George Washington Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution
Newsletter

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Volume 17, Issue 1 ***January 2016***

George Washington Chapter at Alexandria National Cemetery for *Wreaths Across America*

On December 12th, Carlisle Bean and Jack Coulter represented the George Washington Chapter of S.A.R. at Wreaths Across America at Alexandria National Cemetery. Compatriot Russ Shearer also participated, along with his three daughters, all members of the C.A.R.

WAA coordinator Bill Jones (bottom center) informed us that Alexandria National Cemetery is the oldest national veterans' cemetery in the U.S., dating from 1862. Jones stated that this was the largest turnout of volunteers that he has witnessed to date as well as the largest purchase of wreaths (1960).

Special wreaths for all of the uniformed services, as well as the Merchant Marines and POW/MIAs, were placed on the fence of honor. Following the formal ceremony, volunteers placed the remaining wreaths at most of the headstones in the cemetery, with special attention to place wreaths at headstones of unknown veterans. Jack Coulter was able to place a wreath at the headstone of his relative who was mortally wounded in the Civil War (bottom right).

Upcoming Chapter Meetings

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

February 13: Chapter meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia.

Events Information

January 16 – 235th Anniversary of the *Battle of Cowpens*, Cowpens Battlefield Park, Gaffney, South Carolina 10:00-11:30 a.m.

February 13 – *Crossing of the Dan* Celebration, South Boston, Virginia 10:00 a.m.-2 p.m.

February 15 – Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the Revolution, Old Presbyterian Meeting House, 321 South Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia 11:00 a.m.- 12 noon.

February 15 – George Washington's Birthday Parade, Alexandria, Virginia. 1:00-3:00 p.m.

February 19-20 – VASSAR Annual Meeting, Richmond, Virginia.

President's Corner

My fellow compatriots:

It has been a great privilege to serve as your president in 2015. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity. I have thoroughly enjoyed it!

As a chapter, we have had a fantastic year! I am grateful to all who contributed to our accomplishments, and I am equally grateful for the trust and friendship that you have shown me.

We ended 2015 strong with 294 members. As I write this, the officers are all pitching in these last few weeks of December to contact over 50 delinquent members to avoid a major loss of renewals for 2016.

We welcomed sixteen new members in 2015 and our members earned nine supplemental patriots. Out of these applications, five members earned a total of eight VASSAR Forgotten Patriot Certificates.

We continued the "Buddy System" to welcome and integrate new members, and created a "Ride Share" program to assist those in need of a ride to meetings and events.

Our financial condition is sound. We had a robust year of youth and community activities, grave markings, and patriot biography recordings. We have members serving as officers at the state and national level and overall participation in State, District, and National meetings and events was good. I am especially both proud and grateful to the officers for their service to the membership, to the committee chairmen and their members for their hard work in meeting our goals, and to the volunteers who publish the newsletter, maintain the web site, judge the competitions, and showed up to represent the chapter at many events this year!

Our new president, Greg Bodge, will continue our chapter's strong record of achievement, and we have excellent leaders in the pipeline for the years ahead. I challenge all of you to support this team in all their efforts, volunteer to support our committees, and make at least one contribution to the furtherance of our society's mission. I promise you that any and every activity of this chapter and this society that you get involved with will be personally rewarding and make a difference to your community and this nation!

Again, thank you for the opportunity to serve as president of the George Washington Chapter. I hope you had a wonderful holiday season, and may God continue to bless you and your families in the New Year.

Dwight Whitney

Immediate Past President

From the Secretary's Desk

Greetings to all, and best wishes for a safe and memorable New Year!

I am delighted to have this opportunity to serve you all as your Chapter Secretary. As often happens, this could be viewed as a case of history coming full circle, as my primary ancestor Josiah Merriam, Sr. – in conjunction with his active duty military service as a Sergeant of Minutemen – served on the Concord, Massachusetts Committee of Correspondence from 1776-1782. I suspect that my duties may parallel his in many ways. Fortunately, however, I have much better technology at my disposal!

