



George Washington Chapter Sons of the American Revolution



Newsletter

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Volume 11, Issue 6

September, 2011

We had a busy summer!

Although the Chapter's summer recess usually contains several activities, this summer contained more special events than in the past. That makes composing the September newsletter a challenging task because by this date those busy events are really "old news." Drawing on the editor's memory and the recollections of Chapter members, here are some photos that record our busy summer activities.



Photo by Jack Felt



Photo by Jack Felt

This is the seventh year that our country has observed Memorial Day with a national parade in Washington DC. The George Washington Chapter has participated in each of these events. In the first six parades, we marched as the George Washington Chapter. This year we marched as one of the elements in NSSAR's contingent and followed NSSAR's banner in the line of march. Unusually high temperatures and humidity limited the number of members who could participate this year. Above, right, you see LTC Greg Bodge and Dwight Whitney carrying our banner.

Continuing an event with a long Chapter history, we presented a wreath at General Washington's Tomb on Independence Day. This was the 50th time that we have conducted this special event. As in the past, we formed up at Mount Vernon's administrative building. At that time a large crowd had already formed on the Bowling Green where the First Virginia Regiment was putting on quite a show.



Our contingent of Boy Scouts and Compatriots and family members were escorted onto the Bowling Green by the Fifes and Drums of Prince William III and the VASSAR Color Guard. There we were joined by many Mount Vernon visitors as we continued the march to the quiet glade near Washington's Tomb.

Chapter Vice President Paul Briggs opened the proceedings. Chapter President Bob Carr introduced guest speaker Alan Parsons Booth. Alan attends Hampton High School in Hampton, Virginia. *Forgotten Patriots* was the topic of his address. Alan represented VASSAR in the national oration contest.



Photo by F. Wiley



Photo by F. Wiley

The crowd was then directed to the Tomb, where Chapter Chaplain Don



Reynolds read Washington's Prayer for Our Country. Our wreath was presented by Dr. Bob Wineland and Don Baldwin. Scouts from BSA's Colonial District assisted in distributing red carnations to those who wished to honor General Washington by placing a flower at the Tomb's entrance.



Photo by F. Wiley



Photo by F. Wiley



Photo by F. Wiley

SAR Compatriots were the first to pay their respects to General Washington. Here, Chapter Vice President Briggs places a carnation at the Tomb. Compatriots were followed by many other Mount Vernon visitors in performing this annual ritual.

Mount Vernon is also the Independence Day venue for inducting new citizens to the United States and our Chapter also plays a role in that ceremony. This year, 101 immigrants representing 41 different nations took the oath of allegiance and became citizens of our great nation.



Photo by F. Wiley

Ten of our newest citizens are on active duty with our armed forces. They were among the first to be congratulated by Chapter President Carr.

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President's Column

Dear Fellow Compatriots:

Over the past three months your Board of Managers has been very involved in local, state and national SAR events. They have participated in or will participate in over nine events before we commence our fall and winter meetings on September 10, 2011.

During the month of May, Paul Wagoner,

ROTC Awards Chairman presented a number of awards to JROTC units. On May 20 – 22, President General Symphon and First Lady Evelyn Symphon visited the Chapter, took a private tour of DAR Headquarters and Library, laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington Cemetery and attended a reception and dinner hosted by the chapter for him at Fort Myer. On May 31, the Chapter fielded a large contingent of Compatriots and friends to march in the National Memorial Day Parade. This year VP Paul

Briggs not only made the arrangements for our Chapter, but coordinated the participation by the National Society Color Guard and attendees. Great job, Paul, and thanks to everyone that attended.

June was not only an extremely hot month, it was very busy as well. On June 18, in my capacity as VASSAR Secretary, I participated in the VASSAR Executive Committee meeting in Richmond. On June 24 and 25, Vice President Briggs attended the SAR sponsored Annual Conference on the American Revolution in Baltimore, MD. On June 27th, our daughter Ann Whitney, Julia and I attended the coordinating meeting in Elberton, Georgia, for the marking of six patriot graves. Included in this marking will be the two slaves who rescued my patriot, Stephen Heard, from the British prison in Augusta, Georgia, the day before his scheduled execution.

