



George Washington Chapter

Sons of the American Revolution

Newsletter

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Volume 12, Issue 8

November 2012

George Washington Chapter Represented in France



Editors Note: Each year compatriots of the George Washington Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution participate in many events commemorating those whose service won American independence. On July 4, 2012, recently inducted compatriot, Charles Flinn, took part in a wreath laying ceremony honoring General Lafayette in Picpus, France. His summary of the event is provided below.

I went this morning for the first time to the ceremonies at the tomb of Lafayette in the Picpus Cemetery, long established as an annual event. There was a French honor guard, French military band, and U. S. military staff from the embassy and wreaths placed on behalf of the Society of the Cincinnati, the SAR, the DAR,

the Society of the Friends of Lafayette, the U. S. Ambassador, and the President of the French Senate. There were speeches by the U. S. Ambassador, someone with a fancy title in the French government hierarchy which I'm not quite sure about and also, I think, again without certainty, someone with an exalted title speaking on behalf of all the societies that placed the wreaths and organized the event. After the speeches they lowered the U. S. flag provided by the U. S. embassy that had been unfurled over the tomb since the last 4th of July and folded it properly, the way we learned to at Southside School, and then returned it to the military attaché from the U. S. Embassy who produced a new flag, properly folded, that is then flown over the tomb for the year beginning that day. Those in attendance gathered in the courtyard in front of the cemetery chapel, just inside the entrance. The band played the Star - Spangled Banner and the Marseillaise and the honor guard and band led the group through a long, narrow, walled garden to the cemetery entrance, through the cemetery, which seems to have tombs of French nobility, to the tomb of Lafayette, in the most honored spot. At the end of the ceremonies at the tomb, the band again played the two national anthems.



Upcoming Chapter Events

November 10, 2012

11:30 AM, Belle Haven Country Club, Guest Speaker: Michael Pope, author of "Hidden History of Alexandria."

November 11, 2012

2:00 PM, Mt Vernon, Wreath laying at George Washington's Tomb with Kate Waller Barrett Chapter, DAR

Nov 30 – Dec 2, 2012

Battle of Great Bridge Weekend with wreath laying and Ceremony and Reenactments on December 1st.

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President's Message



Dear Compatriots,

Last month:

October 13, 2012 was our regular chapter luncheon, where participants enjoyed a truly enlightening program by U.S. Postal Museum Curator, Daniel Piazza. His presentation covered the history of the early Postal Service until 1847, which was the year modern postage stamps and payment by postal

sender were introduced in this country. Piazza's in-depth authoritative knowledge, expertise and superb slides were complemented by his ability to handle the wide variety of questions posed by compatriots and guests attending.

In other business, 2013 officer nominations by the nominating committee (Don Reynolds, Dick Kusserow and Bob Carr) include Mike Elston for president; for vice president, Scott Wagner; for treasurer, Dwight Whitney; and for secretary, Greg Bodge. For Board of Managers: Dick Kusserow, Bob Carr and Paul Briggs. Voting will take place at the November meeting, with installation at the December meeting.

Lastly, the chapter happily announced that the National Society approved the Gold Good Citizenship Medal for fellow compatriot General Fritz Kroesen, and we honored the General with a standing ovation. Presentation of the medal is set for the Gala at the Belle Haven Country Club on January 26, 2013.

October 19, 2012 was the anniversary of the victory at Yorktown. Vice president Mike Elston led a chapter delegation in festivities there, comprised of Bob Carr, Scott Wagoner and Dwight Whitney.

Upcoming:

November 10, 2012: Our regular chapter meeting will include election of officers for 2013. Our featured speaker is Michael Lee Pope, the author of "Hidden History of Alexandria, D.C." (2011) and "Ghosts of Alexandria" (2010). His presentation should expand historical horizons regarding the home city of our chapter, and among the oldest communities in the nation. We have also invited the Director of the Alexandria National Cemetery to make a short

presentation on veteran affairs and the upcoming Wreaths Across America project.

November 11, 2012 at 2 PM: Annual Veterans' Day Wreath Laying at Mount Vernon with the Kate Waller Barrett Chapter of the Daughter of the American Revolution

December 1, 2012: Tentative Wreath Laying with St. Andrews Society at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House Alexandria, followed by annual Scottish Walk parade.

