George Washington Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution
Newsletter

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Volume 16, Issue 1 *January 2015*

Whitney, Bodge, Coggins and Walden to Lead Chapter in the New Year!

2015 George Washington Chapter Officers Inducted

Dwight Whitney (2015 President); Greg Bodge (2015 Vice President; Ernie Coggins (2015 Secretary); and Paul Walden (2015 Treasurer) are recognized after their induction by outgoing President Wagoner

GW Chapter Participates in SAR *Great Bridge* Event

President Wagoner (second from the left) represents the George Washington Chapter at the 4th Annual NSSAR Commemoration of the Battle of Great Bridge and the 61st NSDAR Annual Wreath Laying at Great Bridge

Upcoming Chapter Meetings

January 10: Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia

February 14: Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia.

March 14: Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia.

Events Information

January 17: Battle of Cowpens Commemoration, Cowpens, South Carolina.

February 14: Crossing of the Dan Celebration, South Boston, Virginia.

February 16: George Washington's Birthday Parade, Alexandria, Virginia.

February 20-22: VASSAR Annual Meeting, Richmond, Virginia.

March 5-7: NSSAR Spring Leadership Meeting, Louisville, Kentucky.

March 14: Commemoration of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, North Carolina.

April 11: VASSAR Gold Good Citizenship Medal Gala, Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia.

President's Corner

My fellow compatriots, I have thoroughly enjoyed this past year serving as chapter president and thank you immensely for giving me the opportunity to do so. Continuing to build on the great tradition of the George Washington Chapter, 2014 was another year of strong growth, made possible by the contributions of many members of our chapter. I am truly grateful for the friendship and dedication of those members who have worked so hard to provide a truly first class program.

As we close our 60th anniversary year, we had over 30 new members join the chapter this past year and remain Virginia's largest chapter with close to 300 members. We have been working hard to increase the level of communication to our members through an active email campaign and through additional enhancements to the chapter website. We have also been working hard to ensure that we retain our new members in an active way through our new member "Buddy" program initiated this year. Our collective efforts were recognized at both the VASSAR and National levels, where we earned VASSAR's Best Large Chapter Award and two of the SAR's top chapter awards, the Liberty Bell Americanism Award and the President General's Activities Award.

Our chapter organized and supported a number of important SAR and community events during the past year. These included the *Gold Good Citizenship Medal Gala*, where we recognized the achievements of Gen. Richard B. Myers, USAF (ret), former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and we were entertained by a remarkable USAF Airmen of Note Band. At the Mount Vernon Independence Day event on July 4th, we celebrated our country's independence and birthday and participated in the Naturalization Ceremony for new U.S. citizens. We recognized our country's veterans at the annual wreath laying ceremony at Mount Vernon on Veterans Day. We paid our respects to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier with President General Brock at Arlington National Cemetery, and we honored our country's patriot ancestors through several patriot grave marking dedications and at the Wreaths Across America event.

On December 6th, we participated in the annual celebration of the Battle of Great Bridge in Chesapeake, Virginia. It was the 4th Annual NSSAR Commemoration of the Battle of Great Bridge and the 61st NSDAR Annual Wreath Laying at Great Bridge. I was honored to present a wreath on behalf of our chapter and we earned a streamer for our chapter flag.

On December 13th, in a joint meeting with the George Mason Chapter, we celebrated the end of a very fruitful and eventful year and the beginning of the holiday season. Many recognitions and awards were given by both chapters. Please see the December Meeting Highlights section of this newsletter for pictures of these award recognitions.

In addition to inducting several new members (Brett Decker, Thomas Ficarra, Michael Kane, Andrew Mills) into our chapter at the joint meeting, VASSAR President Bill Broadus inducted our new 2015 officers: Dwight Whitney as President, Greg Bodge as Vice President, Ernie Coggins as Secretary, and Paul Walden as Treasurer. I look forward to supporting them in the coming years in my role as a member of the board of managers and I ask that you support them too by your participation and assistance in our chapter internal and outreach activities. There are a number of program committees that can always use your help and we really appreciate your attendance and participation in chapter events. As we have said many times, just showing up at chapter events means a lot to us and the community we serve.

Please plan to attend the next chapter meeting on Saturday January 10th at Belle Haven and let us give a strong show of support for our new officer leadership team (reservation form is at the end of this newsletter).

