



George Washington Chapter Sons of the American Revolution



Newsletter

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Volume 10, Issue 3

March, 2010



Wreath-laying Ceremony at the 229th Annual Celebration of the Crossing of the Dan

Front row, L to R: Andy Johnson, George Mason Chapter; Larry McKinley, Fairfax Resolves Chapter; Bob Carr, George Washington Chapter; Julia Carr; Samuel Powell, VP General, South Atlantic SAR & NSSAR; Bob Bowen, VASSAR President; Anne Raab, Regent, Berryman Greene Chapter, Virginia DAR; Larry Araron, President Dan River Chapter

See a description of the ceremony in the President's Column, below.

President's Column

VASSAR Annual Meeting, February 12 – 13

The 120th Annual Meeting of the Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution was held on February 12 and 13 at the Holiday Inn Select

Hotel, Koger South Conference Center, in Richmond, Virginia. The Chapter took this opportunity to combine our February monthly meeting with the trip to Richmond and attend the conference. There were 83 delegates from 23 of the 26 state chapters and 3 attendees from the Texas, Delaware and Pennsylvania

Societies. The George Washington Chapter was well represented with eight delegates and two wives attending.

A Board of Managers meeting followed the Friday evening buffet dinner. The Board of Managers received reports from the National and Virginia Society Officers and addressed a number of issues for the year. The most prominent was the final reconciliation of the VASSAR bank account and the presentation of the 2010 Budget. There was some discussion of allocation of monies for the awards programs. There was also a question regarding the source of the proposed increase in revenue for 2010. The evening activities were capped by the departing VASSAR President's Reception which was enjoyed by all.

During Saturday's General Membership Meeting, all VASSAR officers and committee chairmen and VASSAR chapter presidents made verbal reports. The George Washington Chapter was applauded by Joe Dooley, NSSAR Genealogist General and VASSAR Past President for its January 9th Gala at which the SAR Gold Good Citizenship Medal was presented to General Eric K. Shinseki.

NSSAR President General Ed Butler, NSSAR Past President General Bruce Wilcox, NSSAR Vice President General Richard L. Ashmun and NSSAR Registrar General Steve Leishman attended our Annual Meeting..

Following lunch, which was attended by all of the George Washington Chapter members present, we moved by bus to The Commonwealth of Virginia's Capital Building for the Awards Program which was held in the Old House Chamber. This year like last, our chapter was fortunate to win a number of statewide awards. We won the Donald W. Baldwin Award for the largest membership increase for 2009, the Chapter Excellence Award for doing a good job in a wide range of programs and we received a Certificate of Appreciation for our chapter Flag Program. Once again the Fairfax Resolves Chapter was awarded the most chapter awards, six, including the Best Large Chapter and Best Newsletter while the Richmond Chapter beat us out of the Best Extra Large Chapter. We are planning on continuing to improve on this record during the coming year.

President General Butler was the Keynote Speaker for the Saturday night black tie banquet. Following his encouraging speech, President General Butler installed Bob Bowen as VASSAR's newly

elected President. Bowen hails from Fredericksburg and is a dual member of the Col. Fielding Lewis and Culpeper Minute Men Chapters. I look forward to working with him during the coming year.

Following the banquet, President Bowen hosted all attendees at a reception in the President's Suite. A good time was had by all.

Crossing of The Dan

On February 19th, Julia and I traveled to South Boston, Virginia, to represent our chapter at a wreath-laying commemorating the 229th Anniversary of the Crossing of the Dan. This annual event is sponsored by the Berryman Greene Chapter of the Virginia DAR, VASSAR's Dan River Chapter, the Halifax County Historical Society and the Halifax County Middle School. The celebration was held over a three day period culminating in the Commemoration Program on Saturday morning in the Chastain Theater located in the Prizery which overlooks Boyd's Ferry crossing site on the Dan River. The Guilford Courthouse Fife & Drum opened the celebration. Tom Daniel, South Boston Town Manager, welcomed all participants and visitors. Following the Presentation of the Colors, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance and Posting of the Colors, the South Boston Town Mayor, the Vice Mayor of Halifax and the Chairmen of the Halifax Board of Supervisors greeted all attendees.



Pilgrimage to the Dan River Crossing Site & Monument where remarks were made by Barbara Bass, President Halifax County Historical Society and Dr. Larry Aaron, President Dan River SAR.

