



George Washington Chapter

Sons of the American Revolution

Newsletter

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Volume 13, Issue 3

March 2013



February 18, 2013, members of the George Washington Chapter participated in the annual George Washington Birthday Parade in Alexandria.



Upcoming Chapter Meetings

March 9, 2013

11:30 AM, Belle Haven Country Club, Guest Speaker - Ms. Jessica Sheets, Historian, U.S. Army Military History Institute

April 13, 2013

11:30 AM, Belle Haven Country Club, Guest Speaker - Curtis G. Viebranz, President & CEO of George Washington's Mt. Vernon.

May 11, 2013

11:30 AM, Belle Haven Country Club, Guest Speaker - BG Creighton Abrams (USA RET), Director, Army Historical Foundation.

Event Information

7 March - Battle of Guilford Courthouse in Greensboro, NC
http://www.virginia-sar.org/vassar/docs/2012_231th_Anniversary_Observance_of_BGCH.pdf

(For more details on this and other events see the Future Events Calendar on page 8)

President's Message



February was a busy month for the George Washington Chapter. We had the great privilege of welcoming the Honorable Stuart Bowen, the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction, as our guest speaker on February 9th. As he mentioned in his remarks, he is a direct descendant of John Marshall, the Fourth Chief Justice and a Patriot of the Revolution. Hopefully we will be able to convince him to join our ranks in the near future. At the end of his presentation, we presented Inspector General Bowen with the SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Medal.

We also handed out a number of awards during the February meeting. We celebrated the achievements of our youth contest participants by awarding scholarships and medals to Andrew L. Done (Eagle Scout), Kristen Shifflett (Rumbaugh Orations), and Elisa Martinez (Knight Essay). We thanked Jack Felt for his years of service as chapter historian and presented him with the Virginia Chapter Service Medal. We also honored the activities and service of a number of our chapter members by presenting them with certificates of appreciation and overdue Baldwin-Jones-Tabb Medals. The meeting also saw the introduction of a new feature: the door prize. Come to the March meeting, and you could win a door prize, too!

While we were enjoying a great lunch at Belle Haven, Bob and Julia Carr were representing the chapter at the annual commemoration of the Battle of Kettle Creek in Georgia. The Carrs log more miles for us than any other couple, and we are grateful for their dedicated service.

The next weekend, my daughter and I joined the Carrs in South Boston, Virginia, for the annual commemoration of the Crossing of the Dan. The Dan River Chapter did a fantastic job with the event, and the Brunswick stew served afterward was excellent. Bob and I were both in uniform, so we earned the color guard bonus points. We also attended the first VASSAR Flag Certificate presentation of the year at the Annin Flag Company plant in South Boston. What better place to present

a flag certificate than the premier manufacturer of U.S. flags.

On February 18th, the nation observed George Washington's Birthday, and SAR members participated in the annual service at Historic Pohick Church (Washington's colonial church), the First Virginia Regiment's wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary War Soldier at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House, and, of course, the Alexandria George Washington's Birthday Parade. Twenty-three SAR members joined us for the parade, including an excellent contingent of color guard members. Eleven members were awarded the John C. Evans Medal for the first time. Our own Scott Wagoner and Ray Hawn joined me in uniform, and our unit made the front page of both the Washington Post and the Washington Examiner the following day. This event garnered the most publicity our chapter has had in many years. It was quite a successful day, and a good time was had by all.

The 123rd Annual Meeting of the Virginia Society SAR was held at the Omni Hotel in Richmond on February 22, 23 and 24. I am grateful to the nine members that attended with me: Don Baldwin, Covert Beach, Greg Bodge, Tom Burch, Bob Carr, Jim Mobley, Don Reynolds, Jack Shawn and Scott Wagoner. Just by showing up, the nine of us earned 45 points toward the President General's Streamer Competition. Bob, Scott and I earned 30 additional points by appearing in uniform at various times. Thank you also to the spouses who attended: Debbie Wagoner, Christie Bodge, Julia Carr and Julie Elston. Their presence always makes the weekend more enjoyable!