In closing, 2014 has been a truly remarkable year, and I'm grateful for your support! I'm also confident that the George Washington Chapter will continue to serve its members and community well. I wish you the best for the New Year and may God continue to bless you and your families.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to serve as president of the George Washington Chapter.

Scott Wagoner

Immediate Past President

C.A.R. Leaders to Speak at January Meeting

The Children of the American Revolution was founded in 1895, and today the C.A.R. is the nation's oldest, largest, patriotic youth organization. The SAR, in general, and the GW Chapter in particular, has enthusiastically supported the C.A.R. and its mission to train the future leaders on the nation "in true patriotism and love of country." In January, our guest speakers will be two young leaders in the Virginia C.A.R.

McGowan Virginia "Mackie" Storage (left) is the president of the Virginia Society of the C.A.R. A life member of the Surgeon Lawrence Brook Society in Fredericksburg, she has served on the society level in numerous positions, including society president. Prior to her election as state president in 2014, Mackie served the state society as librarian, treasurer, corresponding secretary, and chaplain. Each year, the candidates for state president propose a project for the following year, and members throughout the state work toward the goals set by the elected candidate.

Mackie's project is centered on George Washington's boyhood home, Ferry Farm, in Fredericksburg. Ferry Farm is situated on the north bank of the Rappahannock River. Augustine Washington, George's father, bought the property in 1738. Augustine, his wife Mary Ball Washington, and their five children moved to the property later that year. Augustine Washington died in 1742 when George was 11, leaving Mary to take care of the farm, George, his sister Betty, and his other siblings. Mary continued to live on the farm until 1772 when she moved to town to be closer to Betty.

In 2008, archeologists found and started excavating the foundation of the original Washington House at Ferry Farm. Through the last seven seasons of excavation, archeologists have uncovered thousands of artifacts near the foundation of the Washington House. Mackie's state project is to raise money to preserve a fork and a knife found during the excavation -- silverware that may well have been used by the Father of Our Country as a boy. Additional funds will go toward outfitting traveling trunks for Ferry Farm staff to take to local schools and teach children about the formative years that General Washington spent at Ferry Farm. Mackie will give us an update on the discoveries being made at Ferry Farm and describe her state project.

Mackie is a rising sophomore at Fredericksburg Academy, where her peers elected her to be their representative on the Honor Council. She also plays varsity tennis, plays the violin, serves as a student ambassador, and is a Yearbook staff member. Outside of school, Mackie has played piano since she was three and is a Senior Girl Scout. Mackie's father, Mark, is a proud HODAR

and the Senior State Chairman for the C.A.R. Flag of the United States of America Committee, and her mother, Ginnie, is the State Regent of the Virginia Daughters of the American Revolution.

Our second C.A.R. speaker will be Emily Elston (right), the State Recording Secretary for the Virginia Society of the C.A.R. Emily's topic will be the Bermuda Gunpowder Plot, a little-known but nonetheless significant event during the Revolutionary War. The story involves George Washington, Ben Franklin and two Bermuda-born patriots who have been honored with SAR grave markings in the past two years. You'll also learn about how the gunpowder "borrowed" from Bermuda played a significant role in the defense of Charleston in 1776, and delayed any Southern Campaign until 1780, thereby indirectly setting up the Siege of Yorktown in 1781.

Emily will also talk about the plans for three Bermuda Gunpowder Plot events in 2015, including a trip to Bermuda for the 240th anniversary of the Gunpowder Plot. If you cannot wait for the meeting, more information on this exciting trip can be found at https://prod.groupandevent.net/register/bermudapatriots. Use the password "gunpowder15" to access the site.

This is Emily's second year as a Virginia C.A.R. officer. Last year, she served as state librarian. She is a past president of the "Light Horse Harry" Lee Society of the C.A.R. Emily is in eighth grade, plays volleyball, plays the clarinet, and is active in school and church groups. A recipient of the SAR Lydia Darragh Medal and the SAR-C.A.R. Bronze Medal of Appreciation, she is well known to the GW Chapter as the daughter of Past Chapter President and current VASSAR Third Vice President Mike Elston and his wife, Julie. Mike also serves the Virginia C.A.R. as Senior State 2nd Vice President.

