George Washington Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution
-Newsletter-

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Volume 17, Issue 6 ***September 2016***

Chapter Wins Top Award at SAR Congress!

From Saturday, July 9 through Wednesday, July 13, the National Society Sons of the American Revolution held its 126th Annual Congress in Boston, Massachusetts. The George Washington Chapter delegation, headed by President Greg Bodge, and including Vice President Paul Walden, Treasurer Ernie Coggins, Secretary Jay Henn, and Mike Elston (Board of Managers, Class of 2016), was delighted to be on hand as the Chapter was awarded the President General's Cup (Very Large Chapter category) for the year 2015.

The President General's Cup, originated by SAR President General Edgar Williamson, Jr. in 1956, is awarded each year to the Chapter that conducted the most complete program of activities throughout the previous calendar year that created, supported, or promoted a better understanding in its own community of the basic principles of the SAR. In addition to this prestigious award, the GW Chapter received an Honorable Mention in the President General's State Society and Chapter Activities competition (indicating that we received enough points to win but were not eligible because we won the award last year). Also of note, Chapter Past President Mike Elston was selected by incoming President General J. Michael Tomme, Sr., to serve on the National Society's Executive Committee.

Upcoming Chapter Meetings

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

October 8 – Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia. Nominating Committee reports 2017 Slate of Candidates.

November 12 – Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia. Election of 2017 Officers.

December 10 – Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia. Joint Meeting with the George Mason Chapter for the installation of the 2017 Officers for both Chapters.

Events Information

September 10 – *President General's Wreath Laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier* at 4:15 p.m., Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia.

September 16-17 – *VASSAR Semi-Annual Meeting,* Williamsburg, Virginia.

September 29-October 01 – **Fall Leadership Meeting**, Louisville, Kentucky.

October 07 – Commemoration of the **Battle of Kings Mountain**, Kings Mountain National Battlefield.

October 19 – Wreath Laying Ceremony and Commemoration **Battle of Yorktown**, Yorktown, Virginia.

November 11 – **Veterans Day Wreath Laying** with the Kate Waller Barrett Chapter, National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution beginning at 2:00 p.m. at **General Washington's Tomb**, Mount Vernon, Virginia.

President's Corner

My fellow compatriots:

The chapter has had a very busy summer. We started off with the National Memorial Day Parade, which had the largest SAR turnout that I can recall. We had representatives from several states and France. Next was our July 4th wreath laying at the tomb of George and Martha Washington. Several other chapters, along with members of the CAR and DAR were able to celebrate with us. After the wreath laying, our Vice President, Paul Walden, participated in a naturalization ceremony, where he was able to welcome our newest citizens on behalf of the SAR.

July 4th was followed quickly by the National Congress in Boston. We all had a great time enjoying the city's sites and history. While we were there, the chapter was awarded the President's Cup, meaning that the George Washington Chapter is the best very large chapter in the SAR. It was all due to the hard work that everyone in the chapter. We were also there to welcome our new President General, Mike Tomme, who is also a dual member of the George Washington Chapter. Finally, on July 30th, we were able to mark the grave of Thomas Blackburn at Rippon Lodge. We were able to honor a local patriot with the help of the Virginia CAR and members of the DAR.

With August came our informal chapter business meeting. I appreciate the turn out, and some great work was done on behalf of the chapter. Edgar Bates, our new Graves Registration & Marking Committee chairman, presented his innovative new ideas to help all of us get involved in grave marking, and Jamie Callender updated us on the progress toward establishing a memorial to the Fairfax County Revolutionary War dead. On August 9th we were honored to present twenty public service awards to members of the Prince William County Fire Department, including one award for heroism. Finally, on August 12th – 13th, the Mid-Atlantic States Conference was held in Albany. There members were able to meet with members from other states and were introduced to those who will be running for national office at the next National Congress.

Greg Bodge

President

From the Secretary's Desk

Welcome back!

As you'll see elsewhere in this issue, it's been a busy summer for the George Washington Chapter, and the coming months are shaping up that way, as well. Allow me to begin by adding my voice to those encouraging you to attend the September Chapter meeting. At a minimum we will be presenting a War Service Medal and welcoming two new inductees. (And if you don't attend Chapter meetings, please respond to the Member Survey highlighted elsewhere in the newsletter so that we might better serve your needs.) Following the Chapter Meeting please join us at Arlington National Cemetery for the annual SAR wreath-laying at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

I mentioned the busy summer months. Hopefully you are on our e-mail list and have been getting regular updates. If not, and you wish to have your e-mail address added to the list, please let me know at jaymhenn@gmail.com. I have also been getting "bounce backs" from a handful of Chapter members, so if you have changed your e-mail address lately please send those my way, too.

Finally, please be sure to check elsewhere in this issue regarding upcoming changes to dues and newsletter subscriptions.

See you at Belle Haven on the 10th!

Jay M. Henn

Secretary

Quote for September

"We fight not to enslave, but to set a country free, and to make room upon the earth for honest men to live in."

Thomas Paine The Crisis, no 4 September 12, 1777

SOURCE: http://westillholdthesetruths.org/quotes/category/american-revolution

Treasurer's Comments

Compatriots, it will soon be time to renew your membership. You should expect to receive your renewal notice between mid and late September. Please be prompt with your renewal.

The Virginia Society has been selected to host the 2020 Congress. Traditionally, the hosting state society is named five years prior to the Congress and state dues are increased $5.00 per year for five years. Because Virginia's selection was not ratified by the Executive Committee until this year's Spring Leadership Meeting, the Virginia Society will increase its dues by $6.00 per year for four years. As a result, 2017 dues will be **$86.00**.

