



George Washington Chapter

Sons of the American Revolution

Newsletter

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Volume 13, Issue 5

May 2013

April Full Of Events For Chapter Members



Left: VASSAR Color Guard Commander Peter Davenport (far left) and Compatriots Whitney, Turner, Carr, Elston and shorter Elston with the chapter and VASSAR wreaths at the James Monroe Birthday Celebration in Colonial Beach on April 27.

Right: Secretary Gregory Bodge (pictured) attended a wreath laying at the tomb of James Monroe with Isaac Bodge, former chapter president Robert Carr, and his wife Julia at the Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond on April 28, 2013.



Left: Sons of the American Revolution members from four chapters participated in a joint wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns, Arlington National Cemetery, on April 13, 2013.

Upcoming Chapter Meetings

May 11, 2013

11:30 AM, Belle Haven Country Club, Guest Speaker: Brigadier General Creighton Abrams Jr., U.S.A. (ret.), Director, Army Historical Foundation.

June – August 2013

Summer Break, no chapter meetings.

Event Information

National Memorial Day Parade - May 27 at 2:00 p.m., Washington D.C. (assemble at noon)

Grave marking ceremony with Fairfax Resolves Chapter - June 8 at 10:00 a.m., Falls Church (Episcopal), 115 East Fairfax Street, Falls Church, VA.

Independence Day wreath laying at General Washington's Tomb - July 4 at 9:30 a.m., Mount Vernon (assemble administration building)

President's Message



Spring has arrived in Northern Virginia, and the George Washington Chapter's activities are heating up. We have a wide range of activities between the May and September meetings, and I hope you can attend one or all of them.

The Months Ahead

Our next chapter meeting is May 11th, and as detailed elsewhere we will be honored to have as our guest speaker Brigadier General Creighton Abrams, Jr., U.S.A. (ret.), the Director of the Army Historical Foundation. If you haven't been to a chapter meeting lately, you might not know about the *major* innovation I have introduced: door prizes! Come to the next meeting and be a winner!

The 2013 National Memorial Day Parade is on Monday, May 27th. GW Chapter members have been in this parade every year, and this year will be no different. The Color Guard will lead the way, and we always have a good group in our other uniform (blue blazers and khakis -- straw hat optional). This year we will also have "camp followers" -- non-members in colonial attire, led by the chaplain of the SAR Women's Auxiliary. The SAR unit attracts members from all over the region and is usually quite a lot of fun. We assemble between 12:30 and 1:30 p.m. on the National Mall (usually around 7th & Madison Dr. NW), and the parade steps off at 2 p.m.

On June 8, we will mark the grave of Major Simon Sommers at the Falls Church. The ceremony will start at 10 a.m., and we will be joined by members of the Fairfax Resolves Chapter. Grave markings are one of the core activities of the SAR. In fact, it is Historical Goal Number One: we "commemorate and provide memorials for the people and events of the American Revolution." Our graves chairman, Jamie Calendar, has worked hard to bring this event about, and it is our first grave marking for some time. Our second grave marking of the summer is set for August 24th.

Independence Day is July 4th (as usual), and that means we will conduct our 52nd annual wreath

laying at the tomb of General George Washington at Mount Vernon. We meet at the administration building by 9:30 a.m. where we will hold a special member induction ceremony. At 10 a.m. the VASSAR Color Guard will lead us down the bowling green to the tomb grove. We have invited the winner of the VASSAR Rumbaugh Orations contest to join us. Following the tomb grove ceremony and the wreath laying, each member will be able to present a carnation at the tomb. And, of course, the Baldwin-Jones-Tabb medal will be awarded to SAR members attending for the first time.

Hard on the heels of the 4th of July will be the SAR National Congress in Kansas City from July 6 through 11. Details can be found on the SAR website at <http://congress.sar.org/>.

The Atlantic Middle States conference will be hosted by the D.C. Society August 9-11. Details will be made available by e-mail and at <http://ams.dessar.org/> when they are available. This district meeting allows us the opportunity to meet SAR members from nearby states -- and earns 10 points for the chapter per member attending (not that I am counting or anything)!

