George Washington Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution
Newsletter

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Volume 17, Issue 3 ***March 2016***

George Washington Chapter Named Best Very Large Chapter in Virginia!

On February 19-21, 2016, VASSAR held its 126th Annual Meeting at the Omni Hotel in Richmond. President Greg Bodge led a large contingent of George Washington Chapter members that included Vice President Paul Walden, Treasurer Ernie Coggins, Secretary Jay Henn, Board of Managers Member (Class of 2016) Mike Elston, Historian Tom Roth, Registrar Dave Thomas, Chaplain Don Reynolds, Master-at-Arms Covert Beach, and Youth Activities Chairman Rich Sherman.
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Gold Good Citizenship Gala Cancelled

Due to the untimely death of U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonin Scalia, the Virginia Society and the George Washington Chapter have cancelled the Gold Good Citizenship Medal Gala previously scheduled at Belle Haven for March 26th.

We will continue to work to identify an appropriate time and place to present Justice Scalia's family with the Gold Good Citizenship Medal. One plan is to conduct a ceremony during one of our regular fall Chapter meetings. We will keep our membership notified as arrangements unfold.

Upcoming Chapter Meetings

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

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

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

Events Information

May 13-14 – Commemoration **Raid at Martin's Station**, Wilderness Road State Park, Ewing, Virginia.

May 30 – **National Memorial Day Parade**, Washington, DC. Time: TBD.

July 04 – **Fourth of July Ceremony and Wreath Laying at General Washington's Tomb**, Mount Vernon, Virginia.

July 08-13 – **126th Congress**, Boston, Massachusetts.

August 12-13 – Atlantic Middle States Conference, Albany, New York.

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

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Throughout the meeting our Chapter was recognized with a large number of awards for our activities during the 2014-2015 season. Among other awards, we received streamers for the Best Elementary School Poster, the Best Middle School Brochure, and the Best Oration. We also received streamers for the Chapter Excellence Award, History Day Support, Flag Certificates, and support of Presidential Initiatives. The Chapter was also awarded two stars for Grave Markings and an unheard-of ten stars for Forgotten Patriots; i.e., patriot ancestors previously unrecorded in either the DAR or SAR data bases.

The highlight, though, of the Saturday afternoon Chapter Awards Program was the naming of the George Washington Chapter as the Best Very Large Chapter (over 100 members) in the state for 2015! In order to be recognized with this award, a Chapter needs to demonstrate breadth and depth: participation and excellence in all of the various State and local programs and activities open to either Chapter participation or sponsorship. Congratulations to Immediate Past President Dwight Whitney, President Bodge, and the almost 300 Chapter members that contributed to our success! Please join us at the next regular Chapter meeting for the official presentation of these streamers and other awards to the Chapter membership.

Richard Gilliland Named VASSAR Newsletter Editor of the Year

Another highlight of the Annual meeting was the receipt of the Jennings Flathers Award for the Best Chapter Newsletter and the naming of Compatriot Richard Gilliland as the VASSAR Newsletter Editor of the Year. Many thanks to Richard for his dedicated efforts to keep our membership up-to-date on Chapter programs and events via the monthly newsletter, and thanks to our many members who assist with photos and written content. The newsletter is truly a team effort! We are looking forward to presenting the Editor of the Year Trophy to Richard at an upcoming Chapter meeting.

Chapter Members Serving at the State Level

Following the Chapter Awards Program, the 2016-2017 Virginia Society Officers were installed by President General Tom Lawrence. George Washington Chapter Past President Michael J. Elston (2013) was installed as 1st Vice President. Following the installation of new VASSAR President Edward W. Truslow at the Saturday night banquet, George Washington Chapter Registrar David R. Thomas was appointed by President Truslow to be a VASSAR Assistant Registrar. Immediate Past VASSAR President Reverdy Wright, PhD, a dual George Washington member, was endorsed to serve as our 2016-2017 National Trustee. Election and installation will occur at the 2016 NSSAR Annual Congress.

