



# George Washington Chapter

## Sons of the American Revolution

### Newsletter



Visit us online at [www.gwsar.org](http://www.gwsar.org)

Volume 13, Issue 6

September 2013

## GW SAR CELEBRATES JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> AT MOUNT VERNON



The George Washington SAR Chapter celebrated its 52nd annual Independence Day ceremony and wreath laying at the tomb of General George Washington.



### Upcoming Chapter Meetings

#### September 13-14, 2013

VASSAR Semi-Annual Meeting, Hotel Monaco, 480 King Street, Alexandria, VA (the September Chapter Meeting will take place in conjunction with the Semi-Annual Meeting)

#### October 12, 2013

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

### Events Information

**SAR Color Guard Vigil** - September 14 at General Washington's Tomb, Mt. Vernon.

**Constitution Day** - September 17 at Montpelier, Orange, VA.

**NSSAR Fall Leadership Meeting** - September 27-28 in Louisville, KY.

# President's Message



*Hopefully* you had a great summer and are ready for a fall full of SAR opportunities! There's something for everyone!

## The Months Ahead

*VASSAR Semi-Annual Meeting September 13-14: Be there!* Even though the registration deadline was August 30th, you can still register because you are a member of the host chapter and we're in charge of registration. The registration form is at the end of the newsletter. This meeting takes the place of our regular chapter meeting in September, so don't Go to Belle Haven on September 14th!

Vice President Wagoner has great speakers lined up for you for the rest of the year: Glenn F. Williams, Senior Historian, Army Commemorative Office, United States Army Center of Military History will speak in October on "The Siege of Yorktown: the Decisive Engagement of the American West for Independence." His Excellency Peter Mollema, Deputy Ambassador of The Netherlands, will be our guest speaker in November. Our December meeting will be a joint meeting with the George Mason Chapter, and our guest speaker will be Donald A. Ritchie, Ph.D., Historian, United States Senate.

On the afternoon of 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 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. It's on a Saturday this year, so it is one of the few times you need not take a day off work to participate. If you come to both the wreath laying at Gov. Thomas Nelson Jr's tomb and the parade, you'll get points for both!

On November 2, VASSAR will mark the grave of Bermuda-born Patriot St. George Tucker in Warminster. In addition to being a VASSAR presidential initiative, this is part of the Bermuda Gunpowder Plot series of events initiated by our chapter and thus near and dear to my heart. While it is a bit of a drive, it is a beautiful setting close to the James River, and his cottage is still standing nearby. Put it on your calendar, please. If enough people want to go, perhaps we can organize carpools and make it a good way to really get to know a few other members better.

## Summer in Review

There is no way to do justice our busy summer, but here's a quick summary of what has happened since our last newsletter. At our May meeting, we welcomed as our guest speaker Brigadier General Creighton Abrams, Jr., U.S.A. (ret.), the Director of the Army Historical Foundation, and presented Lieutenant Melissa Josiah and Deputy Sheriff Ernesto Arroyo of the Alexandria Sherriff's Office with the SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Medals. On May 22, SAR Secretary General Joseph W. Dooley and I went to the French Embassy and presented His Excellency François Delattre, Ambassador of France to the United States, with a plaque commemorating the 235th Anniversary of the Treaty of Alliance between France and the United States. On Memorial Day, 11 members of the chapter marched with the SAR unit in the National Memorial Day Parade.

On June 8, we marked the grave of Major Simon Sommers, a Patriot of the Revolutionary War, who is buried at the Falls Church in Fairfax County, Virginia, and co-sponsored a wonderful ceremony with the Fairfax Resolves Chapter.

Our annual Independence Day ceremony was fantastic as usual, thanks to our friends at Mount Vernon. We had a great SAR turnout, and it was a high honor to induct my son, Will, into the SAR at the home of his second cousin, nine generations removed. I also very much enjoyed the opportunity to participate in the naturalization ceremony afterwards. It was an inspiration to be there at the culmination of a lot of hard work and effort paid off for our newest fellow citizens. Thanks to the hardy souls who



stayed with me in the heat -- and earned us extra points by their presence at the ceremony!

My family and I immediately left for Kansas City and the SAR National Congress. It was great to spend time with so many great people, including our own Bob Carr, Greg Bodge, and Doug McPherson and their wives. The chapter took home a big prize: the U.S.S. Stark Award, which we'll make a big deal about at our October chapter meeting. Oh, and **GW Chapter dual member Joe Dooley was installed as President General!** He announced some great initiatives for his year as PG. You'll hear more about them soon, but I recommend that you explore them yourself at

<http://www.sar.org/node/2041>. After the congress, PG Dooley appointed me to serve as National Chairman of the Knight Essay Committee, National Chairman of the Young Members Committee (really), and National Vice Chairman of the Government Relations Committee. Needless to say, I will be busy during the Dooley Administration.

In August, several members attended the Atlantic Middle States conference, which was hosted by the D.C. Society August 9-11. It was an excellent meeting by all accounts. We also marked the graves of patriots Humphrey and William Peake on August 24, which are in Martin Luther King Jr. Park in Alexandria. We were joined in this important effort by leaders of the New Gum Springs Civic Association and the Gum Springs Museum. The association has pictures on their website at

<http://www.gumsspringscivicassociation.com/Peake-Grave-Marking-Ceremony.html>.