Allow me to begin by expressing my sincere appreciation for my immediate predecessor Ernie Coggins. As most of you know, Ernie did yeoman duty by stepping in on short notice and serving as Secretary for the better part of two years – above and beyond the call. Graciously, Ernie has also agreed to keep an eye on me and provide assistance as needed as we make the transition to new ownership, and I will certainly be taking him up on that offer.

January promises to be a busy month. High on my list will be getting to work on the compilation and distribution of an updated Membership Directory. Those of you who provided your contact information along with your dues renewal should be in good shape. We'll also be using other data bases and VASSAR/SAR sources to ensure we that we have the latest on everyone, but if you've had any changes to your address, phone number(s), and or e-mail addresses since the last Directory was published please do not hesitate to drop me a note at sargw.secretary@gmail.com.

As Secretary, I also serve as Chairman of the Public Relations Committee; among other members are the Editor of the Chapter Newsletter and the Webmaster. This Committee is responsible for preparing and distributing news of Chapter activities; informing Chapter members of SAR activities at all levels and encouraging participation in such activities; and publicizing the value of SAR membership. I'll return to this in a future column, but for now I encourage any members who are interested in assisting us in the pursuit of these worthy objectives to let me know.

In line with "informing Chapter members of upcoming activities" please be sure to mark your calendars for March 26, 2016 for the VASSAR Gold Good Citizenship Gala. The Gold Good Citizenship Medal is one of the most important medals awarded by the SAR. Authorized in 1954 (which happens to be the year of our Chapter's founding), this medal is awarded for outstanding and unusual patriotic achievement and service of national importance to persons of prominence on a national level. Each State may present a maximum of two such medals each year, and once again the George Washington Chapter is honored to host the VASSAR Gold Good Citizenship Gala at the Belle Haven Country Club in Alexandria, VA on Saturday evening, the 26th of March. More details to follow – including the identity of this year's awardee – but I can promise you that this will be an evening not to be missed!

Finally, for those of you who may find yourselves in South Carolina in mid-January, you may want to check in on the Commemoration of the Battle of Cowpens. January 17, 2016 marks the 235th anniversary of the decisive victory of Continental Army forces under Brigadier General Daniel Morgan over the British Army led by Colonel Banastre Tarleton. Cowpens was a turning point in the reconquest of South Carolina from British control.

Again, I am looking forward to serving all of you as Secretary. Please do not hesitate to provide me with your thoughts, suggestions and other feedback at sargw.secretary@gmail.com. Thank you in advance.

Jay Henn

Jay Henn, Secretary

P.S. Mostly as a thinly-veiled way to have an excuse to spend more time researching the Revolution and its aftermath, I am going to try to close each month with a contemporary quote from that month. For January, I offer two, because I couldn't decide between them:

> "Under all those disadvantages no men ever show more spirit or prudence than ours. In my opinion nothing but virtue has kept our army together through this campaign." – **John Brooks, leading drillmaster under Baron von Steuben and future Governor of Massachusetts, Letter to a Friend from Valley Forge, January 5, 1778.**

Source: westillholdthesetruths.org/quotes/category/american-revolution

> "All see, and most admire, the glare which hovers round the external trappings of elevated office. To me there is nothing in it, beyond the lustre which may be reflected from its connection with a power of promoting human felicity." – **George Washington**, **Letter to Catherine Macaulay Graham, January 9, 1790.**

Source: revolutionary-war-and-beyond.com/revolutionary-war-quotes.html

Editor's Report

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 rg62@live.com. I will do my best to include them in future issues.

Richard Gilliland

Richard Gilliland, Editor

Registrar's Report

Since the last Registrar's Report in December, four supplemental applications were approved by NSSAR. There are currently four new and two supplemental applications under review by NSSAR. There were two new member inductions during December.