Among the highlights of the conference were the state youth orations contest, seeing Lt. Col Bodge in his dress uniform and the amazing singing of internationally renowned soprano Anne O'Byrne. On Friday afternoon, I presented a workshop on the Knight Essay Contest as a part of a program with the other state youth contest chairmen. On Saturday afternoon, I was sworn in as VASSAR Chancellor along with the other new state officers in the Old Hall of the House of Delegates at the Capitol Building. The Old Hall has been the setting for many historic events. In 1807, Aaron Burr was acquitted of treason in a federal trial presided over by Chief Justice John Marshall. The Virginia

Constitutional Convention of 1830 held part of its sessions there as well.

On Sunday evening, VASSAR President Phil Williams, a regular attendee at GW Chapter events, gave his farewell address before swearing in Kent Webber of the George Mason Chapter as the 2013-14 VASSAR President. Phil did an excellent job as VASSAR president, and I hope he will continue to serve the SAR in other roles. At the Executive Committee meeting on Sunday, our own Bob Carr and Jim Mobley were appointed as VASSAR Assistant Secretary and Assistant Registrar, respectively. Congratulations and thank you both!

The GW Chapter was well represented among the award recipients at the conference. We received three streamers for participating in all three of the 2012 VASSAR President initiatives as well as a streamer for helping VASSAR achieve 100% participation in the flag certificate program for the third year in a row. We received two stars for our Forgotten Patriots streamer in recognition of registering a new Virginia patriot. We received a streamer for our support of History Day and another streamer for nominating the 2012 VASSAR Law Enforcement Person of the Year (more about that at the March meeting). Finally, while we did not repeat as the Best Very Large Chapter, we did earn the Chapter Excellence Award, VASSAR's second-highest award for a chapter.

The SAR Spring Leadership Meeting was held in Louisville on the first weekend of March, and Bob Carr, who serves on several national committees, attended with his wife, Julia. While I missed that meeting, I had the privilege of representing our chapter at the 86th annual conference of the Virginia Society of the Children of the American Revolution in Richmond. More about that at the March meeting as well.

March has a number of events on tap that I encourage you to attend. First, our monthly chapter meeting will feature Jessica Sheets of the U.S. Army Military History Institute as our guest speaker. We'll also discuss our graves chairman's proactive plans for 2013 and reintroduce the Dr. James Craik Medal for Excellence in Patriot Grave Marking. The weekend of March 16 has two great events scheduled: James Madison's Birthday at Montpelier and the Battle of Guilford Courthouse in Greensboro, North Carolina. I know that some

members are planning to attend; if you would like to join us, please let me know and I will get the full details to you.

Later in March is the wreath laying at the Historic Tucker House in Bermuda honoring two Patriots of the Revolution, St. George Tucker and Thomas Tudor Tucker. This event will also kick-off a joint, multi-year initiative between the Virginia, South Carolina and D.C. SAR Societies and the Somers Isles Chapter of the DAR. More about that at the March meeting as well.

Please consider attending one or all of these great opportunities in March (especially the one in Bermuda!). You are always the indispensable man in the George Washington Chapter's events.

Finally, to keep you posted on how we are doing, I will be including a chart with my estimate of the points earned by the chapter to date in the two national award programs with a comparison to the chapter's 2012 scores and the total points of the winning chapters from the most recent year available. If you have any questions about how we are doing or want to see our 2012 reports, please let me know and I will happily e-mail them to you.

	2011 Winning Chapter Totals	GW 2012 Total	GW 2013 to Date
Americanism	13,210	2,145	1,318
PG Streamer	12,795	7,045	2,300

Mike Elston
President

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: 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 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

March Guest Speaker



The speaker for our March meeting is Ms. Jessica Sheets from the U.S. Army Military History Institute (MHI), U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center (AHEC), Carlisle, PA. Ms. Sheets' topic will be "The Journey to Find Major James Armstrong Wilson."

She will discuss Major James Wilson, a patriot from Pennsylvania, his still standing home on Carlisle Barracks, and the adventures and frustrations of researching his story.

Ms. Sheets has been at the U.S. Army Military History Institute (MHI), U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center (AHEC) since 2006 where she is currently an archives technician. She holds a B.A. in English from Bob Jones University, an M.A. in Applied History from Shippensburg University, and has applied to the American Studies PhD program at Penn State Harrisburg.