If you sometimes wonder whether future generations will be equipped to lead our country, or you need to have your faith in our future reinforced, the January chapter meeting will be just the thing for you. Please prepare to be generous, as our tradition is to pass the hat for the C.A.R. state president's project. Additionally, Emily will be selling limited-edition SAR-DAR-C.A.R. Bermuda Gunpowder Plot pins. Half of the proceeds from pin sales will go to the national C.A.R. 250th Anniversary of the Revolution fund and the other half will be donated to Bermuda charities to "pay Bermuda back" for the stolen gunpowder.

From the Editor

It is an honor to serve in the role of newsletter editor and I look forward to interacting with all of my fellow compatriots to make this newsletter useful and interesting. Please submit stories, photos and suggestions to rg62@live.com. I will do my best to include them in future issues.

Richard Gilliland

Editor

The George Washington Chapter was chartered in its present form on April 2, 1954. With over 280 members, it is Virginia's largest SAR chapter. Meetings are held at 11:30 a.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:	*Dwight Whitney: 540-349-2375*
Vice President:	*Gregory Bodge: 770-789-3252*
Secretary:	*Ernie Coggins: 703-241-2807*
Treasurer:	*Paul Walden: 703-347-9770*
Registrar:	*Dave Thomas: 703-583-8791*

Immediate Past President:
Scott Wagoner: 571-239-3221

This monthly newsletter is edited by Richard Gilliland. Inputs from chapter officers, committee chairmen, and fellow compatriots are always needed. Please send your inputs and comments to rg62@live.com or call 202-870-3762.

Registrar's Report

Since the last Registrar's Report, one new member application was approved by NSSAR. There are eleven applications in review by NSSAR. Four new members were inducted at the December 13, 2014 meeting: Brett Decker, Thomas Ficarra, Michael Kane, and Andrew Mills. Their biographies and photos appear below.

New Member Applications Approved

APPLICANT	PATRIOT
Joshua William Walker	John Armistead

Supplemental Applications Approved

APPLICANT	PATRIOT
Andrew Heath Mills	Moses Hadley

New Applications Submitted

APPLICANT	PATRIOT
Mark William Burns	Jacob Kramer
Richard Ernest Rankin	George Fisher
Sean Michael Robbins	James Chitwood

Supplemental Applications Submitted

APPLICANT	PATRIOT
David Robert Thomas	Robert Elliott
Paul Ashley Walden	John Tubbs

Paul Walden

Registrar

Bringing the Accomplishments of Patriots to Life

One of the responsibilities we have as members of SAR is the registration and marking of grave sites of military veteran and civilian patriots of the Revolutionary War. Last year we honored three local patriots and we have more to do in 2015.

The planned focus for 2015 will be Alexandria. My research has shown there are unmarked Patriot graves in the Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex. I am also researching a couple of potential Patriot graves in Arlington National Cemetery and I am excited about the possibility of being able to conduct a grave marking there.

A key part of preparing for a grave marking ceremony is creation of a "life and times" summary highlighting the Patriot's key accomplishments and historically relevant facts. For me, this is the way I bring the Patriot to life and I would like to offer this opportunity to other interested Chapter members.

Another area of research for 2015 will focus on Patriots who either were born, lived or died in Fairfax County, VA or served in a Fairfax County unit during the American Revolutionary War. The George Washington Chapter has come into possession of 20+ years research on this topic. I would like to continue this research effort with the end goal being creation of a Revolutionary War Memorial honoring the Fairfax County Patriots who died during the war. The data is currently posted at http://www.gwsar.org/patriotgravemarkings.html.

If you are interested in joining me in this highly rewarding and worthwhile effort, please contact me at (703) 455-8317 or jamiecallender@callenderclan.com.

Jamie Callender

Chairman, Graves Registration Committee

New Member Biographies

Brett M. Decker

Compatriot Decker was born in Sandusky, Ohio, and raised in the suburbs of London, England, and Detroit, Michigan. He has a B.A. in Political Science from Albion College, an M.A. in Government from Johns Hopkins University, an M.A. in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College, , and is a doctoral candidate in Management at the University of Southern California. Brett is currently a Director at the White House Writers Group, an Adjunct Professor at Johns Hopkins, and a regular columnist for USA Today. He has been an editor and writer for The Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Washington Times and many other publications. His two published books are "Bowing to Beijing" (2011) and "Global Filipino" (2008), and two more books are forthcoming in 2015.

He served in Congress as Speechwriter and Communications Advisor to the House Majority Whip and was appointed by President George W. Bush as Senior Vice President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

Brett's membership in the Society is based on his descent from Patriot Luke Decker, who during the Revolution served as an Ensign in the Virginia Militia and whose officer's commission was signed by then-Governor Patrick Henry.

