



George Washington Chapter Sons of the American Revolution



Newsletter

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Next Chapter Meeting is October 8th

Jane Conner will be our guest speaker when the Chapter meets on October 8. She recently received the SAR Silver Medal for her service in preserving the Government Island Quarry grounds near Aquia Harbor, Virginia. Jane is a graduate of the University of California at Santa Barbara with a degree in Early Childhood Education. She previously taught elementary school in California, South Carolina, and Virginia.

Since 1979, Jane's goal has been to save Government Island from development. The island, located in Stafford, is the place where stone was quarried to make the White House and U.S. Capitol. Thirty-two years ago she recognized its historic importance to the nation. She was successful in 1998, when the Stafford Board of Supervisors purchased the island. Jane appeared before Congress in 2002 to request that the island be declared a national historic site. For saving the island, in 2004 she received the National Preservation Award from the DAR. She was delighted when the island became a county park in November of last year.

Jane has written three books, *Birthstone of the White House and Capitol*, *Lincoln in Stafford*, and *Sinners, Saints, and Soldiers in Civil War Stafford*. She refuses any proceeds from her books and has contributed all book revenues to the Stafford County Museum Fund.

Jane is an active member of her church, a member of the Stafford Museum Building Foundation and Preservation Virginia. She is on the boards of the Stafford County Historical Society, Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary, and Stafford Education Foundation. She is a volunteer at Chatham, a historical home that belongs to the National Park Service. As president of the Stafford Historical Society, Jane worked hard to prevent Wal-Mart

from building a store on the site of George Washington's Boyhood Home. Jane volunteers at elementary schools throughout the county and gives power-point presentations about Lincoln to fifth-grade classes when they are studying the Civil War. She gives talks on historical topics to community organizations, clubs, and nursing homes. Last year Jane was recognized as Fredericksburg's Woman of the Year.

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VP Briggs presents the coveted bust of Washington to Jim Bell following his interesting discussion of experiences as a Vietnam POW to those attending the September luncheon meeting.

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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 15 and Saturday, September 16, VASSAR's Semi-Annual Meeting was held in Fredericksburg. On Friday afternoon, two workshops were held; one on Genealogy/Application Preparation and one on Administration/Membership. The VASSAR Board of Managers (BOM) met on Friday night to receive the reports of VASSAR Officers and Committee Chairmen. The nominating committee reported that it has a complete slate for next year and the following were nominated as officers for 2012: President: Henry P. (Phil) Williams; President Elect: Kent S. Weber; 2nd VP William A. Broadus, Jr.; 3rd VP : Reverdy Wright; Secretary: Edward W. Truslow; Treasurer: Frederick N. Elofson; Chancellor: Walter J. Sheffield; Historian: Larry G. Aaron; Registrar: Brent D. Morgan; Chaplain: Rev Cannon Henry N.F. Minich; Surgeon: W. Mckenzie Wallenborn, MD; Trustee: Mark S. Brennan; and Alternate Trustee: Henry P. Williams. The BOM approved the slate for presentation to the general membership for approval, which it did on Saturday morning. Ray Hawn represented the chapter as the member attending the BOM meeting. Following the meeting, President Brennan hosted a cocktail hour in the Fredericksburg Museum lobby.

On Saturday, the General Membership Meeting was held while the ladies took an 18th Century Trolley Tour of Fredericksburg. Once again VASSAR Officers and Committee Chairmen reported to the general membership. Of interest to all, Registrar General Lindsay Brock reported that NSSAR has set a goal of six weeks maximum for turn around on new membership applications and our own Mike Elston was nominated and approved as a trustee for the VASSAR Knight Patty Fund. Following the General Membership meeting, the conference adjourned to the Fredericksburg Country Club for a social hour and lunch.

Thanks to Don Reynolds, Don Kraft, Don Kellerman, Don Baldwin and Paul and Gina Briggs for making the trip down to Fredericksburg to attend the General Membership meeting on Saturday. Your continuing support is very much appreciated.

