeting of the Chapter will be held beginning at 11:30 AM. We will elect the chapter officers for next year, present the public service awards to the Alexandria Fire Department and receive a most interesting presentation on the history of the District of Columbia

Boundary Markers.

Following the luncheon meeting, the Chapter will conduct its annual wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery. This event is scheduled to take place at 3:15 PM.

On December 4, we have been invited to join the St. Andrews Society in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House. This ceremony will honor Patriot William Hunter, founder of the St. Andrews Society of Alexandria.

Finally, I would like to report that we have filled two most important committee chairmanships in the Chapter. The first is the Public Service and Heroism Committee. One of the Chapter's newest members, Jack Pitzer, has stepped forward and is producing immediate results. You will see the results of this work over the next several months.

Our long term Compatriot, Russell Shearer, has volunteered to lead the Graves Marking Committee. In addition, Dwight Whitney, one of our newest members, has volunteered to assist Russell on this committee. Note the article, below, by Compatriot Whitney on the marking of the grave of his Patriot Ancestor.

Don't forget to make your reservations for the November 13 meeting. We are having a most interesting program. Please support the Chapter's wreath-laying ceremonies on November 11 and 13 with your presence. I look forward to seeing you.

Faternally,

Bob Carr
President/Registrar

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Whitney Family Grave Marking Ceremony

A private grave marking ceremony was conducted on October 17 for Samuel Whitney of Marlboro, Vermont, to honor his service to the country during the Revolutionary War. The ceremony was conducted by Dwight Whitney, a seventh-generation descendant of Samuel and a member of our Chapter. His wife Julia Ann Carr Whitney, a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Fauquier Courthouse Chapter, Virginia, attended.

Samuel Whitney served as a private in the Vermont militia with records of service in 1781-82. He served twice during the campaign of 1781 in Capt. Jotham White's Company, Col. Samuel Fletcher's

Battalion, from the beginning of the campaign until August 22, 1781. In 1782 he served in Capt. Josiah Fish's Company of Foot in the 1st Regiment of Militia, Gen. Fletcher's Brigade, "assisting the Sheriff in carrying into execution the law, &c." He served again that year in Capt. Jonathan Warren's Company of Militia, Col. John Serjeant's Regiment, "for the suppression of insurgents in Windham County."



Compatriot Dwight Whitney at his Patriot Ancestor's grave near Marlboro, Vermont.

Samuel Whitney died February 1, 1811, and is buried at the Old Hogback or West Marlboro Cemetery located on his old farm (currently known as the Ira Adams place). His wife, Phebe, died March 16, 1812, and is buried beside him. The SAR marker placed during the ceremony is dedicated to the memory of this American Revolutionary War patriot, to remind all who pass by of the devotion and dedication of all who have made our nation great.

After the ceremony, the Whitneys attended the Annual Hymn Singing & Potluck Supper at the Marlboro Meeting House by invitation from Dick Hamilton. There they met Mr. Hamilton and others of the community -- including two distant Whitney cousins -- who were there to raise funds for repairs to the meeting house. The next day was spent at the Town Clerk's office researching old records with the much appreciated help of Nora Wilson and Forrest Holzapfel. The rest of their week in Vermont was spent up north doing more family research in the Champlain Islands, the state archives, and the Vermont Historical Society.

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

New Members

Since my report in the October newsletter, one new member has been approved. Presently, seven new members await induction. There are six new member applications at National awaiting approval. Fourteen new applications are being worked, of which seven have been sent to the applicants for review and signature. There is one transfer from C.A.R. to SAR in process and two reinstatements are being worked.

Supplemental Applications

We are working on eleven supplemental applications. Two of these have been sent to the applicants for signature. Nineteen supplemental applications are at National awaiting review and approval

All supplemental applications are being processed based on receipt date. Where a member has submitted multiple supplemental applications, only one will be processed from those member submissions before moving on to the next member submission in the queue.

There are other members who have supplemental applications to submit. These members should submit their supplemental in order to get in the queue. Please submit only one supplemental at a time.

Application Notes

Any Compatriot having the name of someone who is interested in joining our chapter or was a former member and has dropped out, please e-mail me (capt7cs@aol.com) or Mike Elston (treasurer.gwsar@gmail.com) with their name and address and we will send them an information packet along with a letter explaining the application/reinstatement procedures and the benefits of being a member of our chapter. If you would like to have a New Member packet to give to someone, see me at the meeting and pick up a packet.