New Member Applications Approved

APPLICANT	PATRIOT
None	

Supplemental Applications Approved

APPLICANT	PATRIOT
Isaac Gregory Bodge	Reuben Pound
Leyton Todd Pitzer	Anthony Shomo
Leyton Todd Pitzer	John Pitzer
Leyton Todd Pitzer	Thomas Lewis

New Member Applications Submitted

APPLICANT	PATRIOT
Christopher Famme	Jonathan Lovell
Joseph Famme	Jonathan Lovell

Supplemental Applications Submitted

APPLICANT	PATRIOT
None	

Dave Thomas

Registrar

January 2016 Speaker

Mary Lipsey was born in Atlanta and raised in Fairfax County. She received a B.A in History and Sociology from Mary Washington College and a Masters in Middle School Education from Virginia Tech. She taught seventh grade American History at Lake Braddock Secondary School for 29 years. Mary is a member of the Fairfax County History Commission. She has been a volunteer docent for the American History Museum of the Smithsonian since 1980 and for the National Archives since 2004. She is an active member and former president of the non profit organization Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Association, Inc. (FCCPA) whose goal is to preserve and protect family cemeteries in Fairfax County. She has recently published a non-fiction book entitled, *A Christmas Flight: Aviation Pioneer Dr. William Christmas.*

FCCPA Background and Mission

A spray painted grave marker at the Marshall family cemetery in Burke, Virginia spurred two county history commissioners and community members into action. In June 2008, a group organized to protect the cemetery. During the summer, a clean up was organized. Trees were cut; brush and trash were removed. Broken glass from beer bottles was painstakingly picked up. A thick layer of dirt and algae on the marker was removed with soft tooth brushes and distilled water. The spray paint will remain until a professional conservator can find a safe product to remove it. In October 2008, a dedication ceremony was held at the cemetery. Subsequently, the Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Association, Inc. was founded to protect the hundreds of other family cemeteries in the county.

Our purpose is to identify, document, preserve, protect, maintain and advocate for cemeteries in our county that are threatened by development, vandalism or neglect.

Also, the association will educate the community about the historical importance of cemeteries and how to survey and preserve cemeteries.

Treasurer's Transition Report

Compatriots:

I have been honored to serve as your Treasurer in 2015 and to be able to meet so many of you in person as the "check collector" at our monthly meetings. As of year end 2015, the chapter ended with 34 members who have not renewed. Four of these had passed in the past year. We ended the year at $1456.43 "in the black" which is good news. Belle Haven is increasing their lunch price by one dollar for 2016 but based on current income levels, that can be covered. The big unanticipated expense this year was the plaque we installed at St. Mary's Catholic Church Cemetery this December, but many of you graciously helped cover that expense. Overall, the chapter is in good fiscal health. I appreciate everyone's responsiveness to my pleas for dues and lunch payments. For those who may have been "dropped" for not submitting dues in time, it is never too late: simply contact one of the chapter officers and request that you be reinstated. There is no reinstatement fee: one just has to pay their 2016 dues.

Fraternally,

Paul Walden

Paul Walden, Outgoing Treasurer

New Member Biographies

Michael Paul Pillsbury

Compatriot Mike Pillsbury is a former government official and author of three books on China. In 2014, he was appointed Director of the Center on Chinese Strategy at the Hudson Institute in Washington, D.C. He earned a B.A. in History from Stanford University and a Ph.D. in political science from Columbia University.

During the Reagan administration, Compatriot Pillsbury was the Assistant Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Planning and responsible for implementation of the program of covert aid known as the *Reagan Doctrine*. Pillsbury served on the staff of four US Senate Committees from 1978–1984 and 1986–1991. In 1992, under President George H. W. Bush, Pillsbury was Special Assistant for Asian Affairs in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. In 2015, a former CIA Director revealed that a book called *The Hundred-Year Marathon,* "based on work Michael Pillsbury performed landed him the CIA Director's Exceptional Performance Award." The book was number one on the Washington Post nonfiction best sellers list in February 2015, and has been translated into Japanese, Chinese and Korean.

Compatriot Pillsbury was elected to Hereditary Membership in the Society of the Cincinnati, New Hampshire Chapter in the Right of Captain Joshua Trafton, of Colonel Henry Sherburne's Continental Regiment. Captain Joshua Trafton lived from May 25, 1743 to 1834.

Compatriot Pillsbury's SAR Membership is based on his direct descent from Patriot Ancestor Private Stephen Pilsbury, who was born in York, Maine in 1750 and died in Shapleigh, Maine in 1816, where his grave marker still stands. According to Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors documentation, Patriot Pilsbury enlisted on July 1, 1775, and served in the units of Captain John Baker and Colonel Sam Gerrish.