On September 10 the chapter held its first meeting following the summer break and what a great meeting it was. We had a very good attendance, inducted four new members, had a great speaker and an excellent lunch. Thanks to all of you who made it possible.

On Wednesday, September 28, Julia and I will load up the car and travel west to Louisville for our third NSSAR Leadership/Trustee meeting. We look forward to seeing old friends and learning more about what is going on in other societies and chapters

On October 10 or 11, Julia and I will be traveling to Atlanta for the signing of a proclamation by the

Governor of Georgia and then to Elberton, Georgia, to participate in the marking of six patriot graves in Elbert County. One is Stephen Heard, my patriot on whom I joined SAR. A number of SAR members from Virginia will be attending including Wayne and Wink Rouse representing the Colonel Fielding Lewis Chapter. Ray and Reba Hawn, Dwight and Ann Whitney, Christopher and Molly Carr, Julian Carr and member in waiting, Douglas McPherson and his wife Pamela C. McPherson will represent the George Washington Chapter.

By the time you receive this newsletter, you should have received your dues statement for 2012. Please respond immediately and send in your payments to Mike Elston. It is important that we get all dues in before the December 31 deadline set by VASSAR. The VASSAR Secretary announced at the Administrative/Membership Workshop in Fredericksburg that all dues payments must be received by the Assistant Secretary before December 31, 2011, or the member will be dropped and will be required to apply for reinstatement.

Don't forget to make your reservations for the October 8th meeting. We are having a most interesting program and we will be announcing the slate of officers for 2012. I look forward to seeing you all there and reporting on the Trustee/Leadership meeting in Louisville.

Fraternally,

Bob Carr
President

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2012 SAR Dues Statements are On the Way

Fall is upon us, and the season brings with it the apple harvest, changing leaves, cooler temperatures – and your annual SAR dues statement. While you may not think that your dues statement fits in the list of great things about fall, perhaps you're not thinking about it the right way. The SAR in general – and the George Washington Chapter in particular – is a great organization, and it does wonderful things. Your dues payments make so many things possible, from the ceremonies we participate in at Mount Vernon, the Tomb of the Unknowns, and elsewhere to the many awards we give to local heroes and outstanding youth through our law enforcement, JROTC, essay and oration award programs. It is an honor and a privilege to be descended from the heroes and patriots of the American Revolution, and our dues are a small price to pay to keep their memories alive and advance the ideals for which they fought.

For those of you who are regular members of the George Washington Chapter (that is, not life members or

members who have their home chapter elsewhere), your dues will be \$75. The chapter dues are \$25, the VASSAR dues are \$20, and the NSSAR dues are \$30. The deadline for payment is **November 15, 2011**. It is critical that you meet this deadline. The VASSAR roster is up to date (thanks in part to the efforts of our own Bob Carr, the VASSAR Secretary), so we will not have a lot of latitude in getting our own final roster for 2012 submitted to VASSAR.

If you are not sure of your membership status, please refer to the membership “rules of the game” that will come with your dues statement. If you still have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the chapter treasurer, Mike Elston.

Please also consider making an additional, tax-deductible contribution to the work of the chapter. You can specify a particular activity to sponsor or make a general contribution to the chapter. Your annual dues cover only about one third of our annual operating expenses, so we depend on your generosity to do all of the things we do as a chapter each year.

Thank you for all you do for the SAR and for your financial support – past, present and future!

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Introducing Our Newest Compatriots

Please welcome the following Compatriots who have joined our Chapter:

David Gosinski

Compatriot David Gosinski was born in Pasadena and raised in San Jose, California. David received a B.S. in Computer Science and later a M.S. in Management from University of Maryland University College.



David is currently a Department of Defense Civilian having retired from the Army in 2000. He resides in Alexandria and just returned to the states from serving in Germany and Afghanistan. During his combined 33 years of service, he has spent over 19 years overseas supporting operations around the globe.

