



George Washington Chapter Sons of the American Revolution



Newsletter

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Volume 10, Issue 9

December, 2010



Our Chapter's wreath in place at the Tomb of the Unknowns on November 13.

Photo by Bob Carr

November was a Busy Month Veterans Day Wreath-laying Ceremony at General Washington's Tomb

The warm, bright weather on November 11 helped to draw a large crowd to our traditional wreath-laying ceremony at General Washington's Tomb. Performed in conjunction with the Kate Waller Barrett Chapter of the DAR, this event

followed a well established pattern. Ladies of Kate Waller Barrett began the day early by setting up tables where veterans and active service members could sign the Roll of Honor. The ladies also stood near the entrance of the Tomb and provided red carnations to those who wished to pay tribute to General Washington by placing a flower at the Tomb's entrance. Throughout the day, Mount



Kate Waller Barrett's Tillie Cassidy hands a flower to a veteran waiting in line at the Tomb.

Vernon guests silently joined a line in front of the Tomb to participate in this solemn ceremony.



Vice President Briggs at the podium.

At 2:00 pm, Chapter Vice President Paul Briggs opened the formal portion of the event with a description of its purpose. Chapter Secretary Don Kellerman

led the Pledge of Allegiance and Compatriot Briggs made a brief address. Then Kate Waller Barrett's Regent Ms. Susie Floyd addressed those assembled and Ms. Barbara McJoynt read Washington's Prayer to the Nation.

Two active duty members of the U.S. Navy, CDR Heidi Fleming and IT3 Susan Highsmith, accepted our invitation to present the wreath.



KWB Regent Susie Floyd

Traditional martial music was provided by a fifer and drummer from the Fifes and Drums of Prince William III.

Marking of Dr. Dick's Grave

On the afternoon of November 11, our Chapter sponsored, in conjunction with the DC Society SAR and the Fairfax Resolves Chapter, the marking of the grave of Dr. Elisha Cullen Dick. This ceremony took place on the grounds of the Kate Waller Barrett Library in Alexandria. In years past, this was the location of the Quaker Burying Ground where Dr. Dick was buried.



Presentation of the Colors at the Dr. Elisha Dick Grave-marking Ceremony.

In the unexpected absence of Chapter President Bob Carr, the ceremony was conducted by Compatriot Jack Sweeny, President, Fairfax Resolves. The ceremony was opened with the presentation of the colors by the VASSAR Color Guard. Chaplain Don Reynolds led the invocation and closed the ceremony with the benediction. Compatriot Jack Pitzer led the SAR Pledge and the Recessional.

Compatriot John Sinks, DC Society Grave-marking Chairman, presented a research paper describing the life and times of Dr. Dick, which is extracted near the end of this newsletter.

The VASSAR Color Guard was commanded by Compatriot Robert Andrews. Others participating in the ceremony included Compatriot Gary Nordlinger, President, DC Society; Ms. Roberta Lader, Regent, Dr. Elisha Dick Chapter, DAR; and Mr. Brian Dusek, Bugles Across America.

The dedicated marker is inscribed as follows:

This marker is dedicated in recognition of the memory of American Revolutionary War Patriot Dr. Elisha Cullen Dick. As we go from here may it

remind all who pass by of the devotion and dedication of all who have made our nation great. May all of us be humbled and encouraged by this marker to esteem and perpetuate these virtues with our lives. May the peace of God, which surpasses all, guard our hearts and minds in the ties of friendship and unity of love. Amen.

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A Full Agenda for the November Luncheon

Election of Chapter Officers was a major item of business at the November luncheon. Each of the officers presently serving had agreed to serve for another year and they were elected by acclamation. Those officers are:

President Bob Carr
Vice President Paul Briggs
Secretary Don Kellerman
Treasurer Mike Elston

A formal installation ceremony will be conducted during our December meeting by VASSAR President Bob Bowen.

Compatriot Jack Pitzer introduced two members of the Alexandria Fire Department who were presented awards by the Chapter.