GWSAR is the largest chapter in Virginia, and we were again named the best large chapter in the nation at the Boston Congress. We achieve this distinction because of *your* enthusiastic and generous support of our activities. Our Awards Committee is always increasing its efforts. We give awards to Eagle Scouts, JROTC Cadets, sponsor participation in the Knight Essay and Rumbaugh Oration Contest, grant Public Safety Awards, and mark patriot graves. For 2017, we have committed to placing a plaque on the Fairfax War Memorial honoring our Revolutionary War Veterans. We sponsor the Virginia Society Gold Good Citizenship Medal Award Gala. Wreaths are provided at two ceremonies at Washington's Tomb at Mount Vernon and one at the Tomb of the Unknown Solider at Arlington National Cemetery. We ask you to make additional contributions to help defray the costs of our activities. Please be as generous as you are able.

With respect to the potential administrative costs of our participation in the Wreaths Across American program, we encourage members to make individual contributions rather than a single chapter contribution.

September 2016 Speaker

PG John Michael Tomme, Sr.

John Michael "Mike" Tomme, Sr., joined the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) in 2003. He is a Charter Member of the Marquis de Lafayette SAR Chapter in Fayetteville, Georgia. He has served the SAR at the local, state, and national levels, where he currently serves as President General.

Early in his involvement with his SAR local chapter, Mike and his wife, Cilla, became active members of the education team. They present colonial living history programs for children, civic groups, and senior citizens. They dress in period attire which Cilla has crafted with period patterns and fabric.

Mike is very active in the SAR and is frequently seen in his George Washington Life Guard uniform. He has traveled the nation attending numerous historic and patriotic celebrations representing the SAR Color Guard. Mike served as the SAR National Color Guard as Commander from 2012-2014.

Mike was sworn in as President General, National Society Sons of the American Revolution at the 126th Congress in Boston, Massachusetts. He is the 113th President General and the third from Georgia. There has not been a President General elected from Georgia since 1988.

Mike is retired from the State of Georgia, where he worked for the Department of Administrative Services in Risk Management. He has held several positions over his 34 year career.

Mike is a member of several lineage societies including: Sons of the Revolution, The Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia and Georgia, Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge, First Families of Georgia, Colonial Wars, Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims, Order of the Founders of North America 1492-1692, and Descendants of Sheriffs & Constables of Colonial & Antebellum America.

DAR Library Continues Its Popular *Genealogy 101* Series

Following a successful spring launch, the DAR's Genealogy 101 series will continue this fall with an array of skill-building topics:

September 24: An Exploration of New York Military Records led by Thomas Ragusin, DAR Staff Genealogist (with good tips for other wars and geographical regions).

October 29: How to Use Land and Property Records for Genealogical Research presented by Forrest Crosley, DAR Assistant Director of Supplemental Applications.

November 19: Introduction to Quaker Research for Genealogists led by Elizabeth Ernst, MLS, DAR Catalog Librarian.

December 17: Using Immigration Records in Genealogical Research presented by Nickola Lagoudakis, DAR Staff Genealogist.

Classes will be held on the above-mentioned dates at 10:00 am in the *O'Byrne Gallery* at DAR Headquarters, 1776 D Street NW, Washington, DC. All programs are free to the public, but registration is requested through www.eventbrite.com.

Editor's Report

A primary goal of the newsletter editor is to ensure the scheduled publication of the GWSAR newsletter. As editor, I seek to encourage a wide range of articles that will inspire and inform the community about the principles on which our nation was founded. Our newsletter is a primary method of communication between the GWSAR Executive and the GWSAR Membership.

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 more useful and interesting. Please submit stories, photos and suggestions to newsletter@gwsar.org. I will do my best to include them in future issues.

Richard Gilliland

Editor

Registrar's Report

Since the last Registrar's Report in May, three new member and four supplemental applications were approved by NSSAR. There are currently five new member, one supplemental, and one memorial applications under review by NSSAR. This report reflects activity during June, July, and August.

New Member Applications Approved

APPLICANT	PATRIOT
Craig Michael Batten	Lemuel Nye
Donald Drew Binder	Matthias Ludwig
Lee Marric Crouch	William K. Constable

Supplemental Applications Approved

APPLICANT	PATRIOT
Gregory Ormand Bodge	Joseph Kelly
Isaac Gregory Bodge	Joseph Kelly
Michael Patrick Kane	George Simon Bessler
Mark Alan Samples	Robert Kilgore

New Member Applications Submitted

APPLICANT	PATRIOT
Steven Carter Deputy	Lewis Frederic de Lesdernier
John Stevens Mason, Jr.	George Mason IV
Raymond Lee Rollins	John Dishman
Benjamin McCord Sullivan	Joseph Talbot
Robert James Sullivan	Joseph Talbot
Alex Everson Wolcott	Joseph Wolcott

Supplemental Application Submitted

APPLICANT	PATRIOT
Isaac Gregory Bodge	Zerubbabel Hunnewell

Memorial Membership Application Submitted

APPLICANT	PATRIOT
Charles Joseph Washington	Job Buckley

Dave Thomas

GWSAR Registrar
VASSAR Assistant Registrar

President	*Gregory Bodge: 770-789-3252*
Vice President	*Paul Walden: 703-347-9770*
Secretary	*Jay Henn: 703-447-0820*
Treasurer	*Ernie Coggins: 703-241-2807*
Registrar	*Dave Thomas: 703-583-8791*

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.