He married his lovely wife, Toni, almost 30 years ago. Toni was born in Ohio and raised in Michigan. She served in the Air Force and is also currently employed as a Department of Defense Civilian. They have a 27 year old son also named David who is a computer programmer and lives in Arizona. Both Toni and David have five siblings and a very large extended family.

Compatriot David’s membership in the Sons of the American Revolution is based on his bloodline descent

from Patriot Thomas Cantrell. During the Revolution Thomas Cantrell fought as part of the militia at the battle of the Cowpens.

Jason Scott Holsclaw

Compatriot Jason Scott Holsclaw has resided in Alexandria, Virginia, for over nine years. Originally from Lexington, Kentucky, Jason was raised in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. In 1999, Jason received a B.A. in Political Science and History from Ouachita (Wash-uh-taw) Baptist University in Arkansas, and subsequently received a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Kentucky in 2001.



Jason is currently a Senior Analyst with the Education, Workforce, and Income Security team at the US Government Accountability Office. In this position, he has led numerous engagements evaluating federal policies and programs.

He is married to Abby Hughes Holsclaw who is a senior director of philanthropy and family financial stability with Goodwill Industries International. They have a 1 month old son named Whitman.

Jason’s membership in the Sons of the American Revolution is based on his bloodline descent from Patriot Jacob Holtzclaw. During the Revolution, Patriot Holtzclaw served in the Company of Lincoln County (Kentucky) militia under the command of Samuel Kirkham in an expedition against enemy Indians in 1782

Ronald Kirby

Compatriot Ronald Kirby was born in San Bernardino, CA and raised in Denver City, TX. Ron served in the Marine Corps from 1964-1967 with one tour in Vietnam. In 1971, Ron received a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Texas Tech University.



Ron is retired after 30 years with the Federal Aviation Administration (airport construction) and US Environmental Protection Agency (water programs). Ron maintains several rental properties. He has worked for Senator Allen as a full time volunteer in scheduling, also working as a volunteer for one legislative session in Richmond for Delegate Scott Lingamfelter. He is presently active in the Alexandria

Republicans (precinct captain, signs); Bally Shaners (Alexandria Irish Parade and Festival); Free Republic (showing support for our Troops at Walter Reed); Gathering of Eagles (Troop support); and Alexandria Tea Party.

He is married to Laurie Kirby, who is originally from Newport, NH. Ron has a 27 year old daughter named Tressa Iris and a 30 year old son Ryan. Compatriot Ron Kirby's membership in the Sons of the American Revolution is based on his bloodline descent from Patriot William Trogon of North Carolina. During the Revolution, William provided arms to the revolutionary soldiers.

Derek Loveland

Compatriot Derek Loveland was born and raised in Pocatello, Idaho. In 2002, Derek received a B.A. in German from Idaho State University. This past July he graduated from the National Defense Intelligence College with an M.S. in Strategic Intelligence.



Derek is a Captain in the United States Army and currently serves on the Army Staff as an Operations Officer in the Army Transformation Office. He has served tours in Iraq and Afghanistan and was

selected in March for promotion to Major.

He is married to Jodi Loveland, who is also from Pocatello. They have five children, four boys and one girl, with a fifth boy due in October. The children are Brian, age 9; Andrew, age 7; Timothy, age 5; and twins Kylie and Philip, age 2. Derek is a member of the Association of the United States Army and also serves as the president of a men's organization in his local LDS congregation.

Compatriot Loveland's membership in the Sons of the American Revolution is based on his bloodline descent from Patriot Levi Loveland, who served as a Private in the Revolutionary War under Captain Hezekiah Welles, in COL Erastus Wolcott's Connecticut Regiment.

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REGISTRAR'S REPORT

Since the last Registrar's Report five New Member Applications were approved by NSSAR, five New Member Applications were submitted to VASSAR for

approval and two Supplemental Applications were submitted to VASSAR for approval. They are listed below.