SAR National Web Site

I encourage all Chapter members to log on to the Chapter, VASSAR, and NSSAR web sites. These web pages contain a significant amount of information concerning Chapter, State and National "goings-on."

Bob Carr
President/Registrar

Chapter Received Generous Donations During the Third Quarter of 2010

Contributions of more than \$200

J. Thomas Burch, Jr.

Contributions of \$100 to \$200

Louis A. Beach	F. Paul Briggs
William K. Coulter	Richard P. Kusserow

Contributions up to \$100

Covert Beach	Carlisle Bean
Gregory O. Bodge	Lloyd W. Brown
James C. Clemons, Jr.	Ernest B. Coggins, Jr.
John E. Craig	Michael J. Elston
Kiernan Gifford	Carlyle Gregory, Jr.
Donald E. Kraft	Lorance D. Lisle
Christopher Marston	Edward Robinson
Steven T. Rutledge	Rodney H.C. Schmidt
Richard M. Sherman	Thomas Shoemaker
Addison L. Smith	Howard M. Steele, Jr.
Pat M. Stevens	Paul Schott Stevens
William F. Vosbeck, Jr.	James K. Waters, Jr.

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Calendar of Coming Events

November

11 Wreath-laying ceremony at General Washington's Tomb, Mount Vernon. Please assemble at the Tomb by 1:45 PM.

11 Grave Marking for Dr. Elisha Dick, Kate Waller Barrett Library, 717 Queen Street, Alexandria. Please assemble by 2:15 PM.

13 Regular meeting of our Chapter. Stephen Powers will present a talk on the Boundary Stones of Washington DC. Following the luncheon meeting, the Chapter will conduct its traditional wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery. Please assemble at the Tomb of the Unknowns at 3:00 PM.

December

4 Our Chapter will join the St. Andrews Society in a wreath-laying ceremony at OPMH to honor Patriot William Hunter, founder of the St. Andrews Society of Alexandria.

4-5 Battle of Great Bridge - Chesapeake, VA.

11 Regular meeting of our Chapter. VASSAR President Bowen will officiate the installation of new officers.

11 Wreaths Across America - National Cemeteries. Time TBA.

January 2011

8 Regular meeting of our Chapter. This will be a gala event featuring the presentation of the SAR Gold Good Citizenship award to General Peter Pace.

February 2011

12 Regular meeting of our Chapter.

19 Crossing of the Dan - South Boston, VA.

25-27 2011 VASSAR Annual Meeting-Richmond.

The George Washington Chapter was chartered in its present form on April 2, 1954. With over 200 members, it is Virginia's largest SAR chapter. Meetings 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.

Present officers are:

President:	Bob Carr 703-780-3066
Vice President:	Paul Briggs 703-768-6910
Secretary:	Don Kellerman 703-768-2442
Treasurer:	Mike Elston 703-680-0866
Registrar:	Bob Carr 703-780-3066

This monthly newsletter is edited by Don Kraft, who depends heavily on inputs from chapter officers and committee chairmen. Inputs from others are always welcome. Please send your inputs and comments to kraftdon@att.net or call 703-451-6132.

November 13, 2010

Lunch Meeting Reservation Form

Please use this form to make a reservation for the chapter's lunch at the Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, Virginia. **The lunch cost is \$35.00 per person.** Check in and social time begin at 11:30 a.m. The meeting will be called to order at 12:00 noon.

Feel free to invite your wife and friends as your guests.

RSVP no later than Wednesday, November 10th.

Walk-ins will be accommodated if possible, but note that to cover the Club's charge for serving those without a timely reservation a walk-in price of \$37.00 is required.

Name: _____

A check for _____ persons in the amount of \$ _____ payable to **G. W. Chapter SAR** is enclosed.

Mail this reservation form with your check to: Michael J. Elston, Treasurer

P.O. Box 336

Lorton, VA 22199

You may also make your reservation by e-mail to treasurer.gwsar@gmail.com or call Mike at 703-680-0866.

It is important to provide advance notice of attendance to be sure you get a seat.

Valet parking is available.