Immediate Past President:
Dwight Whitney: 540-349-2375

Ride Share: *Members in need of a ride to a chapter meeting or a chapter sponsored event may contact the Amenities Committee Chairman, Don Reynolds, at (703) 765-4947.*

This 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 ***newsletter@gwsar.org*** *or call 202-870-3762.*

New Member Biographies

Joseph B. Famme
Commander, USN Ret.

Compatriot Joseph Famme was born and raised in San Diego, California. He received his B.S. in Industrial Management from San Diego State University in 1960 and Master's Degree in Strategy, Management and Naval Operation, Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island, in 1975. Joe is a veteran of combat operations in Vietnam during 1968, 1969, and 1972, and the Arab-Israeli War in 1973, and is a former commander of the Frigate USS Cook (FF-1083). Joe is currently president of ITE Corporation, a company he founded in 1996 to provide engineering design services for naval ships.

Joe and his wife, Vanice, have four children, two sons: Compatriot Christopher Todd (55), Joe Jr. (49), and two daughters, Gretchen Kelly (54), a member of the DAR; and Marie Ho (54) from Vietnam. They also have nine grandchildren. Joe is a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Warrenton, Virginia where he serves on the church council.

Joe's membership in the Society is based on his descent from Patriot Jonathan Lovell, who served during the Revolutionary War in the Massachusetts Militia under Captain John Granger in 1775 and under Captain Thomas Whipple in 1778. Patriot Lovell was discharged in 1779.

Christopher Famme

Compatriot Christopher Famme was born and raised in San Diego, California. He received two High Degrees from Special Education Courses in San Diego, California: 1980, Hoover High School, and 1983, Mission Bay High School. Christopher has lived in Arlington County since 1992 where he has been employed doing custodial services for Service Source and MVLE. He is a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Warrenton, Virginia, where he serves as Acolyte and Crucifer.

When not at work Christopher has been active in *Special Olympics* events where he was Maryland State Champion in Equitation and Dressage in 1992, and Virginia State Champion in Butterfly Swimming in 2006. Christopher's art work has been featured nationwide in ARC Calendars and Christmas Cards.

Christopher's membership in the Society is based on his descent from Patriot Jonathan Lovell, who served during the Revolutionary War in the Massachusetts Militia under Captain John Granger in 1775 and under Captain Thomas Whipple in 1778. Patriot Lovell was discharged in 1779.

Christopher's middle name Todd, is the family name of his 9th Great-Grandfather, Christopher Todd, who arrived in Boston from England in 1637.

September Dates in History
American Revolutionary War

September 8, 1760: Pierre de Rigaud, Governor of New France, capitulates to Field Marshal Jeffrey Amherst..

September 1, 1764: The *Currency Act*, prohibiting the colonies from issuing paper money, is passed by Parliament.

September 1768: English warships sail into Boston Harbor, then two regiments of English infantry land in Boston and set up permanent residence to keep order.

September 1, 1774: The Powder Alarm, General Gage's secret raid on the Cambridge powder magazine.

September 11, 1776: Staten Island Peace Conference

September 15, 1776: Landing at Kip's Bay

September 16, 1776: Battle of Harlem Heights

September 19, 1777: First Battle of Saratoga

September 21-22, 1776: Great Fire of New York

September 22, 1776: Nathan Hale captured and executed for espionage

September 11, 1777: Battle of Brandywine

September 20, 1777: Battle of Paoli *(see story, Pages 6-7)*

September 26, 1777: British occupation of Philadelphia

September 23, 1780: John Andre captured and the treason of Benedict Arnold is exposed

September 26, 1780: Battle of Charlotte

September 5, 1781: Battle of the Chesapeake

September 8, 1781: Battle of Eutaw Springs

September 3, 1783: The *Treaty of Paris* ends the American Revolutionary War

May Chapter Meeting

Above left: President Bodge presents a check to the winner of the *GWSAR Poster Contest*.
Above Right: President Bodge with the winner and his family.

Top left: President Bodge presents the Patriot Grave Marking Medal to Compatriot Jamie Callender.

Top center: President Bodge presents the Battle of Cowpens streamer to Master at Arms Covert Beach.

Right: Dr. John R. Maass , the May 2016 speaker, addresses the chapter.

Bottom left: GWSAR Color Guard Chair Dwight Whitney, Compatriot Richard Gilliland, and guest Urijah Trawalley enjoy the meeting.

Bottom center: Chapter Vice President Paul Walden addresses the chapter.

2016 National Memorial Day Parade, Washington, D.C.

Fantastic turnout of NHSSAR, MDSSAR, PASSAR, VASSAR, CAR, and French members!

Front Row L-R: First Vice President VASSAR Michael Elston, Past PASSAR President Ernie Sutton, David Adamy, GWSAR Vice President Paul Walden, Virginia C.A.R. President Alexandra Slaughter, Cilla Leed Tomme, Laura Truslow, Chancellor-General Davis L. Wright, Edgar Bates, Mark Burns, GWSAR Registrar Dave Thomas, Past VASSAR President Don Reynolds, Kate (companion of listed French participants), Fairfax Resolves President Vern Eubanks, GWSAR Treasurer Ernie Coggins, a junior member, GWSAR Historian Tom Roth.

Back Row L-R: Ken Morris, Tanguy de Bienassis (*Société en France*), Kevin Edwards, Tom Edwards, MDSSAR General William Smallwood Chapter member James Battles, Past NHSSAR President Hans Jackson, C.A.R. National President Connor Jackson, Past VASSAR President Larry McKinley, Secretary-General, J. Michael Tomme, Sr., GWSAR President Greg Bodge, VASSAR President Ed Truslow, Wayne Rouse, GWSAR Secretary Jay Henn, GWSAR Newsletter Editor Richard Gilliland, ---NHSSAR President Brian Anderson, Camille de Labriffe (grandson of member, *Société en France*), VASSAR Color Guard Commander Darrin Schmidt, Past VASSAR President Reverdy Wright, GWSAR Immediate Past President Dwight Whitney. Present but not pictured, GWSAR Master at Arms Covert Beach.