Of the seven applications submitted for approval, four were processed and prepared by Bob Carr and three by Bob Whitehead.

There are fifteen applications at NSSAR awaiting review and eight new members awaiting induction.

New Member Applications Approved

Scott B. Stephens (Anc: John Stevens, Sr.)
James W. Whitehead, IV (Anc: John Whitehead)
James M. Mobley (Anc: Edward Martin)
Timothy M. Cribbs, Jr. (Anc: John Hughes)
Dustin D. Greene (Anc: Joseph Hardin)

New Member Applications Submitted

William J. Ritter (Anc: Isaac Chaapel)
William T. Ritter (Anc: Isaac Chaapel)
Joseph W. Ritter (Anc: Isaac Chaapel)
Blair P. FitzGibbon (Anc: William Lord)
Yancy D. Wood (Anc: Richard Wood)

Supplemental Applications Submitted

Paul A. Walden (Anc: Moses Hendricks)
Gregory O. Bodge (Anc: Joseph Waterhouse)

Bob Whitehead
Registrar

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Members Continue to Provide Generous Financial Support

The George Washington Chapter depends on the generosity of its members to meet its annual expenses. The Board of Managers extends its appreciation to the following members who made contributions to the Chapter in the Second and Third Quarters of 2011:

More than \$ 1500

Robert F. Carr

More than \$ 500

Richard Kusserow

\$ 100 to \$ 500

Covert Beach	Gregory O. Bodge
Ernest B. Coggins	Ray C. Hawn
Dr. Donald Reynolds	Rodney H. C. Schmidt

Under \$100

F. Paul Briggs	Michael J. Elston
Donald E. Kraft	Kenan Torrans
William Vosbeck, Jr	Paul D. Wagoner
Scott Wagoner	Dwight Whitney

In-Kind (Historian/Scrapbook)

Jack Felt

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The Siege and Surrender of Yorktown As Observed by a Survivor

Yorktown was unknown to Johann Conrad Döhla when he began a journey from Germany to America in February, 1777. Döhla was a private in the Fourth Company of the Bayreuth Infantry Regiment which was on its way to fight the American rebels in the service of His Royal Majesty, George III. The Regiment arrived in New York in June, 1777. The following is extracted from a diary Döhla kept. Translated by B. E. Burgoyne, Döhla's diary was published as *A Hessian Diary of the American Revolution* by the University of Oklahoma Press.

With eight years of service under his belt, Döhla was an experienced soldier when he stepped ashore at New York. The story of his service in the Yorktown campaign begins in 1777 with this diary entry:

30 April. Our two regiments were embarked [at New York] at nine o'clock in the morning. The Bayreuth and Ansbach Regiments received six transport ships. I went aboard the ship *Wisk* and went immediately on ship's watch.

The convoy reached the James River in late May. June and July were spent in and around Portsmouth. Finally, on the first day of August, 1777, the German regiments arrived at Yorktown.

1 August. At noon all the troops were landed. We camped at Yorktown for a few days without tents . . . Lord Cornwallis was already here with most of his troops . . .

11 August. I went on watch at the defenses at Gloucester in the evening. This island has defenses everywhere.

August 26. . . . It is rumored that a French fleet is coming from the West Indies with many troops on board. It is said that this fleet will join with Rochambeau's fleet in the

Chesapeake Bay, the troops will be landed, and then we will be shut in on land and by water.

30 August. At night I went with a command into the defenses. The defenses here at Yorktown, and also at Gloucester, are being strengthened day and night, and fortifications are being made everywhere possible, and everything is being prepared for a brave resistance. This afternoon the French fleet appeared before the James River harbor at Yorktown . . . General Washington and his army of thirty thousand men drew closer to us on land from Williamsburg. The French General Marquis de Lafayette and the Prince of Nassau-Zweibrücken have joined him with a corps of ten to twelve thousand Frenchmen, so that we can anticipate an attack by land and sea.

