



# George Washington Chapter

## Sons of the American Revolution

### Newsletter



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**Volume 13, Issue 7**

**October 2013**

## GW CHAPTER HOSTS VASSAR SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING



VASSAR President Kent Webber speaks at VASSAR Semi-Annual Meeting in Old Town, Alexandria, VA.



Members from the National Sojourners conduct flag presentation at VASSAR Semi-Annual Meeting in Old Town, Alexandria, VA.

### Upcoming Chapter Meetings

**October 12, 2013**

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

**November 9, 2013**

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

**December 14, 2013**

Joint Chapter Meeting with the George Mason Chapter at 11:30 a.m. at Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, VA

### Events Information

**October 12, 2013**

President General Joseph W. Dooley will lead a Wreath Laying at the Tomb of the Unknowns, Arlington National Cemetery, 4:15 p.m.

**October 19, 2013**

Yorktown day celebration, Yorktown, VA.

# President's Message



*G*reetings from Louisville, Kentucky -- home of S.A.R. Headquarters. I am writing this month's "President's Corner" during the NSSAR Fall Leadership Meeting where several hundred members from around the

country have come to participate in committee meetings, seminars, social events and the fall meeting of the NSSAR Trustees. Compatriots Bob Carr and Ernie Coggins are here, as are dual members President General Joe Dooley and Registrar General Mike Tomme (who is running for Treasurer General next year). It has been a great experience, and I have met or renewed my acquaintance with many members from other states who are as committed as we are to advancing the goals of the S.A.R.

During the George Washington Foundation/SAR 1000 breakfast on Saturday, September 28, our chapter was honored with a streamer for our support of the Center for Advancing American Heritage. Additionally, Bob Carr received a Lamplighter Award for his personal financial support for the Center. I also made my annual pilgrimage to the SAR Merchandise Store and bought more than I had planned (as usual).

## VASSAR SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

We pulled off a great state meeting! Thank you to the 32 members of the chapter who attended, which was 25 more than any other chapter in the state. I am particularly grateful to those who worked hard to make the meeting a success, including Covert Beach, Bill Bland, Tom Bland, Ernie Coggins, Don Kraft, Vern McHargue, Jack Pitzer, Don Reynolds, Paul Wagoner, Scott Wagoner, and Dwight Whitney. A number of spouses also contributed to the success of the weekend: Julia Carr, Julie Elston, and Suzanne Reynolds. Emily Elston also pitched in as the speaker for the Friday night ladies program.

This was the best-attended semi-annual meeting in recent memory. There were 83 members representing 16 chapters and 31 guests for a total of 114 in attendance. The Hotel Monaco - Alexandria was a great venue, and its staff was courteous and helpful at all times. The meeting was also a success financially as we were able to contribute \$300 toward VASSAR's expenses and earned \$200 for the chapter. The guest speaker on Saturday was Caitlin Collins of Illinois, the C.A.R. National President. Her presentation on her national project -- support for Student Veterans of America -- was well received, and VASSAR and its members presented her with \$1,250 toward her \$50,000 fund-raising goal.

During the luncheon, VASSAR President Kent Webber inducted Jay Henn and Thomas Roth as the newest members of the George Washington Chapter. Jay received his rosette from his fiancée, V.S.C.A.R. Senior State Treasurer Bonnie Hawley. President Webber also presented certificates of appreciation to the members and spouses of the GW Chapter who contributed to the success of the meeting.

Just in case you were worried that I would not have enough to do next year after serving as your chapter president, please be advised that during the semi-annual meeting the VASSAR Nominating Committee nominated me for the position of VASSAR Third Vice President for 2014-15. Also, the VASSAR Board of Managers re-elected me as a Trustee of the George Knight/Kenneth C. Patty Memorial Trust Fund and designated me as chairman of the board of trustees upon the retirement of long-time trustee Carter Furr of the Norfolk Chapter. So, not to worry -- I'll have plenty to do!



GW Chapter SAR President Mike Elston reports at VASSAR Semi-Annual Meeting.

## OCTOBER PREVIEW

We'll have a normal chapter meeting in the normal place on October 12. As detailed elsewhere, Glenn F. Williams, Senior Historian, Army Commemorative Office, United States Army Center of Military History, will speak on "The Siege of Yorktown: the Decisive Engagement of the American War for Independence." We will also present Fire Safety Commendation Medals to two members of the Alexandria Fire Department and receive the report of the Nominating Committee, which has agreed upon a slate of officers and managers for 2014.