Chapter Sponsors Rumbaugh Oration Winner

The George Washington Chapter is also delighted to announce that Ms. Alexandra Rodriguez, a senior at Bishop O'Connell High School sponsored by our Chapter, took First Place in the Joseph S. Rumbaugh Oration Contest at the VASSAR Annual Meeting. Ms. Rodriguez will now move on to the national level competition that will be held at the Annual Congress in Boston in July. Special thanks to Compatriot Richard Sherman, Chairman of the Youth Activities Committee, for his continued leadership in sponsoring and managing the Rumbaugh Oration activities for our Chapter.

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Notice Regarding the April Newsletter

Given the short time originally scheduled between the Gold Medal Gala on March 26th and the regular Chapter meeting on April 9th, the Board of Managers decided to issue the April Newsletter (Volume 17, Number 4) via electronic distribution only (i.e., e-mail and posting on the website). The benefit to that approach was that we could distribute the newsletter as soon as it was compiled, instead of forwarding it to our publisher for printing and distribution. Even though the Gold Medal Gala has now been cancelled, our production schedule is such that we need to maintain that original plan. If you do not have access to either e-mail or the website, and wish to receive a hard copy of the April issue, please contact our Chapter Secretary Jay Henn on 703-447-0820.

Virginia Awarded 130TH SAR Congress

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. Your Chapter leadership has been actively supporting VASSAR's bid, and is extremely pleased to host the National Congress, showcase the historical significance and natural beauty of the Commonwealth, and provide the opportunity for more Chapter and VASSAR compatriots to experience a Congress closer to home. A NSSAR site survey team will visit Richmond and Norfolk in the fall, and will make their city and hotel selection around the end of 2016 or early 2017. Past VASSAR President and Congress Planning Committee Chairman Mark Brennan will lead the VASSAR team that will support the NSSAR team visit.

President's Corner

My fellow compatriots:

Last Month. In February we were fortunate to have three speakers, LTC(R) Glenn F. Williams, who spoke about the Battle of Yorktown; Ms. Erin Jackson, President of the National Society Children of the American Revolution, who described her service project; and Ms. Alexandra Rodriguez, who gave us her award winning oration. We were able to raise $750 for Ms. Jackson's service project, the First Oval Office, General George Washington's marquis tent. We also introduced two new members to the chapter, Jim Beall and Mark Samples.

February also brought the VASSAR annual meeting, and the accolades that come along with it. I'd say that, by far, the George Washington Chapter was the big winner. We received streamers for participating in every presidential initiative. We sponsored the winners of the Best Elementary School Poster, the Best Middle School Brochure, and the Best Oration. Finally, we were named the best very large chapter in Virginia. All of this was through the hard work of the previous administration under Dwight Whitney and you, our members. I appreciate everything that you did to make 2015 such a successful year.

Weather forced the cancelation of the George Washington Birthday Parade and the annual laying of the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary Solder at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House in Alexandria. This is the first time that I can recall the cancelation of both events. While we missed an opportunity to represent the chapter, we made up for it with hours of snow shoveling.

Finally, February brought the sad news of Justice Scalia's passing. I know that it was a shock to all of us, given the upcoming Gold Good Citizenship Gala. As I'm sure that most of you have heard, we were not able to salvage our plans and had to cancel the event. We are planning to present the award in a future chapter meeting, and we'll let everyone know when it will happen. With the short notice, we decided against a March meeting, but we hope to see everyone in April.

Upcoming Events. March and April are not as hectic, but there are still opportunities to participate in SAR functions.

March 16th: There will be a celebration of James Madison's birth in Orange. The event starts at noon, and all are welcome to attend.

April 9th: Regular chapter meeting at the Belle Haven Country Club. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Donald Binder of the Pohick Church, who will be speaking about the relationship between George Washington and George Mason with Pohick Episcopal Church in Lorton.