The keynote speaker, Gary Sandling from the Thomas Jefferson Foundation at Monticello, spoke on *Jefferson's Honor: Histories of the Virginia Invasions 1781*. He also touched on the work at Monticello and we hope to visit there soon.

The Wreath-laying Ceremony followed and included representatives from the Virginia DAR and SAR, North Carolina SAR and South Atlantic District, SAR. Eleven Virginia SAR Chapters, two North Carolina Chapters and four DAR Chapters presented wreaths. The DAR contingent included two representatives from our Sister Chapter, Kate Waller Barrett.

A pilgrimage to the crossing site followed the wreath presentations. A short ceremony at the monument, which commemorates the site of the crossing of General Greene's forces out of North Carolina ahead of General Cornwallis's forces, concluded this colorful event.

It was a great day and we look forward to representing the chapter at future events of this nature.

Did You Know?

Did you know that the Chapter receives points toward VASSAR's Best Chapter Award for registering the location of Revolutionary War Patriot Graves? Even if the grave has been previously registered but has never been located by GPS coordinates, we can receive credit by reporting the GPS coordinates to the VASSAR Revolutionary War Graves Chairman. These graves do not have to be in Virginia. If you go back to where your patriot grave is located and take the GPS coordinates and report the location to VASSAR, the George Washington Chapter receives credit if this grave had never been reported by GPS coordinates.

Did you know that the chapter receives credit for any volunteer service that you may be participating in? Yes, and the chapter that won the Volunteer Service Award this year received it for one of their members entertaining residents of a retirement home by playing the piano – "The Piano Man". Until we can find a chairman to take charge of collecting this information from our members, please report to me your hours of volunteer service. I will collect this information and pass it on to the soon to be appointed chairman of that effort.

Did you know that NSSAR Headquarters maintains an Archive of Honor which contains copies of SAR members retired military personnel service records? To include your service record in the archives you will need to complete a copy of the Military Service Reporting Form, attach a copy of your DD Form 214 (discharge record) or equivalent and mail to Archive of Honor, NSSAR Headquarters, 1000 South Fourth Street, Louisville, KY 40203-3292. The form can be found on the NSSAR web site, www.sar.org. Under the Compatriots drop down menu, click on Forms and you can scroll down to the form and print a copy.

I look forward to an exciting and busy year as your president. I will need all the help I can muster from each of you to make this a successful and rewarding year.

Bob Carr
Chapter President

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Next Chapter Meeting

The next meeting of our chapter will be held at the Belle Haven Country Club on Saturday, March 13. Our guest speaker will be Chris Herndon. His topic will be "Cyber Security Threats to National Security." Chris says, "Many people don't realize we are at war against these cyber criminals right now and they are winning and winning big."

Chris is the Managing Director and Chief Technologist at MorganFranklin Corporation. He joined Morgan Franklin with 20 years of experience in senior communications and IT roles. He has a broad engineering back-ground across the telecommunications industries with expertise in RF engineering, data transmission engineering, cyber security, information assurance, wireless, satellite, data systems planning, emergency management, project management, design, deployment, optimization, interoperability and operations. With the ever growing and changing cyber threats facing US interests, Chris spends the majority of his time supporting cyber needs of MorganFranklin clients which include the White House, Intelligence Community, Department of Defense and the private sector.

Local High School Students Shine in SAR Youth Contests

The George Washington Chapter conducted successful chapter competitions in both the George S. & Stella M. Knight Essay Contest and the Joseph S. Rumbaugh Orations Contest this year. The two contest winners will join us for lunch at our March 13 chapter meeting. The competitions were chaired for the third year running by Compatriot Michael Elston,



Contest participants (seated left to right) Derek Trumps, Darwin Emmanuel, Sarah McCarthy and Rebecca Tamiru pose for a photo with (standing left to right) Compatriots Richard Sherman (judge), Floyd Ryan (judge), Michael Elston (contest chairman) and Paul Briggs (judge). Not shown: contestant Chase Turner

who said, “Our Chapter is honored to be represented in the state competitions by two outstanding young people. These contests are a great opportunity for the SAR to recognize the achievements of high school students and to teach the next generation about the ideals and sacrifices of our Patriot ancestors that brought our great country into existence over 225 years ago.”

Five students participated in the orations contest on February 20, 2010, at Bishop Denis J. O’Connell High School in Arlington. Compatriots Paul Briggs, Floyd Ryan, and Richard Sherman served as judges. The chapter also was fortunate this year to have the interest and support of Bishop O’Connell

teacher Mary Lou Wentzel. The contest was scheduled, cancelled and rescheduled several times due to the two snow storms in early February, but thanks to Ms. Wentzel the contest finally was able to go forward just a week before the February 27th state competition.

