



George Washington Chapter

Sons of the American Revolution

Newsletter

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Volume 12, Issue 3

March 2012



Several members of the George Washington Chapter attended the annual meetings of the Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Pictured from left to right are Dwight and Julia Ann Whitney, Tom and Linda Burch, Reverdy Wright, Bob Carr, Joe Dooley, and Cilla and Mike Tomme.

Photo provided by Ann Whitney

George Washington Chapter Receives VASSAR's Highest Honor at Annual Meeting

The Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (VASSAR) held its 122nd annual meeting in Richmond February 24-25, 2012, and the George Washington Chapter took home a host of honors and awards. Among those awards was the highest award a chapter can receive: the streamer for the best chapter in the very large chapter category. This award has eluded us in the past few years, but 2011 was a fantastic year for our chapter and VASSAR recognized it. Congratulations to us all!

The chapter also was represented among the state officers for the first time in many years, with our own Robert F. Carr as state secretary. Bob's service to VASSAR was lauded on several occasions during the weekend, and we can be proud of his leadership in the state society. Although Bob has stepped down from state office, the new state president, Phil Williams, stated that he would not let Bob off the hook but would find special projects for Bob in the coming year. The other George Washington Chapter attendees at the annual meeting were President Paul Briggs, Vice President Michael Elston, Secretary Dwight Whitney, Master-at-Arms Covert Beach, Tom Burch, Joe Dooley, Mike Tomme, Reverdy Wright and former chapter and state presidents Don Baldwin and Don Reynolds. (Continued, page 3)

Upcoming Events

March 10, 2012 – Chapter meeting featuring Dr. Chuck Ferguson's presentation on the Battle of Guilford Court House in North Carolina. 12:00 PM, Belle Haven Country Club

June – August 2012 – Summer Break, no monthly meetings

January 26, 2013 - Gold Good Citizenship Medal event. 6:30 PM, Belle Haven Country Club

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President's Message



Dear Compatriots,
The George Washington Chapter recently received numerous awards and accolades at last week's Virginia State Society annual meeting in Richmond. This included the best large chapter award. More details are in this newsletter

Last month our featured chapter luncheon speaker unfortunately became ill with a serious case of influenza. Consequently we did not hear Patrick Mooney of the US Marine Corps Heritage Center with his in-depth presentation on the Continental Marines in the American Revolution and the early US Marine Corps. Because we had no time to arrange a backup, I offered a short exposition on the same subject. We'll try to have Patrick another time when he is feeling better.

On February 20, 2012 George Washington's Birthday observed, we laid the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary War Soldier at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House (OPMH) cemetery at 323 Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA,

We also participated in the George Washington Birthday Parade of Alexandria. Afterward some attended the reception at the United Daughters of the Confederacy on Prince Street.

Besides me, compatriots present were Mike Elston, Don Kellerman, Covert Beach, Paul Wagoner, Don Kraft, Jack Felt, Derek Loveland, Jay Spurr, Greg Bodge, Reverdy Wright and Floyd Ryan.

March 3, 2012 Chapter Secretary, Dwight Whitney, his wife Ann, and Compatriot Jack Shawn have stepped forward to represent the Chapter as volunteer judges at National History Day at the Mount Vernon High School. This is an extremely worthy educational endeavor, and we appreciate these loyal members keeping the chapter involved for a second consecutive year.

March 10, 2012 next month at our meeting, Dr. Chuck Ferguson will make a presentation on the Battle of Guilford Court House in North Carolina. Under the leadership of Rhode Island's Major General Nathaniel Greene, this was a pivotal engagement of the Revolution's southern campaign, a campaign that would prove key to eventual American victory and independence.

April, May and beyond Vice President Mike Elston is inviting both Virginia candidates for US Senate to make presentations at separate chapter meetings on patriotic topics in keeping with the non-political character of the SAR. We'll keep you posted as to whether and when these invitations come to fruition.

Next year, January 26, 2013 at 6:30 PM, Belle Haven Country Club, mark your calendars for the Gold Good Citizenship Medal event.

We'll see you Saturday, March 10th at 11:30 AM for social gathering and a 12PM meeting.

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

(Continued from page 1)

In addition to the best chapter award, the George Washington Chapter received the Donald W. Baldwin Award (named for our own Don Baldwin, a former VASSAR president) as the chapter with the most new members approved during 2011. It was noted that this is the only VASSAR award named for a living person. Much of the credit for attaining this award again in 2011 goes to our hard-working former registrar, Bob Whitehead, but all of us have made great efforts to recruit new members into our ranks. The chapter also received a Chapter Excellence Award based on the myriad activities included in our annual chapter report.