December 8, 2012: Regular Chapter Meeting, induction of officers for 2013

December 9, 2012: Wreaths Across America at the Alexandria National Cemetery. We are soliciting contributions to support the purchase of 100 wreaths at \$1500. As of the October meeting we had \$500 committed. We'll also need volunteers to assist placing the wreaths. Contact Scott Wagoner, treasurer, other officers or members of the board of managers.

Next year, January 26, 2013 at 6:30 PM, Belle Haven Country Club, mark your calendars for the Gold Good Citizenship Medal event honoring the decades of patriotic service of General Fritz Kroesen, U.S. Army Ret.

Visit our web site at gwsar.org for updates and more details of upcoming events you can be part of. If you are interested in helping your chapter in the many projects underway, please contact me, or one of the other officers.

We'll see you Saturday, November 10, 2012 at 11:30 AM for our social gathering and a 12 PM meeting, and don't forget the Veteran's Day honors to General Washington at Mount Vernon on November 11, 2012 at 2 PM.

Respectfully,
Paul

F. Paul Briggs, Col. USMC Ret.
Chapter President 2012

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 11:30a.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: Paul Briggs 703-768-6910
Vice President: Mike Elston 703-680-0866
Secretary: Dwight Whitney 540-349-2375
Treasurer: Scott Wagoner 571-239-3221
Registrar: Jim Mobley 202-465-6680*

This monthly newsletter is edited by Derek Loveland, who depends heavily on inputs from chapter officers and committee chairmen. Inputs from others are always welcome. Please send your inputs and comments to derek.loveland@gmail.com or call 703-373-3087

November Guest Speaker,

Michael Lee Pope



Michael Lee Pope, our November guest speaker, is the author of "Hidden History of Alexandria, D.C." (2011) and "Ghosts of Alexandria" (2010), both published by History Press in Charleston, S.C.

In "Hidden History," Pope reveals how political smokescreens and backroom deals involving George Washington set the new capital on both sides of the Potomac. What was supposed to be an economic boon became a disaster. The streets were rocked by lawlessness, devastating fires and a court system that sent petty thieves to the gallows. His book charts the history of Alexandria from its incorporation into the District of Columbia and the controversial surrender of the city in the War of 1812 to the rising tensions between North and South that finally returned Alexandria to the Commonwealth of Virginia. Just think, we might be members of the George Washington Chapter of the DCSSAR!

Pope's latest book – just published on October 31 – is "Shotgun Justice: One Prosecutor's Crusade Against Crime And Corruption In Alexandria & Arlington." According to the publisher's description of the book, "When Crandal Mackey was elected commonwealth's attorney in 1903, he set his sights on the illegal bars, bordellos and casinos of Alexandria County. . . . Armed with a shotgun and accompanied by an axe-wielding posse, Mackey embarked on a crusade, busting up saloons and conducting raids throughout the county. When the dust settled, Mackey had shut down an infamous racetrack in Del Ray and politicians on the take in Alexandria County's political machine. Yet, in 1915 he mysteriously withdrew his bid for another term...."

Our speaker is an award-winning journalist. He has reported for Connection Newspapers, WAMU 88.5 News, the New York Daily News and the Tallahassee Democrat. A native of Moultrie, Georgia, he grew up in Durham, North Carolina,

and graduated high school in Tampa, Florida. He has a master's degree in American Studies from Florida State University, and he is a former adjunct professor at Tallahassee Community College. He now lives in Old Town Alexandria.

Mr. Pope plans to have both books available for sale before and after the meeting.

New Members

John Ralph Brigden



Compatriot John Brigden was born in San Diego, California and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He received a B.S. in Business Administration from Drexel University in 1966, a MBA from Virginia Polytechnical Institute, and was a member of the Army War College class of 1993.

John entered the Army immediately after completing his undergraduate education and stayed on active duty for six years, serving in Vietnam and Korea. He then returned to civilian life, remaining in the Army Reserve for 26 years and retiring as a full colonel in 1997. In civilian life, John worked for GE aerospace and information systems divisions as a financial analyst, for the RAND corporation as a financial controller, and in later years was the Chief Financial Officer for James Bell Associates, an applied research institute focused on Child and Family welfare studies. He retired in March of this year (2012).

He is married to Elizabeth G. Higdon, raised in San Diego, California. Elizabeth is a retired professor of Art History. They reside in Alexandria, Virginia.

Compatriot John Brigden's membership in the Sons of the American Revolution is based on his bloodline descent from his fifth great-grandfather, Patriot Edward Gisby, of Middleborough, Massachusetts who served with the Massachusetts militia under Colonel Thomas Marshall, Colonel John Daggett, and Colonel Sprout from May 1776 to July 1778.