Robert Lee Fitton, II

Compatriot Robert Fitton was born and raised in Alexandria, Virginia. He received a B.B.A in Business Administration from James Madison University. He also received a Designation from The American Society of Real Estate Appraisers and has held a Virginia Real Estate License since 1980.

Robert is currently President & Owner of Monogram Homes, a local Homebuilder of high end quality homes and also works in the Sales and Marketing of Premier Homes and Estates in the Northern Virginia area.

He and his wife Liz have five children Robert Lee III, Elizabeth Alexandra, Taylor Ashby, Finleigh Paige, and Quintin Marshall, named after his second great grandmother's family name and his Patriot Ancestor.

Robert's membership in the Society is based in his descent from Patriot Richard Marshall, who during the Revolutionary War served as Sergeant in the 11th Regiment and then Corporal in Lee's Legion of Cavalry.

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.

Call for George Washington Articles

In February the Chapter will participate in the George Washington Birthday Celebration which culminates with the parade on February 15, 2016. As we have in previous years, we want to contribute short newspaper articles on topics relating to George Washington. These articles are to be published in the *Alexandria Gazette* in January and early February. The articles serve to publicize and heighten the spirit of the event.

Anyone willing to prepare articles for the *Gazette* or otherwise support the Chapter's participation in any way, contact Paul Walden at paulwalden@live.com.

January Dates in History

American Revolutionary War

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

January 3, 1777: American victory at Princeton.

January 1781: Series of mutinies by American troops quashed.

January 17, 1781: American victory at Cowpens.

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

Louis A. Beach Scholarship Essay

Contest Winners

Two students of the Saint Mary's Catholic School are winners of the George Washington Chapter's Louis A. Beach Scholarship award for their winning essays. Sondra Grace Shannon, a 4th grader, and Viana Schlapp, a 7th grader each won a $100 award and certificate from the chapter.

The scholarships and certificates were presented to the two winners on December 7th during the Saint Mary's Cemetery Patriot Grave Marker Dedication. Following the award presentation, each student gave a reading of their essay to the audience. Miss Jacklin McKinless and Mr. Edward Caughlan of the school shepherded the essay contest and the writing of the patriot biographies read by other students during the ceremony.

The Louis A. Beach Scholarship is awarded periodically by the George Washington Chapter of the Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution in grateful memory of their former President and friend Louis A Beach. He was President of the George Washington Chapter for the period 1999-2000.

Louis A. Beach was a decorated veteran of World War II. He earned a Ph.D. in Nuclear Physics from Indiana University, and worked for thirty-six years at the Naval Research Laboratory. He was involved with test firings of the V-2 rockets at White Sands Proving Grounds, nuclear testing at Bikini Atoll, and developing critical aspects of the United States' nuclear deterrence capability.

The American Revolution: Pathway to Religious Freedom

by Sondra Grace Shannon, 4th Grade Student, St. Mary's Catholic School

What is freedom of religion? I believe that when we talk about religious freedom, we are really talking about three important virtues.

First, we need to cover "respectfulness" to all human beings, our parents, teachers, family, and friends. Next, we need to cover "courage", because without courage we would not be able to stand up for what we believe in. Lastly, we will cover "free will" and the importance of this God-given right – Do you notice the word "free" in "freewill"? That means that we can practice or learn the religion we choose. George Washington told the world what religious freedom really meant at the time of the American Revolution. George Washington wrote a letter to a group of Jewish people in Newport, Rhode Island to talk about religious freedom and tell them he cared about what they believed in. He thought it was important and promised to do anything he could to help them stand up for what they believed in.

Respectfulness is a wonderful virtue! I personally respect people even if they don't respect me. You should always respect others even if they don't learn or practice the same religion as you. I wouldn't want people to judge my religion, would you?! It is clear that we need to respect all aspects of life otherwise no one will be happy. Respectfulness is the key to happiness and love.

Did you know that George Washington had a lot of courage? Courage is standing up for what you believe in. If you want to believe in what you believe in, then you should pray for courage. George Washington had the courage to make speeches and talk to people who were against his ideas. Having courage is important to leaders, public speakers, also to students who try new things.