Ms. Sheets has published several articles on Revolutionary War topics, to include "An 'Inflexible Patriot': Major James Armstrong Wilson and the Home He Left Behind" in *Cumberland County History*, "The Redoubts at Yorktown" in *Military Heritage*, and "Siege of Yorktown September-October 1781" in *Military History*. Additionally, she is a member of the Society for Military History, has been awarded the Eagle Scout Mentor pin, and has served as a National History Day judge and volunteers with the Cumberland County Historical Society.

Ms. Sheets combination of personal interest in her subject, her historical perspective, and daily interaction with Major Wilson's home will provide an entertaining and enlightening discussion for all who attend.

Ties to the Revolution

Alexandria, Virginia has many ties to the American Revolution beginning with our own George Washington. Many of General Washington's staff from the Continental Army moved to Alexandria after the war to be near their old commander. One of Washington's closest friends was Col. John Fitzgerald, Aide de Camp to General George Washington throughout the Revolutionary War. He was very prominent locally and was Mayor of Alexandria, Virginia 1786-7.

Washington and Fitzgerald remained close friends in the years following the War and Washington's retirement from the Presidency. What is not generally known is that Washington played a very significant role in the founding of St. Mary's Catholic Church, the oldest parish in Virginia, located at 310 South Royal Street, Alexandria. In 1795, Col. Fitzgerald with the help of Washington founded the St. Mary's, along with the Church cemetery that is the oldest Catholic cemetery in Virginia. The cemetery is bounded by a wrought iron and brick fence with a gate at the north end at Washington Street indicating a "1795" date. Today, the cemetery occupies an oblong plot between Royal and Washington Streets bounded on the north by St. Mary's School and on the south by the busy Interstate I-95 approach to the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. There is a plaque at the church which states:

"In grateful acknowledgement of their aid in establishing this church the three trees to the north of this stone have been dedicated as follows to General George Washington as subscriber to the building, Colonel John Fitzgerald, his favorite Aide de Camp, as the collector of the building fund, Colonel Robert Hooe, Major of Alexandria, as the donor of the acre of land."

Col. Fitzgerald died on December 16, 1799. Although reported as having been buried at St. Mary's cemetery, the better evidence suggests he was buried across the Potomac River on property he owned in Maryland. Alexandria Historian Michael Miller, in his book "Burials in St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery 1799-1983", identified on page 112, the first known burial at the new Cemetery as Caven

Boa who died August 20, 1799. He was a member of the Corps of Artillery and was buried by full military honors. His grave site is unknown.

Wesley E. Pippenger in his Volume 5 of "Tombstone Inscriptions of Alexandria" stated there were only three known Revolutionary Soldiers buried at St. Mary's. He identified them as follows:

1. Lawrence Hurdle (d. 1848 at age 98. His grave has been marked by the Sons of the American Revolution. p. 164
2. Francis Ignatius Hagen (d. 1830 at age 76). His grave site unknown. p. 300
3. Pierre La Croix (d. 1830 at age 88). He served in the French and Indian War under Gen. Montcalm and later in the Revolutionary War under General Montgomery. His grave site is unknown. p. 304

A few years ago the George Washington Chapter of the SAR marked the grave of Lawrence Hurdle in full honors with a color guard. Two of the Priest of the Church participated in the ceremony. There is a brass plaque at his grave that cites he service in the American Revolution. Surprisingly, members of the Hurdle family are still members of the church and attended the program.

The graves of Boa, Hagen, and La Croix have never been marked. Their exact location is unknown. Perhaps, this is another grave marking project for the Chapter sometime in the future.

New Members

Thomas Edward Albert



Compatriot Thomas Edward Albert was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana but spent most of his younger years in Florida. He attended the University of Florida where he graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a B.S. in Engineering Sciences. He received a Ph.D. in Nuclear Engineering in 1969 also from the University of Florida.

Thomas Albert is currently Chief Scientist at the Department of Homeland Security Domestic Nuclear Detection Office and currently resides in Alexandria, VA, with his wife Tatyana, originally from St. Petersburg, Russia. He has three sons, Thomas Jr (TJ),

Jeremy, and Victor. TJ and Jeremy are both practicing orthodontists in Florida, Victor is a graduate student in physics at Yale University.