James T. Callender



Compatriot James T. (Jamie) Callender was born and raised in Sparta, NJ. In 1977, Jamie received a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from University of Colorado and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the Air Force. He attended pilot training in 1978 and, over a twenty year career, he flew over 500 hours in multiple, experimental research vehicles and has a total of over 3,100 operational and test hours in 25 different aircraft.

Jamie is currently a Senior Systems Engineer for Computer Systems Center Incorporated in Springfield and has been with CSCI for over 14 years. In his spare time he enjoys outdoor activities, computer programming and genealogy research.

He is married to Deborah Callender, who is originally from Sparta, NJ. They have 30 yr. old twin sons, Eric and David, a 28 yr. old daughter, Heather and 5 grandchildren. He is also a member of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants in which he holds the position of assistant historian.

Compatriot Jamie's membership in the Sons of the American Revolution is based on his bloodline descent from Patriot Philip Callender. During the Revolution, Philip was a Private in CPT Elijah Deming's Company, COL Asbley's Regiment from Jun 1778 – Jul 1778.

David Thomas



Compatriot David Thomas was born in Pittsburgh, PA. As David's father was a chemical engineer who worked on America's missile and space programs, David and his family lived in various cities in the U.S. during his formative years. In 1978, David received a B.A. in Public Administration from the University of Florida.

David is employed as a regional IT Resource Manager for Lockheed Martin in Herndon, VA, serving previously with General Electric and Martin Marietta, totaling 35 years of service. In his spare time, David explores Civil War history, as a result of ancestors engaged with the PA 62nd Infantry and PA 20th Calvary. David enjoys traveling and has visited 42 states and internationally 32 countries.

He is married to Carole Thomas, who is originally from Seaford, New York. Carole is a

member of DACOR, an organization of U.S. Foreign Affairs professionals, located in Washington, D.C.; is currently a docent at the historic Pohick Episcopal Church in Lorton, VA; is an historical character interpreter at Gunston Hall, home of Patriot George Mason, and currently runs her own business, working as a music therapist with disabled children and adults.

Compatriot David Thomas's membership in the Sons of the American Revolution is based on his bloodline descent from Patriot George Simmers. During the Revolution, George Simmers volunteered for service as a private in the Pennsylvania militia, Lancaster County regiment, under Brig. General George Mercer's "Flying Camp" in August 1776. George Simmers participated in multiple military events. He was first garrisoned at Ft. Lee, New Jersey on the Hudson River in 1776, and was part of the force that desperately evacuated Ft. Lee, following the loss of Ft. Washington, effectively handing it over to General Cornwallis. As part of General George Washington's force, he experienced being chased by the British through New Jersey. Later, he was part of Brig. General James Ewing's 1,000 man blocking force that couldn't cross the Delaware River as planned, due to ice at the Battle of Trenton. George Simmers was discharged from the militia in early 1777, but re-joined the Pennsylvania militia prior to the Battle of Brandywine. He survived that battle and concluded his enlistment by guarding captured Hessian soldiers.



George Washington Chapter vice-president, Mike Elston, (center) carries the flag of France during ceremonies commemorating the Battle of Yorktown.

Registrar's Report

NSSAR is reviewing New Member Applications much faster than in the past with review times ranging from 20 to 30 days. Since the last Registrar's Report three New Member Applications and eleven Supplemental Applications were approved by NSSAR. Four New Member Applications and zero Supplemental Applications were submitted to VASSAR.

There are four applications at VASSAR awaiting review, fourteen applications at NSSAR awaiting review, and eight new members awaiting induction. Below is a summary of the applications that were submitted and approved since the last Registrar's Report. The applications are listed in the approximate order in which they were submitted or approved.

New Member Applications Approved

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Ancestor</u>
David Robert Thomas	George Simmers
James Thomas Callender	Philip Callender
Walter John Blair III	William Daingerfield

Supplemental Applications Approved

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Ancestor</u>
Benjamin Barton Rudisill	Ann Moss
Benjamin Barton Rudisill	John Peck
Benjamin Barton Rudisill	Joseph Kyle
Benjamin Barton Rudisill	Lewis Hickle
James Michael Mobley	Hugh Harris
James Michael Mobley	Mary Sandidge Gholston
James Michael Mobley	William Moffatt
James Michael Mobley	Robert Hendry
James Michael Mobley	Samuel Long
James Michael Mobley	John Spencer
James Michael Mobley	Joel Chandler

New Member Applications Submitted

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Ancestor</u>
Peter Brandon York	Joshua York

Barrington West Kinnaird

Edward Martin

Thomas Edward Albert

Conrad Plaster I

Mathew Paul Jones

Thomas Brown

Jim Mobley
Registrar

Announcements

Call for Information

Is the GW Chapter the Best?