Greg Bodge
President

Did You Know?

Washington's greatest display of power was his surrender of power

On December 23, 1783, Washington strode into the statehouse at Annapolis, Maryland and surrendered his military commission to a grateful Congress. In front of the gathered congressmen, Washington declared, "Having now finished the work assigned me, I retire from the great theatre of Action—and bidding an Affectionate farewell to this August body under whose orders I have so long acted, I here offer my Commission, and take my leave of all the employments of public life."

Source: http://www.mountvernon.org/george-washington/the-revolutionary-war/ten-facts-about-the-revolutionary-war/

George Washington Quotes

"*Let your Discourse with Men of Business be Short and Comprehensive.*"

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

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.*

From the Secretary's Desk

This month marks the debut of a new Newsletter feature – Patriot Biographies. One of the NSSAR's most important goals is to commemorate the people and events of the American Revolution. Recently, the National Society has been encouraging members to develop or update biographies of their Patriot ancestors, and George Washington Chapter members have enthusiastically responded to the call. Take a look in this issue for our inaugural selection. If you have a biography that you would like to share, please feel free to forward it to me at sargw.secretary@gmail.com.

Several weeks ago I had the pleasure of attending my first State-level gathering: the VASSAR Annual Meeting. This was a wonderful opportunity to be more informed about VASSAR initiatives, get up-to-date on the activities of the other twenty-six Chapters in the state, and meet compatriots from all over the Commonwealth. Our next state-wide meeting will be the Semi-Annual Meeting in Williamsburg in September. If possible please make plans now to attend; you'll be glad you did!

Jay M. Henn
Secretary

Quote for March

Our country is in danger, but not to be despaired of. Our enemies are numerous and powerful; but we have many friends, determining to be free, and heaven and earth will aid the resolution. On you depend the fortunes of America. You are to decide the important question, on which rest the happiness and liberty of millions yet unborn. Act worthy of yourselves.

Joseph Warren
Boston Massacre Oration
March 6, 1775

SOURCE: http://westillholdthesetruths.org/quotes/author/joseph-warren

Wreaths Across America Update

Did you ever wonder what happens to all of the wreaths that are placed in cemeteries in December? Find out, and stay current with related WAA activities via the WAA eNewsletter. Issue #104 can be found at http://us9.campaign-archive2.com/?u=5151acbc06701cfb3e5cb2004&id=f55e85dab5&e=949f31a45d

April 2016 Speaker

Dr. Donald Binder will be speaking at the April meeting on the relationship between George Washington and George Mason with Pohick Episcopal Church in Lorton. As the rector of Pohick Church, Dr. Binder oversees all areas of parish life and provides direct leadership over weekly worship and adult education. He is also a singer and guitarist in the Pohick Pickers, a folk ensemble he helped establish while a seminarian. Last year, he released his second Extended Play CD, I've Come a Long Way, available on iTunes. Outside the parish, he has served as Dean of Region VI and is past Chair of the Liturgy and Music Commission for the Diocese of Virginia.

Dr. Binder received his PhD in New Testament studies from SMU in 1997, where he also served as an adjunct Professor. His doctoral dissertation, *Into the Temple Courts*, was published by the Society of Biblical Literature in 1999. Along with a companion website, it explores the earliest synagogues and their relationship to the Jerusalem Temple before it was destroyed in 70 AD. A follow-up volume was published in 2007. More recently, he co-edited and authored an essay in the Festshrift, *A City Set on a Hill: Essays in Honor of James F. Strange* (2014).

He has excavated in Israel and has written numerous articles on various topics in his field, most recently serving as a Resident Scholar at Tantur Ecumenical Institute in Jerusalem during his sabbatical in 2013. For over a decade, he has also served as a Field Education Supervisor at the Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, regularly overseeing seminarians from that institution.

