# George Washington Chapter
## Sons of the American Revolution
### Newsletter

Visit us online at www.gwsar.org

***Volume 17, Issue 5*** ***May 2016***


# *Chapter Joins in Blandford Cemetery Dedication*

On Saturday, April 16, 2016 a George Washington contingent led by Treasurer Ernie Coggins traveled to Petersburg, Virginia to honor the memory of nineteen Patriots of the Revolutionary War interred in the historic Blandford Cemetery. The ceremony was sponsored by VASSAR President Ed Truslow and hosted by the Richmond Chapter, VASSAR. Our compatriots dedicated a new monument (a companion to the existing War of 1812 Society memorial) and raised the colors on a newly-installed solar-lighted flag pole. Veterans of every American war rest in Blandford Cemetery – the second largest in Virginia after Arlington National Cemetery – and a Decoration Day commemoration held there in 1866 may have served as the inspiration for our Federal Memorial Day holiday. (Above from left to right: Tom Bland, Richard Bland, Treasurer Ernie Coggins, Historian Tom Roth, and Bill Bland.

During our February meeting, we raised $750 for Erin Jackson, President, National Society, Children of the American Revolution to use for her national project. Greg presented her with the check at our February meeting. We are pleased to inform you all that our chapter has raised another $150, bringing our total contribution to $900.

## Upcoming Chapter Meetings

**May 14 - C**hapter 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.

**October 8** – Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia.

## Events Information

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

**May 14** - *Special Chapter Grave Marking Ceremony* at 4:00 p.m. at the Trinity UMC Cemetery, Wilkes Street Complex, Wilkes Street, Alexandria, VA. Honoring Patriot Abraham Faw who served the Revolutionary cause in many capacities.

**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.

# President's Corner

*My fellow compatriots:*

**Last Month.** April was our first opportunity to present our awards from the VASSAR Annual meeting. I'm sure that our Sergeant-at-arms is still trying to get all of the streamers on to our banner. We also welcomed our guest speaker, Rev. Donald Binder, who gave us a history of the Pohick Church, with a brief insight into General Washington's religious life and his role in the church.

**Upcoming Events.** May is our last meeting before the summer break, but it will still be a busy month, and a busy summer. At our May meeting on the 14th, we'll have Dr. John R. Maass, who will discuss the Battle of Yorktown. There will also be a commemoration of the Raid at Martin's Station, in Ewing, Virginia on the same weekend, and the National Memorial Day Parade on May 30th. If you haven't been to the parade, I encourage you to attend. We plan on having three vehicles, so, even if you don't think that you can make the walk, you can ride along with us.

**May 14th:** Regular chapter meeting at the Belle Haven Country Club. Author Dr. John R. Maass, a senior Historian at the U.S. Army Center of Military History, will be our guest.

**May 14th-15th:** Commemoration of the Commemoration Raid at Martin's Station. Again, the commemoration falls on the same weekend as our chapter meeting. This is a NSSAR event, and I am hoping that we are able to get some new members to attend. If you are interested, please contact me.

**May 30th:** National Memorial Day Parade. This is a National event, and I hope that everyone who is able attends. It is always interesting to get a "behind the scenes" look at the parade, and there is a good chance that you will run into a celebrity or two.

*Greg Bodge*

President

# From the Secretary's Desk

As most of you know, no Chapter meetings are held during months of June, July and August. Accordingly, this will be the last issue of the Chapter newsletter until September.

However, SAR and SAR-related events do not take a vacation. In particular, members of the George Washington Chapter look forward to the Fourth of July wreath-laying at George Washington's Tomb, and there are a host of other ceremonies, observances, and commemorations that will pop-up throughout the next several months.

We will do our best to keep you posted regarding these events via regular e-mail communications. In particular, please keep an eye out for e-mail messages - and check the Chapter website - for information regarding Memorial Day and Fourth of July events. Also, if you participate in events throughout the summer and happen to take photographs, feel free to forward those to me so that I can include them in my e-mail "blasts" or make sure we have them ready for the next issue of the newsletter in September.

If I don't see you at the Chapter meeting in May, have a wonderful and safe summer!