31 August. I was on detail unloading ships. All munitions and provisions are being unloaded . . . The lower rows of cannon in the warships and frigates have been brought into the defenses, and all the ships have been completely emptied. Also, some fireships were prepared so that they could be launched into the French fleet, should it enter the harbor.

1 September. Today four warships from the French fleet moved to the harbor entrance . . . dropped anchor; and so closed the passage to us.

4 September. I went on work detail in the morning at the defenses and during the evening to chop wood. All the roads between our lines and the camp were barricaded with an abatis made of trees lying sideways, on and over one another, so that the enemy could not easily march against us.

11 September. The French fleet now stands in a triple line on our right from Cape Henry to Cape Charles, except for the four men-of-war that guard the entrance to our harbor. According to several deserters, the [enemy] are only a few miles from us, strongly entrenched and already working on a second line. We received bad rations of rotted ships' meat and wormy zweiback, which had spoiled aboard ship. Therefore, many troops were sick with dysentery and diarrhea.

14 September. I went on work detail in the forest adjacent to our camp. All the trees ahead of our lines were chopped down and all the roads protected and fortified with a strong abatis.

16 September. This afternoon I again went on tree-cutting detail and carried and loaded them onto wagons. From these strong trees, palisades are made, which are then set in the communications trenches around our entire camp.

19 September. . . Many houses in the city of Yorktown were torn down because they were outside our lines and a hindrance.

22 September. I went on command at the defenses again at noon. During the night the English ship's captain Harry Chérons sailed out of the York harbor at a quarter to twelve with five fireships, prepared with pitch and sulphur, in order to set fire to the four French warships that blocked the entrance to the harbor. The captain sailed with a favorable wind, but as the night was bright and starlit, the French ships' watch noticed him in time, sounded the alarm, cut the anchor ropes in the greatest haste, and hurriedly sailed away before the fireships could reach them. These five ships were seen the next day outside the harbor, still burning.

24 September. I went on watch at our field hospital as lance corporal. Early this morning the enemy attacked a picket of our troops, on our right wing, fired a few shots, and again hurriedly retreated . . .

28 September. There was an alarm at noon in our camp because the enemy approached from all sides and fired on our outer pickets. We struck our tents and took all our equipment back into the city.

29 September. At ten o'clock in the morning Private Zeilmann . . was fatally wounded by a small weapon's ball while on picket duty and died a short while later. I helped bury him. Following this, at twelve o'clock noon, Private Hammerlein was wounded while on duty at the same post. The ball was cut out later from between the two shoulder blades as I watched and held him . . . Today more than thirty English and Hessians on duty at the outposts were killed or wounded. About one o'clock at night, all the troops, in the greatest silence, moved back to the newly finished line before the city.

30 September. . . . The enemy probed our right wing today and stormed the outermost redoubt. However, he was chased back into the forest, with losses . . .

1 October. The enemy began entrenching operations on our front and worked day and night, continuously, on batteries and communications trenches. We fired at them

day and night. However, they did not reply and, as we learned, they still had all their artillery at the rear, which, because of the swampy region and bad roads, could not easily be brought forward.

In the morning I was in the communications trenches at the defenses; during the afternoon, again, and also at night . . . Two thousand men of our troops had to work continuously, day and night, on the defenses . . .

2 October. Our side cannonaded the enemy heavily because they were entrenching themselves and throwing up batteries about two English miles from York. Also, they occupied two defensive positions that we had previously vacated and destroyed . . .

3 October. At night I went on duty at a detached picket, which was outside our lines. This picket post was a dangerous position. During the two hours on post it was necessary to sit or lie down so that the enemy outposts, which were often hardly five or six hundred yards from us, could not see us against the starlit heaven. When it was quiet, all reliefs and patrols could be heard . . . Smoking was forbidden, and no fire could be made.