For the second year in a row, the chapter's website (www.gwsar.org) was named the best chapter website in the state, and Michael Elston received the webmaster-of-the-year award. The chapter also received a streamer for its participation in the flag certificate program. For the second year in a row, VASSAR will earn national recognition for its flag certificate program because all 26 of Virginia's chapters gave out at least one flag certificate.

The chapter also earned streamers for participation in all three of VASSAR President Mark Brennan's initiatives: the Shockoe Cemetery Grave Marking, the St. Paul's Church (Norfolk) Plaque Dedication and the 9/11 Ten Year Commemorative Program. We also received a streamer for participation the December 3, 2011 commemoration of the Battle of Great Bridge, which for the first time was designated as a NSSAR-sponsored and Tier 1 VASSR event. Thanks to immediate past president Robert F. Carr and his wife, Julia, who logged a lot of miles to attend these and so many other SAR events in 2011.

Our support for History Day in 2011 was recognized with a streamer, and the chapter earned another gold star for our graves registration streamer. For the first time, the chapter earned a streamer and two gold stars for participation in the Forgotten Patriots program. That award was based on a supplemental application submitted by Michael Elston based on his descent from John Ransdell, who provided a weapon to the Fauquier Minute Men. Ransdell was not listed in either the SAR or DAR patriot indices, and thus he qualified as a "forgotten patriot."

In sum, the chapter received a host of well-deserved honors for its work in 2011. The multitude of streamers awarded at the annual meeting will be presented to the chapter by President Paul Briggs, and master-at-arms Covert Beach will attach them to our chapter flagpole. Congratulations to all of the members who contributed to the chapter's outstanding performance in 2011.



On February 20, 2012, members of the George Washington Chapter participated in two events commemorating General George Washington's Birthday.

Top: President Paul Briggs prepares to lay a wreath on behalf of the chapter at the Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary War Soldier at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House (OPMH) cemetery in Alexandria.

Bottom: Chapter members march in the George Washington Birthday Parade of Alexandria.

March's Speaker

Dr Charles M. Ferguson



Dr. Charles M. “Chuck” Ferguson originally hails from North Carolina. He graduated from John Motley Morehead High School in Eden, NC, where he lettered in football, basketball and baseball, and earned the distinction of Eagle Scout. He then attended University of North Carolina as a Morehead Scholar, and graduated with a BA in Political Science.

In July 1963 he entered US Air Force service as a Second Lieutenant, and served two tours in Vietnam from December 1964 through January 1965, and from September 1965 through July 1966. There he flew 79 combat missions over the Ho Chi Minh Trail as an intelligence office in EC-130 aircraft designated “Hillsboro” (Airborne Command and Control Center--ABCCC). He flew another three combat missions in the rear seat of an L-19 around Khe Sahn with a Forward Air Controller (FAC) at the controls.

After release from active duty in 1968 he earned MA and Ph.D. degrees in International Affairs from the University of South Carolina. In 1971 he began

his academic career as Assistant Professor of Political Science at Columbus State University in Columbus, Georgia, eventually attaining the rank of full professor and serving two years as Political Science Department Chair.

In addition to higher education, Dr. Ferguson pursued a parallel career in the Air Force Reserve. He was an intelligence officer at Shaw AFB, SC, and then Historical Officer at the Air Force Historical Research Agency at Maxwell AFB, AL. There, he authored 11 chapters for the Air War College correspondence course, and was himself a graduate of the program. From 1977-1995 he was variously a competitor, coach and Chief of Delegation for the US Team in the annual NATO military pentathlon competitions. With his wife, Linda, he coached the Canadian Team in orienteering (sports land navigation) three of those years, and also served on the NATO competitions committee in Brussels, Belgium for 14 years, culminating as committee Vice Chair.

During 1989 – 1998, Dr. Ferguson returned to full time active duty with the US Air Force Reserve Command's Headquarters Staff. He led the Training Development Center, which developed and deployed Total Quality Management (TQM) training to over 44,000 Air Force Reservists. Later, as the Command's Director of Special Projects, he managed inter-service Reserve support of infrastructure and building projects for the Sioux, Navajo and Hopi Nations. He retired at the rank of Colonel, USAFR, after 35 years of commissioned service.

Dr. Ferguson rejoined the University System of Georgia at Valdosta State University for two years and then served as Vice President of Academic Affairs at Marine Corps University, Quantico, Virginia, beginning in 2000 and retiring in 2005. He was instrumental in gaining regional civilian accreditation for the Marine Corps University graduate degree programs.

A veteran of seven Marine Corps Marathons, he remains an avid orienteer and coach. He is past president of the US Orienteering Federation, and his "how-to" book on Orienteering, aimed at anyone who wants to navigate cross-country with certainty, is near publication. Dr. Ferguson lives in the Alexandria area of Fairfax County, Virginia, with his wife, Linda.