His hobbies include boating, scuba diving, and musical performance. He has played saxophone since grade school and continues to play in the annual Gator Alumni Band performance. But since moving to Alexandria he has learned to play the fife and has joined the Monumental City Fife and Drum Corps in Baltimore.

Compatriot Thomas Albert's membership in the Sons of the American Revolution is based on his bloodline descent from Patriot Conrad Plasterer who served four years in the Revolution as Private, sixth class, in Captain Christian Hollinger's company, 9th battalion, under the command of Colonel John Huber in 1779. He also served in the 7th Company commanded by Captain John Ashton, Third Battalion, under the command of Colonel George Feather. Patriot Plasterer is interred in Penryn Cemetery, Lancaster County, PA.

Erin Moore



Compatriot Erin Moore was born in 1938 in Lubbock TX and raised there and in Chilliwack BC Canada. In 1960, Erin Moore received a B.Sc. in Math and Physics from the University of British Columbia. He later took on and received a M.S. in Mathematical Statistics from the University of Washington in 1964.

Erin Moore retired in 2009 as VP FBM Program Requirements from Lockheed Martin after some 45 years in aerospace program analysis and systems analysis, for several aerospace firms. He is still an occasional employee of Systems Planning and Analysis in Arlington VA.

He is married to Sharon Lee Anderson, who is originally from Seattle WA. They have a 48yr. son Daniel, a 47 year old daughter named Shelley, and a 44 yr. old son Michael, and four grandchildren. He is a member of Sigma Xi and AIAA.

Compatriot Erin Moore's membership in the Sons of the American Revolution is based on his bloodline descent from Patriot Jacob Barnard Sively. During the Revolution Jacob Sively served for a year as a private in the 8th Regiment of VA Forces on Foot commanded by Col. Abraham Bowman.

Grave Registration

As the George Washington Chapter Grave Registration/Marking Committee Chairman, I have been given the responsibility for fulfilling the SAR grave marking objective: "to place a bronze SAR marker at the grave site of every military veteran and civilian patriot of the Revolutionary War." Our goal is to have eight grave registrations and three grave marking ceremonies in 2013. We are in the early stages of organizing this effort and so far there are only two of us on the Committee. In order to meet this challenging objective, I am seeking additional volunteers. Several members will be needed to ensure each grave marking ceremony is a success.

We have completed research related to four Patriots and are seeking assistance with four additional ones. Our first grave marking ceremony for this year is scheduled in April and we are planning two others later in the year for June and August. These ceremonies are impressive and colorful events and often receive significant public attention.

I am seeking volunteers to:

- Lead or assist in a grave marking ceremony that includes coordination of all aspects of the program (e.g., Color Guard, music, press release, photography, invitations for VIP and family members, church permission, etc.)
- Research a Patriot and develop the supporting information required to register a grave (e.g., research Patriot's background, obtain copies of proof of service and burial, and visit cemetery to get pictures and GSP location of grave markers)

As the old saying goes, "many hands make work light." We will work as a team for each ceremony and share the workload. If you are interested in joining in this highly rewarding and worthwhile effort, please contact me at (703) 455-8317 or Jamie@callenderclan.com.

Jamie Callender
Grave Registration Chairman

Registrar's Report

Since the last Registrar's Report two New Member Applications were approved by NSSAR. Three New Member Applications have been submitted to VASSAR. There are three New Member Applications awaiting review at NSSAR, and four New Member Applications awaiting review at VASSAR.