On July 4th, the Chapter conducted the 50th Wreath-laying at George Washington's Tomb and participated in the swearing in of 101 new US Citizens at Mount Vernon. On July 8 through 14, Julia and I along with Mike Elston, attended the 121st NSSAR Congress in Winston Salem, NC. More details on the meeting can be found in Vol. XXXV No: 2, Virginia Bulletin at: <http://www.virginia-sar.org/vassar/vbulletin/bulletin-35-2.pdf>.

On August 2, the BOM met to discuss the upcoming fall and winter meetings which included guest speakers, billing of dues and fees, budget and election of officers for 2012. On August 12, our Chapter along with Fairfax Resolves and George Mason Chapters hosted, on behalf of VASSAR, the 2011 NSSAR Atlantic Middle States (AMS) Conference at the Hampton Inn located on Route 1 near Belle Haven Country Club. The George Washington Chapter did itself proud with a total of eleven attendees (that is counting two dual memberships) out of thirty VASSAR representatives present over the two day period of the conference. Here we renewed friendships with many compatriots and their wives we had met and enjoyed at the earlier congresses and

leadership meetings. The purpose of the conference was to receive reports from the nine states societies that make up the SAR Atlantic Middle States and to conduct a "Candidates Forum" at which all individuals running for National office and seeking AMS endorsement made their pitches to the body. Subsequently a vote was taken to determine which candidates would be endorsed by the AMS in the election of National officers for 2012. This process will be conducted in all 15 regions before the 122nd Congress which will be held in Phoenix, Arizona, next year. Each of you should plan to attend. It is a once in a lifetime experience. Next year the AMS conference will be held in Delaware.

On August 23, Julia and I and our daughter, Pamela McPherson, will be attending the 2nd and final meeting of the Georgia planning group for the six grave markings to be held in Elberton, Georgia, on October 15. During the last week in August or early September, Mike Elston will be sending out the dues statements for 2012. Please be on the lookout for your statement and return it with your payment as soon as you can. All dues must be received by December 1.

On September 16 and 17, the VASSAR Semi-Annual Conference will be held in Fredericksburg. As many of you as can should plan to attend. The main meeting is held on Saturday and you could easily drive to Fredericksburg and attend the meeting. Check the VASSAR web page(<http://www.virginia-sar.org/vassar/vbulletin/bulletin-35-2.pdf>)for details and a schedule of events.

The first meeting of the Chapter for the fall season will take place on September 10. Do not miss this meeting. We will induct at least nine new members and present a number of awards.

Lastly, the NSSAR Fall Leadership meeting will be held on September 30th and Oct 1st and 2nd in Louisville. Make your reservations early and ask for the Club floor. All the VASSAR attendees congregate there. Julia and I plan to attend and invite each of you to come along.

We have a very busy fall season ahead of us

and I encourage each of you to get involved with the Chapter activities. We are looking for a volunteer to take over as editor of the newsletter. If you are interested, please contact me or any member of the BOM.

Hope everyone has had a safe and cool summer and I look forward to seeing each of you on September 10.

Fraternally,

Bob Carr
President

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Next Chapter Meeting

Our next meeting will be held at the Belle Haven Country Club on September 10. Be sure to attend, as we have a very special guest speaker. Captain Jim Bell (USN, Ret) will tell us of his experiences as a Prisoner of War. He was held by the North Vietnamese for seven and one-half years.

Jim Bell was born in Akron, Ohio, in 1931. He attended the U.S. Naval Academy, graduating in 1954. Following graduation, he completed flight training and is qualified in several different aircraft. He earned a Masters degree in Aeronautical Engineering at the Naval Postgraduate School in 1962. In July 1965, Bell began flying combat missions from the aircraft carrier USS Independence, and was forced to eject over North Vietnam and taken as a prisoner of war on October 16, 1965.

After spending 2,677 days in captivity, he was released during Operation Homecoming on February 12, 1973. After brief hospitalization to recover from his injuries, he attended the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. Captain Bell continued active service until retiring from the Navy on March 1, 1979.

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Introducing Our Newest Compatriots

The following Compatriots have joined our

Chapter:

John Coulter

Compatriot John (Jack) Coulter was born and raised in New York City, NY. He received a BS in physics from Fordham University in 1957 and a Master's degree in optics from the University of Rochester. During his 33-year career as a physicist/program manager with the federal government, Jack worked for NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center, the Army Night Vision Laboratory and the Central Intelligence Agency. He followed that up by working as a project engineer with the Aerospace Corporation in Chantilly, Virginia, retiring in 2007.