### Points, Points, Points

Just take a look at where we are in the chart below. Thanks to your hard work and participation, we picked up a lot of points over the summer. We're in the home stretch, but we can't let up now. Join us for some of our fall activities, and you will be adding to our point totals just for showing up. For example, every member who attends the September meeting will earn us five PG Cup points. If you have been thinking about a major gift to the SAR or a gift of appreciated stock, now is the time. But please,

please contact me *before* you give, and I'll explain how we can best translate that gift to up to 10,000 PG Cup points.

### Next Year

Believe it or not, it's already time to start thinking about 2014. The Gold Good Citizenship Medal Gala is just around the corner. The nominating committee has been appointed and will announce a slate of officers for 2014 at our October meeting. Do you want to get more involved next year? Call or e-mail Vice President Scott Wagoner -- I know we'll be able to help you take your SAR experience and kick it up a notch!

*Michael J. Elston*

President

	2011 Winning Chapter Totals	GW 2012 Total	GW 2013 to Date
Americanism	13,210	2,145	5,727
PG Streamer	12,795	7,045	5,975

*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.*

# New Members

## HENRY J. FORESMAN, JR.



Compatriot Henry Joyce Foresman, Jr. was born and raised in Lexington Virginia. He is a 1976 graduate of the Virginia Military Institute with a BA in History; received a MA in History from James Madison University in 1986, and completed the course work and was admitted to candidacy for a Ph.D. in History at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville.

He is a retired Colonel from the United States Army having served thirty-three years. His last assignment in the United States Army was Chief of the Red Team and Command Historian for Third Army/United States Army Central, Fort McPherson Georgia and Camp Arifjan Kuwait. He is currently the Director of the Third Army/United States Army Central Washington Office.

He is married to the former Deborah Lorraine Morgan of Atlanta Georgia. While childless, the couple have eleven cats and two dogs. He is a member of the Potomac River Chapter of the VMI Alumni Association and an initiate of Kappa Alpha Order.

Compatriot Henry Foresman membership in the Sons of the American Revolution is based on his bloodline descent from Patriot Dominicus Libby, a Private and Sergeant in the militia of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Please welcome our newest Compatriot Henry J. "Hank" Foresman, Jr.

## WILLIAM HENRY ELSTON

Will Elston is a rising 1st grader at Porter Traditional School in Woodbridge, Virginia. Born in Fairfax County, Virginia, Will enjoys building things with Legos, drawing pictures (particularly shark cars) and watching Nickelodeon and Cartoon Network. He was baptized at, and is a member of, Historic Pohick Church, in Lorton, Virginia.

His membership in the Sons of the American Revolution is based on his descent from Benjamin Elston, who served as a private in the Essex County, New Jersey militia during the Revolutionary War. According to his pension application, he fought at the Battle of Springfield in 1780, and often saw "Generals Greene, Wayne and Washington."

In 1816, Benjamin Elston's son, John, married Matilda Ransdell, a descendant of William Ball of Lancaster County, Virginia, the grandfather of Mary Ball Washington, which makes Will a second cousin of General George Washington, nine generations removed.



Will was inducted into the SAR on July 4, 2013, at Mount Vernon just before the annual march to General Washington's tomb.





Registrar Jim Mobley (center, blazer) along with Compatriots from the North Carolina Society SAR at a grave marking for six Patriots, including William and Hugh McCain (Jim's 5th and 6th great-grandfathers), 3 August 2013, Tirzah Presbyterian Church, Waxhaw, NC.



24 August 2013 dedication with VASSAR, the Daughters of the War of 1812 and The Society of the War of 1812. This is the Revolutionary War Monument.



The Thomas Jefferson Chapter, VASSAR, placed a wreath at Jefferson's grave in Monticello on July 4, 2013. Past VASSAR President Phil Williams (seen in the top row on the right), gave an interesting talk on Jefferson in Italy. Also present is our very own Chapter Registrar Jim Mobley (top left) and his two sons James and Jack (foreground).



# Registrar's Report

Since the last Registrar's Report eight New Member Applications and sixteen Supplemental Applications were approved by NSSAR. There are two New Member Applications awaiting review at NSSAR, and two Supplemental Applications awaiting review at NSSAR. There are seven New Members awaiting induction.