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>Patriot</u>
Erin Haywood Moore	Jacob Sivley
Isaac Gregory Bodge	Benjamin Bodge

Supplemental Applications Approved

Michael James Elston	George McNeely
Michael James Elston	David McNeely Sr
Michael James Elston	Edward Rutledge
James Michael Mobley	David Martin
James Michael Mobley	Thomas Spencer
James Michael Mobley	Thomas Watkins
James Michael Mobley	Stephen Groves
James Michael Mobley	John McCurdy
James Michael Mobley	Josiah Cheatham
James Michael Mobley	William Neal
James Michael Mobley	Josiah Askew
James Michael Mobley	John Hawkins
James Michael Mobley	Henry Funderburgh

New Member Applications Submitted

Gregory Elias Bingham	Samuel Bingham
Willaim Henry Elston	Benjamin Elston
Peter Byron Wells	William Preston

Supplemental Applications Submitted

John Robert Mobley	William Lewis
James Lewis Mobley	William Lewis
James Michael Mobley	Joseph Bonner
Benjamin Barton Rudisill	Benjamin Davis
Isaac Gregory Bodge	James Kolb
Steve Thompson Barry	William Ball

Jim Mobley
Registrar

Financial Support in 2012

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 2012:

\$500 or More

Elston, Mike
Briggs, Paul
Burch, Tom (NVVF)

\$100 to \$499

Bodge, Gregory
Carr, Bob
Brigden, John
Coggins, Ernie
Coulter, William
Dooley, Joe
Einhaus, Robert
Gosinski, David
Harris, Charles
Jones, Steven
Kraft, Don
Kusserow, Richard
Rees, James
Reynolds, Don
Ryan, Floyd
Stevens, Pat
Turner, William
Wagoner, Scott
Whitney, Dwight

\$50 to \$99

Allin, George
Brown, Lloyd
Cameron, Robert
Crittenberger, Willis
Hawn, Ray
Pitzer, Leyton
Stevens, Paul
Vosbeck, William

Up to \$49

Beach, Covert
Bean, Carlisle

Brown, Larry
Clements, Frederick
Craig, John
Farmer, David
Faulkner, Christian
Gifford, Kieran
Holmes, James
Killenger, Dale
Kroesen, Fred
Lisle, Lorange
Loveland, Derek
McDowell, Charles
McHargue, Wayne Jr.
Pitzer, Jack
Procter, John
Ritter, Joseph
Ritter, William
Ritter, William T.
Robinson, Edward
Schmidt, Austin
Schmidt, Peter
Schmidt, Rodney
Schmidt, Zach
Shawn, Wendell
Sherman, Rich
Smith, Addison
Spurr, Jay
Steele, HL
Steele, HM
Stracener, Phillip
Sullivan, Jay
Torrans, William
Tunstall, John
Tunstall, Palmer
Uribe, Ernesto
Wineland, Robert

Dwight Whitney
Treasurer

Future Events

2013

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

March - Wreath laying at the Historic Tucker House in Bermuda honoring Patriots of the Revolution St. George Tucker and Thomas Tudor Tucker. Contact Mike Elston for details.

March 7 - Battle of Guilford Courthouse in Greensboro, NC @@. http://www.virginiasar.org/vassar/docs/2012_231th_Anniversary_Observance_of_BGCH.pdf. The Nathanael Greene Chapter of the North Carolina Society Sons of the American Revolution (NCSSAR) cordially invites you to attend the 231st Anniversary Observance of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse at Guilford Courthouse National Military Park, Greensboro, NC.

9:00 am – Registration of wreaths at the Visitor Center

9:50 am – March to Nathanael Greene Monument

March 16- James Madison's Birthday in Montpelier, VA @@. Celebrate the 262nd birthday of the Father of the Constitution at Montpelier. Visit with Mr. and Mrs. Madison in their home throughout the day, and attend a poignant wreath presentation ceremony in the Madison Family Cemetery at 1:30 p.m. President Jon Alger of James Madison University will be the speaker. Free admission to the property, \$10 per person to tour the house. <http://www.montpelier.org/visit/calendar-events>

April 13 - Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, VA. Our guest speaker will be the new President & CEO of George Washington's Mt. Vernon, Curtis G. Viebranz.

April 13 - Wreath laying at Arlington National Cemetery at 4:15 PM

May 11 - Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, VA. Our guest speaker will be BG Creighton Abrams (USA RET), Director of the Army History Foundation.

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

July 4-11 - 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

March 9, 2013
Lunch Meeting Reservation Form

Please make your reservation by e-mail to dwightwhitney@comcast.net with **RESERVATION** in the subject line. This is the preferred way to make a reservation. 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. 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 call-in reservations, you can call Dwight at **540-349-2375**.
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:

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.