At 4:15 p.m. on October 12, following our chapter meeting, we will once again organize the President General's wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington. As this time the PG is a dual member of our chapter, I hope we will have great attendance from the chapter for this moving event. The following Saturday, October 19th, is Yorktown Day, which I think is one of the best VASSAR events of the year. If you come to both the wreath laying at Gov. Thomas Nelson Jr's tomb and the parade, you'll earn the chapter points for both events!

## POINTS, POINTS, POINTS...AND ANNUAL DUES

Speaking of points, to see where we are, please take a look at the chart to the right. **Every member of the chapter has an easy opportunity to increase the PG Streamer total during the months of October and November.**

All you have to do is pay your dues. Dues statements will be in your mailbox soon. I urge you not to wait. Just write the check and send it back as soon as you get it. By doing so, you save the chapter money because we won't have to send you a second dues notice. At the same time, you'll earn us **10 points** just by doing something you were planning to do anyway. These points add up: if 250 members pay their dues on time, we'll have 2,500 more PG Streamer points. But if your dues are not paid on time, we'll earn **0 points**. Additionally, we will lose 5 points we would have otherwise earned for net membership growth.

Please also consider making an additional *tax-deductible* contribution with your dues payment. Our dues do not come close to covering our annual expenses, and we depend on the generosity of our members to fully fund the various programs and activities of the chapter. Thank you for all you do for the SAR. I hope to see you at one of our many meetings or activities this fall.

*Michael J. Elston*

President

|             | 2011<br>Winning<br>Chapter<br>Totals | GW 2012<br>Total | GW 2013<br>to Date |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Americanism | 13,210                               | 2,145            | 5,812              |
| PG Streamer | 12,795                               | 7,045            | 6,235              |

*The George Washington Chapter was chartered in its present form on April 2, 1954. With over 250 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: Mike Elston 703-680-0866*  
*Vice President: Scott Wagoner 571-239-3221*  
*Secretary: Gregory Bodge*  
*Treasurer: Dwight Whitney 540-349-2375*  
*Registrar: Jim Mobley 202-465-6680*

*This monthly newsletter is edited by Matthew Jones. Inputs from chapter officers, committee chairmen, and fellow compatriots are always needed. Please send your inputs and comments to [mpjones36@gmail.com](mailto:mpjones36@gmail.com) or call 217-246-2687.*



# October Guest Speaker



The speaker for our October meeting is **Glenn F. Williams**. As a Senior Historian at the U.S. Army Center of Military History, Fort McNair, DC, he is currently the Army Commemoratives team leader. He will be speaking

on the ***"The Siege of Yorktown: The Decisive Engagement of the American War For Independence."*** As a retired Army officer, he entered public history as a second career. His previous positions include serving as the Historian of the National Museum of the U.S. Army Project at Fort Belvoir, VA; Senior Historian of the Army Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commemoration at the U.S. Army Center of Military History; Historian for the American Battlefield Protection Program of the National Park Service in Washington, DC; Curator/ Historian of the USS *Constellation* Museum; and Assistant Curator of the Baltimore Civil War Museum – President Street Station.

He is the author of *Year of the Hangman: George Washington's Campaign against the Iroquois* (Westholme) and the recipient of the Thomas J. Fleming Award for the Outstanding Revolutionary War Book of 2005. He is also the author of *USS Constellation: A Short History of the Last All-Sail Warship Built by the U.S. Navy* (Donning), a contributor to *The Panama Canal: an Army's Enterprise* (U.S. Army Center of Military History), and a number of journal and magazine articles on military and naval history topics. He is nearing completion of his next book, *"Dunmore's War: Last Indian Conflict of America's Colonial Period,"* due to be released later this year. He holds a BA and MA in History from Loyola College of Maryland and University of Maryland Baltimore County, respectively, and is presently an ABD doctoral candidate in History at University of Maryland, College Park. With the victory at Yorktown anniversary (October 19<sup>th</sup>) very close at hand, it will be a timely and enjoyable presentation; so please plan to attend.

