George Washington Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution
-Newsletter-

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Volume 18, Issue 3 ***March 2017***

127th VASSAR Annual Conference: the George Washington Chapter Received VASSAR Recognition for 2016 Activities

Pictured Left to Right: Dwight Whitney, GWSAR Color Guard Commander; Ernie Coggins, GWSAR Vice-President; Mike Elston, VASSAR President; Jamie Callender, GWSAR Webmaster; Tom Roth, GWSAR & VASSAR Historian; Paul Walden, GWSAR President; Greg Bodge, GWSAR Past-President (2016); Richard Sherman, GWSAR Youth Programs; Covert Beach, GWSAR Sargent-at-Arms; Jay Henn, GWSAR Treasurer; Dave Thomas, GWSAR Secretary & VASSAR Registrar.

During the 127th VASSAR Annual Meeting in Richmond, VA on February 11th, the George Washington Chapter was recognized for its activities, programs and participation in VASSAR sponsored events and achieving identified VASSAR Presidential goals during 2016. The George Washington Chapter was honored to receive the following 11 Chapter streamers and recognition awards: ***The Chapter Excellence Award***; for participating in the ***Revolutionary War Monument Dedication at Petersburg, Virginia***; presentation of ***War/Military Service Medals***; performing ***Outreach and Fundraising Initiatives***; participation in the ***Flag Program***; contributor to the ***American Revolution Museum at Yorktown, Virginia***; for ***Sustained Achievement Revolutionary Grave Markings 2013 -16***; ***History Day*** support; ***VASSAR Hero of the Year***; ***VASSAR Emergency Services Award***; and ***VASSAR award for Best Newsletter Editor (Jennings Flathers Award)***.

Also, prior to the awards ceremony the Chapter conducted its February Meeting with 15 members in attendance.

Upcoming Chapter Meetings

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

April 08—Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia.

May 13—Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia.

Chapter Events Information

June 17—The George Washington Chapter will be dedicating a plaque listing those who served from Fairfax County, or died in the county while serving on the American Revolution. The plaque will be placed on the front lawn of the historic Fairfax County courthouse on the 275th anniversary of the founding of Fairfax County.

April 15—*Annual Graves' Mountain Lodge Multi-Chapter Meeting* Chapter members are welcome to attend the Annual Graves' Mountain Lodge Multi-Chapter Meeting, hosted by the Culpeper Minutemen Chapter, to be held Saturday, April 15, 2017, from 11:00 AM to 2:30 PM. Social time begins at 11:00 AM in the downstairs lounge (new), the meeting starts at 11:45, and we will break for lunch "family style" at about 12:15. Our distinguished guest will be Virginia SAR President Mike Elston and the master of ceremonies will be Edmund Davidson, President of the General Daniel Morgan Chapter.

President's Corner

My fellow compatriots:

Thanks to everyone who journeyed to Richmond in February for the VASSAR Annual Conference. I counted 14 from our chapter (80 Americanism points earned with bonus points for one member in uniform!). Our chapter was honored to have our compatriot Michael Elston elected as the eleventh chapter member elected as VASSAR President. We are also well represented at the state level with David Thomas elected as Registrar and Tom Roth as Historian. I was really proud with the number of streamers our chapter earned, 11 total, all thanks to your support and contributions. We were also honored that our nominees for the Public Safety Award and Heroism Award were given awards at the state level. I thus want to thank Compatriot John Blair for his hard work in recognizing these first responders.

President Elston delivered in his installation speech a "Call to Arms," and I encourage everyone to read the document posted on our website. One event that our chapter will have the lead on is the placement of a plaque commemorating the patriots of the American Revolution and War of 1812 buried at Pohick Church in Lorton, which as most of you know, was the parish church of George Washington and George Mason. Also, our recently inducted compatriot, Dr. Donald Binder, is the current rector at Pohick.

I was glad to see 22 compatriots at the George Washington Birthday parade on February 20. Of course, having spring-like weather helped. Thanks especially to Compatriots Coggins and Reynolds for being chauffeurs. Earlier that day, we participated in a moving ceremony when we laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary Soldier at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House. I was glad to see participation from the Colonel James Wood II and Colonel William Grayson Chapters. The George Washington Birthday events are very visible activities that our chapter participates in, and it really helps raise awareness of our society.