Above: SAR Color Guard Members prepare for the parade.

Above: Buzz Aldrin former astronaut and parade guest of honor, was the Lunar Module Pilot on Apollo 11. He was one of the first two humans to land on the Moon, and the second person to walk on it.

2016 National Memorial Day Parade *(Continued)*

Above: President General J. Michael Tomme and his entourage prepare to participate in the parade.

Above: VASSAR and CAR Color Guard members get ready to march.

Dr. James Craik Medal

The George Washington Chapter first issued the James Craik Medal in 2008 to recognize chapter members who support patriot grave markings. One of the goals of the SAR is to commemorate the service of our patriot ancestors in the establishment of the United States of America. One way we perform this function is by ensuring that these patriots' graves and histories are identified and preserved. At a typical patriot grave marking ceremony, a Color Guard is present and the patriot's biography and service are read. The service is very dignified and serves not only to remember the patriot, but as a form of outreach for the SAR because it generates public interest in our country's history.

The medal was issued in honor of Dr. James Craik, who was born in County of Kirkcudbright, Scotland and studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh. He immigrated to the colonies and entered into practice in Norfolk, Virginia. He was commissioned in the Virginia Provincial Regiment in 1754, where he became acquainted with George Washington, then a lieutenant colonel in the Regiment during the French and Indian War.

With the outbreak of hostilities during the American Revolution, Craik once more rejoined the army. He served as an army surgeon, ultimately advancing to the second-highest post in army medicine. Washington persuaded him to move his practice to Alexandria, Virginia, where he built his plantation house, Vaucluse.

Washington summoned Craik out of private practice in 1798 in connection with the Quasi-War against France, installing him as Physician General of the Army on 19 June of that year. After the conclusion of hostilities, Craik mustered out on 15 June 1800.

As Washington's personal physician, Craik was one of three doctors to attend on him during his final illness on 14 December 1799. Washington complained of respiratory distress, described by Craik as "cynanche trachealis". When Washington proved unable to swallow medicines orally, Craik and the other two physicians (Dr. Elisha C. Dick and Dr. Gustavus Richard Brown) treated his condition with bloodletting, the application of various poultices, and a rectal solution of calomel and tartar. Washington's condition continued to deteriorate, but Craik and Brown decided against Dick's suggestion of a tracheotomy (which might have been lifesaving, but likely would have spread the infection and caused sepsis), and Washington died at 10:10 p.m.

DR. JAMES CRAIK

Craik died in Alexandria in 1814 and is buried in the graveyard of the Old Presbyterian Meeting House in that city.

History of Memorial Day

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in service of the United States of America. Over two dozen cities and towns claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day. While Waterloo N.Y. was officially declared the birthplace of Memorial Day by President Lyndon Johnson in May 1966, it's difficult to prove conclusively the origins of the day.

Regardless of the exact date or location of its origins, one thing is clear – Memorial Day was borne out of the Civil War and a desire to honor our dead. It was officially proclaimed on 5 May 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his General Order No. 11, he proclaimed that. "*The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land.*" The date of Decoration Day, as he called it, was chosen because it was not the anniversary of any particular battle.

On the first Decoration Day, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, and 5,000 participants decorated the graves of the 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried there.

The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873. By 1890 it was recognized by all of the northern states. The South refused to acknowledge the day, honoring their dead on separate days until after World War I (when the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war).

It is now observed in almost every state on the last Monday in May with Congressional passage of the National Holiday Act of 1971 (P.L. 90 – 363). This helped ensure a three-day weekend for Federal holidays, though several southern states have an additional separate day for honoring the Confederate war dead: January 19th in Texas; April 26th in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi; May 10th in South Carolina; and June 3rd (Jefferson Davis' birthday) in Louisiana and Tennessee.

Red Poppies

In 1915, inspired by the poem "In Flanders Fields," Moina Michael replied with her own poem:

We cherish too, the Poppy red
That grows on fields where valor led,
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies.

She then conceived of an idea to wear red poppies on Memorial Day in honor of those who died serving the nation during war. She was the first to wear one, and sold poppies to her friends and co-workers with the money going to benefit servicemen in need. Later a Madam Guerin from France was visiting the United States and learned of this new custom started by Ms. Michael. When she returned to France she made artificial red poppies to raise money for war orphaned children and widowed women. This tradition spread to other countries. In 1921, the Franco-American Children's League sold poppies nationally to benefit war orphans of France and Belgium. The League disbanded a year later and Madam Guerin approached the VFW for help.

Shortly before Memorial Day in 1922 the VFW became the first veterans' organization to nationally sell poppies. Two years later their "Buddy" Poppy program was selling artificial poppies made by disabled veterans. In 1948 the US Post Office honored Ms. Michael for her role in founding the National Poppy movement by issuing a red 3 cent postage stamp with her likeness on it.

National Moment of Remembrance

The *National Moment of Remembrance* resolution was passed on 28 December 2000 and asks that at 3 p.m. local time, all Americans "... voluntarily and informally observe in their own way a Moment of remembrance and respect, pausing from whatever they are doing for a moment of silence or listening to *Taps*.