For our September chapter meeting, we will be hosting the VASSAR Semi-Annual Meeting at the Hotel Monaco in Alexandria. Our brief chapter meeting will take place Saturday morning. If you are interested in helping with this state-wide event, please e-mail me at elston.sar@gmail.com. But all you really have to do to register and show up: each member in attendance will earn 5 points for the chapter toward the PG Streamer award.

April in Review

We had a great turnout for the April chapter meeting, which featured the new Mt. Vernon President & CEO Curt Viebranz. Mr. Viebranz introduced himself, talked about some of the amazing developments at Mt. Vernon (including recent auction purchases and the new library), and then described Washington's First Inauguration. Even some of our serious historians learned something from Mr. Viebranz. We also welcomed Virginia C.A.R. President Chas Leiss, who described his state project at Gunston Hall. Chapter members donated more than \$200 toward the repair work he is planning at George Mason's home. Jack

Pitzer and Scott Stephens presented the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal to retiring Commonwealth's Attorney Randy Sengel, and we recognized Julia Carr with the SAR Medal of Appreciation. The chapter also collected more than \$700 for a scholarship fund for the children of Alexandria Police Officer Peter Laboy, who was wounded in the line of duty in March. Contact the treasurer if you would like to make a donation to that fund. Finally, 2009-10 President General Ed Butler made a cameo appearance after attending the Jefferson's Birthday ceremony at the Jefferson Memorial, where the GW Chapter was represented by Rodney Schmidt.

Later that afternoon, the chapter sponsored a joint wreath laying with the other northern Virginia chapters of the SAR at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery. The weather was beautiful, and fourteen compatriots were in attendance, including PG Butler and VASSAR President Kent Webber.

On April 20th, three members attended the C.A.R. National Conference: yours truly, past president Don Reynolds (whose wife is a former Senior National President), and Rodney Schmidt (a former National President and whose wife is also a former Senior National President). If you have children or grandchildren who might be interested in joining this great organization (which is sponsored by the DAR and SAR), give me a call.

April concluded with the observance of the birthday of James Monroe, our fifth president and the last president who fought in the Revolutionary War. I represented VASSAR at the Saturday event at his birthplace and was joined by compatriots Bob Carr, Dwight Whitney, William Turner and Will Elston in representing the chapter. Secretary Greg Bodge represented the chapter at the Sunday ceremony at President Monroe's grave site in Richmond.

Points, Points, Points

Thanks to your participation and hard work, in the first four months of 2013 we have already exceeded our total 2012 Americanism points, and we have more than half of our total 2012 PG Streamer points. For the latter award, we are just slightly off the pace of last year's winner. Keep up the good work and we'll prove what we already

know: the George Washington Chapter is one of the best chapters in the country! One way to increase our PG Streamer points is to make a contribution to the SAR Center for Advancing America's Heritage either by taking up Dick Kusserow's challenge (see article elsewhere in this newsletter) or by making the contribution directly and (this is important) reporting it to me. Keep on earning points, and I'll keep recording them!

	2011 Winning Chapter Totals	GW 2012 Total	GW 2013 to Date
Americanism	13,210	2,145	2,344
PG Streamer	12,795	7,045	4,090

Michael J. Elston
President



Former Chapter First Lady Julia Carr was awarded the SAR Medal of Appreciation at the April Chapter meeting.

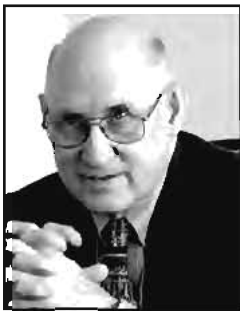
The George Washington Chapter was chartered in its present form on April 2, 1954. With over 200 members, it is Virginia's largest SAR chapter. Meetings are held at 11:30a.m. on the second Saturday of each month (June, July & August excepted) at the Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, 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

May Guest Speaker



The speaker for our May meeting is Brigadier General Creighton W. Abrams, Jr. USA (Ret.), who served 31 years in the U.S. Army. He will be speaking on the National Museum of the United States Army to be located at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Commissioned in field artillery, BG Abrams commanded two batteries, a battalion, division artillery, and a corps artillery—and served in Korea, Vietnam, Germany, SW Asia, and Italy.

