



George Washington Chapter Sons of the American Revolution



Newsletter

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Volume 11, Issue 8

November, 2011

Next Chapter Meeting is November 12th

The next meeting of our Chapter will be particularly important as we will be electing officers for the coming year. The nominating committee has set forth the following slate:

Chapter Officers:

President	Paul Briggs
Vice President	Mike Elston
Secretary	Dwight Whitney
Treasurer	Scott Wagoner

Board of Managers:

Dan McGuire
Richard Kusserow
Donald Kellerman
Donald Kraft

Our guest speaker will be Douglas D. Brisson.



Doug serves as the District Commissioner for the Colonial District of the National Capital Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America. He is Wood Badge trained, has served on Wood Badge Staff, and attended training at the Philmont Scout Training Center. In

2010, Doug was on staff at the Family Life and Genealogy Merit Badge stations at the National Centennial Scout Jamboree. Doug has also served as assistant scoutmaster, unit committee member, unit commissioner, assistant district commissioner, and District Committee Member-at-large. He has received a masters degree from the College of Commissioner Science and bachelor degrees from the University of Scouting in Cub Scouting, Scouting, and Venturing. He was recognized by the National Capital Area Council in April, 2011, with the award of the Silver Beaver.

Doug was born on September 7, 1951, in Petersburg, West Virginia. Doug grew up in Virginia and graduated from Douglas Freeman High School in Richmond, Virginia. He attended Virginia Tech as member of the Corps of Cadets and graduated with a bachelor degree in history and a commission in the Infantry through ROTC. Doug also holds masters degrees from the University of Virginia and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. He was a trained Soviet Foreign Area Officer for the Army focusing on nuclear arms control and proliferation prevention. Doug completed his Army career as a Lieutenant Colonel. Since retiring from the Army, Doug has continued to be engaged in a range of national and homeland security projects and missions. He currently is an independent consultant.

Doug came to Scouting in 1977. He began as a Webelos Den Leader for a church sponsored Cub Scout pack, and, shortly thereafter, as Cubmaster -

and he was hooked. Since then, Doug has continued to be involved in Scouting and youth programs in his Church and community to include Presidential Classroom for Young Americans and repeatedly as a judge of high school students at National History Day.

Doug and his wife Lanni, who is an Outdoor Trainer for the local Girl Scout Council, are the proud parents of five daughters and two sons all of whom have been involved in Boy and Girl Scouts and either have graduated from or are completing college. Both of their sons are Eagle Scouts. Doug and Lanni celebrated 34 years together in August.

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Veterans' Day Wreath-laying

Our Chapter and the Kate Waller Barrett Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, will collaborate again this year to conduct the Veterans' Day wreath-laying at General Washington's Tomb.

The wreath-laying is scheduled for 2 PM at the Tomb. Please arrive at the Tomb no later than 1:30 PM on Friday, November 11. Wear business attire or equivalent. No marching is involved. Gathering music should begin about 15 to 20 minutes prior to the wreath-laying. A short program will include the pledge to the Flag; an invocation; brief remarks by the Regent of the Kate Waller Barrett Chapter and the Vice President of our Chapter; the laying of the wreath by veterans and presentation of carnations by all present; and the playing of period music including "Chester" in salute to veterans and General Washington.

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President's Column

Fellow Compatriots, how the time flies when you are having fun. It seems like yesterday that I was writing this report for the October newsletter. A lot has happened since then and we are entering one of the busiest times of the year for the Chapter. Since our last meeting, Chapter members have been involved in a number of State and national events.

On October 15, 2011, Julia and I along with our two daughters, Pamela and Ann; Ann's husband Dwight Whitney; two grandchildren, Meredith and Aaron McPherson; and Ray and Reba Hawn traveled to Elberton, Georgia, to honor six patriots. See

separate article in the *Virginia Bulletin*, on our Chapter's web site, and in this newsletter.

Following this event Julia and I, along with the Hawns, traveled to Yorktown, Virginia, for the Yorktown Day Celebration. Here we met up with Mike and Cilla Tomme, a dual member of the GW Chapter as well as the Virginia and Georgia Societies. On Tuesday night, we attended the gala dinner hosted by the National Park Service at the Fort Eustis Club. During dinner the US Park Service announced that the following day's parade was canceled due to an incoming storm with other main events being moved inside. At 9:00 AM on Wednesday morning, the Chapter participated in the wreath-laying for Governor Thomas Nelson in Grace Church located within the cemetery where Governor Nelson is buried. Following the ceremony we returned home to Alexandria.

During the month of November, in addition to our Chapter meeting, at which we will elect the Chapter officers for 2012, there are a number of opportunities for members to participate in memorial events as well as grave-markings. On Sunday, November 6, at 11:00 in the Washington Memorial Chapel, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, the Commonwealth of Virginia State Service will be held. This service is conducted on behalf of the Commonwealth by the state lineage societies which include SAR and DAR. This event only occurs every three years and you are encouraged to attend.