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 February, 2 new member applications were approved by NSSAR and 1 Forgotten Patriot Certificate was awarded by VASSAR. There are currently 2 new member applications under review by NSSAR. There were 2 new member inductions performed during the February Chapter meeting.

New Member Applications Approved

APPLICANT	PATRIOT
Maurice Gene Gilliland	William McFerrin
Mark Alan Samples	Henry Peyton

Supplemental Applications Approved

APPLICANT	PATRIOT
None	

New Member Applications Submitted

APPLICANT	PATRIOT
None	

Supplemental Applications Submitted

APPLICANT	PATRIOT
None	

Forgotten Patriot Certificate & Recognition Approved

APPLICANT	PATRIOT
Paul Ashley Walden	David Mewshaw

Transfers & Dual-Membership Into Chapter

COMPATRIOT	PATRIOT
Connor Liam Jackson	Reuben Jackson
Robert Mark Wiedenhaefer	William Kinnick

Dave Thomas

GWSAR Registrar
VASSAR Assistant Registrar

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DAR Library Lecture Series

One of the many benefits of living in the Washington, DC area is our proximity to the resources of the DAR Library. Following up on its success with the 2015 Lecture Series, the Library has now announced its line-up for the 2016 lectures. These lectures spotlight award-winning authors and professors on subjects pertaining to history and research. The monthly programs are held on Saturdays at 1:00 pm in the O'Byrne Gallery at the DAR Headquarters at 1776 D Street SW in Washington, DC. All programs are free to the public and book signings follow the talks. Please consider taking advantage of the following lectures:

March 19: Richard Cerasani, *Love Letters from Mount Rushmore*
April 16: Professor Charlie Grymes (George Mason University), "Using Maps in Historical Research"
May 14: Todd W. Braisted, *"The Grand Forage 1778: The Revolutionary War's Forgotten Campaign"*

Above: Washington reviewing his troops at Valley Forge

New Member Biographies

Maurice Gene Gilliland

Compatriot Maurice Gene Gilliland was born on July 27, 1938 in Springfield, Missouri and raised in Knoxville, Tennessee. In 1961, he received a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering from Cornell University. He married Jeanene Bradley on February 17, 1962 and they had three children, including our compatriots Richard and Robert Gilliland. Gene has one brother, John Richard and one sister, Marlene (deceased).

Gene's membership in the Society is based on his descent from Patriot William McFerrin, who was born on November 26, 1755 in York County, Pennsylvania. On October 7, 1780, fewer than one thousand American Heroes, through skill, luck, and the leadership of cunning strategists, defeated Patrick Ferguson, a brilliant British military star, at the Battle of Kings Mountain. William McFerrin, third great-grandfather of Compatriot Maurice Gene Gilliland, was one of those Heroes.

Please welcome our newest member Compatriot Maurice Gene Gilliland.

James Beall

Compatriot Beall was born in Shreveport, Louisiana and raised in Louisiana, Mississippi and Arkansas. He received a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Rice University in Houston Texas.

Jim is currently a Section Chief for the Fairfax County Department of Transportation.

He and his wife Martha have twin daughters Catherine and Emma who are juniors at the University of Virginia and Tulane University. Jim is a member of the Old Presbyterian Meeting House in Alexandria where he has served on the church Session. He is also a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Jim's membership in the Society is based on his descent from Patriot Richard Bard, who during the Revolution served as a private in the Cumberland County, Pennsylvania militia. Richard and Catharine Bard settled in Conococheague Valley on the Mill Place where he learned the trade of a miller. On April 13, 1758, the Mill Place was attacked and burned by Indians and their infant son, John, and other settlers were killed. Richard and his wife were among those captured and forced to walk across the mountains to western Pennsylvania. Richard escaped near Homer City, Pennsylvania, and returned home. He spent two years searching for "Kitty" (his wife) and found her in the Ohio Valley with a Delaware Indian tribe. She had been adopted as a sister to a Delaware warrior. Richard was able to buy her from the Indians for forty pounds. On their return, they settled in Franklin County where they raised ten children.