Free will is being able to believe in our own religion. People should be free to practice and celebrate what they want. God gave us free will to make our own choices that hopefully lead us closer to heaven. I think it is important for people to believe in what religion that they choices. If people are forced to believe in one God, it is not free will. Everyone should be able to celebrate their own religious holidays. People should not be judged by what they believe in or how they worship.

Do you see why freedom of religion is important and has played an important role in our history? Respectfulness, courage and free will are all virtues that George Washington practiced during the American Revolution and we should all live by to live a happy life full of love and faith.

Growing the seeds of religious liberty

by Viana Schlapp, 7th Grade Student, St. Mary's Catholic School

Many lives have been lost fighting for religious freedoms throughout America's history. Our ancestors crossed the oceans and left their native lands to flee religious persecution. They found new hope in a new land, where they could worship freely. My grandfather is one of those freedom fighters who left his homeland of Cuba to flee communism and religious persecution.

Our founding fathers built our nation on the solid foundation of freedom of speech and the ability to practice our religions. In the historic St. Mary's cemetery by my school, the tombstones of five patriots from the revolutionary war are a reminder to us to never take our religious liberties for granted. They helped plant the seeds of religious liberties in our young nation.

The courage and strength of these patriots who lost their lives fighting in the revolutionary war reminds me of my grandfather Jose Viana. My grandfather fought for freedom in the communist country of Cuba under the dictator Fidel Castro. Cuba is a nation where individuals are not allowed to openly practice their faith and do not have freedom of speech. My grandfather was thrown into jail and tortured because he stood up for freedom and religion in his country. His persecution is one of the many stories of those Christians who suffer for their faith. He is a constant reminder to me that I have a duty to protect our freedoms in America and defend my Catholic faith, which is so important in our lives.

I am grateful for those who came before me and defended our liberties and built a nation where we can all express our opinions and beliefs. I hope to become a positive and strong leader committed to serving the American people and like my grandfather, standing up for my religious freedoms.

As people of faith, being able to practice our religion freely is what makes America a great nation. Our faith is what bonds us and makes us one. We are a community that attends church, prays and loves God and each other. It is our faith that gets us through difficult times. Today our religious liberties are threatened, and across the world many Christians are being persecuted and killed daily because of their faith. I can imagine the faces of the men, women, and children who live in constant fear and leave their homes at any sign of danger. All they want is the ability to live freely and practice their faith openly.

Our first president George Washington said "Liberty, when. it begins to take root, is a plant of rapid growth." I can only hope that liberty expands across the world where individuals have an opportunity to freely worship and live their lives to the fullest.

George Washington Quotes:

"We should not look back unless it is to derive useful lessons from past errors, and for the purpose of profiting by dearly bought experience."

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

Did You Know?

James Wilson (1742-1798)

Highest Political Office: Associate Justice, United States Supreme Court

Other Accomplishments: Member, Continental Congress (1775-1777; 1782; 1783; 1785-1787); Signer of the Declaration of Independence; First Professor of Law at Philadelphia College (1790).

James Wilson was an early supporter of the American Revolution and gained much notoriety with the publication of his "Considerations on the Nature and Extent of the Legislative Authority of the British Parliament". However, he became very conservative in his later years and was the target of public indignation. He was born in Scotland, came to New York during the time of the Stamp Act (1765), and eventually studied law under John Dickinson in Pennsylvania. He eventually became the first professor of law at the University of Pennsylvania in 1791.

It was said of James Wilson that "when Wilson speaks, he wastes no time and considers no man's feelings."

His Politics: He emerged as a political leader after the American Revolutionary War, and as a member of the Congress of the Confederation (1783; 1785-1786) under the Articles of Confederation was strongly in favor of an amendment to permit the government the power to tax.

He was a strong supporter of a republican form of government in which the people choose the representatives in government, and was in favor of the "power" of the people during a time period when many of the political visionaries did not believe in democracy. The democracy that we know today did not really take shape until the 1820's with the advent of Andrew Jackson. Wilson felt that people and their individual rights took priority over those of property rights, and was opposed to slavery. He also believed in the concept of "federalism" in which there was a division of power between the states and national government. However, the final authority ultimately went to the central government. At the Constitutional Convention he was a leader of the many floor debates and a member of the committee chosen to draft the Constitution. He then led the fight for ratification in Pennsylvania, which became the second state to approve the new Constitution.

