



# George Washington Chapter Sons of the American Revolution



## Newsletter

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Volume 11, Issue 9

December, 2011

### Next Chapter Meeting is December 10<sup>th</sup>

When the Chapter next meets on December 10, Compatriot Phil Williams, VASSAR President Elect, will be on hand to swear in the officers who have been elected to guide our activities for the coming year. Please use the form at the end of this newsletter to make your reservation.

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### President's Column

Compatriots,

On January 14, 2012, our Chapter is again privileged to host the Gold Good Citizenship Award Gala for the Virginia Society at which we will be honoring former U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese III with the presentation of the NSSAR Gold Good Citizenship Medal.

The Gold Good Citizenship Medal is awarded for OUTSTANDING AND UNUSUAL patriotic achievement and service of NATIONAL IMPORTANCE at the NATIONAL level.

This is a very special evening for the Chapter and for VASSAR. We expect several VASSAR officers, members of other SAR chapters in the area, and members of our sister DAR Chapter Kate Waller Barrett and other chapters to attend. We fully expect to sell out this event and seating is limited so I encourage you to sign up right away by either calling or e-mailing Chapter Treasurer Mike Elston at 703-680-0866 or [treasurer.gwsar@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.gwsar@gmail.com), or use the reservation form on the last page of this newsletter.

The January Gala will be an exciting event but please do not overlook your support for the regular monthly meeting on December 10, at which Henry P. "Phil" Williams III, VASSAR President Elect will swear in our new officers and make a special presentation on the Convention Army and the The Barracks in Cville - a prison

encampment for almost 4,000 British and German soldiers - 1779-81. A reservation form for this meeting is also contained on the last page of this newsletter.

Since the last newsletter several events of note have occurred. On November 6, 2011, the joint Virginia/New Jersey memorial service was held at the George Washington Chapel, Valley Forge National Historical Park in Valley Forge for those Virginians and New Jerseyites that were present during the winter at Valley Forge. A number of our chapter members attended as well as VASSAR Officers and other Virginia Society chapter members. The VASSAR Color Guard along with two New Jersey Color Guardsmen handled the posting and retirement of the colors. VASSAR Chaplain Henry M.F. Minich preached the eulogy. Thanks to Compatriot Whitney and his wife Ann for attending.

On November 11, Veterans Day, Vice President Paul Briggs led the Chapter's honors to General Washington at Mount Vernon.



Compatriot Jack Shawn Signs the Register at Washington's Tomb

On the same day, Julia and I represented the Chapter at a wreath-laying ceremony to dedicate the newly erected monument to honor the Revolutionary War Patriots and War of

1812 veterans buried at Shockoe Hill Cemetery sponsored by VASSAR, The Society of the War of 1812 in the Commonwealth of Virginia, The National Society United States Daughters of 1812 and The Virginia State Society United States Daughters of 1812.





Our Wreath at Washington's Tomb

On December 2, 2011, Julia and I will be traveling to the Hampton/Chesapeake, Virginia area to participate in the annual Battle of Great Bridge celebrations. The Norfolk Chapter, SAR, under the guidance of Dr. Matt Hogendobler, President, have been able to persuade NSSAR to classify

the Battle of Great Bridge as a Tier 1 event thus giving it national prominence and recognition. On the evening of Friday, December 2, there will be a "Meet 'n' Greet" at the Hyatt Place Chesapeake-Greenbrier from 6:00 to 10:00 PM. On Saturday, December 3, starting at 10:00 AM at the Battle of Great Bridge site, there will be a wreath-laying by NSSAR, VASSAR, and SAR Chapters; Society of War of 1812; National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, and others. The afternoon will conclude with a service at the historic Saint Paul's Episcopal Church in Norfolk to honor those Patriots who fought at the Battle of Great Bridge