On Friday, November 11, Veterans Day, at 2:00 PM, the Chapter, led by Paul Briggs, will lay a wreath at George Washington's Tomb at Mount Vernon. More details elsewhere in this newsletter. I encourage you to support the Chapter in this event.

On the same day at 1:00 PM, the Virginia Society will dedicate a new monument to the Revolutionary War Patriots and the War of 1812 soldiers buried in Skocko Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia. In addition they will mark Peter Francisco's grave which is also located in Shocco Cemetery.

On November 19, from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM, the "Come and Take It" Revolutionary War Encampment will be held at Ft. Morris, Georgia. This encampment commemorates Col John

McIntosh's defiant reply to the British demand for surrender on November 25, 1778.

At 10:00 AM. on December 3, in Chesapeake, Virginia, there will be a wreath-laying at the site of the Battle of Great Bridge. There are additional events planned in conjunction with this historic event which will take place at 306 Cedar Road in Chesapeake Municipal Center and St. Paul's Episcopal Church. There will also be a plaque dedication in Norfolk at 2:30 PM.

At our December meeting we will be swearing in the Chapter's officers for 2012. VASSAR President, Mark Brennan, is not available this year to conduct the ceremony but rest assured we will have a significant VASSAR or NSSAR officer to conduct the ceremony.

I look forward to greeting all of you on November 12 at the Chapter meeting at Belle Haven Country Club.

Faternally,

Bob Carr
President

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Chapter President Carr and His Family Coordinate a Significant Grave-marking

On October 15, 2011, a bright sunny fall day in Elbert County, Georgia, more than 150 descendants, Compatriots from the Georgia and Virginia Societies SAR, Daughters from Georgia and Virginia DAR Chapters, Historical Society members, federal, state and local government representatives, and guests gathered to pay tribute to Revolutionary War Patriots Governor Stephen Heard, Capt John Darden, Capt Dionysius Oliver, his son Peter Oliver, Mammy Kate, the first African-American woman patriot to be recognized in Georgia, and Daddy Jack. Each in their own way had a major impact on the history of the American Revolution and the State of Georgia.

Bob Carr, VASSAR State Secretary and President of our Chapter is a descendant of Governor Stephen Heard and Capt Dionysius Oliver. In referring to these six people, Bob may have expressed it best when he said, "We are gathered here to honor people whose lives, because of social standing, should have never been intertwined, but because of fate, were drawn together."

Bob was, of course, referring to these patriots who served their country during the American Revolution and the two slaves of Governor Heard who also became distinguished as patriots during the Revolution, by rescuing Governor Heard from Fort Cornwallis, a British prison in Augusta, Georgia.

Governor Heard was captured at the Battle of Kettle Creek where he fought alongside of Colonels Andrew Pickens, John Dooley, and Elijah Clark. He was one of 23 Americans wounded and captured by the Tories. He was taken to the prison in Augusta where he was to be hanged for treason. One "local legend" maintains that Heard would have been executed had it not been for the courage of one of his female servants, Mammy Kate, who traveled on horseback from Fort Heard near Washington, Georgia, to Augusta to free her master. Kate befriended the guards by taking them food and ironing their clothes until she gained their confidence. On the day before Governor Heard was to be executed, she asked to take clean clothes to her master for his execution and the guards agreed. It was during this visit that she placed Heard in her large clothes basket and carried him past the guards and out of the prison on her head. Her husband Daddy Jack, the Heard gardener, was hiding in the woods with Captain Heard's two Arabian horses on which they escaped. Kate was more than six feet tall, very strong, and absolutely fearless. In an old letter, written in 1820, she was referred to as "the biggest, the tallest, the most imposing Negress I have ever seen and she has proven herself to be a strong, a kindly, a never failing friend to Heard and his family."

John Darden, entered military duty at the age of 15 and served with his father in South Carolina and Wilkes County, Georgia, during the war. After the war he became a land surveyor in Wilkes County.

Dionysius Oliver and his son Peter also fought in the Battle of Kettle Creek. Dionysius Oliver is known as the Captain of a Privateer, either in the Georgia or Continental Navy. The word "privateer" evokes different meanings for different people. A "Privateer" is a person who sails under a nation's or state's "Letter of Marque." A "Letter of Marque" was a government license authorizing a person to attack and capture enemy vessels. The Government could interrupt the enemy supply lines by only issuing a "Letter of Marque." Cruising for prizes with a "Letter of Marque" was considered an honorable calling combining patriotism and profit, in

contrast to unlicensed piracy, which was universally not accepted.