Borrowing on President Elston's "Call to Arms" theme, I am also issuing a "call to arms" for our chapter. I am very grateful that we have two compatriots who have expressed an interest in taking on the office of Chapter Registrar and Assistant Registrar. This is one of the most critical offices in our chapter, as I have explained in previous newsletters. However, I am calling on compatriots to volunteer to assist in our Youth Programs and newsletter. So, if you have any contacts with the local school system, or have a burning desire and interest in publications, please contact me.

As a reminder, please keep me posted of any SAR event you participate in, such as a grave markings, so that we can keep a tally of our Americanism points. We are fortunate to have some members who live out of state and who thus can participate in events sponsored by other state societies. In fact, I am travelling to North Carolina the weekend of February 25 to represent our chapter at the commemoration of the Battle of Moore's Creek, which is considered the first patriot victory during the War for Independence. I am proud that I am a descendant of two patriots who fought in this battle. Of course, I am working on supplemental applications for these two.

Thank you again for your support of our chapter. As always, if you have any suggestions on how we can further the mission of the SAR, please let me know.

Fraternally,

Paul Walden

President, GWSAR

Treasury Notes

Once again this year our Chapter is supporting a variety of educational and historical programs, including recognizing deserving first responders with Public Safety Awards, maintaining a robust Youth Awards Program in support of one of our President General's 2016-2017 priorities, and honoring our Patriot ancestors by marking the hallowed ground where they rest.

One of our major grave marking activities for 2017 is the design, fabrication, and installation of a bronze plaque recognizing the men from Fairfax County who served and died during the Revolutionary War years. This plaque will be installed in front of the Old Fairfax County Courthouse on June 17, 2017 during the celebration of the 275th anniversary of Fairfax County.

Extraordinary efforts such as this one require extraordinary support from our Chapter members. I am delighted to announce that the Chapter received a grant of $1,000 from the George Knight/Kenneth G. Patty Memorial Trust Fund of the Virginia Sons of the American Revolution to support the Fairfax County Revolutionary War Memorial. That generous grant, however, will only cover about half of the cost of the plaque itself.

Compatriots who wish to help defray some of the remaining cost may send their donations to me at 16920 Chapel Hill Court, Woodbridge, VA 22191. Please make checks payable to "George Washington Chapter VASSAR". Anyone who donates $500 or more will be specifically recognized as a major donor, along with the Knight/Patty fund, during the dedication of the Memorial in June. All contributors will receive acknowledgement of their donation for tax purposes.

Thank you for supporting this rare opportunity to honor our Patriot ancestors with a lasting, highly visible public Memorial.

Jay M. Henn

Treasurer

Ten facts about George Washington and the Revolutionary War (second of ten installments)

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...

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, 1 new member, 1 junior member, and 1 supplemental applications were approved by NSSAR. There are currently 5 new member, 2 supplemental, and 1 memorial applications under review by NSSAR. There were no new member inductions performed during the February Chapter meeting.

New Member Application Approved

APPLICANT	PATRIOT
Justin Charles Legg	David Bright

Supplemental Applicatio Approved

APPLICANT	PATRIOT
Michael Patrick Kane	Christian Stutzman

Junior Membership Approved

APPLICANT	PATRIOT
Luc Antoine Chevalier	Shadrack Pinkston

New Member Applications Submitted

APPLICANT	PATRIOT
Andrew Michael Danas	Matthew French
Charles Scott Ray	William Fisher

Supplemental Applications Submitted

APPLICANT	PATRIOT
None	

Dave Thomas

GWSAR Registrar

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: 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.

Step Up Now for Chapter Leadership Opportunities in 2017

Chapter President Paul Walden 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 paulwalden@live.com or call him at (703) 347-9770 .

We are looking for an **Assistant Newsletter Editor**. In this position, you will be responsible for working with the officers to prepare the newsletter and forward it 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 remain the editor and will be available for training.

All 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 Paul Walden 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)

Sons of the American Revolution

Lapel Pins for Sale

The George Washington Chapter still has some 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, President, at the next chapter meeting if you wish to buy one of these pins and support the chapter and the Foundation.