Please welcome our newest member Compatriot Jim Beall.

Mark Samples

Compatriot Samples was born in Charleston, West Virginia and grew up in Alexandria, Virginia. He graduated from Mount Vernon High School and Emory and Henry College. Since finishing college, Mark has served the United States Navy as a Surface Line Officer and Technical Manager in Program Executive Office Ships, Washington Navy Yard.

Mark's membership in the Society is based on his descent from Patriot Henry Peyton, who served during the Revolution as Private, Amherst County Virginia Militia.

Please welcome our newest member Compatriot Mark Samples.

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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.

Step Up Now for Chapter Leadership Opportunities in 2016

Chapter President Greg Bodge is looking for a number of compatriots to fill leadership positions and other key roles in the chapter. If you are interested in getting more involved, please e-mail him at gbodge@hotmail.com or call him at 540-318-6717.

One of the key positions available is the appointed office of **Graves Registration Committee Chair**. Compatriot Jamie Callender is stepping down after many years of service as he has increased his graves registration work at National, but he has volunteered to help get the new man started. As the Graves Registration Committee chair, you will perform the important task of helping the chapter identify and mark the graves of Patriots in the area. You will become the chapter's face in much of the community, and perform the vital task of maintaining the legacy of those who we honor.

We are also looking for a **Newsletter Editor**. You will be responsible for working with the officers in getting the newsletter put together and forwarded for printing. Chapter members submit the articles and photos and the editor will collect them and place them in the newsletter format. Richard Gilliland will be available to ease the transition for the new editor.

Either position allows chapter members to become more involved in the SAR without taking on the burden of an officer position. There are, of course, opportunities to serve as a member of any of the chapter's **Committees** (except for the Nominating Committee, which is appointed by the Board of Managers each autumn). Please contact Greg Bodge if you would like to discuss any of these leadership opportunities or serve on one of the chapter's committees.

Above: Colonial paper money (1776)

March Dates in History
American Revolutionary War

March 22, 1765: The Stamp Act was passed by the British Parliament as a means to pay for British troops on the American frontier. Colonists violently protest the first direct tax on the American colonies. Americans were forced to pay tax directly to England. and not to their own local legislatures in America.

March 24 1765: The Quartering Act required American colonists to house British troops and supply them with food.

March 18, 1766: Stamp Act repealed - Ben Franklin argued for repeal and warned of a possible revolution in the American colonies if the Stamp Act was enforced by the British military

March 18, 1766: Declaratory Act passed asserting the British right to make laws binding on the colonies.

March 1769: Merchants in Philadelphia join the boycott.

March 1769: "The Boston Massacre" - Four workers shot by British troops in Boston.

March 1774: The Coercive Acts (called Intolerable Acts by Americans) in response to the rebellion in Massachusetts. The Coercive Acts included:

- Massachusetts Government Act
- Administration of Justice Act
- Boston Port Act
- Quartering Act

The Boston Port Act shut down all commercial shipping in Boston harbor until Massachusetts paid the taxes owed on the tea dumped in the harbor and compensation to the East India Company

March 23, 1775: Patrick Henry delivers the "Give me liberty or give me death!" speech

March 30, 1775: New England Restraining Act requiring New England colonies to trade exclusively with England

March 4-17, 1776: American forces capture Dorchester Heights and British evacuate Boston

March 16, 1778: A Peace Commission rejected by Congress.

March 15, 1781: Battle of Guilford Courthouse British victory

March 5, 1782: The British Parliament empowers King George to negotiate peace with the United States.

March 20, 1782: British Prime Minister Lord Rockingham starts negotiations with the American peace commissioners.

Highlights of the February Chapter Meeting

Our February Chapter meeting on Saturday, February 13, 2016 featured a wide variety of presentations, speakers, and awards, as well as the induction of two new members. We were particularly honored to host the President of the National Society of the Children of the American Revolution who briefed Chapter members and guests about this year's N.S.C.A.R. National Project.