BG Abrams also taught gunnery at Fort Sill, OK, English at West Point, NY, corresponding studies at the Army War College, and a staff group in the Combined Arms and Services Staff School (CAS3), Fort Leavenworth, KS, where he was the Director for 3 years. He served on the Army staff at the Pentagon and on the NATO staff at Allied Forces, Southern Europe.

After retirement, BG Abrams worked for General Dynamics Land Systems in Saudi Arabia and is currently the Executive Director of the Army Historical Foundation. He has an A.B. in English (Princeton Univ.), an M.A. in English (Univ. of North Carolina), and a Masters in Military Art & Science (Command and General Staff College). He and his wife Joan have 6 children.

As was Mr. Viebranz's discussion on Mount Vernon last month, the National Museum of the United States with its Fort Belvoir location is also a very "close to home" topic for our chapter. It will be an interesting and enjoyable presentation; so please plan to attend.



The *Fauquier Times-Democrat* recently published a letter to the editor by chapter member, Compatriot Phillip D. Stracener (left). The article, titled "American Hero," is a tribute to his friend, David Allen Green (right). Those interested in reading it may do so at http://www.fauquier.com/opinion/letter_entry/american_hero

New Members

Gregory Elias Bingham



Compatriot Gregory Elias Bingham was born in Charlottesville, VA while his father was a Graduate Student at UVA. He grew up in Lynchburg, VA and then moved back to Charlottesville in 1987 and worked at UVA in Financial Administration after earning a BS in Accounting from Virginia Tech. After working in Financial Administration for more than a decade, he returned to school at UVA and took a MA in the History of Art in 1999.

Gregory is a CPA and has been self employed in the area for over 10 years specializing in nonprofit organizations.

His parents still reside in Lynchburg, VA, although the call of North Carolinian soil remains strong after 5 or 6 generations, and they will likely return to NC after his father FINALLY retires. His sister lives in Yorktown, VA with her husband and two children.

Compatriot Gregory's membership in the Sons of the American Revolution is based on his bloodline descent from Patriot Samuel Bigham. During the Revolution Samuel served in the Militia as a Private from Mecklenberg Co., NC. He is the first member of his family to apply for membership in SAR or DAR since the 1960s.

Marc T. Stanley



Compatriot Marc T. Stanley was born in San Pedro, CA and raised in West Yellowstone, MT. Marc joined the US Army in June 1989 and has served in Germany, Korea, The Balkans, Egypt, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Columbia.

Marc is a Chief Warrant Officer 4 (CW4) and is currently the Senior Standardization Pilot for the 12th Aviation Battalion at Davison Army Airfield, Fort Belvoir, VA. Marc is qualified in five types of military helicopters and two military fixed wing aircraft. Marc is Bronze Star and Combat Action Badge recipient.

Marc has a B.A. in History and is currently pursuing an M.A. in Public History from the American Military University. He is a member of the Golden Key Academic Society and was included in the Who's Who Among Students in American Universities & Colleges for 2012.

He is married to Lauren, who is originally from Wyandotte, MI. They have a 1 yr. old son, Liam who was born here at Fort Belvoir.

Compatriot Marc T. Stanley's membership in the Sons of the American Revolution is based on his bloodline descent from Patriot John Dickinson. During the Revolution John Dickinson was first a Private in Captain Allen McLane's Company serving under Colonel Patton's Regiment of Delaware Blues and then was assigned to Captain John Rudolph's Company serving in Colonel Henry Lee's Legion of Cavalry in the Continental Army.