Samuel Barge Wins 2nd Place in *Joseph S. Rumbaugh Oration Contest* at VASSAR Annual Conference

Samuel Barge, who won the chapter runoff in January, placed 2nd in a very close contest among five orators at the VASSAR competition on February 11. Samuel is a home-schooled student from Woodbridge. Among his activities are NCFCA competitive speech and debate, 4-H, soccer, Trail Life USA, Generation Joshua civics club, and his church youth group. His notable accomplishments include earning the Presidential Volunteer Service Gold Award three years in a row, winning 6th place in persuasive speaking at the NCFCA National Speech tournament, achieving the 4-H All-Star award which will be awarded this summer, and serving as a camp counselor for the last 3 summers. He is also working towards earning his final rank of Freedom Trailman in Trail Life USA (the equivalent of the Eagle Scout rank). Most importantly, he has been accepted by the US Naval Academy. There, Samuel plans to study Defense Intelligence or International Policy and eventually serve as a career Intelligence Officer with the United States Marine Corps.

The George Washington Chapter is proud to have supported him and we wish him the best in his endeavors.

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

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.*

March Speaker

Rev. Thomas A. Costa, D. Div.

(Portraying Reverend Lee Massey, Colonial Rector of Pohick Church)

Tom has been involved as a church historian, school chaplain, writer, and lecturer since the beginning of his ministry work in California. After moving to Virginia in 2003, he began research on a historic Anglican liturgy project from the colonial and Victorian periods as a way to provide a method of evangelism using educational and dramatic approaches. The outreach concept was to discover a way to reach people who might be uncomfortable with anything labeled "church," but who might have an interest in a historical lecture or program, such as Anglican Sunday worship at the time of George Washington.

He assisted in planning and participating in two historic Anglican liturgies using the 1604 Book of Common Prayer for the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown, VA, in conjunction with the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities at the Jamestown Memorial Church in Historic Jamestown. He has been involved in several colonial living history programs in Virginia and Maryland portraying historical Anglican ministers, has conducted colonial church services at Mount Vernon and Gunston Hall, and has also planned and conducted 19th-century church services using the 1845 version of the Protestant Episcopal Prayer Book for Victorian and Civil War-related events for the Prince William County Historic Preservation Division.

Tom is a member of the Historic Pohick Church Docent Guild, the Gunston Hall Historical Interpreters Society, the Historic Faith Ministries of Prince William County, and the Victorian Society of Falls Church. He and his wife Susan live in the Kingstowne area of Alexandria, and are parishioners of Pohick Episcopal Church where Susan serves as church secretary.

February Highlights

Above—Ernie Coggins presented with Meritorious Service Medal by VASSAR President Elston, 11 Feb 2017

Above—Michael Elston is sworn in as VASSAR President by President General Tomme at VASSAR Annual, 11 Feb 2017

Left—Past VASSAR and Chapter President, and current Chapter Chaplain, Don Reynolds, gives the invocation at the VASSAR Annual

Below-Chapter Meeting at Omni Hotel, 11 Feb 2017

February Highlights

Wreath Laying at Tomb of Unknown Revolutionary War Soldier, Old Presbyterian Meeting House, Alexandria, VA, 20 Feb 2017

Above: Chapter President Paul Walden presents wreath

Below: Accompanied by the VASSAR Color Guard, Rev. Tom Costa delivers the invocation

February Highlights (continued)

George Washington Birthday Parade, Alexandria, VA, 20 Feb 2017

Above: Chapter banner bearers (left to right), Charles Flinn, Jay Henn, and Dave Thomas

Below: SAR and CAR Members in the George Washington Birthday parade

February Highlights (continued)

George Washington Birthday Parade, Alexandria, VA, 20 Feb 2017

Above: Front car, Alexandra Slaughter, VA President CAR; Rear Car, Michael Elston, VASSAR President

Below: President Wilson visits with the chapter parade contingent

Other February Events (continued)

SFC Donald Francisco Recognized by George Washington Chapter

On February 17, SFC (Ret) Donald Francisco was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for his fife performance at our Veteran's Day ceremony at General Washington's tomb last November, when he played a series of patriotic songs on his fife and led us in the singing of the National Anthem. Additionally, he was presented by Kevin Kline, Chapter Flag Chair, with a Flag Certificate for flying the United States flag at his residence. We were honored to have Curt Viebranz, President of Mount Vernon, to attend the presentation ceremony as well. SFC Francisco is retired from 22 years of service in the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps, 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard). You will often hear his performances at Mount Vernon now.