Jack now spends time as an active volunteer in the health field at INOVA Mount Vernon Hospital and in the tourist field at George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate). He is married to Clare Coulter, who is a native of Washington, DC and Bethesda, Maryland. Their three grown children -- Pattie, Cathy and Ed -- have blessed them with four grandchildren.

Compatriot Jack's membership in the Sons of the American Revolution is based on his bloodline descent from Patriot James Coulter. During the Revolution, James Coulter served as a private in the Albany County (NY) militia. We believe that he fought in the victorious battle of Saratoga in 1777, which many scholars regard as one of the turning points of the Revolution. The victory at Saratoga prompted the French to formally declare war on Great Britain and to increase their military aid to the American patriots.

RADM Charles Eager McDowell

Charles E. McDowell was born in Manchester, New Hampshire, on 9 September 1923. He received a Bachelor of Arts Degree with a major in history from Dartmouth College in 1947 and a Juris Doctor Degree from the University of Virginia Law School in 1950. He was admitted to the Bar of Texas in 1950 and subsequently to the Bars of Virginia and the District of Columbia in 1981.

Admiral McDowell began his military career by serving on active duty in the U.S. Army from 1943

to 1946, first as an enlisted man and then as an infantry 2nd lieutenant with service in the European Theater. After being released to inactive duty, he completed college and law school and then returned to active duty in 1951 as a law specialist lieutenant (junior grade) in the U.S. Navy. His first duty assignments were at the District Legal Office, Twelfth Naval District, San Francisco, and the District Legal Office, Tenth Naval District, San Juan, Puerto Rico. These tours were followed by a tour in the Office of the Judge Advocate General, where he served in the Administrative Law Division and as a Special Assistant to the Judge Advocate General.

After serving as the Staff Legal Officer, Commander Service Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Admiral McDowell attended the Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island, graduating from the Command and Staff Course, followed by a tour on the staff of the Naval War College as Staff Judge Advocate and as head of the International Law Division.

In 1966, Admiral McDowell was assigned as Staff Legal Officer, Commander, Seventh Fleet. From September, 1968, to June, 1972, he served a second tour in the Office of the Judge Advocate General in Washington; first as senior navy member of the Department of Defense Ad Hoc Committee to Rewrite the Manual for Courts Martial and then as Deputy Assistant Judge Advocate General (Administrative Law). In July 1972, he reported to London, England, where he served on the staff of the Commander in Chief, U.S. Naval Forces, Europe. In August 1975, he assumed duties as Commanding Officer, Naval Justice School, Newport, Rhode Island.

He served as Deputy Judge Advocate General from 1976-1978, and as Judge Advocate General of the Navy from 1978 to 1980.

Admiral McDowell has received numerous medals and awards including the Distinguished Service Medal, Bronze Star, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V" and Gold Star for 2nd award of the Purple Heart.

Following his retirement from the Navy in 1980, Admiral McDowell was in private law practice until 1997. He and his wife, the former Carolyn (Candy) Gibbons of Houston, Texas, reside in

Alexandria, Virginia. They have two daughters, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

In October 2010, Admiral McDowell was elected to the Fort Benning OCS "Hall of Fame" because, he says, they just had to have the picture of a Navy Admiral wearing the Combat Infantry Badge.

Admiral McDowell's membership in the Sons of the American Revolution is based on his bloodline descent from Luke Eager, a private in the Continental Army.

Zachary William Haywood Schmidt

Compatriot Schmidt was born and raised in Fairfax County, Virginia. He is a 2008 graduate of Hayfield Secondary School and is employed with Costco Wholesale.

Zachary is a life member of the Dick Anderson Society, Children of the American Revolution. He held numerous positions on the state level including chairman of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the American Revolution. On the local level he has served in every position including three terms as president.

Zachary is a third generation George Washington Chapter member. He is the grandson of Past President Wesley H. Schmidt, Sr. and the son of Peter H. V. Schmidt. He is the nephew of Compatriots Wesley H. Schmidt, Jr., Austin B. C. Schmidt and Rodney H. C. Schmidt.

Compatriot Schmidt's membership in the Sons of the American Revolution is based on his bloodline descent from Patriot Petrus Krum.