On April 19, 2013, the George Washington Chapter presented Thom & Denise Iles a Certificate of Commendation in recognition of their exemplary patriotism in displaying the flag of the United States of America. The Iles and their dogs, Seven & Mr. Speaker, reside in Old Town, Alexandria. Pictured above from left to right are Compatriot Matthew Jones, Mr Speaker, and Thom Iles.

Registrar's Report

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

To Compatriots with sons, grandsons or nephews under the age of 18, I encourage you to consider inviting them to join our Chapter as Junior Members of the SAR. Junior Membership is more economical than Regular Membership, with total dues and fess to join being only \$50 (\$100 less than Regular Membership). After joining their total annual dues are only \$5 per year and their membership is automatically converted to Regular Membership at age 18.

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

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Patriot</u>
Gregory Elias Bingham	Samuel Bingham
Willaim Henry Elston	Benjamin Elston
Peter Byron Wells	William Preston

Supplemental Applications Approved

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Patriot</u>
John Robert Mobley	William Lewis
James Lewis Mobley	William Lewis
James Michael Mobley	Joseph Bonner
Isaac Gregory Bodge	James Kolb
Benjamin Barton Rudisill	Benjamin Davis

Jim Mobley
Registrar

CAAH Update

In last month's newsletter we kicked off the George Washington Chapter's campaign to raise funds for the Center for Advancing America's Heritage. So far we've only reached the 10% level of our goal to raise \$1000, so we are continuing the campaign through May.

Dick Kusserow has challenged us to raise \$1000 to support this cause in the name of the Chapter. For every dollar you send in during the months of April and May, it will be matched by the Kusserow's until we meet the \$1000 goal. Send a check made out to **GW SAR** and note "**CAAH contribution**" in the check memo space, and mail it to Dwight Whitney, Treasurer. All donations are tax deductible and you will receive a record of your donation from the Treasurer.

Alternatively, you may send your contribution directly to the SAR Foundation through their direct solicitations or their web site instructions (get the form <http://www.sarfoundation.org/res/uploads/CAAH-pledge-form.pdf>). Notify Dwight Whitney of your donation to earn a Kusserow matching contribution toward our goal.

Please give this your consideration and help us with this campaign today!



The Color Guard at Guilford Courthouse, March 7, 2013.

Future Events

2013

May 4 - Williamsburg Chapter plaque dedication at Bruton Parish Church, Williamsburg, VA, 2 p.m. ‡

May 11 - Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, VA. Our guest speaker will be Brigadier General Creighton Abrams Jr., U.S.A. (ret.), Director, Army Historical Foundation. *

May 11 - Raid at Martin's Station, 10 a.m. at Wilderness Road State Park. ‡

May 27 - 2013 National Memorial Day Parade, Washington D.C. (assemble at noon; parade begins at 2 p.m.) **

June 8 - Grave marking ceremony with Fairfax Resolves Chapter honoring Major Simon Sommers at the Falls Church (Episcopal), 115 East Fairfax Street, Falls Church, VA. *

June 28-30 - Conference on the American Revolution, St. Louis, MO. †

July 4 - Independence Day wreath laying at General Washington's Tomb, Mount Vernon (assemble by 9:30 a.m. at the administration building). *

July 6-10 - 123rd National Congress in Kansas City, MO. †

August 9-11 - Atlantic Middle States Conference. †

August 24 - Grave marking ceremony honoring Humphrey and William Peake, Peake Family Cemetery, Martin Luther King Jr. Park, Alexandria (Gum Springs). *

August 24 - SAR-War of 1812 Joint Grave Marking, Winchester, VA (VASSAR Presidential Initiative). †

September 7 - SAR Color Guard Vigil at General Washington's Tomb, Mt. Vernon. ‡

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 17 - Constitution Day at Montpelier, Orangen VA. ‡

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

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

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

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

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

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

December 14 - Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, VA. VASSAR President Kent Webber will install the chapter's 2014 officers. *

2014

January 11-12 - Battle of Cowpens, Gaffney, SC. ‡

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

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 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

May 11, 2013
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 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:dwrightwhitney@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.