Peter Oliver is listed as a soldier in Major Dobbs' and Major Allen's Battalion. He drew in several land lotteries after the war and received over 287 acres of land for his service during the American Revolution.



At the Heardmont Cemetery: Front row from L to R: Ray Hawn, Dwight Whitney, Bob Carr, Chip Carr, Wayne Rouse, and Georgia Color Guard Commander Ed Regal

After the grave marking service at Heardmont Cemetery in Elbert County, honoring Governor Stephen Heard, Capt John Darden, Mammy Kate and Daddy Jack, the attendees were invited to a picnic on the lawn of one of the ancestor's homes, now owned by a descendant, Latimer Heard. Great food and a Blue Grass band made the lunch a special time for all the participating lineage organizations, family members and friends until it was time to journey to the next grave-marking for the two Oliver patriots. This ceremony was held at the Stinchcomb Methodist Church Cemetery a few miles northwest of the town of Elberton, Georgia, where Capt Dionysius Oliver and his son Peter Oliver received the same honors that were rendered that morning to Stephen Heard, John Darden, Mammy Kate and Daddy Jack.

The grave markings at both services were a solemn and patriotic affair. The Georgia State Color Guard with all the ruffles and flourishes of their flags; the playing of Amazing Grace by the Georgia Society State Piper; and the musket salute by the Colonel Elijah Clarke Militia left everyone who attended with a deep feeling of patriotism and pride.

In a proclamation by Governor Nathan Deal, the State of Georgia recognized and extended appreciation to the Daughters of the American

Revolution and Sons of the American Revolution for their efforts to provide historical and educational knowledge and to perpetuate the memory of these Georgians, who by their service and sacrifices during the war of the American Revolution achieved the independence of the American people.

An official proclamation recognizing the dedication of the grave markers was entered into the Congressional Record by 10th Congressional District of Georgia Congressman Paul Broun and read at the ceremony by Mr. Chinouth Jordan.

Elbert County Board of Commissioners Chairman Tommy Lyons, read a proclamation recognizing the dedication of the grave markers.

The ceremony was hosted by the Samuel Elbert Chapter with support from the Washington-Wilkes and Button Gwinnett Chapters of the Georgia Society, SAR and the George Washington Chapter, Virginia Society, SAR as well as the Colonel Elijah Clark Militia, GASSAR, Georgia Society Color Guard, Georgia Society State Piper John Mortison and the Stephen Heard and Kettle Creek Chapters, NSDAR.

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Introducing Our Newest Compatriots

Please welcome to our Chapter the following new members:

James Wyatt Whitehead IV

Compatriot James W. Whitehead IV is the oldest son of James W. Whitehead of Chatham, Virginia, and Jane Lightfoot Douglas of Old Church, Virginia. Jim was raised in Herndon, VA. In 1969,



Jim received his B.S. in Civil Engineering from Virginia Tech. He joined the Land Development firm of

Dewberry & Davis and has practiced locally for the past 40 years.

Jim is currently an owner in the Herndon based firm of ATCS, PLC and manages their Waldorf, Maryland, office. Jim enjoys American History in any period but has a special captivation with the American Revolution and the American Civil War. Jim is an avid book collector on both periods.

Jim is married to Jolie Anne Gercken of Hoboken, NJ. They have four children: James Wyatt, age 40; Ryane Elizabeth, age 32; Matthew Edward, age 30; and Kaitlyn Emily, age 22.

Compatriot Whitehead's membership in the Sons of the American Revolution is based on his bloodline descent from Patriot John Whitehead of Amherst, Virginia. John was mustered into the Cavalry Battalion of Colonel John Pope and Major William Cabell, Jr. as a Private on June 21, 1781. The unit was present at Yorktown where his unit joined Lafayette's portion of the army about that place. He was present for the surrender of Cornwallis on October 19th, 1781.

James Michael Mobley

Compatriot Jim Mobley was born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia, and moved to Arlington, Virginia, in 2004. In 1993, Jim received a B.A. in Economics from Washington and Lee University. He later earned an M.B.A. from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Jim is a Vice President with Elm Street Development and manages multi-family projects throughout the Washington area.

He is married to Laurie Mobley, who is also a native of Atlanta, Georgia. They have two sons: Jack, age four; and James, who recently turned two. Jim and Laurie are members of McLean Presbyterian Church.

Compatriot Mobley's membership in the Sons of the American Revolution is based on his bloodline

descent from Patriot Edward Martin. During the Revolution, Edward Martin served as a Captain in the South Carolina Militia. He was captured by the British twice in 1780. In July, 1780, while a prisoner at the home of William Bratton in York County, South Carolina, he was freed after the defeat of Captain Christian Huck at the Battle of Williamson Plantation. Four weeks later he was recaptured at the Battle of Fishing Creek. By October he was again free, and fought at the defeat of Major Ferguson at the Battle of King's Mountain. He continued to serve in the militia until the end of the war.