On March 13, 2009, Firefighter Doug Townshend, while off-duty, noticed smoke coming from the kitchen of his brother's home. He broke a



SAR Medal for Heroism pinned on Firefighter Townshend

Photo by Jack Pitzer

bedroom window, entered the house and shouted for his brother to move toward his voice. He was unable to find his brother before the heat and smoke drove him from the building. After getting fresh air, he re-entered the house, located his brother and helped him

exit through the window. Both Firefighter Townshend and his brother suffered smoke inhalation and burns. His brother was hospitalized and the house was a total loss.

To recognize this act of heroism, Firefighter Townsend was awarded the SAR Medal for Heroism.

Also recognized was Fire Chief Adam Thiel, who received the SAR Fire Safety Commendation



Fire Chief Thiel with his Fire Safety Commendation Medal and Certificate

Photo by Jack Pitzer

Medal for his outstanding leadership and public service in the community, state and nation in the improvement of emergency response and management, as well as fire prevention and education.

The newest member of our growing Chapter is Steven Barry, who was formally inducted during the November meeting. Compatriot Barry was born and raised in Alexandria. In 1973, he graduated from Hayfield High School. He was then employed and was an apprentice with a local electric contractor. He completed several training courses to obtain his certification as an HVAC Technician. He has been with that same company for thirty-seven years serving residents and businesses in Northern Virginia.

He is the father of three daughters. Nichole, 31, is a Television Producer for the government; Tina, 26, is the manager of The Little Theatre of Alexandria; and Cathleen, 25, is a Fairfax County schoolteacher.

Steve is a long standing member of The

Friends of Mount Vernon, The Kentucky Colonels and a national motorcycle club.



Compatriot Barry takes the oath and becomes our newest member.

Photo by Jack Pitzer

Compatriot Barry's membership in the SAR is based on his bloodline descent from Patriot Michael Kiser. During the Revolution, Michael Kiser assisted in establishing American independence while acting in the capacity of Private in Philadelphia Co., Pennsylvania Militia in Capt. George Reinhardt's Company. He is also eligible to claim descent from William Ball and others through his mother's DAR membership.

The meeting was concluded by our guest speaker Steven C. Powers, Parson's Management Consultants. He gave us an enlightening presentation



Vice President Briggs presents the coveted Washington bust to Guest Speaker Steven Powers.

Photo by Jack Pitzer

about the current status of the 1791-92 Boundary Stones of the 40-mile perimeter of Washington, D.C.

The placements of these stones were originally surveyed by Andrew Elliott and Benjamin Banneker. These important markers have been maintained since the early 20th century by the DAR and various groups of engineers and land surveyors.

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President's Column

Compatriots:

On January 8, 2011, we have a very special evening planned at Belle Haven Country Club. This is a repeat of last year's extremely successful Gold Good Citizenship Award banquet at which we honored General Eric Shinseki. This year, at the request of VASSAR, our Chapter is hosting the Gala for the presentation of the Gold Good Citizenship Award to General Peter Pace, USMC (Ret), the first Marine to serve as the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. NSSAR President General Simpson, VASSAR President Bob Bowen and many other VASSAR and DC Society officers will also attend. We have extended an invitation to all Virginia, DC and Maryland SAR members as well as to the members of our DAR Sister Chapter, Kate Waller Barrett. We are expecting a large turn out so make you reservations early by e-mailing Mike Elston at treasurer.gwsar@gmail.com or calling him at 703-680-0866. If you prefer, you can complete and mail the reservation form on the last page of this newsletter.

The January meeting will be an exciting event, but please do not overlook our regular monthly meeting on December 11. VASSAR President Bob Bowen will be on hand to install next year's officers and to address the Chapter. A reservation form for that meeting is also contained on the last page of this newsletter.