*Jay M. Henn*

Secretary

# Quote for May

*"I leave you with undefiled hands -- an uncorrupted heart -- and with ardent vows to heaven for the welfare & happiness of that country in which I and my forefathers to the third or fourth progenitor drew our first breath."*

George Washington
Draft of Farewell Address
May 15, 1796

**Source:** http://www.revolutionary-war-and-beyond.com/george-washington-quote-6.html

# May 2016 Speaker

Dr. John R. Maass is from Rockbridge County, Virginia, in the Shenandoah Valley and will be discussing the Battle at Yorktown. He received a B.A. in history from Washington and Lee University, a M.A. in US history from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and a Ph.D. in Early American history from the Ohio State University. He is an editor at The Journal of Backcountry Studies, and a historian at the U.S. Army Center of Military History in Washington, D.C. He also served in the 80th Division of the U.S. Army Reserves.

His books have included, *The Road to Yorktown, The French and Indian War in North Carolina: The Spreading Flames of War*, *The U.S. Army Campaigns of the War of 1812: Defending a New Nation 1783-1811*, and *Horatio Gates and the Battle of Camden.*

# Important Chapter Grave-Marking Ceremony

Please join your fellow compatriots for a Chapter grave-marking ceremony for Revolutionary War Patriot Abraham Faw at 4:00 pm on Saturday, May 14, 2016, at the Trinity United Methodist Church Cemetery, Wilkes Street Complex, Alexandria, Virginia.

Faw was born 14 May 1747 in Benken, Switzerland, to Jacob Pfau and Catherine Dissly. The Pfau family emigrated from Switzerland in 1749 and settled in Frederick County, Maryland. Abraham Faw 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.

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, VA.

Grave markings are one of the primary ways the SAR keeps the memory and ideals of the Revolution alive. These are major activities for the Chapter, and good opportunities for you to share the SAR with friends, family members, and even prospective new Chapter members. Come and show your support!

## National Memorial Day Parade

Please "save the date" for the National Memorial Day Parade on May 30th. As a host organization, this is a major Chapter activity and we are hoping for a larger-than-ever turnout this year. So mark your calendars, and remember that participants receive the coveted Dooley-Carr-Elston medal. Stay tuned for more details.

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|---|---|
| *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.*

# 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 April, no new member applications were approved by NSSAR. There is currently two new and four supplemental applications under review by NSSAR. There was one new member induction performed during April.

### New Member Applications Approved

| APPLICANT | PATRIOT |
|---|---|
| None | |

### Supplemental Applications Approved

| APPLICANT | PATRIOT |
|---|---|
| None | |

### New Member Applications Submitted

| APPLICANT | PATRIOT |
|---|---|
| Adam David Harman | Mary Barbara Teter Hinkle |
| John Holt Harman | Mary Barbara Teter Hinkle |
| John William Harman | Mary Barbara Teter Hinkle |
| Nathaniel Holt Harman | Mary Barbara Teter Hinkle |

### Supplemental Applications Submitted

| APPLICANT | PATRIOT |
|---|---|
| None | |

*Dave Thomas*

GWSAR Registrar
VASSAR Assistant Registrar

# New Member Biography

## Paul Washington

Compatriot Paul Washington was born in Chicago, IL. He moved several times while growing up, spending time in Illinois, Indiana, Connecticut, Mexico and Iowa. He received a B.S. in Computer Science from Iowa State University, and was commissioned into the Army through the ROTC program there. He later received a M.S. in Strategic Intelligence from the Defense Intelligence College.

Following a 20-year career as an Army intelligence officer, he retired in 2004 and has since worked as a Defense Contractor in Northern Virginia. He is currently a Program Manager for Information Management Group, Inc., where he has worked for the past year.

He and his wife Maricel have three children: Stephen (age 21), Anne (age 19), and Thomas (age 17). Paul is also a member of the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Paul's membership in the Society is based on his descent from Patriot Job Buckley, who during the Revolution served in the Connecticut militia in 1777.

## 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.

These positions allow 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.

Medal Commemorating the Declaration of Independence

## May Dates in History
## *American Revolutionary War*

**May 1765**: Patrick Henry presents seven Virginia Resolutions claiming that only the Virginia assembly can legally tax Virginia residents.

**May 1769**: George Mason writes resolutions presented by George Washington to the Virginia House of Burgesses opposing taxation without representation.

**May 10, 1773**: The Tea Act claiming a threepenny per pound import tax on tea arriving in the colonies and provides the British East India Company a virtual tea monopoly by selling directly to chosen tea agents, bypassing and underselling American merchants who acted as middlemen.

**May 12, 1774**: Boston calls for a boycott of British imports.

**May 13, 1774**: General Thomas Gage replaces Hutchinson as Royal governor and places Massachusetts under military rule.