Secretary's New Members Corner

Last month I wrote about representing the chapter at the various historic celebrations and identified those that are especially important to VASSAR (and NSSAR). I reported the chapter's record for 2011 and suggested we might be on par or better with other state chapters. Well, I just got back from the VASSAR annual meeting in Richmond and am pleased to report that we did very well, earning "Best Chapter" in the Extra Large Chapter category! Congratulations to last year's leadership team and all the members who contributed to a banner year in 2011!

And a big thanks to you, our new members, for your contribution in winning the Most Numerical Gain Award!

This month I want to tell you about another activity that new members can participate in – and you don't necessarily have to leave home to do it. One of the ways our society perpetuates the people of the American Revolution is to locate and identify patriot graves. If your patriot ancestor is NOT identified in the NSSAR Patriot Graves database, you can rectify that through the society's registration process.

On the VASSAR website's Revolutionary War Graves section (<http://www.virginia-sar.org/vassar/revwargraves.htm>) there are instructions and an e-mail form that can be filled out on the computer and forwarded electronically to the George Washington Chapter Graves Chairman, Russell Shearer (rshearer@islinc.com). The Chairman will review and forward this form to the VASSAR Chairman who will then use your information to update the VASSAR and NSSAR databases.

Before completing the form, check to see if the patriot's grave has already been registered. Use the Patriot Grave Search on the NSSAR site: <https://memberinfo.sar.org/patriotsearch/search.aspx>. If this site indicates the information was obtained only from the NSDAR or only by an SAR application, a registration form is still needed. Since it takes a while for the NSSAR database to be updated, you should also check with the Chapter Graves Chairman who gets regular NSSAR updates from the VASSAR Graves Chairman. If the grave is in Virginia, check the "Master Spreadsheet of

Revolutionary War Veterans and Patriots Buried in Virginia" which is updated regularly and easily accessed on the VASSAR web site. If a prior registration has occurred, but you are providing new information, such as better directions, a GPS reading, a photograph, better service documentation, complete the form and place a checkmark in the heading "Update." Updates are needed and desired.

Grave registration is, for me, a rewarding endeavor. Soon after I joined I found that my patriot was not in the NSSAR database so I had his grave in Vermont registered by going through this process. I also found that his brother who is buried in Ohio was not in the database so I took care of that, too. It was with great pride that I participated in grave marking ceremonies in Georgia last October to recognize ancestors of my wife and children. More locally, I am supporting Russell Shearer's project to find unidentified graves in the St. Mary's Catholic Church Cemetery (Alexandria) and we hope to complete that project this year.

Grave registration is an important way in which our society supports the memory of those who fought for our freedom. I encourage all new members to be a contributor to this important cause! Take pride in making sure the graves of your own patriots are registered, and start your own quest to seek out and register other unrecognized patriot graves.

Dwight Whitney
Secretary



Secretary Whitney, third from the left, participates in a wreath laying ceremony commemorating the Crossing of the Dan in South Boston, VA on February 18, 2012.

New Members

James A. Holmes



Compatriot James Arthur Holmes was born and raised on a small Angus cattle farm located outside of Peoria, Illinois. He learned the farming business from the ground up starting with shining the draught horses' (Kate and Jake) tack with Neatsfoot Oil to graduating from the University of Illinois with a B.S. degree in Agricultural Power and Machinery Management in 1968. At that time, he joined the Navy to become a diesel mechanic for boats located in the Washington Navy Yard and progressed to become a Supply Officer on two destroyers USS RAMSEY (DEG 2) and USS DAVID R. RAY (DD 971) homeported in San Diego. Jim is currently a Project Engineer for ITT Exelis supporting the PEO Ships FFG 7 Class maintenance program. He has been in virtually the same business with a number of companies that have acquired one and another over the last 28 years. First using nuts and bolts and then selling them has been a wonderful experience for him.

He is married to Ellen, who was born and raised in Greensboro, NC. Ellen is an Executive Assistant at CNA. They met at a dance demonstration in Tyson's Corner and the rest is history.

Compatriot Holmes' membership in the Sons of the American Revolution is based on his bloodline descent from Patriot Zealy Moss born 1755 in Loudoun County, VA. During the Revolution Captain Moss was a Wagonmaster in the Quartermaster Corps, and later a builder of forts. He passed away in 1839 and is buried in Peoria, Illinois.

Dale R. Killinger

Compatriot Dale Raymond Killinger was born and raised outside of Harrisburg, PA. In 1980, Dale enlisted in the U.S. Army, serving until 1984 in the 2/75 Ranger Battalion, Ft. Lewis, WA. While with the Rangers he participated in the rescue of American students on the island of Grenada in 1983, receiving a Purple Heart for wounds received

in action. In 1988, he received a B.A. in Political Science from Millersville University.

