



George Washington Chapter Sons of the American Revolution



Newsletter

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October, 2010



Eleven New Compatriots Join the George Washington Chapter

In what may be the largest induction ceremony ever, eleven new members were inducted at the Chapter's September 18 luncheon meeting. We warmly welcomed these men into our growing circle of compatriots. In the above photo, from the left: Chapter President Bob Carr; Scott A. Wagoner; Andrew B. McDonald; William B. Arnhart; Dwight E. Whitney; Richard Seesholtz; Ernest B. Coggins, Jr.; Leyton T. Pitzer; Steven G. Pruitt; Jack T. Pitzer; and Donald B. Pruitt. Not shown, Matthew T. Phillips.

Photo by Ann Whitney.

Highlights of the September Luncheon

Before our lunch was served, President Carr made several important announcements which will be covered in the President's Column, below.

In addition to the record-breaking induction ceremony, above:

Compatriot Thomas Burch, Jr. was presented a certificate designating him a George Washington

Fellow in appreciation of his support of the George Washington Endowment Fund.

Three new streamers for our chapter flag were presented to Master-at-Arms Covert Beach. These streamers recognize our participation in last April's President General's Wreath-laying at the Tomb of the Unknowns; our participation in the recent Old Providence Presbyterian Church Grave Marking; and the Chapter's contribution to the Center for Advancing America's Heritage (CAAH) Chapter Donation Campaign.

Chapter Treasurer Elston was presented a certificate recognizing the approval of a supplementary patriot ancestor.

Our guest speaker, Dr. Christopher Klemek, provided a slide-illustrated discussion of Revolutionary War events related to the historic Battle of Saratoga. In his talk, Dr. Klemek described how the behavior of Indians allied with the British first drew Tory loyalists toward the British cause. However, as the conflict continued, the brutal conduct of the Indians caused many Quakers and Tory sympathizers to rally against the British advance down the Hudson River valley. Ultimately the British, under command of General Bourgoigne, were defeated at Saratoga - - a victory much needed by Washington and an early turning point of our battle for independence.

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October Luncheon

The next luncheon will be held at the usual venue on October 9. Dr. Mark Skousen, a direct descendant of Founding Father Benjamin Franklin, has agreed to be our guest speaker. Dr. Skousen is a best-selling author, university professor and award-winning financial advisor.



Dr. Mark Skousen

He will speak about his recent project, "The Completed Autobiography by Benjamin Franklin," which he edited using the rare papers in the Franklin Project at Yale University.

Mark's wife Jo Ann, also a PhD and professor, may join him for part of the presentation.

Please use the form at the end of this newsletter to make your reservation for this luncheon.

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Wreath-laying at Leland-Madison Park

In the first of what is destined to become an annual event, VASSAR commemorated an historic meeting between Congressman James Madison and Elder John Leland with a picnic and wreath-laying ceremony. Compatriot Ray Hawn represented our Chapter at this ceremony which was held on September 18th at the Leland-Madison Park near Orange, Virginia. Ray provided the following report and photo.

It was an enjoyable drive to the Leland-Madison Park just north of Orange, Virginia, on Saturday, September 18th. Although we missed the turn after seeing those people getting ready for a picnic as we zoomed by, we made a 180 degree turn and headed back. Our hosts were making burgers and dogs and providing drinks. We brought some tater salad and other side dishes were available. The program, started at 1 p.m., consisted of the presentation of the Colors by the VASSAR Color Guard, the Invocation by the VASSAR Chaplain, the Pledge of Allegiance and the SAR Pledge. We received greetings with remarks by VASSAR President Bowen and Rev. John Miller, the director of the Goshen Baptist Association, who owns the park.



Compatriot Hawn presented our wreath at the ceremony.

This gathering by VASSAR commemorated the historic meeting between Congressman James Madison and Elder John Leland that convinced Madison to support the Constitution and introduce the First Amendment that guarantees Freedom of Religion and Speech. The gathering ended with presentation of wreaths and the musket salute.

Reba and I missed the monthly meeting of the Chapter but enjoyed visiting with other VASSAR members and learning about Elder Leland. Thanks to the Chapter for allowing Reba and me to represent you.

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President's Column

Dear Fellow Compatriots:

September has been a very busy month for chapter, state and national SAR activities. On Friday, September 10, and Saturday, September 11, VASSAR's Semi-Annual Meeting was held in Winchester. On Friday night, the VASSAR Board of Managers (BOM) received the reports of VASSAR Officers and Committee Chairmen. The nominating committee reported that it has a complete slate for next year and that I would be nominated for State Secretary. Following the meeting, President Bowen hosted a cocktail hour in the Hospitality Room. Ray Hawn represented the chapter as the second member attending the BOM meeting.