The 2010 orations contest winner is Rebecca Tamiru. Tamiru is a junior at Bishop O’Connell High School in Arlington where she is on the varsity track team, among other activities. In her spare time she volunteers at Christ House Thrift Shop in Alexandria. Rebecca’s oration calls the American Revolution an example of the human capacity for greatness and dramatically describes a revival moment in a small church in Woodstock, Virginia, in January 1776, when the Rev. Peter Muhlenburg cast off his robes and stood before his parish in the uniform of an officer of the Continental Army. Such examples of our Founders’ motives explain why America’s greatness will not soon pass away. Unlike empires of the past, Tamiru argues, America will endure because its foundation is different: its foundation is limited government with ultimate power in the hands of its citizens. This foundation allows us to “learn from our mistakes.” Tamiru also notes that “allowing any government too much power would only end in disaster.”

The 2010 essay contest winner is Philip Grudier. Grudier is a junior at George C. Marshall High School in Falls Church where he is a member of the National Honor Society and participates in the Model United Nations Club. His essay, entitled “A Moral State,” explores the motivation of “rather well off” colonists to risk everything in a rebellion against Great Britain. He concludes that, unlike other revolutions motivated by a desire for power, for economic gain or to resist oppression, the American people “found their strength and their will in the vast beauty of the new world and in their heartfelt desire to restore and pursue the virtue of a moral state.”

At the Virginia Society’s annual meeting in February, the essay contest judges (under the leadership of the George Washington Chapter’s own Lou Beach) awarded second place to Grudier’s essay. In addition to receiving his chapter awards on March 13, Grudier will also receive a \$300 check from the Virginia Society as his second-place prize.

VASSAR's Rumbaugh Orations Contest

Strong Competitors Represented Four Chapters

Contestants representing the Fairfax Resolves, Thomas Jefferson, and George Mason Chapters joined our chapter's representative Rebecca Tamiru in the final event of this year's Joseph S. Rumbaugh Orations Contest. This VASSAR event was held on February 27 in the beautiful facilities of the Falcons Landing Air Force Retired Officers Community, which were arranged by the Fairfax Resolves.

Having already excelled in a separate chapter competition, you can be assured that each contestant was extremely well prepared. The outstanding presentation of each contestant presented a difficult challenge for the judges, who were closeted for more than half an hour before a final decision was reached.



Contest Awards Ceremony

And the winners are: (L to R) 1st Place Kristen Bowers (Fairfax Resolves), 2nd Place Joshua Underwood (Thomas Jefferson), Contest Chairman Compatriot Bill Broadus, 3rd Place Rebecca Tamiru (George Washington), and 4th Place Batali Christi (George Mason).

The judge's decisions are noted in the caption to the photo, above. Our Rebecca Tamiru placed third among the very evenly match orators. Each contestant received a cash award: \$1,000 for 1st place; \$500 for 2nd; \$300 for 3rd; and \$100 for 4th. Ms. Bowers will represent VASSAR at the national competition which will be held during the NSSAR 120th Annual Congress in Cleveland, Ohio, next June.

You will have an opportunity to congratulate Rebecca as she will be our luncheon guest at the March chapter meeting.

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Registrar's Report

No new members have been approved for membership since my last report. National has two applications which have been awaiting approval since November, 2009. In addition to the seventeen new applications being worked, four more have been received and have been added to the queue. Two new members and twelve supplemental applications have been completed and sent to the new State Registrar for approval and forwarding to NSSAR.

On February 13, 2010, Dick Bidwell, who has been the State Registrar for over five years, stepped down. He will be missed by all. Concurrently, Brent D. Morgan, from the Richmond Chapter, was sworn in as the new State Registrar at the VASSAR Annual meeting in Richmond. We will probably see a slight slow down in the processing of applications while Brent gets up to speed but I have heard very good things about our new State Registrar.

We hope to induct several new members at the March meeting. Those members approved for membership but not yet inducted and who are planning to attend the March meeting, please contact me. I will contact all those who have not been inducted to confirm whether you plan to attend.

Keep the new member and supplemental applications coming. If you need a new member packet, please call or e-mail me and I will gladly send you all the information needed.

