



George Washington Chapter

Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

Newsletter

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Volume 12, Issue 9

December 2012

VASSAR Chancellor Sheffield to Speak, Install Officers at December Meeting

Our guest speaker for the December meeting will be Walter Jervis Sheffield, Chancellor of the Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. In addition to installing the chapter's 2013 officers and bringing greetings to the chapter on behalf of the state society, Walt's topic will be "Paul Revere v. Jack Jouett." While most Americans know the story of Paul Revere, Jack Jouett is slightly more obscure.

Born in 1754 in Albemarle County, Virginia, Jouett served as a Captain in the 16th regiment of the Virginia militia during the Revolution. Both Jouett and his father signed the 1779 Albemarle Declaration, in which the signatories pledged, among other things, "to discover & make known to some one justice of the peace for the said state all treasons or traitorous conspiracies which I know or hereafter shall know to be formed against this or any of the united states of America." During the war, Jouett's father supplied the patriot army with meat for its rations, and Jouett's three brothers all served in the American cause, including one who was killed at the battle of Brandywine. Chancellor Sheffield will explain how Jouett became known to history as the "Paul Revere of the South."

Chancellor Sheffield is a distinguished lawyer in Fredericksburg, Virginia, "America's Most Historic City." He has practiced law in Fredericksburg since 1975, concentrating in elder law, estate planning and administration, and fiduciary litigation. Additionally, he has served in a number of local and state government positions, **(continued on p. 3)**

Upcoming Chapter Events

December 8, 2012

December Meeting,
11:30 a.m. at Belle Haven
Country Club, with guest
speaker Walt Sheffield on
Paul Revere v. Jack Jouett.

December 15, 2012

Wreaths Across America
Day, Noon at Alexandria
National Cemetery, 450
Wilkes Street, Alexandria.

January 12, 2013

Chapter Business Meeting
and Committee Meetings,
11:30 a.m., Pohick Church,
9301 Richmond Highway,
Lorton, Virginia.

January 26, 2013

4th Annual Gold Good
Citizenship Award Gala,
6 p.m. reception/7 p.m.
program and dinner at
Belle Haven Country Club.

President's Message

Dear Compatriots,

The Chapter has been busy during the past month, and the future looks just as busy. November 10, 2012 was our regular chapter meeting. The featured speaker was Michael Lee Pope, who hit highlights of his most recent book, "Hidden History of Alexandria, D.C." (2011). Despite other alternatives strongly considered, agreements in 1791 encouraged by George Washington set the nation's capital on both sides of the Potomac, to include the now largely forgotten incorporation of Alexandria within the District of Columbia. Pope covered the challenges Alexandria faced enforcing the law and providing services such as fire protection when under federal control. He also explained the basis for the retrocession of the city to the Virginia Commonwealth in 1846, in part as a result of the outlawing of the slave trade in the District of Columbia. Using slides of period political cartoons, Pope capably described the historical context of the years when Alexandria was part of the District of Columbia. His pitch was local history at its best!

The 2013 officers were elected by acclamation. There were no additional nominations. The slate for induction is 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.

Errata: October 19, 2012 was the anniversary of the victory at Yorktown. I reported that vice president Mike Elston led a chapter delegation in festivities there, comprised of Bob Carr, Scott Wagoner and Dwight Whitney. Because I was not aware, I failed to mention compatriot Ray Hawn, who also participated, and who took photographs you may view at gwsar.org.

November 11, 2012 at 2 PM: The chapter turned out in strength to enjoy excellent weather at the annual Veterans' Day Wreath Laying at Mount Vernon with Regent Sarah Hardy and the Kate Waller Barrett



DAR Chapter. For the first time we fielded a chapter color guard, which stood shoulder to shoulder with a Virginia Society color guard contingent. Check out the web site for some striking photographs. My remarks covered General Washington's early military career as an officer in the Virginia Militia, including the successes and failures during the French and Indian War that provided the foundation for his sage leadership in winning our independence as Commander in Chief during the American Revolution.

On December 1, 2012, I placed the chapter's wreath at the tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary Soldier in conjunction with the St. Andrews Society memorial at the tomb of their founder, William Hunter, at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House, Alexandria, just prior to the annual Scottish Walk parade. On the same day, Mike Elston, Bob Carr and Scott Wagoner represented the chapter at the annual celebration of the Battle of Great Bridge in Chesapeake, Virginia.

December 8, 2012: Regular Chapter Meeting, and induction of officers for 2013. Our guest speaker for the December meeting will be Walter Jervis Sheffield, Chancellor of the Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, whose biography is included elsewhere.