**May 17-23, 1774**: Providence, New York and Philadelphia call for an inter-colonial congress against the Coercive Acts.

**May 20, 1774**: The Quebec Act establishing a centralized government in Canada controlled by the British and extending the southern boundary of Canada into territories claimed by Massachusetts, Connecticut and Virginia.

**May 10, 1775**: Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold lead the capture of Fort Ticonderoga in New York which contains weapons.

**May 15, 1775**: Congress places the colonies in a state of defense.

**May 2, 1776**: The American revolution gains support from King Louis XVI of France.

**May 8, 1778**: British General Henry Clinton replaces General Howe as commander of all British forces in the American colonies.

**May 30, 1778**: Iroquois Indians burn Cobleskill, New York.

**May 6, 1780**: British capture Fort Moultrie at Charleston.

**May 12, 1780**: Charleston falls to the British.

# George Washington Quotes

*"Human happiness and moral duty are inseparably connected."*

_____

**Source:** goodreads.com/author/quotes/4356.George_Washington

# British Capture of Fort Moultrie, South Carolina

On May 7, during the Charleston Expedition of Gen. Henry Clinton, Capt. Charles Hudson, from the HMS Richmond, and 500 Royal Marines receives surrender of Fort Moultrie on Sullivan's Island, and its 216 man garrison, from Lieut. Col. William Scott, after threatening to storm it. Most of the fort's garrison had been evacuated earlier before the British arrived. Fort Moultrie played a key role in the repulse of Clinton and Sir Peter Parker's expedition to take Charleston in 1776.

**Allaire.** "Sunday, 7th. Orders to get ready to march with two days' provision, at a minute's notice. Maj. Ferguson had obtained permission to attack Fort Moultrie. He rode forward with four dragoons to reconnoitre. We were to remain at our post till we got orders for marching. The first news we heard was the fort was in possession of the British; the Rebels had surrendered themselves prisoners of war. Capitulation was as follows: Capt. Hudson of the Navy summoned the fort on Friday, and received for answer: " Tol, lol, de rol, lol: Fort Moultrie will be defended to the last extremity." On Saturday he sent another flag, and demanded a surrender, acquainting Col. Scott that the Lieutenant with the flag would wait a quarter of an hour for an answer. If the fort was not given up, he would immediately storm it, and put all the garrison to the sword. At this Col. Scott changed the tune of his song, begging that there might be a cessation of arms, that the fort would be given up on the following conditions: that the officers both Continental and militia, should march out with the honors of war, and be allowed to wear their side arms; the officers and soldiers of the militia have paroles to go to their respective homes, and remain peaceably till exchanged; and the continental soldiers to be treated tenderly. Granted by Capt. Hudson. About eight o'clock Sunday morning, Colonel Scott with his men, about one hundred and twenty, marched out of the fort, piled their arms, Capt. Hudson marched in, took possession of Fort Moultrie, the key to Charleston harbor; which puts it in our power to keep out any forcing enemy that would wish to give the Rebels any assistance.

# Did You Know?

*Prior to his appointment as head of the Continental Army, Washington had never commanded a large army in the field.*

George Washington was but one of only a handful of candidates considered by the Second Continental Congress who possessed any significant military experience. But by European standards Washington's experience in commanding large conventional armies was non-existent. Leading up to the French & Indian War, Washington had ably commanded the Virginia Regiment, but this provincial military unit never had more than 2,000 men in its ranks. In 1754 Washington commanded roughly 100 regulars and 300 militia at the ill-fated Battle of Fort Necessity.

Despite this seeming lack of experience in managing large army formations, Washington brought a number of strengths to his new position as commander of the Continental Army. Washington had learned many important command principles from the British regular officers that he marched with during the French & Indian War and British army manuals that he studied. He also witnessed, firsthand, how vulnerable British formations could be in the rough, timbered frontier land that predominated in North America. His verve, impressive physical presence, and command instincts helped to hold together an ill-equipped force that outlasted his more experienced opponents. And as Benjamin Franklin would famously state, "[a]n American planter, who had never seen Europe, was chosen by us to Command our Troops, and continued during the whole War. This man sent home to you, one after another, five of your best generals, baffled, their Heads bare of Laurels, disgraced even in the Opinion of their Employers."

So much for conventional experience.