# New Members

## JAY MICHAEL HENN



Jay was born in Cincinnati, Ohio and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree with honors in anthropology and mathematics from the University of Arizona and an MBA and a Master of Arts degree in archaeology from Harvard University. He also

is a Distinguished Graduate of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, where he was awarded a Master of Science degree in National Resource Strategy in 1997.

He is currently the Executive Director of Headquarters Operations for NASA. Prior to joining NASA in 1988, Henn was a management consultant with Temple, Barker & Sloane, Inc., in Lexington, Massachusetts.

His membership in the Society is based on his descent from Patriot Josiah Merriam, Sr., who served as a Sergeant in the Massachusetts Militia in 1775 and later as a member of Concord Committee of Correspondence.



Sommers grave marking ceremony – June 2013

# New Members cont.

## THOMAS M. ROTH, III

Tom is a native of North Carolina who has studied, lived and worked in Virginia off and on for about 15 years.

He is a graduate of Woodberry Forest School, and Davidson College. Tom received his law degree from Wake Forest University and has practiced law for nearly 26 years, the last nine years here in Alexandria and Northern Virginia. He is currently in-house counsel with Vornado/Charles E. Smith.

When he is not working Tom enjoys exploring the natural and historic landscape of northern Virginia and Maryland. His family is very proud of their patriot roots and a branch of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail crosses the old Roth family home place in North Carolina.

Through his mother, Tom is a descendant of some of the earliest settlers in St. Mary's County, Maryland.

Through his father Tom is a descendent of the patriot Edward Shimer who served as a Captain in the Northampton County, Pennsylvania militia and as member of the General Committee or Committee of Safety of Northampton County. Captain Shimer was one of five brothers who served as officers in the patriot service.



Sommers grave marking ceremony – June 2013

# Registrar's Report

Since the last Registrar's Report two New Member Applications and two Supplemental Applications were approved by NSSAR. There are three New Member Applications awaiting review by NSSAR and VASSAR, and five Supplemental Applications awaiting review at NSSAR. There are five New Members awaiting induction. Activity for new members has increased significantly in the last month. I am actively working with eleven good prospects for new membership.

Below is a summary of the applications that were approved and submitted since the last Registrar's Report. The applications are listed in the approximate order in which they were approved or submitted.

## New Member Applications Approved

| <i>Applicant</i>       | <i>Patriot</i> |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Horace Dewitt Brown    | Zadock Barnett |
| William Lawrence Brown | Zadock Barnett |

## Supplemental Applications Approved

| <i>Applicant</i> | <i>Patriot</i> |
|------------------|----------------|
| Jack Todd Pitzer | John Pitzer Sr |
| Jack Todd Pitzer | Thomas Lewis   |

## New Member Applications Submitted

| <i>Applicant</i>       | <i>Patriot</i> |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Richard James Copeland | John Copeland  |
| Michael Edward Jury    | Philip Gray    |
| James Robert Sandidge  | Samuel Humber  |

## Supplemental Applications Submitted

| <i>Applicant</i>     | <i>Patriot</i>        |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Gregory Ormand Bodge | Samuel Page           |
| Isaac Gregory Bodge  | Samuel Page           |
| John Robert Mobley   | Nathaniel Foster, Sr. |
| James Lewis Mobley   | Nathaniel Foster, Sr. |
| James Michael Mobley | Abraham Heath         |

*Jim Mobley, Registrar*

# Future Events 2013

## October

**October 12** - Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, VA. Our guest speaker will be Mr. Glenn F. Williams, Senior Historian, Army Commemorative Office, United States Army Center of Military History. Mr. Williams will speak on "The Siege of Yorktown: the Decisive Engagement of the American War for Independence." \*

**October 12** - President General Joseph W. Dooley will lead a Wreath Laying at the Tomb of the Unknowns, Arlington National Cemetery, 4:15 p.m. \*\*

**October 19** - Yorktown Day celebration, Yorktown, VA. ‡

## November

**November 2** - Wreath laying at the grave of Bermuda-born patriot St. George Tucker, Nelson County, VA (VASSAR Presidential Initiative). \*\*

**November 9** - Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, VA. Our guest speaker will be His Excellency Peter Mollema, The Deputy Ambassador of The Netherlands. He will speak on "The Recognition and Support given by The Netherlands to the United States during and after the American Revolution." \*

**November 11** - Veterans Day wreath laying at General Washington's Tomb, Mount Vernon, with Kate Waller Barrett Chapter, DAR. \*