Photo: left to right- Mrs. Curt Viebranz, Paul Walden, Curt Viebranz, SFC Francisco, Kevin Kline, and Dave Thomas (Compatriot Ernie Coggins was on the other side of the camera)

Wreath Laying-Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge, North Carolina

Paul Walden represented the chapter at the Commemoration of the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge on February 25. A total of thirty nine SAR, DAR, CAR and other societies presented wreaths at this event, which due to the spring-like weather, attracted a large crowd. In addition to the wreath laying event, the day also included battle re-enactments, musical performances by bagpipe and fife and drum corps, and guided tours of the battle site. As part of this commemoration, the Lower Cape Fear Chapter hosted a dinner the previous evening at the Cape Fear Country Club, where President General Tomme and his wife gave an interesting presentation---in period attire--- on life in the eighteenth century.

The Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge was a battle of the American Revolutionary War fought near Wilmington in present-day Pender County, North Carolina on February 27, 1776. The victory of North Carolina Revolutionary forces over Southern Loyalists helped build political support for the revolution and increased recruitment of additional soldiers into their forces.

Loyalist recruitment efforts in the interior of North Carolina began in earnest with news of the Battles of Lexington and Concord, and Patriots in the province also began organizing Continental Army and militia units. When word arrived in January 1776 of a planned British Army expedition to the area, Josiah Martin, the royal governor, ordered the Loyalist militia to muster in anticipation of their arrival. Revolutionary militia and Continental units mobilized to prevent the junction, blockading several routes until the poorly armed Loyalists were forced to confront them at Moore's Creek Bridge, about 18 miles north of Wilmington.

In a brief early-morning engagement, a charge across the bridge by sword-wielding Loyalist Scotsmen was met by a barrage of musket fire. One Loyalist leader was killed, another captured, and the whole force was scattered. In the following days, many Loyalists were arrested, putting a damper on further recruiting efforts. North Carolina was not militarily threatened again until 1780, and memories of the battle and its aftermath negated efforts by Charles Cornwallis to recruit Loyalists in the area in 1781.

Pictured above (left to right): Steve Pittard, Le Marquis de Lafayette Chapter, NCCSAR, and Paul Walden, at the Moore's Creek Bridge monument

VASSAR Recognizes Prince William County First Responders

At the Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution (VASSAR) annual conference in Richmond on February 11, 2017, four members of the Prince William County Fire and Rescue Department were recognized with VASSAR Public Safety Awards.

Technician II Shawn Bliss received the *VASSAR Heroism Award*. On June ^{0}, 6459 Technician Bliss, while off duty, entered the rain swollen Shenandoah River in order to assess occupants of an overturned canoe for injuries. One of the occupants was a young boy who wanted to cross back to the other side with Shawn Bliss. Shawn was hanging onto the shoulder strap of the boy's life jacket while walking behind him. The boy lost his footing and slipped into the water. Both were swept into the river and drawn into the rapids. Shawn maintained his hold and both of them made it through the rapids safely. The boy's mother stated, "There was a minute that as a mother, I thought I would not go home with my son; that was the worst feeling of my life". As a result of his actions that day, Technician Bliss was awarded the Prince William County Valor Award.

Lt. Daniel Acosta, Technician II Jeffrey Chapman, and Technician II Sean Trainum, of Medic 511, received the *VASSAR Emergency Medical Services Award*. On December 5, 6459, Medic 955 was dispatched for a domestic disturbance. The crew arrived to find a male that had been stabbed multiple times in the back along with defensive wounds on the forearms. The victim was already experiencing signs of shock. The victim also had a collapsed lung which required a Needle Chest Decompression. This is an intervention that is rarely performed. For example, out of 50,000 incidents this intervention is only performed 3 times. Blood pressure was improved by pressure infusing fluids and medication. Because of the fog that night, Medivac helicopter was not an option. As a result, Medic 511's crew transported the patient 21 miles to INOVA Fairfax. The receiving physician stated the interventions saved the patient’s life.

These four first responders were recognized for their service at a ceremony by the George Washington Chapter and VASSAR in Alexandria, Virginia on August 9, 2016 and were nominated for these awards at the state level.