9 October. At noon I went to help in the defenses. Until today the enemy had not fired a single cannon shot at us, but continued working on the entrenchments, night and day, for nine or ten days, even though we fired at them the whole time, by day as well as by night . . . Nevertheless, they continued to work on their positions.

Some deserters, who came over from the French, told us that it was their intent to make their approaches right up to us, and that General Washington had come here through Maryland from Jersey. Having brought eight thousand regular troops across near Baltimore, he had joined General Greene, and both of them had joined the French. [The latter] were between twelve and fifteen thousand men strong, including a corps of hussars, and five German regiments from Alsace, and one French.

At three o'clock in the afternoon the enemy began to fire on our right wing from his left wing, where he had set up a battery in the woods and bushes.

At night, at tattoo, the enemy began, first on our left wing, then against our entire line, to fire bombs, cannon, and howitzers. This removed the belief, which we held previously, that they had only their regimental cannon there and could not bring up heavy weapons because of the

many forests and swamps.

During the night a French bombardier set fire to an English frigate in the harbor with a heated cannonball and the frigate could not be saved. It burned completely

10 October. We had to change our camp this morning and set up our tents in the communications trenches, because of the enemy's heavy cannonade. It was impossible to avoid the frightfully many balls in or outside the city. Most of the inhabitants . . . fled eastward with their best possessions on the waters of the York river, and dug into the sand cliffs, but even there they were not uninjured. Many were seriously and fatally wounded by the broken pieces of the bombs that were exploding, partly in the air, partly on the ground, which broke arms and legs, or killed them. The ships in the harbor also suffered great damage because the cannonballs flew across the river and as far as the land at Gloucester. During the evening the French, with bombs, set fire to a warship and a transport ship in the river.

11 October. I went on boat watch on the water. Today there was exceptionally heavy firing by both sides. Thirty-six hundred shots by the enemy were counted in this twenty-four hours. People were to be seen lying everywhere, fatally wounded, with heads, arms, and legs shot off. Also to be seen, by the water, were wounded being dragged and carried, who had been wounded . . . by the terribly heavy cannonade; and also, the burial in the sand, near the river, of soldiers and sailors. I watched in awe today, while on duty, how the enemy cannonballs . . . flew over our entire line, and over the city, and into the river, where they often hit one or two ships I saw bombs fall into the water which often, five, six, or eight, or more minutes lay in the water and then exploded, which caused such havoc in the water that it was almost unbelievable. . . . When one sat there, it was as if one witnessed the shock of an earthquake. The shrapnel and shells from these bombs again fell short and fell into the houses and buildings of the city, and into our camp, where they did much damage and robbed many good soldiers of their lives, or broke their arms and legs. I myself had a piece of shell from an exploded bomb in my hands which weighed more than thirty pounds, and was more than three inches thick.

The marines and sailors who were on the English ships had to move into the defenses and batteries and performed

duties there. During the night another English frigate was set afire by an enemy cannonball. It could not be saved and burned completely.

13 October. I went on watch in our lines During the night the enemy did not fire as heavily as on previous nights. Therefore, our side fired all the more heavily. The enemy, as far as we can notice, is working very hard on his batteries, defenses, and communication trenches, and his approaches are advancing very near to our lines.

Every day, in all the regiments, there are many dead and wounded

14 October. Between seven and eight o'clock at night the enemy attacked the outer redoubts, Numbers 7 and 8, on the left flank The enemy, under cover of a thick fog, crept up to the abatis completely unnoticed, and before anyone was aware, they had quickly and silently made a few openings. A great number of French grenadiers, of which part had long storming pikes, made an assault with the greatest determination, sprang into the trenches, tore out the palisades, and after a hard-fought defense, and heavy small-arms fire from the command in the positions, successfully entered the two redoubts without firing a shot. . . . [The enemy] immediately occupied these two positions, made them secure, and planted the French white flag on which there were three lilies. It was believed they would break in our left wing in order to storm our entire line. However, after taking the two redoubts, they were completely quiet during this night, except that the exchange of fire continued heavy from both sides

During this night two men of the Bayreuth Regiment deserted from a picket. On the whole, since this siege began, many of our troops, the English and the Hessians, have deserted to the enemy.