In closing, it has been my pleasure to serve as your president over the past two years. We have accomplished a lot but only through the team work and efforts of those who have served with me in the elected and volunteer positions. I believe we have been successful in furthering the goals set by me and our former presidents. We did not accomplish every thing that I would like to have accomplished but I believe the seeds have been planted and our Chapter will continue its growth, not only in membership but in leadership at the Virginia and National Society level. For a chapter our size and possessing the quality of leadership found in our membership, we have an obligation to devote our time and talents promised to the Society when we took our membership oath, to further its goals and objectives

A special thanks to Vice President Paul Briggs, who over the last two years has provided great programs for our meetings. He was always willing and capable to step in when needed to accomplish a task. To Mike Elston, Treasurer and jack of ALL Trades, my sincere thanks to you for your unending support and Cheer Team leader. I owe you. To Don Kellerman, Secretary, my special thanks for your support and sage guidance when needed. The chapter will miss you on the leadership team. To Don Reynolds, our Chaplain Extraordinaire and Don Baldwin, past president of our Chapter and VASSAR, my sincere thanks for all your sage guidance and encouragement. It was needed at times.

To Jack Pitzer, Jack Felt, Paul Wagoner, Covert Beach, Dan McGuire, Dick Kusserow, Ray Hawn, Dwight

Whitney and the many others that have been there when needed and were always willing to support and guide.

I save for last another very special person I wanted to thank. He is Don Kraft, newsletter editor beyond extraordinary and good friend. Don will be stepping down this year as Newsletter Editor. Over the past seven years, Don has faithfully published a terrific newsletter on a monthly basis no matter what may be going on in his personal life – trips abroad, family illness, grandchildren births, cruises or just plain old vacation. As hard as we tried, to date, we have been unable to convince those at VASSAR and NSSAR to recognize the talent Don possesses. Hopefully this year our luck will change. But to you Don, I salute you and I am forever grateful for your dedication and talent that you gave the Chapter over the years. Thanks my friend and compatriot, a job well done.

And to all my fellow compatriots that I did not name above, thank you for your dedication and support to the Sons of the American Revolution. You are a very important part of this organization and we need those of you who have faithfully attended the meetings and provided your moral and spiritual support, please continue to do so. And to those fellow compatriots that have not been attending our meeting, but faithfully paying you dues each year which enables the Chapter to accomplish many things, come to our meetings, too. You will not regret it. We do have a good time and good programs. We miss seeing you.

Thanks again to all of you for two exciting and fulfilling years as your Chapter's president.

Fraternally,

Bob Carr  
President

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## VASSAR Annual Chapter Report

Each year VASSAR provides its chapters with a programmatic planning tool as well as a standardized means of recording accomplishments. This encourages chapters to be well rounded and also provides VASSAR with a picture of the chapter's performance across a broad range of patriotic, historical, educational and fraternal activities. This report is based on the calendar year and all chapter reports must be submitted no later than January 13, 2012.

It is that time of the year for your Chapter leadership to begin preparing the report and we need your help in making the George Washington Chapter's report accurate, comprehensible and complete. Here is where you as a Chapter member play an important role.

During the year numerous compatriots are involved in community activities, civic programs and patriotic activities that can be included on the Chapter's



report. Some examples are: compatriots may be a member of another civic organization such as Lions, Kiwanis, Rotary, VFW or a church that collects food, money, clothing, etc, for the needy. If you participated in any such charitable activities give us an estimate of the hours you worked so that those efforts can be credited to our Chapter. All of these things count for your Chapter.

Please review your volunteer activities over the past year and submit that information to either Mike Elston at [treasurer.gwsar@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.gwsar@gmail.com) or 703-680-0866, or to Bob Carr at [capt7cs@aol.com](mailto:capt7cs@aol.com) or 703-407-4496, or to Don Kellerman at [aced9@cox.net](mailto:aced9@cox.net) or 703-768-2442. Your Chapter needs your help!