## December

**December 6-7** - Battle of Great Bridge Celebration, Chesapeake, VA. ‡

**December 14** - Joint Chapter Meeting with the George Mason Chapter at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, VA. VASSAR President Kent Webber will install the 2014 officers of both chapters. Our guest speaker will be Donald A. Ritchie, Ph.D., Historian, United States Senate, who will speak on the history of the United States Senate. \*

## New Library Opens at George Washington's Mount Vernon

Mount Vernon, VA - On September 27, 2013, dignitaries, local, state and federal legislators along with compatriots from the George Washington SAR Chapter joined together to celebrate the opening of the [Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington](#). The library will house a collection of his books and other works. According to the Associated Press, the library costs over \$100 million while being privately funded by donations and the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association.

While Washington's presidential term was over 200 years ago, Curt Viebranz, president and CEO of the Mount Vernon estate, hopes the library will shed more light on who Washington was during his lifetime. The new library and research center will hold 103 titles that belonged to the first President, in addition to 2,000 publications from the time period, 6,000 manuscripts, and 12,000 other works from newspapers and films about him. The highlight of the library is a copy of the Acts of Congress and an annotated copy of the Constitution.

*"I have not houses to build, except one, which I must erect for the accommodation and security of my military, civil and private papers, which are voluminous and may be interesting."*

-- Letter from General George Washington to his friend James McHenry, April 1797.

\*The information above was provided by the New York Times, AFP and Associated Press.



# Future Events 2014

**January 11** - VASSAR Gold Good Citizenship Medal Gala, Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, VA. \*\*

**January 18-19** - Battle of Cowpens, Gaffney, SC. ‡

**February 8** - Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, VA. \*

**February 14-16** - VASSAR Annual Meeting, Omni Hotel, Richmond, VA. †

**February 28 - March 2** - NSSAR Spring Leadership Meeting, Louisville, KY. †  
**March 8** - Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, VA. \*

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

**May 3** - Wreath laying at the grave of Bermuda-born patriot Thomas Tudor Tucker, Treasurer of the United States, at Congressional Cemetery, Washington, DC (DCSSAR event).\*\*

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

**July 19-24** - 124th National Congress in Greenville, SC. †

## Legend

\* Chapter event

\*\* Chapter-sponsored state or national event

† VASSAR/NASSAR event in which GW members are encouraged to participate

‡ Other SAR event of significance that GW members should consider attending

# October History

**Oct 17, 1777**

## ***Battle of Saratoga***

Americans are victorious at the battle of Saratoga in New York state; British General John Burgoyne surrenders to American General Horatio Gates. This is a serious reversal for the British forces. Their Native American allies had deserted them before the capitulation because they were under the false impression that the American forces were much more numerous than they actually were. Although Burgoyne himself is allowed to return home (where he receives a very cold reception), his 5,700 soldiers are imprisoned in Virginia. Word of this victory leads to the alliance with the French, which proves critical towards winning the Revolution.

# From the Editor



Please submit stories, photos and suggestions to me at [mpjones36@gmail.com](mailto:mpjones36@gmail.com) and I will do my best to include them in future issues.

*"Associate yourself with men of good quality, if you esteem your own reputation; for 'tis better to be alone than in bad company"*

*General George Washington*

# Saturday, October 12, 2013

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

### Lunch Meeting Reservation Form

Please make your reservation by telephone or e-mail. This is the preferred way to ensure your reservation is received in time to ensure you get a seat. Reservations are needed by the preceding Wednesday, but I will take reservations as late as Friday noon.

The lunch cost is \$35.00 per person (\$12.00 per child) and you may pay at the door or send a check in the mail. Check-in and social 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 e-mail reservations, send to [dwightwhitney@comcast.net](mailto:dwightwhitney@comcast.net) with **RESERVATION** in the subject line.

For call-in reservations, you can call **Dwight at 540-349-2375**.

When calling or writing, please include the following:

Compatriot Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_

For mail-in reservations, be sure I'm notified in time to hold seating for you and your guests!

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 and your check to:

**Dwight Whitney**

**Treasurer, G.W. Chapter SAR**

**5733 Pendleton Lane**

**Warrenton, VA 20187**

It is important to provide the first and last name of all guests. It is important to provide advance notice of attendance to be sure you get a seat.

Valet parking is available.

Thank you.