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

## NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS APPROVED

<i>APPLICANT</i>	<i>PATRIOT</i>
Henry Gene Crowe	Joseph Bonner
Henry Joyce Foresman Jr.	Dominicus Libby
Patrick Martin Stevens V	John Floyd
Darrel Andrew Briggs	Joshua Tanner
Douglas Alan McCuiston	James McQuiston
Christopher Michael Tuttle	Walter Worden
Jay Michael Henn	Josiah Merriam Sr.
Thomas Mosser Roth III	Edward Shimer

## SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATIONS APPROVED

<i>APPLICANT</i>	<i>PATRIOT</i>
James Michael Mobley	William Fergus
James Michael Mobley	John McClintock
James Michael Mobley	Henry Pearson
James Michael Mobley	James Strong
James Thomas Callender	Philip Callender, Sr
Steve Thompson Barry	William Ball
John Robert Mobley	Henry Kirby
James Lewis Mobley	Henry Kirby
Gregory Ormand Bodge	Samuel Colby
Paul Ashley Walden	Abjiah Rembert
James Michael Mobley	Robert Strong
James Michael Mobley	Charles Strong
James Michael Mobley	Jesse Connell
John Robert Mobley	John Reed
James Lewis Mobley	John Reed
Benjamin Barton Rudisill	William Davis

**Jim Mobley, Registrar**

# JROTC Awards Program

The JROTC Awards Program continues to honor outstanding cadets for 2013. The George Washington Chapter presented certificates, ribbons, and medals to very worthy cadets at 7 high schools in the Northern Virginia area. The talent and accomplishments of these fine young Americans reflects well on the parents, the JROTC Instructors and the high school leadership. For example, Cadet 1Lt Andrew Laffosse, a junior at Lake Braddock High School, is an Eagle Scout, member of Boys State, a leader on the Raider Team earning 1<sup>st</sup> place in physical fitness and is a top swimmer on the varsity swim team along with high academic achievement. He will assume a key JROTC leadership position during the 2013/2014 school year.



Brig. Gen. Paul Wagoner, USAF (Ret.) and Cadet 1Lt Andrew Laffosse.

The George Washington Chapter offers our congratulations to the outstanding Cadets who received awards for 2013: Thomas Edison – Cadet Captain **William Woodward**; Hayfield – Cadet First Sergeant **Taylor Payne**; Mt Vernon – Cadet Sergeant **Joshua Boyle**; T C Williams – Cadet Master SGT **Anthony Garcia**; Lake Braddock – Cadet First Lieutenant **Andrew Laffosse**; West Potomac – Cadet Second Lieutenant **Julius Nyanin** and Woodbridge – Cadet First Lieutenant **Frank Mazza**.

# Future Events 2013

## September

**September 13-14** - VASSAR Semi-Annual Meeting, Hotel Monaco, 480 King Street, Alexandria, VA (the September Chapter Meeting will take place in conjunction with the Semi-Annual Meeting) \*\*

**September 14** - SAR Color Guard Vigil at General Washington's Tomb, Mt. Vernon. ‡

**September 17** - Constitution Day at Montpelier, Orange, VA. ‡

**September 27-28** - NSSAR Fall Leadership Meeting, Louisville, KY. †

## 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 West 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. \*



Representatives from the Gum Springs Community, the Kate Waller Barrett Chapter, D.A.R., and the "Light Horse Harry" Lee Society, C.A.R. joined chapter members to mark the graves of Patriots Humphrey Peake and Lt. William Peake at Alexandria's Martin Luther King Jr. Park on Saturday, August 24.





# 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

# Flag Certificate



John Summerhill Morris, along with his wife, Rachel, and son Robert, were presented with a Certificate of Commendation in recognition for their exemplary patriotism in displaying the flag of the United States for the past 35 years in front of their home in Paris, IL. (Awarded by Compatriot Matthew Jones)

# From the Editor



I am honored to take on the role as newsletter editor and look forward to interacting with all of my fellow compatriots in order to make this newsletter useful and interesting. 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.

*"I hope I shall possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain what I consider the most enviable of all titles, the character of an honest man."*  
*General George Washington*





**Virginia Society**  
Sons of the American Revolution  
**2013 Semi-Annual Registration Form**  
**September 13-14, 2013**  
**Hotel Monaco - Alexandria**

480 King Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Phone: (800) 368-5047 Web: <http://www.monaco-alexandria.com/>

Name: _____	Wife/Guest: _____
Street: _____	Phone Number: _____
City/State/Zip: _____	E-Mail Address: _____
Chapter: _____	

	<u>Number</u>		<u>Total</u>
EARLY Registration (rec'd by 8/16/13) (SAR Compatriots Only):	_____	@ \$20.00 each	\$ _____
Registration (SAR Compatriots Only):	_____	@ \$25.00 each	\$ _____
Saturday Luncheon:	_____	@ \$38.00 each	\$ _____
<b>Total Amount Remitted:</b>			<b>\$ _____</b>

		<u>Compatriot</u>	<u>Guest</u>
<b>SATURDAY LUNCHEON – MEAL CHOICE</b>	(1) Roasted Chicken:	_____	_____
	(2) Scottish Salmon:	_____	_____
	(3) Vegetarian Option (Hotel Choice):	_____	_____
Do you and/or your guest need a name tag? (Yes/No):		_____	_____

**Make all checks payable to "George Washington Chapter, SAR"**

Mail this form and your check to:  
George Washington Chapter, SAR  
P.O. Box 336  
Lorton, VA 22199

**Hotel arrangements must be made directly with the Hotel Monaco**  
**Cutoff Date for Hotel Reservations is Friday, August 23, 2013**  
**Cutoff Date for Registration Forms is Friday, August 30, 2013**

For questions please contact: Mike Elston (elston.sar@gmail.com or 703-680-0866)