Thanks,

Bob Carr  
President

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## Alexandria Firefighters Recognized by Our Chapter

At our November meeting, we were pleased to recognize three members of the Alexandria Fire Department for their outstanding performance of duties.



Supervisor Ray Whatley received the EMS Commendation Award for superior performance of duties during a 2010 detail to the Office of Emergency Management.



Supervisor Jeffrey Woolsey received the EMS Commendation Award in recognition of his outstanding service as chairman of the Alexandria Fire Department's Quality Management Committee.



Fire Protection Engineer Maurice Jones was awarded the Fire Safety Commendation Medal of providing outstanding assistance to developers and designers of fire protection systems.

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## Introducing Our Newest Compatriots

Please welcome to our Chapter the following new members:

### Robert Furman Armstrong

Compatriot Robert Furman Armstrong was born in McCook, Nebraska and raised in Washington, DC. Bob received a Bachelor of Arts from the American University in 1962, majoring in Journalism and Public Relations. Later, he received his MS from the University of Utah in Human Resource Management. Bob is retired from the U.S. Department of Education, and then was self-employed for 11 years as a consultant.



He is married to Diana Krug Armstrong, a native of Washington DC. They have three children and six grand children. Bob and Diana are members of Pohick Episcopal Church, Lorton, Virginia..

Robert Armstrong's membership in the Sons of the American Revolution is based on his bloodline descent from Patriot Isaiah Adkins. On April 6, 1777, at the age of 16, Isaiah enlisted at New Haven, Connecticut, to serve to the end of the war for independence. He first served under Lt. John Ball in Capt. Elijah Humphrey's Company of the 6th Connecticut, Commanded by Col.



Douglas, next by Col. Deming, and then by Col. Return Johnathan Meigs.

In May, 1777, a British party of soldiers and sailors invaded Sag Harbor, Long Island. Meigs heard of this and quietly embarked with 170 men in whaleboats. The British group included 12 vessels protected by an armed schooner. Isaiah Atkins participated with the Meigs raid, which was successful. All but the schooner were captured.

### **Timothy Mark Cribbs Jr.**

Compatriot Timothy Mark Cribbs Jr. was born and raised in Miami, FL. In 1995, Tim joined the Marine Corps and was stationed at Cherry Point, NC. After 4 years, he exited active duty for a few years until 9/11, at which point he re-enlisted in the data networks communications field.



Stationed at Camp Pendleton, Tim deployed to Iraq twice as a data network specialist. He earned his BS in Management/Computer Information Systems from Park University in 2008. He later began pursuing an MBA from DeVry University.

Tim is currently a Network Engineer serving in the Pentagon. He directly supports communications linking the President of the United States, Secretary of Defense, and the Deputy Director for Operations in the National Military Command Center. In his spare time, he volunteers with the USO as well as Honor Flights for World War II veterans to visit the World War II Memorial in Washington. For hobbies, he enjoys fishing and scuba diving.

Tim's wife Ivonne is originally from San Diego. They have a 15 year old daughter named Calixta and a 2 year old son named Austin.

Tim's membership in the Sons of the American Revolution is based on his bloodline descent from Patriot John Hughes. During the Revolution, John was an orderly sergeant in Capt. John Somer's Company, Col. Thomas Clarke's 4th N. C. line regiment. He was in the Battle of Monmouth.

### **Dustin David Greene**

Compatriot Dustin David Greene was born and raised in North Texas, graduating with a BS in Political Science from Texas A&M University in 2003, and an advanced certificate in International Affairs from the

George Bush School of Government and Public Service.



In 2003, Dustin moved to Washington, beginning his career in public service as a congressional staffer to Nebraska Congressman Tom Osborne. In January of 2004, Dustin accepted a billet with the Department of the Army, serving in

Baghdad as a member of the Coalition Provisional Authority from January through June 2004.

Upon returning from Iraq, Dustin served from 2004 through 2007 as a congressional liaison for the State of Texas in Washington, advocating workforce and business issues to the Congress and Department of Labor.