Thomas Ficarra

Compatriot Ficarra was born and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania but spent most of his adult life in the San Francisco Bay Area. He received a B.S. in Instructional Technology and Design from California State University in Chico, CA in 1995. He later received a M.S. in Information Systems from the University of Phoenix.

Tom is currently a Major in the US Army Reserves, currently working in the Pentagon supporting Army simulations training. He has served in both the California National Guard and Army Reserves, both enlisted and commissioned for over 26 years and will be promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in January. In the private sector, he worked as a graphic designer and multimedia developer before transitioning into the military full time in 2009.

He and his wife Sue-Ann have a 5 year old daughter named Audrey and a 3 year old son named Jack. Tom's membership in the Society is based on his descent from Patriot William Huff (Hough), who during the Revolution served as a soldier in the North Carolina Militia.

Michael Kane

Compatriot Kane was born and raised in Alexandria, Virginia. He received a B.S. in History, while minoring in Political Science, from Clemson University. Michael is currently a Projects Assistant for a non-profit.

Michael's membership in the Society is based on his descent from Patriot Elnathan Wilson, who during the Revolution served as a Private in the Connecticut Militia.

Andrew H. Mills

Compatriot Mills was born on Andrew's Air Force Base. His family lineage is from the Palmetto State of South Carolina. He was raised as a military child living in: Omaha, Nebraska, Montgomery, Alabama, Brussels, Belgium, Beaufort, SC, and Fairfax, VA where he finished High School. Andrew is currently a Speech Writer for the Commandant of the Marine Corps in the Pentagon.

He received a B.A. in Journalism from the University of South Carolina with a specialty in Advertising and Public Relations. He later received a M.A. in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College, Newport, RI.

He and his wife Moira have an 11 year old son named Braeden and an 8 year old daughter named Emerson.

Andrew's membership in the Society is based on his descent from Patriot John Knight, who served as a Corporal in the South Carolina Militia where he completed 9 enlistments. Corporal Knight served in the Southern Campaign under the leadership of Generals Greene, Sumter and Marion and fought in the battles of Waxhaw, Hanging Hook, Camden, Kings Mountain, Rugley's Mills and Eutaw Springs, where he was wounded in action.

Highlights of the December Chapter Meeting

Left: GW Chapter President Wagoner presents VASSAR President Bill Broadus with a George Washington bust gift and certificate for his outstanding support of our chapter.

Top Right: Several new GW Chapter members (Brett Decker, Thomas Ficarra, Michael Kane, Andrew Mills) are inducted by VASSAR President Bill Broadus.

Middle Right: Tom Burch, Don Baldwin, and Don Reynolds, all former VASSAR presidents and members of the GW Chapter, are presented the Silver Roger Sherman Medal.

Bottom Right: President Scott Wagoner and Awards Chairman Paul Wagoner present Mike Elston, VASSAR 3rd Vice President and Past President of the GW Chapter, with the SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Medal. Mike also received the Bronze Roger Sherman Medal for his longstanding, faithful service as an officer of the GW Chapter.

Highlights of the December Chapter Meeting *(Continued)*

Top Left: Treasurer-Elect and Registrar Paul Walden is presented a certificate of appreciation for his outstanding service as Registrar during 2014.

Top Right: President Wagoner presents the Daughters of Liberty Medal to Julia Carr for her years of dedicated support to the SAR.

Bottom Left: President Wagoner presents GW Chapter First Lady Debbie Wagoner with the Lydia Darragh Medal for her dedicated support to the GW Chapter over the past three years.

Bottom Right: President-Elect Whitney presents President Wagoner with a Past President's Pin and certificate.

Other December Highlights

Left: William Elston, junior member of the GW Chapter and son of Mike Elston, receives recognition from William E. Ward, former Mayor of Chesapeake, Virginia.

Right: VASSAR President Bill Broadus and President Wagoner in front of the monument at Great Bridge, Chesapeake, Virginia.

Call for Papers on George Washington

In February the Chapter will participate in the George Washington Birthday Celebration which culminates with the parade on February 16, 2015. The George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee is encouraging a much larger participation of our Chapter in this year's celebration to include getting members and their family and friends to walk in the parade. As we did last year, we also will contribute articles relating to George Washington written by members that will be published in the *Alexandria Gazette*. The articles serve to publicize and heighten the spirit of the event. Anyone wanting to prepare articles for the *Gazette* or otherwise support the Chapter's participation in any way, contact Greg Bodge at gbodge@hotmail.com or by phone at **540-318-6717**

Wreaths Across America

Jamie Callender represented the George Washington Chapter at the Wreaths Across America event, held at the Alexandria National Cemetery on 13 December 2014.