SAR chapters in Virginia are evaluated annually and recognized with awards on the basis of two reports: the VASSAR Annual Report and the NSSAR Americanism Report. Your board of managers is already working on those reports for 2012, but we need your help.

We know many of the activities that chapter members have been involved in, but some of the information is in your hands. For example, we get credit for certain donations to the national and state societies. Did you make any such donations in 2012? If so, please let us know by sending an e-mail to Mike Elston (elston.sar@gmail.com) and Dwight Whitney (dwrightwhitney@comcast.net). Did you attend any SAR, DAR or CAR events in 2012 that we don't know about? If so, send us an e-mail! Were you involved in any activities with a veterans' group or another group that supports veterans? Send us an e-mail!

The December newsletter will include more requests for information, and we'll also send some e-mail reminders between now and the end of the year. Please help us complete these reports and win the recognition that the chapter and your hard work deserves.

Annual Dues

The deadline to pay annual dues is November 15. If you have paid your 2013 dues already, THANK YOU. Your continued membership makes it possible for us to engage in all of the activities that honor our Patriot ancestors and educate our fellow Americans about the ideals that inspired the Revolution. If you have not paid your dues, please do so right away. If you are dropped for nonpayment of dues, paperwork and additional fees may be required for reinstatement.

Long Range Events List

2012

Nov 10 - Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, VA

Nov 11 - Mount Vernon wreath laying at George Washington's Tomb with Kate Waller Barrett Chapter, DAR ##

Nov 30 - Dec 2 – Battle of Great Bridge Weekend @@

Dec 1 - Battle of Great Bridge Wreath Ceremony and Reenactments @@

Dec 8 - Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, VA. Our guest speaker will be Walter Jervis Sheffield, Esq., Chancellor of the Virginia Society, SAR. Chancellor Sheffield also will install the chapter's 2013 officers.

2013

Jan 5 - Chapter Business Meeting and Committee Meetings, 11:00 a.m., Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton, Virginia.

Jan 26 - Gold Good Citizenship Medal Gala **

Feb 9 - Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, VA

Feb 19 - Battle of Cowpens in Chesnee, SC @@

Feb - State Meeting in Richmond, VA @@

Feb - Crossing of the Dan in South Boston, VA @@

March 9 - Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, VA

March - James Madison's Birthday in Montpelier, VA @@

March - Battle of Guilford Courthouse in Greensboro, NC @@

April 13 - Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, VA. Our guest speaker will be the President-General of the SAR (who will be elected at the July 2012 National Congress).

April 13 - Wreath Laying Ceremony with the SAR President General at Arlington National Cemetery, 4:15 p.m. **

May 11 - Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, VA

July 4 - Mount Vernon wreath laying, 9:30 a.m. step off ##

July - 2013 National Congress in Kansas City, MO

Sept 14 - Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, VA

Oct 12 - Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, VA

Nov 9 - Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, VA

Nov 11 - Mount Vernon wreath laying at George Washington's Tomb with Kate Waller Barrett Chapter, DAR ##

Dec 14 - Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, VA

2014

January - GMGC Gala

Legend

** Chapter sponsored state or national event

Chapter event where other chapters may participate

@@ Non-Chapter event of significance that GW members should consider attending

November 10, 2012
Lunch Meeting Reservation Form

Please make your reservation by e-mail to **swagoner@X4-LLC.com**. This is the preferred way to make a reservation. 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. **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 \$40.00 is required.**

For call in reservations, you can call Scott at **571 239-3221**.

For e-mail and phone reservations, please include the following:

Compatriot Name: _____

Guest Name (s): _____

For mail-in reservations, please include the following information:

Compatriot Name: _____

Guest Name (s): _____

A check for ____ persons in the amount of \$_____ payable to G.W. Chapter SAR is enclosed.

Mail this reservation form with your check to:

Scott Wagoner, Treasurer

G.W. Chapter SAR

P.O. Box 75

Occoquan, VA 22125

It is important to provide the first and last name of all guests.

It is also important to provide advance notice of attendance to be sure you get a seat.

Valet parking is available.

Thank you.