Upper Left: Ms. Erin Jackson, President of the National Society Children of the American Revolution provides a presentation on the 2016 N.S.C.A.R. National Project.
Lower Left: Ms. Jackson with other members of the C.A.R. who were in attendance.
Right: Chapter President Greg Bodge presents Ms. Jackson with a donation to the N.S.C.A.R. National Project.

Left: Guest Speaker Glenn F. Williams of the U.S. Army's Center of Military History enlightened attendees on the topic of 18th Century siege warfare and the Battle of Yorktown.
Upper Right: Ms. Alexandra Rodriguez, winner of the Chapter's Joseph Rumbaugh Oration Contest, delivers her oration on "What Is An American?".
Lower Right: President Bodge presents Ms. Rodriguez with her award. **UPDATE**: On Saturday, February 21, Ms. Rodriguez won the Virginia Society (VASSAR) Rumbaugh Oration contest. She will now compete at the national level at the SAR Congress.

Highlights of the February Chapter Meeting (*continued*)

As always, the February meeting presented an opportunity to recognize multiple compatriots for their service to the Chapter, to welcome new members, and to enjoy the hospitality of the Belle Haven Country Club.

Upper Left: President Bodge inducts James (Jim) Robert Beall as his wife Martha looks on.
Upper Right: Compatriots Dick Kusserow, Scott Wagoner, and Jamie Callender received the Dr. James Craik Medal for Excellence in Patriot Grave Marking.
Lower Right: President Bodge inducts Mark Alan Samples.
Lower Left: Registrar Dave Thomas and President Bodge welcome our newest members.

Upper: Chapter members assembled for the February meeting.
Lower: Chapter officers and other members of the Board of Directors meet prior to the February Chapter meeting to plan and conduct Chapter business.

Other February Highlights

Compatriot Whitney was probably the only out-of-state SAR member in attendance at the 240th Anniversary of the Battle of Moore's Creek in Currie, North Carolina on February 27, 2016. During the event, he was able to get to know a few North Carolina members, including: George Strunk, SMSgt, USAF (ret), President of the General George Washington Chapter and NCSSAR Secretary; Ken Wilson, last year's NCSSAR President and current president of the Halifax Resolves Chapter, who he met at the Crossing of the Dan a few weeks prior; and Jack Bowman, president of the Catawba Valley Chapter – a 14-member chapter that he became president of on the day of his induction!

Above: Color guard in front of the battle monument (George Strunk holding the American flag; David L. Mann, VPG of the South Eastern District, is 3rd from the right; and Dwight Whitney on his right).

Above: Wreath made by Ann Whitney and presented by Dwight, along with the ribbon we got for our attendance.

William McFerrin (P246292)

Patriot William McFerrin was born on 26 November 1755 in York County, Pennsylvania. On 7 October 1780, fewer than one thousand American Heroes, through skill, luck, and the leadership of cunning strategists, defeated Patrick Ferguson, a brilliant British military star, at the Battle of Kings Mountain. William McFerrin, DAR Ancestor Number A076868, SAR Ancestor Number P246292 and third great-grandfather of Compatriot Maurice Gene Gilliland, was one of those Heroes.

In his *Application for Revolutionary War Pension*, S2791, heard 7 June 1833, William McFerrin personally appeared before the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions then sitting. William McFerrin, a resident of the County of Tipton, State of Tennessee and being the age of seventy-seven years, was first duly sworn according to Law and made the following declaration under oath in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed 7 June 1832.

William McFerrin stated that he went into the army of the United States as a volunteer in August 1776 and commenced a march under the command of Captain Lyle and Lieutenant William McCutchen from Augusta County, Virginia on a two-month tour against the Cherokee Indians on the Holston River. McFerrin stated:

On our march from Augusta County we first crossed the James River at Anderson's Ferry, then the New River at English's Ferry. We then crossed the mountains to the head of Holston, down Holston to James Bryant's Fort, then to Black's Fort, to Shelby's Fort[1], to Fort Looney and to the (Fort Pitt) Block House.