Independence Day at George Washington's Mount Vernon

The George Washington Chapter, Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution, celebrated its 55th wreath laying at George Washington's tomb on the Mount Vernon, Virginia estate on July 4, 2016. Despite the threat of rain, we had a banner turnout of 49 SAR members. After hearing an inspiring oration from Alexandra Rodriguez, the VASSAR winner of the Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest (*top left*), Alexandra Salley, President, Light Horse Harry Lee Society, C.A.R. led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. Compatriots and guests then proceeded to General Washington's tomb, led by the Fife and Drums of Prince William the Third and the VASSAR Color Guard (*top right*). There, VASSAR President Ed Truslow and George Washington Chapter President Greg Bodge placed a wreath on General Washington's tomb (*bottom left*). After the wreath was placed, SAR members and guests were invited to each lay a red carnation at the entrance to the tomb (*bottom right*).

Above: Guests and ceremonial participants on the Bowling Green in front of Mount Vernon.

Above: VASSAR Color Guard members at George Washington's tomb..

Independence Day at George Washington's Mount Vernon
(Continued)

Immediately afterwards, George Washington Chapter Vice President Paul Walden led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America as part of Mount Vernon's annual naturalization ceremony on the front lawn of General Washington's mansion (*above top*). During this event, 100 new citizens, representing 45 nations, became citizens of the United States. In all, it was a perfect tribute to the Father of our Country on the 240th anniversary of our nation's founding.

Members of the George Washington Chapter and members from other Virginia Society Chapters pose after participating in the 55th Wreath Laying Ceremony at George Washington's Tomb on his Mount Vernon estate (*above bottom*).

Above: GWSAR wreath and poppies at the tomb.

Above: SAR Color Guard marches to the tomb.

Other Events During the May to September 2016 Period

Above: George Washington Chapter Working Meeting held August 6, 2016 at the Pohick Church.

Above: Paul Wagoner, Brig Gen USAF (Ret) presents the Bronze JROTC Medal to Cadet MSG Connor Knight during the T.C. Williams High School Army JROTC awards program, held at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday May 5, 2016 in the school cafeteria. The Bronze JROTC Medal is given for Leadership qualities, military bearing and general excellence.

Prince William County EMS Awards Ceremony

Above: Vice President Paul Walden, President Greg Bodge, and Public Safety Awards Chairman John Blair present the Medal for Heroism to T-II Shawn Bliss.

Below: Prince William County first responders recognized by the GW Chapter with the Emergency Medical Services Commendation Medal on August 9th.

Grave Marking of Colonel Thomas Blackburn

Colonel Thomas Blackburn, the second and surviving son of, Richard Blackburn and the inheritor of Rippon Lodge, was born in 1742. He was seriously wounded in the Battle of Germantown in 1770 and carried a piece of British lead in his body until about a year before his death on October 27. 1897. Colonel Blackburn served the country in both war and in peace.

Above: The VASSAR Color Guard leads the procession to the grave of Colonel Thomas Blackburn. Blackburn was born and died at Rippon Lodge in Prince William County, Virginia.

Below: Colonel Blackburn's grave, marked in a Chapter ceremony on July 30th. Among other wartime duties he served as an aide-de-camp to General George Washington.

Other Events During the May to September 2016 Period

Abraham Faw Grave Marking

The George Washington Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution held a grave marking ceremony for Revolutionary War Patriot Abraham Faw at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, 14 May 2016, at the Trinity United Methodist Church Cemetery, Wilkes Street Complex, Alexandria, Virginia.

Abraham Faw was born 14 May 1747 in Benken, Switzerland, the only son of Jacob Pfau and Catherine Disslin. He immigrated to America with his family through Holland and England, landing in Philadelphia in 1749 and finally settling in Maryland in 1750. He died 25 Jun 1828 in Alexandria, Virginia.

Abraham Faw was a patriot whose family had endured hardship by civil strife, land policy and craftsman guild domination of the economy in Switzerland. Nearly half their village immigrated together in groups, by design based on correspondences and recommendations from kinsmen back from America. Abraham was only two years of age when his family left Switzerland. They passed through Holland and London, England, where they were delayed by illness and the need to obtain the cost of passage to America and settled in Frederick County, Maryland.. He became a house builder, businessman, and politician in and around Frederick Town (now Frederick). Tradition has it that a local sign painter misunderstood the name Pfau and printed "Faw". With characteristic Swiss frugality, Abraham kept the change in name which he then brought to prominence as a leader in the Revolution. His close friendship with Maryland's first Governor, Thomas Johnson gave him entree to society and business at a time when German commerce and politics were still held in check by law and culture.

Patriot Faw served the Revolutionary cause in many capacities. In January 1775, Faw was appointed to the Frederick County Committee of Observation, charged to prevent any infractions of the Association and Resolves of the Provincial Congress. In 1777, the State of Maryland contracted with Faw to construct a "proper powder magazine" which, when completed, handled orders for powder from around the state. He was also engaged in the most important project during the war years in Frederick Town – construction of the military barracks. Built just south of the city, the barracks were originally designed to prevent the quartering of troops in private homes. In December 1780, Frederick Town learned that the barracks would be used to house the "Convention Troops," British soldiers who had been surrendered at the American victory of Saratoga. Hessian troops who had been captured at Yorktown were also brought to Frederick in January 1782.

Abraham Faw served in the County legislature from 1785-1789; was elected to the state legislature in 1787 where he served on the committee that passed - and he signed - Maryland's copy of the U.S. Constitution; and ran (unsuccessfully) as a candidate for the first U.S. Congress in 1788.

In 1794 Faw moved to Alexandria, Virginia. He was appointed as a justice for Alexandria County, District of Columbia in 1806 and 1821, and also served as a commissioner for the same county in 1812 and 1818. He died 25 June 1828 in Alexandria, Virginia.