Robert D. Andrews II

Compatriot Petty Officer 1st Class Robert David Andrews II was born and raised in New Haven, Connecticut. From September 1996 to November 2004, he served in the U.S. Army 82nd Airborne, 10th Mountain & 101st Airborne Divisions with tours in Bosnia, Kosovo, Somalia, Iraq and Afghanistan. In 1998 he received the Soldiers Medal for saving three paratroopers from an armory fire. From 2000 - 2002 he served in the Connecticut Army National Guard, 29th Infantry Division and was a 9/11 first responder in New York City. In November 2004, Rob laterally transferred to the U.S. Coast Guard.

Rob is currently pursuing a degree in history from Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven, Connecticut. Rob is currently an Operations Specialist First Class (E-6) serving as a Search and Rescue Controller at USCG Sector Long Island Sound in New Haven, Connecticut. He is also owner of Heritage Genealogy Service, a professional firm of research genealogists.

Rob lives in West Haven, Connecticut, with his girlfriend, Vanessa Santos and his 4-year-old daughter Josslyn Renee. He is Commander of American Legion Post 71 in West Haven; a member of The Scottish American Military Society; The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem; and the Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association.

Compatriot Andrew's membership in the Sons of the American Revolution is based on his bloodline descent from Patriot Corporal Ashbel Crampton. During the Revolution, Corporal Crampton served in Captain Peter Vail's Company of the Guilford Guards who defended the Shoreline of Connecticut and responded to the alarm for the Battles of Lexington and Concord.

As he is currently stationed in Connecticut, Compatriot Andrews has been unable to attend a formal induction

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REGISTRAR'S REPORT

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

Of the eighteen applications submitted for approval, five were processed and prepared by Bob Carr, six by Mike Elston, and seven by Bob Whitehead.

There are seventeen applications at NSSAR awaiting review, nine applications being processed at the chapter level and seven new members awaiting induction.

New Member Applications Approved

Jason S. Holsclaw (Anc: Jacob Holtzclaw)

Derek K. Loveland (Anc: Levi Loveland)

Ronald G. Kirby (Anc: William Trogdon)

New Member Applications Submitted

Dal Teer Hardy, III (Anc: John Donelson)

Dal Teer Hardy, IV (Anc: John Donelson)

David B. Hardy, Sr. (Anc: John Donelson)

Douglas B. McPherson (Anc: Dozier Thorton)

Dale R. Killinger (Anc: Michael Killinger)

Wade Killinger (Anc: Michael Killinger)

Robert Armstrong (Anc: Isiah Adkins)

Benjamin Dutton (Anc: John Harper)

Christopher Dutton (Anc: John Harper)

Timothy M. Cribbs, Jr. (Anc: John Hughes)

Benjamin B. Rudisill (Anc: John Mays)

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

Ronald A. Gregory (Anc: William H. Gregory)

Thomas A. Neal (Anc: Oliver Hartshorn)

Edward Lee Pearce (Anc: John Ogle)

Supplemental Applications Approved

Michael J. Elston (Anc: John Ransdell)

Supplemental Applications Submitted

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

Robert E. Berry (Anc: Joel Berry)

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

Bob Whitehead

Registrar

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Second SAR Annual Conference on the American Revolution

Vice President Paul Briggs represented our

Chapter at this year's Conference on the American Revolution which was held in Baltimore on June 24-26. The conference examined the topic "Slavery and Liberty: Black Patriots of the American Revolution." John Murray, the 4th Earl of Dunmore, promised liberty for slaves who left their patriot masters and enlisted in the British Army. But in spite of this and other similar offers from the British, thousands of African-Americans stepped forward to serve the cause of American liberty and independence as regulars, militiamen, poets, preachers and privateers. From Lexington to Yorktown, wherever patriots fought for American liberty, black patriots were among them. Conference attendees enjoyed a series of presentations by some of our Nation's finest scholars.

Next year's conference, planned for a location in Charlottesville, will examine how Thomas Jefferson is portrayed in American history.

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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

September

10 Regular meeting of our Chapter
16-17 Semi-annual VASSAR meeting in Fredericksburg.

29-1 Oct NSSAR Fall Leadership/Trustees Meeting, Louisville.

October

8 Regular meeting of our Chapter

19 Battle of Yorktown. Parade begins at 10:30 am

November

12 Regular meeting of our Chapter

11 VASSAR Dedication of Plaque for Revolutionary War Veterans buried in Shockoe Cemetery, Richmond. 11:00 am

December

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 Regular meeting of our Chapter

February

11 Regular meeting of our Chapter

24-26 2012 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.

September 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.

Feel free to invite your wife and friends as your guests.

RSVP no later than Monday, September 5th.

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.