During the said two-month tour we passed and reported to the above-named forts guarding the frontiers until the government ordered a draft and sent out a Regiment of Militia commanded by Colonel Christy, to which the company that I belonged was attached at the Long Island in order to march into the Indian Towns over the Tennessee River. We crossed the Tennessee at Chota[2], an Indian Town, thence to Chilhowie. Upon our approach the Indians fled. We burnt the town, distributed their goods, ate their cattle and potatoes and then marched to Tellico. The Indians fled. We treated their town and goods in like manner.

We then marched into little Carpenter, an Indian Town, and treated it as we had the others. We marched into Dragon Canoe, then to Tapell, and so on until we laid to waste all these towns. We returned to Chota Town at which place Canestato, an Indian chief, met Colonel Christy and formed a treaty. Colonel Christy then discharged us and I arrived at home a few days before Christmas having performed a tour as a soldier of at least four months.

In the year 1777, to the best of my recollection it was in the spring season, there was a draft of about seventy men (I was one of them) to go out against the Shawnee Indians. Captain Ewen and Lieutenant James McClary commanded. We ranged through Greenbrier settlement and returned home after a two-month tour.

In 1778, I left my father in Augusta County, Virginia and moved on Holston near Abingdon for the purpose of making a crop for my father. Shortly after I got my corn planted, there was a call for men to guard the forts in Powell's valley. Captain Newell commanded with Lieutenant Blakemore. I was among others drafted and served one month as a private soldier. In the same year I served under Captain Black and Lieutenant Thompson – we were marched up on the head of New River, in the Iron Mountain and across the Blue Ridge after the Tories – during which campaign we caught three of the Tories brought them in Abingdon where they stood their trial – In this tour I served one month as a private soldier. After this I returned to my father in Augusta County.

In the year 1779, my father moved from Augusta out upon Holston near Abingdon. I accompanied him. Sometime in the spring of the same year I was again drafted to go into Powell's Valley, Cumberland Gap and to Yellow Creek in Kentucky against the Indians. This was under the command of Captain Samuel Meek and Lieutenant William Long. I returned home again after a tour of six weeks during which I served as a private soldier.

In the same year, perhaps in October, I was called on again and commanded by Captain Cane and Lieutenant

Actin against the Tories – we marched out by the head of new river – crossing the Blue Ridge at Flower Gap through Surry County into Wilkes County, where we joined Colonel Tipton, who marched us to the shallow ford on the Adkin where we hoped to defeat Colonel Bryant who commanded the Tories. Colonel Bryant had fled with his men. We then marched through Rowan County and Mecklenburg on the Catawba River and out at the head of the river crossing the yellow mountain after a tour of three months during which time I served as a private soldier.

In the month of February 1780, I married Jane Laughlin. Sometime during September following I was called out again by Captain Colvin and other company officers that I cannot recollect. Colonel William Campbell commanded our Regiment. We joined Colonel Shelby and Colonel Sevier at the foot of the mountain near the head of the Watauga River. We joined the Carolina troops near the Cowpens. We then crossed Broad River to Kings Mountain where we had a serious engagement. Colonel James Williams, Captain Edmonson, Captain Boone and a number of my other acquaintances fell where we took nine Tories who were out on parole of honor. These men were hung at Colonel Walker's in the presence of their friends and one of them, after hanging until nearly dead, fell on consequence of the breaking of the rope. Colonel Campbell ordered him to step up and try it again, after which I returned home, having served a three-month tour as a private.