December 15, 2012: Wreaths Across America (WAA) at the Alexandria National

President's Message (from p. 2)

Cemetery at Noon. We are soliciting contributions to support the purchase of 100 wreaths at \$1500. As of now we have \$675 committed (45 wreaths). We'll also need volunteers that day to assist placing the wreaths on veterans' tombs at the cemetery. Contact Scott Wagoner, treasurer, other officers or members of the board of managers to make a donation and/or volunteer. Or, contact compatriot Floyd Ryan, who is the project coordinator.

January 12, 2013: Chapter working meeting (casual attire) at the Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton, VA. Lunch is \$5-7 (the cheapest luncheon of the year!) and president-elect Mike Elston will organize chapter activities and leadership for 2013.

January 26, 2013: Mark your calendars for the Gold Good Citizenship Medal event at Belle Haven honoring the decades of patriotic service of General Fritz Kroesen, U.S. Army Ret. The cost is \$75 per person, black tie and minis optional. The reception and receiving line will begin at 6 p.m., the program and dinner will begin at 7:00 p.m. Don't miss it!

Visit our web site at gwsar.org for updates and additional details of upcoming patriotic events and activities you can be part of.

We'll see you at Belle Haven country Club Saturday, December 8, 2012 at 11:30 AM for our social gathering and a 12 PM meeting.

Respectfully,

Paul

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

December Meeting (from p. 1)

including City Attorney for the City of Fredericksburg (1976-86), Vice Mayor of Fredericksburg (1988-92), and Chairman of the Virginia State Board of Surface Mining Review (1988-92). He is also a past president of the Fredericksburg Area Bar Association. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Old Dominion University (graduating magna cum laude), his Juris Doctorate from Emory University, and a Master of Laws in taxation from New York University. He served in the United States Army from 1966 to 1969 as a First Lieutenant in the Infantry and Quartermaster Corps.

Sheffield is a founding member of the Colonel Fielding Lewis Chapter of the SAR and past president of the chapter. He has been chancellor of the Virginia Society for six years. Sheffield is also a member of over 20 other lineage societies, including the Order of the Crown of Charlemagne in the U.S.A., the Plantagenet Society, the Baronial Order of Magna Charta, the Society of Descendants of Knights of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, the Jamestowne Society, the Descendants of Lords of the Maryland Manors, the National Society of the Claiborne Family Descendants, the Order of the Founders and Patriots of America, and the Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia. Sheffield and his wife, Christina, have four grown children and live in Fredericksburg.



In memory of Charles Eager McDowell (1923-2010)

Compatriot Rear Admiral Charles Eager McDowell, U.S. Navy (Ret.), passed away peacefully November 25, 2012, surrounded by his family and devoted caregivers. He was born in Manchester, New Hampshire, September 9, 1923, the son of Joseph Curry McDowell from Belfast, Ireland, and Mildred Howe Eager also of Manchester, NH. He served as the Judge Advocate General of the United States Navy from 1978 to 1980.



He received a Bachelor of Arts Degree with a major in history from Dartmouth College in 1947 and a Juris Doctor Degree from the UVA 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.

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 second lieutenant in the European Theater. He was wounded and hospitalized March 3, 1945. Three days later his platoon captured the Ludendorff Railway Bridge in Remagen, Germany.

After release from active 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. After duty assignments in San Francisco, San Juan, Puerto Rico, and J.A.G. headquarters, he served as the Staff Legal Officer, Commander Service Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, and then attended the Naval

War College, Newport, Rhode Island. He graduated from the Command and Staff Course, but remained as Staff Judge Advocate and as head of the International Law Division.

In 1966, McDowell was assigned Staff Legal Officer, Commander, Seventh Fleet. From September 1968 to June 1972, he served a second tour 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 to 1978, prior to his appointment as Judge Advocate General.

Admiral McDowell earned 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 second award of the Purple Heart. In October 2010, he was elected to the Fort Benning OCS "Hall of Fame," because, as he said, they just had to have the picture of a Navy Admiral wearing the Combat Infantry Badge. A member of the George Washington Chapter since April 2011, 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.

Following his retirement from the Navy in 1980, Admiral McDowell was in private law practice until 1997. For thirty-six years he and his wife lived in the Waynewood neighborhood in Alexandria. He was a member of Aldersgate United Methodist Church where he was head of the church's

Charles Eager McDowell (cont.)

kitchen committee. He found great joy in preparing Wednesday night church dinners and preparing meals for the Route One Community Kitchen. He and his wife were avid swimmers and square dancers. He enjoyed reading, surf fishing and was a die-hard Boston Red Sox fan.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 65 years, Carolyn "Candy" G. McDowell; daughters Robin (Bruce) Mathews and Patricia "Mimi" (Tom) VanPoole; grandchildren Kristi (Isaac) Maiselman and Kevin (Amanda) Mathews; great grandchildren Charles and Oliver Mathews. His memorial service will be held Saturday, December 8, 2012, at the Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Alexandria.