The weather was great and volunteers were numerous – probably around 250 people participated in the event, including numerous girl and boy scouts.

A total of 1,754 wreaths were placed on veteran's graves. That number equates to one wreath on every third grave, the largest number ever placed at a single event.

Historical background:

Alexandria National Cemetery: First known simply as "Soldiers' Cemetery," the Alexandria National Cemetery in Alexandria, Virginia is one of the original 14 national cemeteries established in 1862 by Congressional legislation[1]. During the Civil War, there was a great need for a military cemetery in Alexandria. Many soldiers died in battles nearby and thousands died in Alexandria's Union hospitals. There were 26 such hospitals in Alexandria. Many soldiers buried in this cemetery died of disease or wounds rather than on the battlefield. There are 3,533 Civil War veterans buried here, including 123 unknown soldiers. The original wooden headboards were replaced by marble headstones in 1876. A small stone monument across the road from the lodge commemorates four soldiers who died in 1865 chasing John Wilkes Booth.

Wreaths Across America: Their mission, *Remember, Honor, Teach*, is carried out in part by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at veterans' cemeteries in all 50 states and beyond. They also organize a week of events including international veteran's tributes, ceremonies at State Houses and a week-long "Veteran's Parade" between Maine and Virginia where they spread the message about the importance of remembering our fallen heroes, honoring those who serve, and teaching our children about the sacrifices made by veterans and their families to preserve our freedoms.

What a great way to remind the public to remember the Veterans, honor their service, and teach children the value of freedom.

[1] http://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/national_cemeteries/virginia/Alexandria_National_Cemetery.html

Future Events 2015

January 10 - Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia. Our guest speakers will be the State President of the Virginia Children of the American Revolution, whose presentation will describe her state project at George Washington's Ferry Farm in Fredericksburg, and the State Recording Secretary of the Virginia Children of the American Revolution, whose topic will be the Bermuda Gunpowder Plot program. *

January 17 - Battle of Cowpens Commemoration, Cowpens, South Carolina. †

February 14 - Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia. Our guest speaker will be Compatriot Kurt Muse, author of *Six Minutes to Freedom*, the remarkable tale of his rescue from Panama by the elite Delta Force.*

February 14 - Crossing of the Dan Celebration, South Boston, Virginia. †

February 16 - George Washington's Birthday Parade, Alexandria, Virginia. *

February 20-22 - VASSAR Annual Meeting, Richmond, Virginia. †

March 5-7 - NSSAR Spring Leadership Meeting, Louisville, Kentucky. †

March 14 - Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia. *

March 14 - Commemoration of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, North Carolina. †

April 11 - VASSAR Gold Good Citizenship Medal Gala, Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia. **

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

September 12 - Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia.

October 10 - Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia.

November 14 - Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia.

December 12 - Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia.

January Dates in History
American Revolutionary War

January 1776: Thomas Paine's Common Sense published providing strong arguments for American independence.

January 3, 1777: American victory at Princeton.

January 1781: Series of mutinies by American troops quashed.

January 17, 1781: American victory at Cowpens.

January 14, 1784: The Treaty of Paris is ratified by Congress and the American Revolutionary War officially ends.

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.

Saturday, January 10, 2015

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

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 get a seat. Please send reservations by Wednesday, January 7.

Please send reservations and payment to Paul Walden. For e-mail reservations, send to paulwalden@live.com with **RESERVATION** in the subject line.
For call-in reservations, call **Paul at 703-347-9770**.

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 in advance of the meeting. Make checks payable to "**G.W. Chapter SAR**." Walk-ins will be accommodated if possible, but to cover the Club's charge for serving those without a timely reservation a walk-in price of $40.00 is required.

When calling or writing, please include the following:

Compatriot Name: _____
Guest Name (s): _____

When mailing checks, 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:

Paul Walden
Treasurer, G.W. Chapter SAR
5902 Mount Eagle Drive, #1609
Alexandria, VA 22303

Check-in and social begin at 11:30 a.m. The meeting will be called to order at 12:00 noon. Valet parking is available.