Following the Chapter's monthly meeting on November 13, a group of Chapter Compatriots traveled to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery on behalf of the Chapter and in honor of all the veterans. The Chapter wreath-laying party consisted of Jack Shawn, Dr. Bob Wineland, Floyd Ryan and Dwight Whitney. Jack Shawn and Dr. Wineland, both WW II Veterans, bore the wreath to the Tomb of the Unknowns. It was a beautiful day and there was a large public turnout. We were very fortunate to have scheduled

our wreath-laying between the arrival of two bus loads of Honor Flight Network WW II and Korean War Veterans. Honor Flight Network is a non-profit



Compatriots Wineland and Shawn present the Chapter's wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns
Photo by Bob Carr

organization created solely to honor America's veterans for all their sacrifices. They transport our heroes to Washington DC to visit and reflect at their memorials. Top priority is given to the senior veterans – WW II survivors, along with other veterans who may be terminally ill. We shook the hands of as many as we could from each bus load and thanked them for their service.

On Sunday, November 21, three Chapter members and wives motored to Richmond's Shockoe Hill Cemetery to represent our Chapter at a grave-marking ceremony conducted by the Richmond Chapter SAR, and the Virginia Society, War of 1812. Again, we enjoyed perfect weather. Wreaths were presented by the following organizations: VASSAR; Virginia Society, War of 1812; Virginia Society, United Daughters of 1812; Virginia Society of the Order of Founders and Patriots of America; Richmond, George Washington, Thomas Nelson and Williamsburg SAR Chapters; Commonwealth Chapter, DAR; and the Col. Alexander Spotswood Society, Children of the American Revolution. Thanks to Jack Shawn and Ray and Reba Hawn for

attending this event on behalf of our Chapter. It was a great day!



Chapter President Carr presents our wreath at the Shockoe Hill Cemetery ceremony.

Each year VASSAR recognizes chapters that have demonstrated outstanding performance in a variety of activities. "Best Chapter" is just one of the awards for which we compete. The awards are based upon VASSAR's evaluation of each chapter's Annual Report.

In addition to the activities and accomplishments of the chapter, the Annual Report also reports the civic and patriotic activities of individual chapter members. During the year numerous compatriots are involved in community activities, civic programs and patriotic activities that count toward the chapter's overall rating for the year. For example, last year one VASSAR chapter had a member that played the piano at a Senior Center. They called him the "Piano Man" and he was loved by all the senior citizens. The reporting of this one act gave that chapter a major boost in points. If the chapter had not been made aware of this activity they would have not have received credit. Other activities include volunteering at VA Hospitals, Soup Kitchens, Habitat for Humanity, VFW, and similar civic organization programs for our veterans, the needy and the homeless.

We need each of our members to review their personal activities this year and report them so we can include them in our Annual Report. Even though

you may not think what you did is important, please report it because it may be like the "Piano Man." Compatriot Ray Hawn has agreed to collect this information from Chapter Compatriots and consolidate the information for the annual report. You can report your activities to Ray by e-mail to rayc486@hotmail.com, telephone at 703-504-6108 or by letter to Ray C. Hawn, Jr., 203 Yoakum Parkway # 611, Alexandria, VA 22304.

We need the help of each member in compiling the data for this report. The reporting period includes the time period from January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010. Our report is due to VASSAR no later than January 14, 2011, so please submit your input as soon as you can.

I wish each of you a Happy Thanksgiving. I have so much to be thankful for in being able to know and work with my Compatriots in the George Washington Chapter and those in the Virginia Society and SAR. Thanks!

Fraternally,

Bob Carr
President

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REGISTRAR'S REPORT

New Members

Since my report in the November newsletter, one new member has been approved. At present, five new members await induction. Eleven new member applications await approval at National. Nine new applications are being worked. Seven of those have been sent to the applicants for review and signature. One transfer from C.A.R. to SAR is in process. Two reinstatements are in process.

Supplemental Applications

Eleven supplemental applications are being worked. Seventeen supplemental applications are at National awaiting review and approval. Two supplementals were approved in November.

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.

Other members have supplemental applications to submit. Those members should submit their supplemental in order to get in the queue. Please submit only one supplemental at a time.

Bob Carr
Registrar

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Chapter Notes

Chapter Vice President Paul Briggs has retired after eight years of service at the U.S. Department of Labor. His employment there followed retirement as a colonel after serving 30 years in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Julia Carr, who has been very generous in supporting many of our Chapter's activities, was badly injured in a fall on November 13. Fortunately, no bones were broken but a laceration on her forehead required several stitches.