On Saturday, the General Membership Meeting was held while the ladies toured the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley in Winchester. Once again, VASSAR Officers and Committee Chairmen reported to the general membership. Of interest to all, Genealogist General Joe Dooley reported that the NSSAR Annual Academic Conference, which was first held at West Point this year, will be held on June 24 and 25, 2011, in Baltimore. The subject of the conference will be the participation of African-Americans in the American Revolution. One of the presenters at this conference will be Gary B. Nash, the famous author and scholar on African-Americans in the American Revolution.

Following the General Membership Meeting, the Chapter presented Baldwin-Tabb-Jones Medals to ten members of the VASSAR Color Guard in recognition of their continuing support of the Chapter's annual 4th of July wreath-laying ceremony at George Washington's Tomb. At a subsequent

buffet lunch, VASSAR presented VASSAR chapter awards. The George Washington Chapter received a flag streamer recognizing the Chapter's donation of \$500 to NSSAR's Center for Advancing America's Heritage and a second streamer for the Chapter's participation in the Old Providence Presbyterian Church Grave Marking in Raphine. Vice President Paul Briggs and his wife Gina and Ray and Reba Hawn represented the Chapter at this event. Thanks to Paul, Gina, Ray and Reba.

On September 18, the Chapter held its first meeting following the summer break and what a great meeting it was. We had a very good attendance, inducted eleven new members, and had a great speaker and an excellent lunch. Thanks to all of you that made it possible.

On Tuesday of the next week, Julia and I loaded up the car and headed west to Louisville for our first NSSAR Leadership/Trustee Meeting. We arrived on Wednesday afternoon and found the Brown Hotel to be equal to or better than what we had experienced during our last stay in 1959, when we attended the Kentucky Derby. Many participants were already there and we were greeted by friends we made at the 120th Congress in Cleveland. There were no meetings for us to attend so Julia and I went to Fort Knox to check out where we lived on our two assignments there. We spent so much time looking for our former quarters that we had no time to do the genealogical research we had planned.

On Friday, there were committee meetings, an orientation for new attendees and time to visit with NSSAR Staff and the Merchandise Direct Store at NSSAR Headquarters. At an informal dinner for all attendees held on Friday night, we were able to visit with friends from other state societies and chapters.



The Carrs are now George Washington Fellows

At the Saturday morning SAR One Thousand Club/George Washington Fund breakfast, Julia and I received our membership pins and certificates.



The new NSSAR Genealogical Research Library

The premier event of the meeting was the ribbon cutting and dedication of the NSSAR Genealogical Research Library (Phase I of the Center for Advancing America's Heritage). All attendees were impressed with the size and amenities that will be available in the new library upon its completion next month. It is a far cry better than what currently exists. Saturday night was the black tie reception and banquet. An impressive evening.

On Sunday, after an early morning church service conducted by the attending society chaplains, we began the trek home in the rain. On our way home we went by Point Pleasant, where many historians claim the first battle of the American Revolution took place. On October 1, 2 and 3, many SAR chapters and societies will gather at Point Pleasant to mark the anniversary of the battle. Hopefully someone from our Chapter will attend.

At our Chapter meeting on September 18, I put out a call for a Chairman to head up the Fire and Safety Committee. Following the meeting, one of our newest members, Jack Pitzer, who was inducted that day, volunteered to chair this committee. Thank you, Jack, for taking this on and welcome to the BOM of the chapter. We are still in need of a Chairman for the Graves Marking Committee.

Presently, we have four volunteers for the Chapter Color Guard. Two of these individuals either

have their uniform or want to purchase their own uniform. That leaves two more uniforms available for two more volunteers. These uniforms will be purchased by the chapter as a result of a donation, so there will be minimal cost to any volunteer.

Don't forget to make your reservations for the October 9th meeting. We are having a most interesting program. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Faternally

Bob Carr

President/Registrar

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REGISTRAR'S REPORT

New Members

Since my report in the September newsletter, six new members have been approved. At present six new members are awaiting induction. Five new member applications are at National awaiting approval. Nine new applications are being worked, of which two have been sent to the applicant for review and signature. There is one transfer from C.A.R. to SAR in process and two reinstatements are being worked.

Supplemental Applications

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 supplementals in order to get in the queue. Please submit only one supplemental at a time.

Application Notes

During NSSAR's Fall Leadership Conference/Trustee Meeting, I attended the newly organized Retention/Reinstatement Committee meeting. The purpose of the committee is to recapture those members who have been dropped due to failure to pay dues or lack of interest. Several state societies have very aggressive programs which work. This committee will collect information on those programs and disseminate it to the state societies for distribution to their chapters. 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

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Calendar of Coming Events

October

1-3 Battle Days - Point Pleasant, WV.

9 Regular meeting of our chapter. Guest speaker will be Dr. Mark Skousen

19 Battle of Yorktown - Yorktown, VA
Wreath-laying at 0930; parade begins at 1030.

November

13 Regular meeting of our chapter. Stephen Powers will present a talk on the Boundary Stones of Washington DC.

December

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.

October 9, 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, October 6th.

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.