Above (Left to right): Jamie Callender, Ernie Coggins, and Dwight Whitney with VASSAR and GWSAR wreaths

Paul Walden Gives Presentation on Fairfax County and the American Revolution to Sunrise at Mt. Vernon

On 3 Jun 2016, Paul Walden, Vice President, GWSAR, gave a presentation to 15 residents of the Sunrise at Mount Vernon Assisted Living Home in Alexandria on the role and relation of several leading Fairfax County citizens during the American Revolution: George Washington, George Mason, and George William Fairfax, in the events preceding the American Revolution. Included in the briefing was some trivia on these three historic figures and their homes. Thus the title of the presentation was "Famous Neighbors during the American Revolution" as all three lived down river from the Sunrise facility. Additionally, Compatriot Walden discussed the history and mission of the Sons of the American Revolution. This further supports the SAR's educational outreach to the community.

Above: Compatriot Walden and his mother, Minnie Tubbs Walden (Member of Henry Clay Virginia DAR Chapter)

George Washington Quotes

"I can only say that there is not a man living who wishes more sincerely than I do to see a plan adopted for the abolition of slavery." _____

Source: http://brainz.org/50-best-george-washington-quotes/

Freedom's Sentinel Eagle Sculpture Mounted Above Yorktown Museum Entrance

YORKTOWN, Va., May 20, 2016 – An iconic symbol of the United States of America – sculpted by nationally prominent artist David H. Turner – is newly mounted on the pediment crowning the main entrance of the Yorktown Victory Center, transitioning to American Revolution Museum at Yorktown in October.

Titled "Freedom's Sentinel," the 18-foot-wide, 500-pound sculpture depicts an eagle mantling two eaglets between its outspread wings. A stars-and-stripes shield on the eagle's chest represents the 13 colonies at the time of the Revolution, and the two eaglets reflect the museum's mission to educate future generations.

"Freedom's Sentinel" is a distinctive feature of the 80,000-square-foot building – open to visitors since March 2015 – that is a centerpiece of the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown. Work is underway on construction of permanent exhibition galleries that will debut October 15 and 16, 2016, along with the new museum name.

The eagle sculpture was designed at Turner Sculpture on Virginia's Eastern Shore and manufactured in stages, with a series of models and, finally, a full-size mold for producing the finished piece in architectural fiberglass. David Turner has more than 60 commissioned works on public display across the country, including "A Fair Wind" at Jamestown Settlement's Quadricentennial Plaza, "Eagles & Eaglets" at Constitution Hall, "Black Bear and Cubs" at Philadelphia Zoo, and "Canada Geese" at Chicago Botanic Garden.

"Freedom's Sentinel" was selected as the name for the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown eagle sculpture through a process involving Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation staff and board members.

For more information about the Yorktown Victory Center, which remains in operation throughout construction, and the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown, visit www.historyisfun.org.

Captain Timothy Wheeler, Ancestor P-317537

(Captain) Timothy Wheeler was born on March 8, 1696/7 and on June 25, 1719 married Abigail Munroe. They had eleven children, all born in Concord, MA. In 1743 Abigail died, and on May 31, 1744 Timothy married Mehitable Whittemore. They had one son, Joel, born November 8, 1748.

During the years 1744-1760 there were three foot companies and a troop (a horse company) maintained in Concord. Every man from age 16-60 was expected to serve in the militia and Timothy did so, for his title of Captain denoted active service. Little is known of his specific activities, but after retiring from the militia he became the miller at the town mill.

In February, 1775 Timothy was one of eight men added to the Committee of Inspection. At this time the Provincial Congress ordered that "large quantities of provisions and military stores, sufficient to furnish 15,000 men, should be collected and deposited in Concord and Worcester, principally in the former place." Every available space in Concord - including Wheeler's mill and storage sheds (which received sixty -six barrels of flour) - was turned into storage.

On the morning of April 19, 1775, squads of British soldiers searched Concord for hidden supplies. Townsend Scudder, in his *Concord: American Town*, relates that when the searchers reached Timothy Wheeler's mill, he invited them in for cheese and cider. Afterward, they retired outside for a look at the sheds. The first door was locked, and a soldier prepared to kick it open.

"'Wait!' said Timothy Wheeler, producing the key.

As the door swung open, many barrels were seen inside.

'I am a miller, sir,' explained Wheeler to the officer in charge. 'Yonder stands my mill. I get my living by it.' He pointed toward the dam. 'In winter I grind a great deal of grain and get it ready for market.' He laid a hand on a cask that was really his. 'This is *my* flour; *my* wheat; *my* rye.'

'Well,' said the officer, commanding his detail to move on, 'we don't injure private property.'"

Many of the barrels were filled with military supplies - such as powder - and not flour. Timothy Wheeler was indeed a shrewd "custodian of the stores."

Even though he did not serve as a soldier, Timothy Wheeler's contributions to the war effort earned him a lasting place in the annals of the Revolutionary War. Wheeler died at age 85 on May 7, 1782.

Sons of the American Revolution lapel pins for sale

The George Washington Chapter is selling distinctive SAR lapel pins for $20 each. Proceeds will be split evenly to support the chapter and the Sons of the American Revolution Foundation. The SAR Foundation was established in 2000 as the fundraising arm of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Contact Paul Walden, Vice President, at the next chapter meeting if you wish to buy one of these pins and support the chapter and the Foundation.

GEORGE WASHINGTON
PATRIOT RUN™

Looking for a way to help that will exercise more than just your research skills? Participate in the first-ever George Washington Patriot Run!