In 2007, Dustin returned to the foreign affairs and national security sector of the U.S. Government, currently serving in Washington with the Department of Defense. Dustin recently returned from his second deployment to Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn. Dustin and his wife Mary Durkin Greene of Pennsylvania, a Daughter of the American Revolution, live in Alexandria with their 10 month old son Jackson Thomas.

### **Frederick James Kroesen, Jr.**

Compatriot Frederick James Kroesen, Jr. was born in Phillipsburg, New Jersey. He was raised in the Trenton area until enrolling in Rutgers University in 1940. His education was interrupted when the Army ROTC program was discontinued and all enrollees were inducted as privates. He resumed educational pursuits after World War II and earned a BS in Agriculture from Rutgers, a BA and MA in International Affairs from George Washington University and an honorary LHD from Rutgers. He is also

a graduate of the US Army education system and an alumnus of the faculty of the Army War College.

He is a veteran of a forty year Army career that included service in twelve combat campaigns in France and Germany during WWII, Korea and two tours in





Vietnam. He commanded an infantry rifle company in WWII, an airborne battalion in Korea, and both a brigade and then the 23d Infantry Division in Vietnam. Later he commanded the 82d Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, the US VII Corps in Germany and finally US Army, Europe and the NATO Central Army Group before retiring in 1983.

He is married to Rowene Wilder McCray Kroesen who was born in Rochester, NY and whom he met in high school. She is a member of the DAR whose patriot ancestors date back to the 1600s in New England and New York. Together the Kroesens have three children, ten grandchildren and six great grandchildren, spread today from Virginia, Georgia, Massachusetts, Colorado and Afghanistan.

Frederick Kroesen's membership in the SAR stems from his bloodline descent from Jan Kroesen who served in the Revolution as a lieutenant, first in the "Flying Camp" contingent of New Hope, Pennsylvania, in June, 1775, then is found in the rosters of both the Northampton Company, in which he is listed as a first lieutenant, and in the Southampton Company, listed among the privates. The rosters were both published on the same date, August 19, 1775. Jan was a fourth generation son of Dutch settlers who lived in Bruecklyn and Staaten Island, New York, in the early 1600s, and a grandfather who moved to Bucks County, Pennsylvania, about 1690.

### **Benjamin Barton Rudisill**

Benjamin Barton Rudisill was born and raised in Clifton Forge, Virginia, the youngest of six children. Ben enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served four years. He then entered Emory and Henry College under the G.I. Bill and graduated in January, 1961. He later earned an MS degree in education from Radford College.



Ben retired after 30 years with the Prince William County school system. He enjoys family genealogy and Civil War relic hunting.

He and Ann Jackson Millirons have been married for 52 years. Ann is originally from Pulaski, Virginia. They have three grown children: Holly, Alan and Keith. He is also a

member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans in Alexandria.

Ben's membership in the Sons of the American Revolution is based on his bloodline descent from Corporal John Mays of the 4<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Regiment. John married Mary Rush about 1762. After the war he settled in Botetourt County, Virginia, and raised five children. He died there before 1795.

Ben has also applied for membership from Thomas Reid, who was a member of the Botetourt Militia and fought in the battle of Point Pleasant on October 10, 1774, against the Indians led by Chief Cornstalk.

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### **Five New Chapter Members Inducted in Illinois Ceremony**

On October 15, 2011, five new members of our Chapter were sworn in and received their SAR rosettes – in Illinois. Jack L. Elston, Scott Elston, Andy Elston, Benjamin Elston, and Cody Elston are the uncle and cousins of Chapter Treasurer Michael Elston and his brother, Richard Elston, who became a member of the George Washington Chapter in 2009. The five new members all live in northern Illinois, and the ceremony was conducted in Machesney Park, Illinois, with the enthusiastic assistance of the Kishwaukee Chapter of the Illinois Society of the Sons of the American Revolution at that chapter's regular October meeting with nearly fifty people in attendance.