In 1996, Dale entered duty with the FBI as a Special Agent and was initially assigned to work in Mississippi where he did so for 10 years. From



2004-2006 he was the FBI's lead investigator into the 1955 murder of Emmett Till, a 14 year old boy at the time and now a civil rights icon. Dale has been with the FBI for 16 years and is currently a Unit Chief in the FBI's Counterterrorism

Division.

He is married to Rhea Girod Killinger, who is originally from Tuscaloosa, AL and the step-father of Thomas Burfoot Phillips IV.

Compatriot Killinger's membership in the Sons of the American Revolution is based on his bloodline descent from Patriot Michael Killinger. During the Revolution Michael Killinger served as a Private in the 2nd Bn, Lancaster County, PA on a tour of duty to Bucks County.

Wade W. Killinger



Compatriot Wade Killinger was born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania in 1936. After high school he served a four year apprenticeship in the sheet metal trade. Wade worked his way up from apprentice to manager of sheet metal construction for a large plumbing and HVAC contractor. A few of the more interesting projects that Wade was involved in were Penn State Bryce Jordan Sports Center and The M. S. Hershey Medical Center - University Physicians Center. Wade also served with the Pennsylvania National Guard from 1953 to 1959.

Wade retired in 1998 and now enjoys working in his wood shop where he has made furniture and Pennsylvania long rifles. Wade is an avid hunter and fisherman who loves to spend time at the family's cabin in northern Pennsylvania with his sons, grandsons and extended family.

He is married to Olga who is also from Harrisburg. He has four children, numerous grandchildren and one great-grandchild. His youngest son Dale is also being inducted today in the Sons of the American Revolution.

Compatriot Wade Killinger's membership in the Sons of the American Revolution is based on his direct bloodline descent from Patriot Michael Killinger. During the revolution, Michael Killinger served as a Private in the 2nd Bn Lancaster County, PA on a tour in Bucks County in September 1781.

Blair FitzGibbon



Compatriot Blair FitzGibbon was born in Charlottesville, VA and raised in Seattle, WA. In 2006, Blair received a degree in Theology from Grace Ministries Bible College. Blair is currently a Vice President of Media Relations for FitzGibbon Media. He has been with FitzGibbon Media for 3 years. In his spare time he is also a volunteer at Capital Life Church and Georgetown University working with foreign exchange students.

He is married to Alison FitzGibbon, who is originally from Hagerstown, MD. They have a 4 month old son named Owen.

Compatriot Blair FitzGibbon's membership in the Sons of the American Revolution is based on his bloodline descent from Patriot William Lord. During the Revolution, William Lord was a soldier in the army of Washington. The 330th Georgia Militia District in Wilkinson County bears the name Lords District in his honor.

Registrar's Report

Since the last Registrar's Report one New Member Application and one Supplemental Application were approved by NSSAR. Two Supplemental Applications have been submitted to VASSAR. Three New Member Applications are out to applicants awaiting their signature.

There are four applications at VSSAR awaiting review, eleven applications at NSSAR awaiting review, and nine new members awaiting induction.

New Member Applications Approved

James Holmes (Anc: Zeally Moss)

Supplemental Applications Approved

John Phillip Felt (Anc: John Coolidge)

Jim Mobley
Registrar

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 Fourth Quarter of 2011:

\$200 or More

Charles E. Harris

\$100 to \$199

Robert F. Carr	George R. Allin Jr.
Robert H. Einhaus	Michael J. Elston
William K. Coulter	F. Paul Briggs
Ernest B. Coggins Jr.	Steven Bart Jones
Paul S. Stevens	Dwight E. Whitney
Edwin J. Williams	

\$50 to \$99

Christopher M. Marston	Joseph J. Spurr IV
Edward M. Gumkowski	John O. Procter

\$25 to \$49

William B. Arnhart	Steven T. Barry
Covert Beach	Carlisle S. Bean
Larry W. Brown	Lloyd F. Brown
William P. Bennett	John Edgar Craig
Robert A. Crawley	Peter E. Davis
Willis D. Crittenberger Jr.	Kieran J. Gifford
William Joseph Dunn Jr.	Donald E. Kraft
Christian D. Faulkner	Lorance Dix Lisle
W. Vernon McHargue Jr.	Jack T. Pitzer
Peter H.V. Schmidt	Steven T. Rutledge
Rodney H.C. Schmidt	Pat M. Stevens IV
Zachary W.H. Schmidt	William K. Torrans
John Richard Seesholtz	Ernesto Uribe II
William F. Vosbeck Jr.	David H. Wagner
Paul D. Wagoner	James K. Waters

Up to \$25

Stephen G. Floyd	James C. Clemons Jr.
Dennis J. Hickey IV	Edward C. Robinson
Thomas E. Shoemaker	

March 10, 2011
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.

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.