What? The George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee and Mount Vernon are sponsoring a USATF-certified 10K and 5K course up and down the scenic George Washington Memorial Parkway with the finish line in front of Mount Vernon. There is also a children's fun run. All 10K and 5K runners will receive a t-shirt and a finisher medal.

When? September 11, 2016

Who? Hosted by the George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee and Mount Vernon (The GW Chapter is a significant participant in the George Washington Birthday Celebration.)

Why? Proceeds will support the upcoming George Washington Birthday Celebration.

Please register at http://www.mountvernon.org/plan-your-visit/calendar/events/george-washington-patriot-run/

Research Help Needed for Fairfax County Revolutionary War Memorial

Did you know that there is no memorial in Fairfax County for the county's patriots who gave their lives during the Revolution? With your help, that will soon change. Plans are underway to design, commission, and install a Revolutionary War Memorial as part of the celebration of Fairfax County's 275th anniversary in 2017.

To date, we have identified approximately 30 patriots who served and perished between 1775 and 1783 and now rest somewhere in the County. This data, however, needs to be properly verified and is in some cases incomplete. We need as many Chapters members as are interested to complete the research on these 30 individuals, identify additional patriots if possible, and draft biographies for each interred patriot that will be read as part of the dedication ceremony on June 17, 2017. This is a fantastic opportunity to exercise those research and historical skills! If you are interested in contributing your time and effort to this project, please e-mail Chapter Secretary Jay Henn at jaymhenn@gmail.com by September 9.

Has Your Patriot Ancestor's Grave Been Recognized and Marked?

There is perhaps no more fundamental or sacred activity for the SAR than the registration and marking of Revolutionary patriot graves – a ceremony that serves to cherish, honor and preserve the memory of those that fought valiantly in order that their descendants could be endowed with those inalienable right that we now enjoy.

Accordingly the George Washington Chapter Graves Registration and Marking Committee has made it a priority objective to honor with formal grave markings as many as possible GW Chapter member patriot ancestors. The first step is the identification, documentation and registration of the Patriot grave. Many thanks to Compatriot Jamie Callender for his remarkable effort in reconciling disparate and in many cases ambiguous Patriot ancestor data bases resulting in a comprehensive list of patriot ancestors and the status of any grave marking (see http://www.gwsar.org/ancestors.html).

With less than ten percent of ancestor Patriot graves marked, there is both a challenge and incredible opportunity. If you would like your ancestor's grave marked the Committee will assist you in navigating and completing the established SAR process, specifically with the creation of a biography which brings to life the Patriot's key relevant accomplishments and with conducting the grave marking ceremony procedure itself which includes the placement of a brass marker as a visible symbol to the public that the person buried at that place aided in the cause of the American Revolution.

If you think you might be interested in having your ancestor appropriately recognized with a grave marking ceremony please contact the Committee at gravemarking@gwsar.org Also, the Committee always welcomes volunteers to help with this highly rewarding effort which is one of the primary means for the SAR to keep the memory and ideals of the Revolution alive.

How Can We Make Our Chapter Stronger?

As previously reported, the George Washington Chapter was presented with the President General's Cup at the recently concluded 126th Annual SAR Congress in Boston. With the receipt of this prestigious award, our Chapter was recognized as the top Very Large chapter in the nation.

We do not, however, want to rest on our laurels. The George Washington Chapter is now seeking feedback from members on a variety of issues, including our meeting location and time, our website, and ideas on activities to further engage our membership. Your responses are anonymous and will allow us to increase interest in our many worthwhile events, as well as to identify new events – all to further our support of the SAR mission. Please visit the following link to submit your survey: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CF2YHPS

Responses are greatly appreciated no later than September 10.

Recognize a Patriotic Citizen!

Recognize your patriotic neighbors and friends while helping out our Chapter. Here is a great way to start conversation with your neighbors and friends and let them know about your involvement in the George Washington Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. If anyone you know displays an American flag on their home or property, in a way you deem to be respectable and patriotic, let's recognize them and present them with a personalized Flag Certificate from the George Washington Chapter. Each flag certificate our committee issues on behalf of our chapter earns our chapter points.

The rule for issuing a flag certificate is that the flag must be displayed in a respectable way and not for commercial use. A neighbor displaying an American flag in their yard or on their home is a perfect example. A local business or office park might have an American flag displayed in a way that is patriotic and respectable and that's great too. However, the local McDonald's displaying 10 American flags on the top of their building to attract business and attention does not qualify. Use your common sense or if you are not sure, take a picture and email it to me. Most importantly, this certificate is a way to recognize someone you feel is displaying the American Flag in a way that might instill pride and patriotism within our community!

Just email me the person's name and address of where they are displaying the flag. Make sure to include your name and your mailing address. I will issue the certificate and have it sent to you to present. Email requests to kevin@gemsinblue.com. Thanks!

Important Changes for 2017

Please take note of two important changes that effective as of January, 2017.

VASSAR Dues. As was mentioned in the March issue of the Newsletter, during the NSSAR Spring Leadership Meeting held in Louisville, KY on February 25-27, the National Trustees formally endorsed Virginia as the host society for the 130th SAR National Congress to be held in 2020. To help defray the costs of hosting the Congress, VASSAR has announced that dues will be increased by $6.00 (to $26.00) for the next four years. You will see this change incorporated into the Membership Renewal forms sent out in the fall.