Closest Crony Among the Founding Fathers: John Rutledge

What He Said: "The government ought to possess not only first the force but secondly the mind or sense of the people at large. The legislature ought to be the most exact transcript of the whole society."

"Why should a national government be unpopular? Will a citizen of Delaware be degraded by becoming a citizen of the United States?"

"Federal liberty is to states what civil liberty is to individuals ... I do not see the danger of the states being devoured by the national government." On the contrary, I wish to keep them from devouring the national government."

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Source: constitutionfacts.com/us-founding-fathers/about-the-founding-fathers/

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.*

Highlights of the Joint Chapters Meeting

Top Left: Virginia Society President Reverdy Wright installs the 2016 George Washington Chapter Officers: Greg Bodge, President; Paul Walden, Vice President; Jay Henn, Secretary; and Ernie Coggins, Treasurer.

Top Right: Vice President Greg Bodge presents Virginia Society President Reverdy Wright with the Houdon bust of George Washington traditionally given to the Chapter's speakers.

Center Left: New member Mike Pillsbury is pinned by his wife Susan.

Center Right: (L-R) Chapter President Dwight Whitney, Susan Pillsbury, Mike Pillsbury, VASSAR President Reverdy Wright, Robert Fitton, Bob Fitton, and Registrar Dave Thompson.

Bottom Left: New member Robert Fitton is pinned by his father, Compatriot Bob Fitton.

Bottom Right: President Gene Thomas of the George Mason Chapter and President Dwight Whitney of the George Washington prepare to convene their joint meeting for the installation of their 2016 officers.

Highlights of the Joint Chapters Meeting (*continued*)

Left: 2015 President Dwight Whitney completes the installation of 2016 President Greg Bodge by formally investing him with the symbol of his office.

Center: President Dwight Whitney presents Audit Committee Chairman John Brigden with a Certification of Appreciation.

Top Right: Incoming President Greg Bodge presents outgoing President Dwight Whitney with his Past Chapter President's Pin and Certificate.

Bottom Right: President Dwight Whitney presents his wife, Ann Carr Whitney, with the Lydia Darragh Medal. This medal is given by a chapter president to a lady who has been instrumental to his success during his presidency.

Other December Highlights

Left: Paul Walden, Treasurer of the George Washington Chapter, prepares to lay the Chapter's wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the American Revolution in the Old Presbyterian Meeting House Cemetery in Alexandria. The service was hosted December 5th by the Saint Andrew's Society of Washington during the Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend in Alexandria.

Right:. Paul Walden, Treasurer of the George Washington Chapter, stands beside the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the American Revolution in the Old Presbyterian Meeting House Cemetery. Other members in attendance were Vern McHargue, Jay Franklin, and Ernie Coggins.

240th Commemoration of the Battle of Great Bridge

December 5, 2015, Great Bridge Battlefield & Waterways Park

Left: Virginia SAR President Dr. Reverdy Wright speaks at the Great Bridge Ceremony.

Center: Vice President General Mike Elston, who represented the President General at the ceremony, speaks about the importance of the battle and the role of today's patriots.

Top Right: Compatriots attending the Great Bridge Ceremonies on December 5th were (L-R) Tom Roth, Greg Bodge and his son, Mike Elston, and Richard Rogers.

Bottom Right: Chapter Vice President Greg Bodge presents the wreath.

Saint Mary's Plaque Dedication Ceremony

Top Left: The procession to the cemetery led by the SAR color guard

Top Right: Members of the SAR, DAR, and C.A.R. pose with Reverend Hathaway

Bottom Left: Posing with the chapter's gift to the school are (L-R) former President General Joe Dooley, St. Mary's Catholic School Principal Janet Cantwell, President Whitney, and VASSAR 2nd Vice President Mike Elston

Bottom Right: The plaque honoring Revolutionary War patriots buried at the cemetery

Honoring Patriots Buried at St. Mary's Catholic Church Cemetery

The George Washington Chapter teamed with the Saint Mary's Catholic Church and the Saint Mary's Catholic School to honor five patriots known to be buried at Saint Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Alexandria. On December 7th, a ceremony was held to dedicate a memorial plaque at the cemetery. In addition to the names of the five patriots, the plaque describes the early history of the church and cemetery.