Compatriot Bob Berry has scheduled hip replacement surgery on December 23. We pray that this surgery will be completed without complications and that Bob will enjoy a swift and full recovery.

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More About the Life of Dr. Elisha Dick

As some readers may not be familiar with the important role played by Dr. Dick, the editor has extracted the following from the paper read by Compatriot Sinks at the grave-marking ceremony held on November 11.

The Life and Times of Dr. Elisha Cullen Dick

John D. Sinks

District of Columbia Society, Sons of the American
Revolution

Elisha Cullen Dick was born on 15 March 1762 in Chester County, Pennsylvania. His parents were Archibald Dick and Mary Barnard. Elisha had just turned 13 when the Revolution began. His father was affluent enough to send his two sons to the Philadelphia Academy. When the Revolution broke out Archibald Dick sided with the Associators against England.

As Elisha Dick approached his majority, he studied medicine in Philadelphia. In 1780 and 1781 he studied under Dr. Benjamin Rush, a signer of the

Declaration of Independence, and subsequently under Dr. William Shippen, who had been Director of Hospitals for the Continental Army. Elisha Dick received the Bachelor of Medicine degree on 21 March 1782.

Under the Pennsylvania Militia Act of 1777 men 18 to 53 had a military obligation. They were enrolled in the militia, were required to serve two months of active duty, and were subject to being drafted. Elisha Dick turned 18 in 1780, a year when we know he was studying in Philadelphia. It is here we find record of him serving in the militia:

Private, 5th Class, 5th Company (Capt. Jacob Martin), 4th Battalion (Lt. Col. Paul Coxe), Philadelphia City (Pennsylvania) Militia, 1780 or 1781. Listed as Elisha Dick.

Private, 7th Class, 8th Company (Capt. John Cornish), 4th Battalion (Lt. Col. Paule Coxe), Philadelphia City (Pennsylvania) Militia, 1780 or 1781. Listed as Doct. Dick.

There is no record of Elisha Dick serving on active duty in any campaigns during the Revolution. He did, however, see active duty as the commander of Captain Dick's Troop of Cavalry, Virginia Militia in the suppression of the Whiskey Rebellion. The unit was raised in Alexandria, entered service on 24 September 1794 and was at Winchester on the 27th of November, when a pay roll was prepared. No other rolls of the company are extant.

According to his great grandson, Elisha Dick stopped in Alexandria on his way to Charleston when one of Alexandria's three physicians died. Elisha Dick decided to remain in Alexandria and became an active citizen. On 2 September 1782 he was one of five men to petition the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania to establish a Masonic lodge in Alexandria, Virginia. Elisha Dick was elected secretary at the apprentice lodge's first meeting on 25 February 1783 and junior warden when the lodge held its first meeting on 21 December 1783. In 1791 when Worshipful Master of the lodge he laid the southern cornerstone of the District of Columbia at Jones Point. Elisha Dick was among the founders of the Alexandria Library Company and was appointed Superintendent of Quarantine for the Port of Alexandria in 1793. From 1804 to 1805 he was Mayor of Alexandria, D.C.

Elisha Dick is perhaps best known as one of the physicians summoned to Mount Vernon at the time of George Washington's final illness. Dr. James Craik was summoned first and was the attending physician. Dr. Craik recognized that the illness was serious and sent for two consulting physicians, first Dr. Gustavus Brown and then Dr. Elisha Dick. Dick opposed continued bleeding of Washington and recommended a tracheotomy. The two senior physicians did not concur. Brown wrote to Craik on 21 January 1800:

Sir: I have lately met Dr. Dick again in consultation and high opinion that I formed of him when we were in conference last month, concerning the situation of our Illustrious friend, has been confirmed. You remember how, by his clear reasoning and evident knowledge of the cause of certain symptoms after the examination of the General, he assured us that it was not really quinsy, which we supposed it to be, but a violent inflammation of the membranes of the throat, which it had almost closed, and which if not immediately arrested would result in his death. You must remember he was averse to bleeding the General, and I have often thought that if we had acted accordingly to his suggestion, when he said, "he needs all his strength - bleeding will diminish it", and taken no more blood from him, our good friend might have been alive now. But we were governed by the best light we had: we thought we were right, and so we were justified.