# April Chapter Meeting

**Above:** President Bodge recognizes Vice President Paul Walden for his achievements in identifying Forgotten Patriots.

**Above:** President Greg Bodge presents Master-at-Arms Covert Beach with the streamers and stars awarded to the Chapter at the recent VASSAR Annual Meeting.

**Above:** President Bodge welcomes newest member Paul Washington as Registrar Dave Thomas and Paul's wife Maricel look on.

**Above:** April Guest Speaker Dr. Donald Binder warms up the crowd before his excellent presentation on the history of Truro Parish and Pohick Church.

**Above:** Vice President Walden presents Dr. Binder with the traditional Houdon bust of George Washington.

# Blandford Cemetery Dedication

**Above:** Following the VASSAR ceremony, Historian Tom Roth joined the Col. John Banister Chapter, Virginia DAR, in a grave marking ceremony honoring Lt. Elias Parker. Treasurer Ernie Coggins also attended.

**Above:**The VASSAR Color Guard at the Blandford Cemetery monument dedication.

**Above:** Treasurer Ernie Coggins presented the George Washington Chapter wreath at the Blandford dedication.

**Above:** VASSAR President Ed Truslow unveils the Blandford Cemetery monument - one of his 2016-2017 Presidential Initiatives.

# Battlesea Plantation Ceremony

The commemoration of the Battle of Petersburg was held at Battlesea Plantation on Saturday, 16 April 3016. The wreath laying ceremony was held at 10:30 AM, and Treasurer Ernie Coggins presented a wreath on behalf of the George

Washington Chapter.

Battlesea was the home of Colonel John Banister. This patriot is a founding father of Petersburg and its first mayor. Additionally, he served in the Virginia House of Burgesses and in the Continental Congress where he was a signer of the Articles of Confederation.

Every year in the latter part of April, Petersburg remembers the Battle of Petersburg fought on 25 April 1781. The British forces were commanded by Major General William Phillips. The American militia forces were under the overall command of Major General Baron Von Steuben and were greatly outnumbered. Although they lost the battle, the American militia fought very well delaying the British long enough to save a considerable amount of the military stores in the area. Interestingly, not long after the battle General Phillips died from a fever.

# The Quebec Act of 1774

(French: *Acte de Québec*), formally known as the **British North America (Quebec) Act 1774**,[1] was an act of the Parliament of Great Britain (citation 14 Geo. III c. 83) setting procedures of governance in the Province of Quebec. The Act's principal components were:

* The province's territory was expanded to take over part of the Indian Reserve, including much of what is now southern Ontario, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, and parts of Minnesota.
* Reference to the Protestant faith was removed from the oath of allegiance.
* It guaranteed free practice of the Catholic faith.
* It restored the use of the French civil law for matters of private law, except that in accordance with the Englishcommon law, it granted unlimited freedom of testation. It maintained English common law for matters of public law, including administrative appeals, court procedure, and criminal prosecution.
* It restored the Catholic Church's right to impose tithes.

The 1774 Act had wide-ranging effects, in Quebec itself, as well as in the Thirteen Colonies. In Quebec, English-speaking immigrants from Britain and the southern colonies objected to a variety of its provisions, which they saw as a removal of certain political freedoms. Canadiens varied in their reaction; the land-owning seigneurs and ecclesiastics were generally happy with its provisions although the populace resented their loss of liberties.[2][3]

In the Thirteen Colonies, the Quebec Act had been passed in the same session of Parliament as a number of other acts designed as punishment for the Boston Tea Party and other protests, which the American Patriots collectively termed the "Intolerable" or "Coercive Acts." The provisions of the Quebec Act were seen by the colonists as a new model for British colonial administration, which would strip the colonies of their elected assemblies. It seemed to void the land claims of the colonies by granting most of the Ohio Country to the province of Quebec. The Americans were especially angry that the Act established Catholicism as the state religion in Quebec.[4] The Americans had fought hard in the French and Indian War, and they now saw the provisions given to the former enemy as an affront.[5]

**Sources:**


1. Schedule 1, *Short Titles Act,* 1896
2. Gerald E. Hart (1891). *The Quebec Act 1774. Montreal. p. 12.*
3. R. Douglas Francis; Richard Jones; Donald B. Smith (2010*). Journeys: A History of Canada (6 ed.). p. 100.* ISBN 978-0-17-644244-6.
4. Derek H. Davis (2000). *Religion and the Continental Congress, 1774-1789 : Contributions to Original Intent: Contributions to Original Intent.* Oxford University Press. p. 153.
5. Richard B. Drake (2004). *A History of Appalachia.* University Press of Kentucky. p. 61.