15 October. The bombardment continued on both sides throughout the day; at night, however, the enemy was very quiet and fired only a few bombs at us. But our side continued firing throughout the entire night.

16 October. Before daybreak our side launched a sortie. The English Major Anderson, with two hundred volunteers from the Light Infantry, marched in the greatest possible silence from the Horn Battery, which was in the center of our lines, and attacked the enemy in a communication trench. They killed many with bayonets

and quickly spiked eleven cannon in a position in front of the middle of their camp.

This afternoon all sick and wounded from the hospitals were taken across the river to Gloucester.

This afternoon the enemy fired a terribly strong cannonade. At night I went on duty in the Horn defense, to which our two regiments sent 250 men because the Light Infantry, which defended this post, were packed up and taken over the river in sloops to observe the enemy in Gloucester and in the region of Kirlentown. It is said this was done to see if it was possible to break through in this region and move inland easier, or to move toward Maryland — because everyone could easily see that we could not hold out much longer in this place if we did not receive relief.

During this night the enemy side fired no shot. We continued our firing, however. The enemy busied himself with defenses and work, which toward morning approached, with a communication trench and a strong battery of fourteen cannon, so near to our Hornwork that he could almost have thrown a stone into it.

17 October. At daybreak the enemy bombardment resumed, more terribly strong than ever before. They fired from all positions without letup . . . There was nothing to be seen but bombs and cannonballs raining down on our entire line.

In the morning the English Light Infantry returned from Gloucester . . . They said that it was impossible to break out there, because all the surrounding area was strongly occupied and fortified by the enemy. Also, a cordon had been drawn around the entire region by several squadrons of French Hussars, so that not the least thing could enter or leave. This morning also, General Cornwallis entered the Hornwork to observe the enemy and his preparations. As soon as he was again in his quarters, he sent a *flag of truce* with a white flag to the enemy. The Light Infantry in the Hornwork began to cut up their new tents, and in general, much was destroyed, as it was believed there would be a surrender soon.

At twelve o'clock noon another *flag of truce* went over. About three o'clock in the afternoon we departed from our command and marched back into our lines. Toward evening everything became still, and no further shots were fired by either side. During the evening

several *flags of truce* went back and forth, and work on the surrender accord was conducted in earnest.

18 October. The entire day was quiet with no cannonading on either side.

19 October. The unfortunate day for England when the otherwise so famous and brave General Lord Cornwallis, with all his troops and the ships in the harbor, had to surrender to the united French and American troops . . .

On this day, in the morning, I went for the last time on the engineer watch. At twelve o'clock noon all watches and posts were cancelled.

Now the capitulation was final. The French and Americans immediately occupied our works and the line and all magazines and storehouses. Nothing of our equipment and uniform items were taken or even touched, instead we were treated according to law and fairness and the customs of war.

We were, on one side, happy that finally this siege was ended, and that it was done with a reasonable accord, because we always believed we would be taken by storm. If it had continued only a few more days, it would really have resulted in a major attack, because the French Grenadiers already had such orders.

For my part, I also had good reason to thank God that He was my Protector, Powerful Helper, and Savior, who during the siege had so graciously saved my life and protected my body and all my limbs from illness, wounds, and all enemy shots.

During this siege the enemy had thrown more than eight thousand bombs of 100, 150, 200 and even 250 pounds at us. We had more than seventeen or eighteen thousand killed and wounded. Supposedly, the enemy also counted more than ten thousand men dead and wounded. [Note that Döhla's casualty estimates are much exaggerated.]