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Step Up Now for 2013 Chapter Leadership Opportunities

Chapter President-Elect Mike Elston is looking for a number of compatriots to fill leadership positions and other key roles in the chapter. If you are interested in getting more involved, please e-mail him at elston.sar@gmail.com or call him at 703-680-0866.

One of the key positions available is Youth Activities Committee chairman and a Rumbaugh Orations coordinator. Our youth programs are critical in fulfilling the SAR's obligation to pass on the ideals of the Revolutionary generation to the next generation of our country's leaders and citizens.

An Alexandrian would be particularly appropriate to fill Jack Pitzer's spot as coordinator of the Public Safety Awards Program because the position involves working with the Alexandria police chief, sheriff and fire chief to select honorees and coordinate the presentations.

The position of Flag Committee Chairman is also vacant. The primary duty of this position is to identify appropriate recipients of the SAR Flag Certificate and arrange for the presentation of such certificates by a chapter officer or member of the committee. This is an excellent position for a new member who is interested in getting involved with a relatively small time commitment.

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July 4th Medal Reauthorized by GW Chapter Board of Managers

In 2004, the Chapter authorized the striking of a new medal for participation in the July 4th ceremony at Mount Vernon. This medal, named the Baldwin-Jones-Tabb Medal in honor of three past presidents of the chapter, is silver in color, is suspended from a blue ribbon and has a representation of George Washington's tomb on the obverse and the SAR badge on the reverse.

According to chapter records, at least 97 compatriots have earned the Baldwin-Jones-Tabb medal between its first award in 2004 and this past year's July 4th ceremony. Oak leaf clusters are available to represent subsequent awards of the same medal. Chapter records indicate that over 120 oak leaf clusters have been earned. Approximately 16 members have earned, but have not received, the Baldwin-Jones-Tabb Medal because we have run out of medals.

In order to continue the popular Baldwin-Jones-Tabb Medal program and promote attendance at one of our chapter's signature events, the Board of Managers recently authorized the purchase of a new supply of Baldwin-Jones-Tabb medals. The new medals are from a different vendor and will be sized slightly smaller to conform to the standard size of SAR medals.

July 4th Medal (continued)

To defray the cost of the new medals, the Board has authorized the award of six B-J-T medals that will bear a special device on the ribbon to indicate the wearer's status as a Patron of the George Washington Chapter's Fourth of July observance at Mount Vernon. These six medals will be sold for \$250 each. Three of the six have already been sold, so only three remain. If you already have been awarded the B-J-T medal, this is the only way to get one of the new medals. To support the chapter's annual Fourth of July event by purchasing one of the remaining special Patron medals, please contact the chapter treasurer, Scott Wagoner.

The Board also decided that future awards of the medal will be made with the regular-sized medal only. Mini medals will no longer be awarded but will be made available to recipients of the medal for purchase at a price of \$10. If you have any questions about the B-J-T Medal program, please contact the chapter vice president, Mike Elston.

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2013 Luncheon "Season Ticket" May Come with a Tax Deduction on the Side

Once again this year, the chapter will offer members the chance to purchase a 2013 "season ticket" for our eight regular monthly meetings (February-May and September-December) for \$280. Please note that this does not include the January special meeting or the annual gala on January 26.

By paying for your 2013 lunches prior to December 31, the chapter will provide you with a letter acknowledging that portion of the ticket price that exceeds the cost of the food you will receive at the luncheons as a charitable contribution to the chapter.

Whether you can deduct the contribution depends on your individual circumstances. Consult your tax advisor, etc., etc. If you would like to purchase your "season ticket," please send a check for \$280

made payable to "GW Chapter, SAR" to Scott Wagoner, Chapter Treasurer, P.O. Box 75, Occoquan VA, 22125-0075, *before December 31, 2012.*

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Past President Honored, New Member Inducted in November

At the November Chapter Meeting, the chapter had the opportunity to present a long-overdue award to former President Richard P. Kusserow. Kusserow served as Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Health

and Human Services from 1982 to 1991. The chapter



recognized his service and contributions to law enforcement by presenting him with the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal.