Bob Carr
Registrar

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Acknowledgment of Special Contributions

For many years, the George Washington Chapter has benefitted from the generosity of its members in the form of time, talent and treasure. The year 2009 was no exception. It is particularly important to recognize those members and friends who have given financial support to the chapter. Accordingly, the Board of Managers gratefully acknowledges the following monetary contributions

from its members during 2009:

\$2000 or More

David M. Walker

\$1000 to \$1999

F. Paul Briggs

Richard P. Kusserow

From \$250 to \$999

Michael J. Elston

From \$100 to \$249

Louis A. Beach

Robert F. Carr

Charles E. Harris

Other Contributions

George R. Allin, Jr.

William S. Anderson

Covert Beach

Carlisle Bean

Robert E. Berry

Larry W. Brown

Lloyd W. Brown

John Edgar Craig

Robert A. Crawley

Neal Charles Davis

Scott M. Dwinelle

Robert H. Einhaus

K. Scott Garnett

Carlyle Gregory

David P. Grimes

Edward. Gumkowski

Charles E. Hamly

Richard D. Hamly

Rodney P. Harrington

Charles E. Harris

Stephen Hartwell

Dennis J. Hickey

Wilburn Wade Homesley

Edward S. Johnson

Steven Bart Jones

Donald W. Kellerman

Donald E. Kraft

Lorance Dix Lisle

Christopher M. Marston

Roy A. Parker

Steven T. Rutledge

Floyd N. Ryan

Austin B.C. Schmidt

Peter H.V. Schmidt

C. Russell H. Shearer

Richard M. Sherman

Thomas E. Shoemaker

Addison L. Smith

Howard M. Steele

Pat M. Stevens

Paul Schott Stevens

W. Kenan Torrans

William F. Vosbeck

David H. Wagner

Paul Donald Wagoner

James K. Waters Jr.

Edwin J. Williams

Thank you all for your additional support of the chapter's efforts to honor the sacrifices of our Patriot ancestors and to inspire the current generation with the ideals of those who fought to establish the independence of the United States.

The chapter has already received several monetary contributions this year. If you would like to make a gift of financial support to the chapter, please send your check to our Treasurer, Michael J. Elston, P.O. Box 336, Lorton, VA 22199. Members who make contributions to the chapter in 2010 will receive

a letter acknowledging their contribution for tax purposes.

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OBITUARIES

William Alfred Pearce

A past president of our chapter, William Alfred Pearce was born on April 4, 1920, in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. He died in Arlington, Virginia, on January 24, 2101, at the age of 89 years.

"Bill" Pearce, son of Ira E. Wissinger and Mary Helen Pearce, grew up in and around Johnstown, in western Pennsylvania. He married Vivian Lucille Buchanan from Sharon, Pennsylvania, in 1943.

He served in the US Army during World War II in the China-Burma-India Theater as a Corporal in the Military Police. After the war, he attended Indiana State Teacher's College (now Indiana University), in Indiana, Pennsylvania, where he graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Education. For more information about Mr. Pearce's military service, please visit this internet link: <http://www.wwiimemorial.com/registry/search/pframe.asp?HonoreeID=1656781&popcount=3&tcoun=3>

Bill was a "Jack of all trades", a handyman, tinkerer, designer, and thinker. He moved the family from Pennsylvania to Chicago in 1952, where he became an engineer for Western Electric Company. He was one of the early computer pioneers when the first digital computers came about in the late 1950s. In the 1960s, he moved the family from Chicago to Seattle, Washington, where he worked for the Boeing Company until 1971. He transferred "back east" to Philadelphia and finally to Arlington in 1972. He retired from the Boeing Company in the mid 1970s.

He went on to work for the System Development Corporation (now part of Unisys), where he retired in 1986. His assignments with this company took him many places overseas, and to assignments involving many classified U.S. Government contracts. He was probably most proud of his work with the Air Force's National Emergency Airborne Command Post ("NEACP", pronounced "Knee Cap") program, which involved flying missions aboard Air Force One and E-4B aircraft to develop airborne communications systems for National Defense.

During this period, Mr. Pearce graduated with honors from the American University in Washington DC in 1977 and earned a Master of Science Degree in Technology Management.

Mr. Pearce was involved with the Boy Scouts of America, and was a very avid trailering aficionado. He loved his Airstream trailer that he took everywhere. He was an accomplished hobbyist woodworker, which he loved so much and shared with all of his friends and family.