19 October (continued). Under the terms of the capitulation [General] Cornwallis, was allowed two safe ships, that is, ships that could not be searched and were allowed free, unhindered passage to New York; and on those he was allowed to send out many members of the Light Infantry, Light Horse, Rangers, loyalists, and many sailors and ships' crew members, as well as many deserters who had gone over to the English from the French and Americans during the siege. General Cornwallis and Lieutenant Colonel Tarleton also went aboard these ships

and on the next day, following the surrender of the remaining troops, immediately sailed for New York.

During the afternoon of 19 October . . . all the troops, with all their belongings, weapons, and side arms, with covered colors but with drums and fifes, marched out of our lines and the camp. Brigadier General O'Hara led us out and surrendered us.

We marched . . . with shouldered arms, through the entire enemy army, while our drummers beat a march. The entire army of the combined powers, France and America, stood under arms, by regiment, with dressed ranks. In front of each regiment stood the generals and staff officers . . .

On the whole, the French troops made an excellent appearance. They were smart, tall, and well-built men, all wearing white gaiters, and some regiments wearing red uniforms, but most in white and a few in green. On our march, the Americans were on our left . . . lined up with Generals Washington, Gates, Greene, and Wayne. They stood in three ranks. First, the regulars . . . who presented a decent appearance. Next came the militia of Virginia and Maryland, who, however, made a poor appearance, ragged and tattered.

We, now captives, looked with wonder and astonishment at all these troops, which formed a line three men deep and extending for more than an English mile, because such a force had besieged us and could have eaten us up, and by comparison we appeared to be no more than a guard mount. The line from both armies was stretched out for nearly two miles. As we marched through, the enemy was amazed at our small force, as they had considered us to be more numerous.

After we had passed through the two lines, we came to a level place . . . where a squadron of French Hussars had formed a closed circle. One regiment after the other marched into this circle, stacked arms, and laid down all weapons. When our Colonel von Seybothen led his regiment in the middle therefore, he formed us in line facing front, took a position in the middle, and commanded, "Present arms!!" Then, "Ground your weapons and lay down cartridge boxes and sabers!" at which we executed the command, but not without his and our tears. All officers of Cornwallis's army English as well as German, were allowed to keep their swords, as an honor from the French, which is a custom of war with them. All of the high enemy generals were present in the

circle and showed their goodwill and best wishes toward the captured troops. Our two regiments were especially well received by them.

When all this was over, we marched back between both armies, but in silence, into our lines and camp, with nothing more than a bit of our remaining equipment in the knapsacks on our backs. All courage and bravery that animates soldiers at times had left us. As we marched back through the armies, the Americans, as victors, made sport of us. We reentered our lines and tents and had complete freedom to go into the city or the lines, or wherever we wished.

21 October. [On this day] we began the march into captivity. We broke camp at three o'clock in the afternoon. The Virginia militia, under command of General Lawson, escorted us. The officers received horses to ride; and the regiment, two wagons for the officers' baggage, wives, and artillerymen. All of the sick and wounded remained behind . . . with one of our medics.

According to the capitulation articles, the Americans were responsible for providing medicine, care, and attendants. All of us walked with canes, and with knapsacks, camp kettles, and canteens hanging on us. Our first march was five or six Virginia miles . . . We camped overnight under the open sky in a meadow and had very little food to divide and eat.

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Döhla and his fellow captives marched the 240 miles to what was to be their winter quarters, the New Frederick Barracks near Winchester. The march took 16 days. Private George Nikolaus Späth shared Döhla's Yorktown experiences and the long march to Winchester. Döhla was ultimately repatriated. Späth deserted from the Winchester POW camp, married the daughter of a local farmer, and never returned to Germany. Späth is the newsletter editor's fourth great-grandfather.

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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

October

8 Regular meeting of our Chapter

19 Battle of Yorktown. Parade begins at 10:30

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

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

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.

October 8, 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, October 3rd.

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.