Above—Presentation of the VASSAR Heroism Award - Ed Truslow, VASSAR President, Mike Elston, VASSAR - President Elect & Paul Walden, President George Washington Chapter

Stamp Act of 1765

The Stamp Act of 1765 was an Act of the Parliament of Great Britain, passed on March 22, 1765, that imposed a direct tax on the colonies of British America and required that many printed materials in the colonies be produced on stamped paper produced in London, carrying an embossed revenue stamp. Printed materials included legal documents, magazines, playing cards, newspapers, and many other types of paper used throughout the colonies. Like previous taxes, the stamp tax had to be paid in valid British currency, not in colonial paper money. The purpose of the tax was to help pay for troops stationed in North America after the British victory in the Seven Years' War and its North American theater of the French and Indian War. The Americans said that there was no military need for the soldiers because there were no foreign enemies on the continent, and the Americans had always protected themselves against Indians. They suggested that it was actually a matter of British patronage to surplus British officers and career soldiers who should be paid by London.

The Stamp Act was very unpopular among colonists. A consensus considered it a violation of their rights as Englishmen to be taxed without their consent—consent that only the colonial legislatures could grant. Their slogan was "No taxation without representation." Colonial assemblies sent petitions and protests. The Stamp Act Congress held in New York City was the first significant joint colonial response to any British measure; it petitioned Parliament and the King. Local protest groups led by colonial merchants and landowners established connections through Committees of Correspondence, creating a loose coalition that extended from New England to Maryland. Protests and demonstrations initiated by a new secret organization called the Sons of Liberty often turned violent and destructive as the masses became involved. Very soon, all stamp tax distributors were intimidated into resigning their commissions, and the tax was never effectively collected.

Opposition to the Stamp Act was not limited to the colonies. British merchants and manufacturers, whose exports to the colonies were threatened by colonial boycotts, pressured Parliament. The Act was repealed on March 18, 1766 as a matter of expedience, but Parliament affirmed its power to legislate for the colonies "in all cases whatsoever" by also passing the Declaratory Act. There followed a series of new taxes and regulations, likewise opposed by the colonists.

The episode played a major role in defining the grievances that were clearly stated within the text of the Indictment of George III section of the Declaration of Independence, and enabling the organized colonial resistance that led to the American Revolution in 1775.

Repeal

Grenville was replaced by Lord Rockingham as Prime Minister on July 10, 1765. News of the mob violence began to reach England in October. Conflicting sentiments were taking hold in Britain at the same time that resistance was building and accelerating in America. Some wanted to strictly enforce the Stamp Act over colonial resistance, wary of the precedent that would be set by backing down. Others felt the economic effects of reduced trade with America after the Sugar Act and an inability to collect debts while the colonial economy suffered, and they began to lobby for a repeal of the Stamp Act. A significant part of colonial protest had included various non-importation agreements among merchants who recognized that a significant portion of British industry and commerce was dependent on the colonial market. This movement had spread through the colonies with a significant base coming from New York City, where 200 merchants had met and agreed to import nothing from England until the Stamp Act was repealed.

On February 21, a resolution to repeal the Stamp Act was introduced and passed by a vote of 276–168. The

Above: This cartoon depicts the repeal of the Stamp Act as a funeral, with Grenville carrying a child's coffin marked "born 1765, died 1766".

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stamp_Act_1765

King gave royal assent on March 18, 1766.

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

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

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

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

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

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!

2017 Chapter Meeting Dates and Other Known Events

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

March 18 – Battle of Guilford Courthouse. Commemorating the 236th Anniversary Observance of this important battle during the Revolutionary War. The North Carolina Society, Sons of the American Revolution will host the event from 10 am to 2 pm at the Guilford Courthouse National Military Park. For more information go to http://www.ncssar.org/event/battle-guilford-courthouse/2017-03-18/ *

April 08—Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia.*

April 15—*Annual Graves' Mountain Lodge Multi-Chapter Meeting* Chapter members are welcome to attend the Annual Graves' Mountain Lodge Multi-Chapter Meeting, hosted by the Culpeper Minutemen Chapter, to be held Saturday, April 15, 2017, from 11:00 AM to 2:30 PM. Social time begins at 11:00 AM in the downstairs lounge (new), the meeting starts at 11:45, and we will break for lunch "family style" at about 12:15. Our distinguished guest will be Virginia SAR President Mike Elston and the master of ceremonies will be Edmund Davidson, President of the General Daniel Morgan Chapter. *

May 13—Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia.*

June 17—The George Washington Chapter will be dedicating a plaque listing those who served from Fairfax County, or died in the county while serving on the American Revolution. The plaque will be placed on the front lawn of the historic Fairfax County courthouse on the 275th anniversary of the founding of Fairfax County. *

Sept 9—Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia.*

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

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

Dec 9—Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Mount Vernon Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia.*

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.