The chapter welcomed one new member in November, Walter John Blair III. Compatriot Blair is a native of Alexandria. However, his family is primarily from King George County, Virginia. He was fortunate enough to have enjoyed many a summer day on the farm along the Potomac River. In 1970, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps Reserve and entered active duty in July 1971. After Parris Island and Tank School at Camp Del Mar, California, he was assigned to the 3rd Marine Division and was attached to Bravo Company, 3rd Tank Battalion. For a time, he was also attached to the 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines.

When he returned to the States, he was assigned to Weapons Training Battalion, MCB, Quantico. While at WTB, he was able to work with some of the Marine Corps' best snipers.

In the Marines, John attained the rank of Sergeant. In addition, he was nominated



for the MCB Quantico, Marine of the Month Award. John qualified as a Rifle Expert with both the M-14

and the M-16. Further, he was qualified to operate a M48-A-3 Mod B main battle tank and both the P-5 and P-7 amphibious tractor.

Currently, John is retired from the federal government after thirty two years and working for Prince William County government. He spends his free time working on his 1966 Mustang. He also attends high school football games and spends time with his family. John has been married to Linda Jo Moylan Blair, who is also from Alexandria, for thirty eight years. Together, they have raised two children.

Compatriot Blair's membership in the Sons of the American Revolution is based on his bloodline descent from Colonel William Daingerfield. During the Revolution, he served with the 7th Virginia Regiment.

The Chapter also honored its 2012 SAR Liberty Medal recipients: Robert F. Carr (left) (oak leaf cluster for a second award), Robert Whitehead (center), and Michael Elston (not pictured). The Liberty Medal is awarded by the National Society for recruiting new members to the SAR.



Chapter Will Hold Casual, Working Meeting on January 12

The Special January Chapter Meeting will be a casual affair designed to highlight the Chapter's activities throughout the year and provide opportunities for new and old members to get involved with chapter committees and other activities.

The meeting will be held at the Pohick Church parish hall, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton, on Saturday, January 12, 2013, at 11:30 a.m. After a short business meeting, we'll have a casual lunch where you can either pre-order from Subway or bring your lunch from home just like the good old days. (A special lunch reservation form is included in this newsletter.) During lunch, the chapter president will make a presentation on the chapter's 2012 Americanism and VASSAR annual reports.

After lunch, the officers and committee chairmen will be stationed around the room, provide information about their committee's work, and sign up volunteers for the year ahead. This portion of the meeting will work like an open house, where members will be able to go to multiple stations that may interest them. Officers, committee chairmen and members will discuss new ideas and opportunities for participation in chapter programs, events and activities. The chapter is an "all-volunteer force," and there are many ways to get involved.

To close the meeting, the chapter will come together as a group again for a panel discussion with the 2013 elected officers. Each officer will provide a brief description of their key goals for the year, and then the panel will conduct an open forum where members can ask questions or provide comments and suggestions.

After the meeting, anyone interested may join the chapter president on a tour of Historic Pohick Church (built 1769-74), which was the colonial parish of George Washington and George Mason. Several Revolutionary War Patriots are buried in the churchyard and cemetery.

The Board of Managers will meet at 11 a.m. on the same day and in the same location.

December 8, 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.

Luncheon Reservation Form for Special January 12th Meeting

Please use this form to RSVP and/or purchase a lunch for the January 12, 2013 Chapter Meeting at Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton, VA.

- ☐ Yes, I plan to attend the January Chapter Meeting.
- ☐ My check for \$7 (foot long) or \$5 (six inch) is enclosed. Please order the following lunch for me from Subway and a 12-ounce soda of my choice:

Sandwich Choices:

- ☐ Ham & American Cheese
☐ Italian Cold Cut & Provolone
☐ Turkey & American Cheese

Drink Choices:

- ☐ Coke ☐ Sprite
☐ Coke Zero ☐ Sprite Zero
☐ Cherry Coke ☐ Diet Dr. Pepper

- ☐ Don't order a sandwich for me -- I am bringing my own.

Name: _____ Check # _____

Lunches for this meeting must be purchased in advance by sending this form and your check to the Chapter Treasurer, Scott Wagoner, at P.O. Box 75, Occoquan, VA 22125.

January 26, 2013 Gala Evening Reservation

Please use this form to make a reservation for the Gold Good Citizenship Award Gala at the Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, Virginia. The cost for this black-tie optional event is \$75.00 per person. The reception and receiving line for the honoree will begin at 6 p.m. The program and dinner will begin at 7 p.m. **RSVP no later than January 21, 2013.**

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. You may also make your reservation by e-mail to swagoner@X4-LLC.com or by phone at (571) 239-3221.