Kishwaukee Chapter President Mark Balkcom Jr. presided over the luncheon meeting, and Illinois Society President Franz Herder and National Trustee Alternate John Dryud (who also serves as commander of the Illinois Color Guard) officiated at the induction ceremony. Several other Elston family members were also present, including Emily Elston, who is well known to the George Washington Chapter as the energetic vice-president of the CAR's "Light Horse Harry" Lee Chapter.

George Washington Chapter Treasurer Elston served as the speaker for the meeting. He described the history of the Elston family and explained that it was fitting for the new inductees to have joined the SAR through the George Washington Chapter due to the family's connections to George Washington. The family's American origins can be traced to John Elston, who arrived in Massachusetts by 1631 and is mentioned in



Governor Winthrop's journal. John's great-great-great grandson, David, and David's son, Benjamin, served in the same New Jersey militia unit during the Revolutionary War. Elston read from Benjamin Elston's 1844 pension application in which he described regularly seeing "Generals Wayne, Green and Washington" during his service in 1778. Benjamin's son, John Elston (a War of 1812 veteran), married a woman named Matilda Ransdell in Kentucky in 1816. Matilda Ransdell was a descendant of Colonel William Ball of Millenbeck in Lancaster County, who came to Virginia in 1653 and served in the House of Burgesses. Colonel Ball was also the great-grandfather of General George Washington through his mother, Mary Ball Washington. Thus the new members are all second cousins (seven to eight times removed) of George Washington. Elston also described the westward migration of the family, a story they have in common with so many American families: first to North Carolina and Kentucky in the 1790s, west across Kentucky in the first half of the 1800s, then to Missouri by 1850, into Illinois before 1920, and to the Rockford area by 1930, where most of the new members were born and much of the family remains 80 years later.



New George Washington Chapter Members inducted in Illinois ceremony (L to R): Scott Elston, National Trustee Alternate and former Great Lakes VPG John Dyrud, Zabrina Cates (daughter of Richard Elston), Richard Elston, Cody Elston, Andrew Elston, Illinois Society President Franz Herder, Jack Elston, GW Chapter Treasurer Michael Elston, Emily Elston, and Benjamin Elston.

The meeting was a success for both the George Washington and Kishwaukee Chapters. The GW Chapter inducted five new members some 650 miles or so from Belle Haven, and several of the Elstons have taken up Illinois Society President Herder's invitation to join the Kishwaukee Chapter as dual members. The event could not have been organized without the help of many people, especially Kishwaukee Chapter President Balkcom and Secretary Wesley Hyland.

## REGISTRAR'S REPORT

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

There are fourteen applications at NSSAR awaiting review and six new members awaiting induction.

### New Member Applications Approved

Frederick J. Kroesen, Jr. (Anc: Jan Kroesen)

### New Member Applications Submitted

David B. Reynolds (Anc: William Reynolds)

Spencer C. Cresswell (Anc: Nathan Field)

Michael A. Harmon (Anc: William Ward)

### Supplemental Applications Approved:

Robert A. Whitehead (Anc: Alexander Bruce Sr.)

Michael J. Elston (Anc: John Smoot Sr.)

Bob Whitehead

Registrar

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## 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

### 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](mailto:kraftdon@att.net) or call 703-451-6132.



**December 10, 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 Wednesday, December 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](mailto: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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**January 14, 2012**  
**Gala Evening Reservation Form**

Please use this form to make a reservation for the Chapter's Gala Evening at the Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, Virginia. **The cost for this special formal event is \$70.00 per person. Dress for this occasion is black tie or military formal.** Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will be available at 6:30 PM. Dinner will be served at 7:30 PM.

***RSVP no later than Monday, January 9th.***

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](mailto:treasurer.gwsar@gmail.com) or call Mike at 703-680-0866.

**Valet parking is available.**