Newsletter "Opt-In". When the time comes, you will also notice in the Membership Renewal form that we are shifting from an "opt-out" to an "opt-in" policy for hardcopy delivery of the newsletter. Previously, if you did not want to receive a copy of the newsletter in the mail, you chose to "opt-out" and we removed your name from the mailing list. Now, because of rising costs, we will now ask you to "opt-in" if you want to receive a mailed copy. If you do not opt-in, you will not receive a copy of the newsletter in the mail. You will, however, receive the newsletter via e-mail and be able to access every issue of the newsletter on our Chapter website.

We will continue to include this information in future newsletters and e-mail communications as we get further into the year.

2016 Chapter Meeting Dates and Other Known Events

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

September 10 – **President General's Wreath Laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier** at 4:15 p.m., Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia.**

September 16-17 – **VASSAR Semi-Annual Meeting**, Williamsburg, Virginia. *†*

September 29-October 01 – **Fall Leadership Meeting**, Louisville, Kentucky. *†*

October 07 – Commemoration **Battle of Kings Mountain**, Kings Mountain National Battlefield

October 08 – Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia. Nominating Committee reports 2017 Slate of Candidates.*

October 19 – Wreath Laying Ceremony and Commemoration **Battle of Yorktown**, Yorktown, Virginia. *†*

November 11 – **Veterans Day Wreath Laying** with the Kate Waller Barrett Chapter, National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution beginning at 2:00 p.m. at **General Washington's Tomb**, Mount Vernon, Virginia.*

November 12 – Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia. Election of 2017 Officers.*

December – Commemoration **Battle of Great Bridge**, Chesapeake, Virginia. Date: TBD *†*

December 10 – Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia. Joint Meeting with the George Mason Chapter for the installation of the 2017 Officers for both Chapters.*

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.

George Washington Chapter, VASSAR

Luncheon Meeting Reservation Form

Chapter Meeting: 11:30 a.m., **10 September 2016**

Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, Virginia

It is time to make your reservation for our meeting on Saturday, 10 September 2016.

Complete this form, and mail it with your check to the Chapter Treasurer at the address below so that it is received not later than **Wednesday, 07 September 2016**.

As an alternative, you may send your reservation by email to coggins.sar@gmail.com, and pay "at the door". If notifying by email, request you put "RESERVATION" ***followed by your last name*** in the subject line. You will receive an email confirming your reservation.

Your prompt attention to this matter will enable us to provide the caterer with the necessary information with which to prepare an adequate number of meals and to properly set up our meeting room.

The lunch cost is **$35.00** per person ($12 for a child). The check should be made payable to ***George Washington Chapter, VASSAR.*** Again, checks are preferred over cash; however, if paying with cash, ***please have the correct amount***. Walk-ins will be charged **$40.00**.

Please provide the following information when making the reservation:

Meeting Date: **Saturday, 10 September 2016**

1. Compatriot Name: _____

2. Guest Name(s): _____

3. A check payable to **George Washington Chapter, VASSAR** in the amount of

$ _____ is enclosed. *PLEASE NOTE IF ANY OF THE GUESTS ARE CHILDREN.*

4. Return this form and check to:

Ernie Coggins, Treasurer
George Washington Chapter, VASSAR
P.O. Box 5204
Preston King Station
Arlington, Virginia 22205-5204

Check-in and social begin at 11:30 a.m. with a cash bar. The meeting will be called to order at 12:00 noon and is typically concluded by 2:30 p.m. Valet parking is available.

Virginia SAR Presidential Initiative

Did you know that there is going to be a new American Revolution Museum in Virginia? The Yorktown Victory Center is undergoing a transformation with an imposing new facility and a reconfigured site plan allowing for vibrant multimedia gallery exhibits and enhanced outdoor interpretive programming. A new name – American Revolution Museum at Yorktown® (ARMY) – will be implemented in the fall of 2016 as the project nears completion.

There is no better way for the SAR to be relevant in Virginia than to support the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown and fund some of the amazing exhibits the museum has planned. Under President Ed Truslow's Initiative, the Virginia SAR will raise $15,000 during the next year for this purpose. The George Knight/Kenneth C. Patty Memorial Trust Fund has generously agreed to match the first $10,000 in contributions. Here is how you and your chapter can participate!

INDIVIDUALS: Make your contribution to the ARMY Initiative and the Virginia SAR Knight/Patty Fund and (1) earn credit toward your rank in the Virginia Society 1st Virginia Regiment* and (2) earn credit for your chapter toward the incentives described below.

CHAPTERS: Make your contribution to the ARMY Initiative and (1) earn credit on your 2016 Virginia SAR Chapter Annual Report for a contribution of any amount, (2) receive recognition at the 2017 VASSAR Annual Meeting for contributions at the levels described below, and (3) receive bonus gifts that can be used to recognize service by your members or as door prizes at your meetings.

$2500 (including any K/P matching funds) — Special Blue Streamer,

1 Virginia SAR carrying case, 2 Virginia SAR baseball caps,

2 Virginia SAR mugs, and 4 Jamestown medallions.

$1000 (including any K/P matching funds) — Special Red Streamer, 1 Virginia SAR baseball cap, 1

Virginia SAR mug, and 4 Jamestown medallions.

* **$100** = Sergeant; **$300** = Captain; **$500** = Colonel; **$1000** = General;

$5000 = General of the Virginia Militias.

Virginia SAR President Ed Truslow's Initiative in Support of the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown

Yes, Ed — I/We want to support the Virginia SAR and the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown.

Donor Name: _____ (for individual donations)

Chapter Name: _____ (for all donations)

E-Mail Address: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Contribution Amount: $ _____

Make all checks payable to ***VASSAR-Knight/Patty Trust Fund***
with "ARMY Initiative" in the memo line.