# Sgt. Josiah Merriam, Sr., Ancestor P-248059

Josiah Merriam (Sr.), son of Joseph Merriam (also Meriam) and Dorothy Wright Brooks, was born on February 13, 1726 in Concord, MA. On June 17, 1746 he married Lydia Wheeler, daughter of Timothy and Abigail Munroe Wheeler. Josiah and Lydia had eleven children, all born in Concord.;

Josiah Sr. was a locksmith, yeoman, and landowner, and was perhaps best known as the "Patriot Gunsmith." An early interest in mechanics had prompted him to spend many hours assisting his father at the forge and learning the art of gunmaking. As the family homestead had been willed to an older brother, Josiah purchased property on the north side of Bay Road (now the Lexington Road). There he placed his forge and gunshop. As detailed in the November 1973 issue of *Gun Report*, he had the foresight to restock an old musket which his father had made during the French and Indian Wars. Family tradition has it that this gun, now residing in the Concord Antiquarian Museum, was carried into battle at the North Bridge on April 19, 1775 and was used throughout the Revolution.

In addition to his military service in Massachusetts and Rhode Island as a Sergeant in Captain Joseph Hosmer's Company of Minutemen, Merriam was active in Concord politics and held in high esteem by his fellow townsmen. He was elected to the Committee of Safety in 1775, and when that was merged with the Committee of Correspondence he was elected to that body for six consecutive years (1776-1782). He was also chosen as a delegate to the State Convention held in Concord on July 14, 1779.

Lydia Wheeler Merriam died on August 30, 1802, aged 78. Josiah died seven years later, on April 23, 1809. The book *Merriam Genealogy in England and America*, compiled by Charles H. Pope, contains the full text of his final will and testament.

# 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.

# 273rd Anniversary of the Birth of Thomas Jefferson Commemoration

Four George Washington Chapter compatriots attended the annual wreath laying ceremony at the steps of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, facing the tidal basin in Washington DC, on 13 April 2016 (Michael Elston, Past Chapter President; Paul Walden, Vice President; Ernest Coggins, Treasurer; and Thomas Bland). The event has been sponsored since 1943 by the DC Society SAR. In addition to a wreath presented earlier in the day by Major General Bradley Becker, on behalf of the President of the United States, wreaths were presented by the Department of the Interior, the University of Virginia, and 14 lineage societies. Michael Elston, 1st Vice President VASSAR, presented a wreath on behalf of VASSAR.

**Above:** Michael Elston presents VASSAR wreath

**Above:** Wreaths presented by lineage societies

# 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 tokevin@gemsinblue.com. Thanks!

# Important Changes for 2017

Don't panic – it's still just May. However, since our next newsletter will not be published until September, we thought it would be a good idea to give all of our Chapter members some advance notice of two coming changes that will be upon us in 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 still, of course, 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

**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 14** - Grave Marking Ceremony at 4:00 p.m. at the Trinity UMC Cemetery, Wilkes Street Complex, Wilkes Street, Alexandria, VA. Honoring *Patriot Abraham Faw* who served the Revolutionary cause in many capacities.*

**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., **14 May 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, 11 May 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, 14 May 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.*

## 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.

**$250** — Special Yellow Streamer and 2 Jamestown medallions.

* $100 = Sergeant; $300 = Captain; $500 = Colonel; $1000 = General; $5000 = General of the Virginia Militias.

***PLEASE USE THE FORM ON THE NEXT PAGE TO CONTRIBUTE***

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.*

**Mail Form and Check To:**

Mike Elston
Virginia SAR 1st Vice President
P.O. Box 336
Lorton, VA 22199-0336

**REVOLUTIONARY WAR PATRIOT TO BE HONORED IN CEREMONY AT TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CEMETERY, WILKES STREET COMPLEX, ALEXANDRIA, VA.**

Please join your fellow compatriots for a Chapter grave-marking ceremony honoring Revolutionary War Patriot Abraham Faw at 4:00 pm on Saturday, May 14, 2016, at the Trinity United Methodist Church Cemetery, Wilkes Street Complex, Alexandria, Virginia.

Faw was born 14 May 1747 in Benken, Switzerland, to Jacob Pfau and Catherine Dissly. The Pfau family emigrated from Switzerland in 1749 and settled in Frederick County, Maryland. Abraham Faw 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.

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, VA.