Mr. Pearce's ancestor Private Ludwig Wissinger served in the German Battalion of the Continental Troops during the American Revolution in 1776, which qualified Mr. Pearce for membership in the Sons of the American Revolution, where he was an active member for years. He served for several years as an officer in the George Washington Chapter in Virginia, and was President of that chapter in 1987. His sons, Roger and Greg, are both "life" members of the SAR as well.

Bill is survived by his wife of 66 years, Vivian, his two sons, Roger and Greg; his daughter-in-law Julie and two grandchildren, Rachael and William. "MR WAP", as he was known, will be interred at Bethel Cemetery, near Hermitage, Pennsylvania, at a small service on 3 April 2010.

He will be greatly missed by his family, community and country.

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Francis Marion Becker, Jr.

Our Compatriot "Frank" Becker died on Thursday, January 21, 2010 surrounded by his loving family. He was predeceased by his parents Francis and Catherine Becker and his sister Mary Catherine Becker Dwyer. Frank is survived by his wife Barbara Joan Becker; six children: Frank J. Becker; William Robert and his wife Linda; Stephen David and his wife Ellen; James Carlin and his wife Carol; Peter Michael and his wife Vicki; and John Eric and his wife Deborah; 15 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; his brother Bernie and his wife Helen; and his sister Marie and her husband Ralph Marlatt. Many of our chapter members attended a visitation at the Demaine Funeral Home on Sunday, January 24. Our chapter was also represented at a Mass of Christian Burial on Monday, January 25th at Good Shepherd Catholic Church.

An active member of our chapter, Frank served for many years as the chairman of the Law Enforcement and Fire Safety Committee. He recently received the chapter's meritorious service award for his outstanding contributions to our programs. He will be missed by his Compatriots, his family and the Alexandria Community.

Compatriots who wish to honor Frank's life may send contributions in his name to the Alexandria Kiwanis Education Fund.

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Calendar of Coming Events

March

- 3-7 National Spring Trustees/Leadership Meetings, Louisville, KY.
- 13 Regular meeting of our chapter. Guest speaker Chris Herndon will speak on "Cyber Security Threats to National Security."**
- 16 President James Madison's Birthday - Montpelier, VA.
- 27 OFPA - Richard Henry Lee marking - Irvington, VA. 2:30 pm, preceded by luncheon.

April

- 10 Regular meeting of our chapter.**
- 13 Thomas Jefferson's Birthday - Washington, DC. Time TBA.
- 17-18 Battle of Petersburg - Time TBA
- 24 President James Monroe birthplace - Westmoreland County, VA. 10:30 am. For additional information, contact the James Monroe Chapter.
- 28 President James Monroe's Birthday - Richmond, VA, 11:00 a.m.

May

- 7-8 Raid on Martin's Station - Ewing, VA. Time TBA.
- 8 Regular meeting of our chapter.**
- 15 Plaque Dedication - Raphine, VA. Old Providence Presbyterian Church.
- 31 National Memorial Day Parade - Washington, DC. Time TBA. This is a big event for our chapter!**

June

- 18-20 SAR Conference of the American Revolution
- West Point, NY.
24-30 120th Annual Congress - Cleveland, OH.

July

- 4 Washington's Tomb Wreath-laying and Naturalization Ceremony - Mount Vernon, VA. Time TBA.**
4 Naturalization Ceremony - Monticello, VA.
Thomas Jefferson Chapter is the sponsor.
Time TBA.
26-4 Aug National Scout Jamboree -
Fort A.P. Hill, VA

September

- 11 Regular meeting of our chapter.**
10-11 VASSAR Semi-Annual Meeting - Winchester,
VA.
10-11 Constitution Day - Montpelier, VA.

October

- 1-3 Battle Days - Point Pleasant, WV.
9 Regular meeting of our chapter.
19 Battle of Yorktown - Yorktown, VA
Time TBA.

November

- 13 Regular meeting of our chapter.**

December

- 4-5 Battle of Great Bridge - Chesapeake, VA.
11 Regular meeting of our chapter.
11 Wreaths Across America - National
Cemeteries. Time TBA.

January 2011

- 8 Regular meeting of our chapter.**

February 2011

- 12 Regular meeting of our chapter.**
TBA 2011 VASSAR Annual Meeting- Richmond.
TAB Crossing of the Dan - South Boston, VA.

Acknowledgment

The editor's thanks go to Bob Carr, Paul Briggs, Mike Elston, Greg Pearce and Jim Becker, who contributed portions of this newsletter.

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.

March 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 \$30.00 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 Monday, March 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 \$35.00 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.