The ceremony began with a procession from the school to the cemetery led by color guardsmen Dwight Whitney and Bill Schwetke. The ceremony was conducted at the site of the plaque in the cemetery. The program included the reading of biographies of the five patriots prepared and read by students of the school. Wreaths were presented by the following: Paul Walden, Chapter Treasurer; Bill Schwetke, President of the Culpeper Minutemen VASSAR; Claire Bennett, Kate Waller Barrett Chapter DAR; Cat Schwetke, Fauquier Court House Chapter DAR; and Eugenia McGroarty, Providence Society. Reverend Edward C. Hathaway, pastor of the church, gave the plaque dedication and blessing.

Greetings from Virginia Society SAR were brought by 2nd Vice President Mike Elston. Joe Dooley, the former President General of the National Society SAR (2013-2014) and an associate member of the George Washington Chapter, also gave greetings. Greetings were also brought by Claire Bennett on behalf of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and Elizabeth Bays, Senior Society President of the Col. William Grayson Society of the Children of the American Revolution. The SAR Recessional was led by Compatriot Covert Beach, son of Louis A. Beach, and Reverend Hathaway gave the benediction.

Honoring Patriots Buried at St. Mary's Catholic Church Cemetery

(Continued)

The ceremony was preceded with the presentation of a gift from the chapter to the school in the form of a framed portrait of George Washington. President Whitney presented the portrait to the school's principal, Janet Cantwell, in front of other members of the chapter.

Congratulations to chapter Past President Russ Shearer (2005-2006) who conceived the project and coordinated the approvals and participation by the church and school, and to Jamie Callender, Chairman of the Graves Registration Committee. Dick Kusserow and Dwight Whitney contributed research and support to the project over the years. Financial support for the project was provided by a $1600 grant from the George Knight/Kenneth C. Patty Memorial Trust Fund of the Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution, a $100 donation from Gadsby's Tavern Museum Society, and donations from members of the George Washington Chapter.

Law Enforcement Commendation Medals Awarded to Two Alexandria Police Officers

President Dwight Whitney, Secretary Ernie Coggins, Awards Committee Chairman Jack Pitzer and Public Safety Awards Coordinator John Blair went to the Alexandria Police Department on December 7th to present the SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Medal to two members of the police force, Deputy Chief Eddie Reyes and Officer Jonattan Lopez. These officers were recognized for outstanding service to the police force and their community in front of Chief Earl Cook and about a dozen of their colleagues and Officer Lopez's wife and baby. Chief Cook expressed his gratitude to the SAR for recognizing these fine officers and providing a boost to the moral of the department.

Above: (L-R) President Whitney, Alexandria Police Chief Earl Cook, Deputy Chief Eddie Eddie Reyes, Officer Jonattan Lopez, John Blair and Jack Pitzer

2016 Chapter Meeting Dates and Other Known Events

January 09 – Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia.*
January 16 – Commemoration **Battle of Cowpens**, Cowpens National Battlefield, Gaffney, South Carolina10:00-11:30 a.m. *†*
February 13 – Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia.*
February 13 – Commemoration **Crossing of the Dan**, South Boston, Virginia 10:00 a.m.-2 p.m. *†*
February 15 – **Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the Revolution**, Old Presbyterian Meeting House, 321 South Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia 11:00 a.m.- 12 noon. *‡*
February 15 – **George Washington's Birthday Parade**, Alexandria, Virginia. 1:00-3:00 p.m.*
February 19-20 – **VASSAR Annual Meeting**, Richmond, Virginia. *†*
February 25-27 – **Spring Leadership Meeting**, Louisville, Kentucky. *†*
March 12-13 – Commemoration **Battle of Guilford Courthouse**, Greensboro, North Carolina. *†*
March 26 – **VASSAR Gold Good Citizenship Medal Award Gala**, Belle Haven County Club, Alexandria, Virginia.**
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 January 2016**

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

It is requested 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 06 January 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" ***and then with 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 January 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 with a cash bar. The meeting will be called to order at 12:00 noon and is typically concluded by 2:30. Valet parking is available.