Scott Brice Stephens

Compatriot Scott Brice Stephens was born and raised in Youngstown, Ohio. In 1990, Scott received a B.S.B.A in Accounting and Management from Youngstown State University. He later attended the University of St. Petersburg, Russia for Masters Work.



Scott is currently a Manager for Grant Thornton LLP. He is the past co-owner of an Arena League football team. In his spare time Scott likes to cook, play tennis, golf, ski and scuba dive.

He is a member of the St. David's Society of Virginia; The St Andrews Society of Washington DC, in which he holds the position of Quartermaster, and is a member of the Heritage Committee. He is a member of the Institute of Internal Auditors in which he holds the position of Chairman for High Technology.

Scott has a five year old son Hayden Brice Stephens.

Compatriot Scott's membership in the Sons of the American Revolution is based on his bloodline descent through Patriot Frederick Steffee to Patriot Johan Adam Steffee otherwise known as John Adam Stevens. During the Revolution Patriot John Adam

Stevens was a Corporal in the 8th Company, 1st Battalion of the Northampton County Pennsylvania Militia.

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REGISTRAR'S REPORT

Since the last Registrar's Report eight New Member Applications were approved by NSSAR, one New Member Application was submitted to VASSAR for approval and two Supplemental Applications were submitted to VASSAR for approval. They are listed below.

Of the eight applications approved, three were processed and prepared by Bob Carr, three by Mike Elston, and two by Bob Whitehead. The three applications submitted for approval were processed and prepared by Bob Whitehead. There are fifteen applications at NSSAR awaiting review, seven applications being processed at the Chapter level and twelve new members awaiting induction.

New Member Applications Approved

Ronald A. Gregory (Anc: William Henry Gregory)

Benjamin B. Rudisill (Anc: John Mays)

Dal T. Hardy, III (Anc: John Donelson)

Dal T. Hardy, IV (Anc: John Donelson)

David B. Hardy (Anc: John Donelson)

Dale R. Killinger (Anc: Michael Killinger)

Wade W. Killinger (Anc: Michael Killinger)

Robert F. Armstrong (Anc: Isaiah Adkins)

New Member Applications Submitted

James Arthur Holmes (Anc: Zeally Moss)

Supplemental Applications Submitted

Benjamin B. Rudisill (Anc: Thomas Reid)

Scott B. Stephens (Anc: Frederick Steffy)

Bob Whitehead
Registrar

Frank Cornelius Gorham

We sadly report the passing of Compatriot Frank C. Gorham, who died at his home in Springfield, Virginia, on September 4th after a prolonged illness from complications associated with CIDP. Frank is survived by his loving wife of 55 years Evelyn P. Gorham; three children: Laura Abedi of Fairfax Station; Frank D. Gorham of Springfield; and Virginia Courtney Gorham of Annandale; his son-in-law Majid Abedi; his daughter-on-law Melissa Gorham; and five grandchildren: Jennifer Gorham; Payam Abedi; Katie Gorham; Emily Gorham; and Alex Abedi. Funeral services were held at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in Springfield on September 10th. Friends may remember Frank with donations to the St. Christopher's Episcopal Church Memorial Fund, 6320 Hanover Avenue, Springfield, Virginia 22150.

HELP WANTED

Don Kraft has advised the BOM that he will step down as editor of this newsletter at the end of the calendar year. At that time, Don will have completed seven years as the editor. Volunteer(s) to fill this important post are urgently solicited. Please contact Chapter President Bob Carr if you are interested in taking over the newsletter. Interested persons can be confident that Don will assist in a seamless transfer of the editor's duties .

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Calendar of Coming Events

November

- 6 State Services (NJ and VA) at the Washington Memorial Chapel, Valley Forge, PA, sponsored by the DAR, SAR and C.A.R.
- 12 Regular meeting of our Chapter**
- 11 VASSAR Dedication of Plaque for Revolutionary War Veterans buried in Shockoe Cemetery, Richmond. 11:00 am

December

- 2-4 Battle of Great Bridge NSSAR Inaugural
Celebration, Great Bridge, VA
3 Great Bridge Wreath-laying, Chesapeake, VA.
11:30 am
3 St. Paul's Episcopal Church Plaque
Dedication, Norfolk. 2:30 pm
10 Regular meeting of our Chapter
10 Wreaths Across America, National Cemeteries

January

- 14 Our Chapter's Gala Evening. SAR Gold
Good Citizenship Medal will be presented
to the Honorable Edwin Meese III.**

February

- 11 Regular meeting of our Chapter**
24-26 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 Whitehead 703-203-1465

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 12, 2011

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.

RSVP no later than Monday, November 7th.

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.