Elisha Dick joined the Alexandria Meeting of Society of Friends in 1812. At this time he freed his slave. Dr. Dick resided at several different locations within the City of Alexandria: 408 Duke St., 814 Franklin St., and 211 and 517 Prince St. He retired to Cottage Farm in Fairfax County on what is now Lincolnia Road near Little River Turnpike in 1814 where he died on 22 September 1825. The house stood until 1952, when it was razed.

Elisha Dick was buried in Alexandria, then District of Columbia, in the Quaker Burying Ground, now the grounds of the Barrett Branch, Alexandria Public Library. When the Library was constructed in 1937 there was no tombstone for Dr. Dick.

Bugles Across America

The grave marking of Dr Elisha Cullen Dick on Veterans Day, 2010 was made more special by Brian Dusek, who played *Taps* at the conclusion of the dedication of the SAR stone marker placed at Dr. Elisha Dick's grave. Brian is a member of Bugles Across America, a group of over 7500 bugler volunteers located in all 50 states and a growing number of overseas locations.

Bugles Across America was founded in 2000 by Tom Day, when Congress passed legislation stating that Veterans had a right at their funeral to at least 2 uniformed military personnel to fold the flag and play *Taps* on a CD player. Bugles Across America was formed to take this a step further, and in recognition of the service these veterans provided their country, to provide a live rendition of taps played by a live bugler.

This is an all volunteer organization funded by contributions from grateful Americans. Bugler volunteers can be male or female. They can play a traditional bugle with no valves, or they can perform the ceremony on a trumpet, cornet, flugelhorn or a 1, 2 or 3 valve bugle. Buglers can be of any age as long as they can play the 24 notes of *Taps* with the dignity and style that will honor the veteran, veterans family and the burial detail performing the service. A contribution on behalf of the Chapter has been made to Bugles Across America.

If you would like more information on Bugles Across America, or would like to request a bugler for a patriotic ceremony performed by another organization to which you belong, go to the their web site at www.buglesacrossamerica.org.

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Calendar of Coming Events

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.

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

11 Wreaths Across America - National Cemeteries. Time TBA.

16 Presentation of SAR awards to two members of the Alexandria Fire Department. This ceremony will take place at 10:00 a.m. at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson Street, Alexandria.

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.

21 OPMH Wreath-laying and Washington Birthday Parade in Alexandria

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

December 11, 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, December 8th.

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.

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RESERVATION

for

January 8, 2011, Gen. Peter Pace USMC (Ret) Gold Good Citizenship Award Dinner

Please use this form to make reservations and to select your meal choice for the chapter hosted gala event at the Belle Haven Country Club.

TIME: Cocktails & Hors D'Oeuvres - 6:00 to 7:30 PM
Dinner – 7:30 PM

PLACE: Main Ball Room, Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria

ATTIRE: Black tie optional, as are personal medals and decorations

MEAL CHOICE: 1. Medallion of Beef w/sauce of Cabernet Wine & wild rice
2. Herb Roasted Salmon Filet w/lemon herb sauce & Roasted Garlic potatoes

COST: \$65.00 per person

PARKING: Free, however valet parking will be available

RSVP : No later than December 31, 2010

Please indicate below your name and guest name if applicable and meal choice

NAME: _____ Meal choice, please circle 1 2

GUEST: _____ Meal choice, please circle 1 2

A check for _____ person(s) in the amount of \$ _____ payable to the G.W. Chapter SAR is enclosed.

MAIL RESERVATION TO: Michael J. Elston, Treasurer, P.O. Box 336, Lorton, VA 22199

You may also contact Michael Elston at treasurer.gwsar@gmail.com or call him at 703-680-0866