William McFerrin married Jane Laughlin (McLaughlin) in February of 1780. She was the daughter of James McLaughlin, DAR Ancestor Number A077867 and Mary Jane Duncan, who was the granddaughter of Thomas Dunkin and Elizabeth Alexander, DAR Ancestor Number A129494. William and Jane had several children, including Jane McFerrin, the second great-grandmother of Compatriot Maurice Gene Gilliland!

William McFerrin died on 14 November 1845 in Marshall County, Mississippi at the age of ninety years. We might add much to what is said of this departed veteran, but we forbear. He lived to see all his children converted, and buried several of his large family, who died in the faith.

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[1]Randell Jones, A Guide to the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail, *Shelby's Fort*,

[2]Chota is a historic Overhill Cherokee town site in Monroe County, Tennessee. From the late 1740s until 1788, Chota was the most important of the Overhill towns, replacing Tanasi as the *de facto* capital of the Cherokee people.

Spring Leadership Meeting February 2016

The National Society held is its Spring Leadership Meeting at The Brown Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky Thursday through Saturday, 25-27 February. Due to the number of issues that the Trustees needed to consider, an extra day was added. The Trustees' meeting began on Thursday afternoon and continued all day Saturday. Friday was devoted to committee meetings. The first agenda item for the Trustees was the approval the ExCom's recommendation that the Virginia Society serve as host for the 2020 Congress. On Saturday, the Trustees also approved an exciting vision for the build out of the SAR Center (more about that at a future meeting). The Nominating Committee announced a slate for 2016-17 that includes Secretary General Mike Tomme as the candidate for President General.

On Thursday evening attendees took a riverboat dinner cruise on the Ohio River. Friday evening's banquet had a Caribbean theme featuring tropical wear and a steel band that played during dinner. Afterward, Andrew Jackson O'Shaughnessy, Vice President of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation and Professor of History, University of Virginia, spoke to us about the other thirteen British Colonies in North America. Before his presentation, President General Lawrence announced that Professor O'Shaughnessy will be the first Sons of the American Revolution Visiting Professor at King's College London this summer. Dinner on Saturday night was a black-tie affair with band that played sixties and seventies music.

Compatriots Mike Elston and Ernie Coggins attended as well as dual Chapter members Mike Tomme and PG Joe Dooley.

2016 Chapter Meeting Dates and Other Known Events

April 09 – Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia.*
May 13-14 – Commemoration **Raid at Martin's Station**, Wilderness Road State Park, Ewing, Virginia. *†*
May 14 – Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia.*
May 30 – **National Memorial Day Parade**, Washington, DC. Time: TBD. *†*
July 04 – **Fourth of July Ceremony and Wreath Laying at General Washington's Tomb**, Mount Vernon, Virginia.**
July 08-13 – **126th Congress**, Boston, Massachusetts.*†*
August 12-13 – Atlantic Middle States Conference, Albany, New York. *‡*
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., **09 April 2016**

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

Request that reservations be made by completing this form and mailing it to the Chapter Treasurer at the address below so that he **receives it by Wednesday, 06 April 2016**. It is preferred that payment be received in advance to avoid having to track down the Treasurer at the meeting to collect checks or cash. It also ensures that the caterer is given adequate notice to prepare enough tables for the meeting.

If you chose to notify us by email, please ensure your email has the word "RESERVATION" ***followed by your last name*** in the subject line. The Treasurer will confirm your reservation by email as well. This will ensure your email is not lost by "spam" filters. The Treasurer's email address is coggins.sar@gmail.com .

The lunch cost is $35 per person ($12 for a child). The check should be made payable to ***George Washington Chapter, VASSAR.*** Again, checks are preferred over cash.

Walk-ins will be accommodated, provided there is space. However, if you have not notified the Treasurer by 5:00 p.m. on the preceding Wednesday, the walk-in price of $40.00 is requested.

Please provide the following when making the reservation:

Meeting Date: **Saturday, 09 April 2016**

Compatriot Name: _____

Guest Name(s): _____

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

$ _____ is enclosed.

Please note if any of the guests are children.

Please 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.