George Washington Chapter

Sons of the American Revolution

Newsletter

Visit us online at www.gwsar.org

Volume 19, Issue 4 ***April 2018***

March GW Chapter Meeting

Ed Lengel, Ph.D. – Chief Historian of the White House Historical Association, spoke to the chapter about the subject of his new book, ***First Entrepreneur: How George Washington Built His – and the Nation's – Prosperity.***

Chapter Vice-President – Dave Thomas – moderated a question and answer session following Dr. Lengel's talk and presented a small Houdon bust of George Washington to the speaker.

by George . . .

In Dr. Lengel's book there are two extraordinary sentences that further show Washington as one of the great Founding Fathers of this country.

"On December 12, 1776, confessedly unable to cope with the crisis, Congress granted the commander in chief substantial short-term powers to manage national affairs in its absence. The body then dissolved. For the next few months, Washington would essentially run the country on his own."

President's Corner

Compatriots:
At our March meeting, we were honored to have Ed Lengel, PhD, Chief Historian of the White House Historical Association speak to us on his most recent book, *First Entrepreneur: How George Washington Built His – and the Nation's – Prosperity*. Dr. Lengel's discussion of Washington the Entrepreneur is quite unique, and his presentation to the Chapter was outstanding. We were pleased to induct Nicolas L. Martinez, and, Nic, we welcome you into the George Washington Chapter and the SAR. Major Martinez, United States Marine Corps, was born and raised in Dallas, Texas, is a 2005 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, and is married and the father of two children.

Our Flag Chairman, Paul Walden, presented Pete Farley with a Flag Certificate. We were pleased to recognize Richard Gilliland, our former Newsletter Editor, and present him with the Virginia Society's Award for the "Newsletter Editor of the Year".

On Friday, 16 March, John Blair laid a wreath on behalf of the Chapter at the 267th Anniversary Commemoration of James Madison's Birthday at Montpelier.

On Saturday, 17 March, our Chapter was represented at three different functions. Hank Foresman and his wife, Debbie; Richard Gilliland; Rich Sherman; Dave Thomas and his wife, Carole, were judges at the Virginia History Day, District 5 competition held at Mount Vernon High School. Richard Rankin, Tom Roth, and I attended the first annual celebration of Patrick Henry's "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death" speech at Saint John's Church in Richmond. Former Chapter President Lorance (Larry) Lisle represented the Chapter at the wreath laying ceremony at the 237th Anniversary of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. Larry additionally participated in the "Revolutionary War Living History Day," at Hillsborough, North Carolina on Saturday, 17 February.

In a first for the Chapter, Past Chapter President Paul Walden presented the SAR Memorial Certificate to Diana Armstrong, widow of deceased Compatriot Robert Armstrong, at Pohick Church on Sunday, 18 March. We would like to continue these memorial presentations, but all too often, we do not learn of a Compatriot's death in a timely fashion. If you become aware of a Compatriot's passing, please inform one of the Chapter's officers.

Thanks to everyone for your efforts and your willingness to be involved.

We have a busy meeting scheduled for April. Our speaker will be Curt Viebranz the former President and CEO of George Washington's Mount Vernon. Previously, Curt spoke to us not long after he came to Mount Vernon. Now, he will look back and talk to us about his experiences. Curt has been a true friend of our Chapter. The winner and runner-up of our JROTC Program, Cadet Captain Scarlett Reyes of Mount Vernon High School and Cadet Mason Lamphier of Lake Braddock High School will be recognized and will read their essays. Under Jack Pitzer's guidance Cadet Captain Reyes was selected as the Virginia Society's nominee to represent Virginia in the National Society's competition. Two of our public safety awardees, PFC Nicolas Barb of the Fairfax County Sheriff's Department and Firefighter/ Medic Kaandra Wilson of the Alexandria Fire Department, were chosen as the Virginia Society's awardees for law enforcement and emergency medical services respectively. Two Alexandria Sheriff's Department deputies, Charles Winstead and Valerie Wright, will receive the SAR Heroism Award.

I would like to call attention to the National Memorial Day Parade that will be held on Monday, 28 May 2018. This is a National Society event sponsored by the George Washington Chapter. Also remember our July 4th Ceremony at Washington's Tomb,

(President's Corner Continued next page)

President's Corner *(con't)*

Mount Vernon. It is not too early to start planning for these events. More details will be published next month. A listing of other SAR events is appended to this newsletter as are several flyers: the "Grave Marking Ceremony honoring Robert Vicars" in Russell County on Saturday, 07 April; the "Patriot Grave Marker Dedication Ceremony" honoring Colonel William Grayson and Spence Grayson on Sunday, 08 April at the Grayson Burial Site in Woodbridge; and the "Finding Your Loved Ones – Beyond Ancestry.com" Workshop on Saturday, 21 April at the City of Fairfax Regional Library.

I am happy to report that Bonnie and Jay Henn have returned home. Although Bonnie still has to undergo treatments at Johns Hopkins, it is no longer necessary for them to reside in Baltimore.

I continue to emphasize our need to recruit new members. I would like to encourage grandfathers to consider making the effort to give their grandsons membership in the Sons of the American Revolution. Also wort considering is the gift of concurrent membership in the Children of the American Revolution. More information on these will be published at a later date.

I would like to thank all of you for your support of our Chapter. We have great members and your active support makes the George Washington Chapter outstanding. Suggestions as to how to improve our efforts and further our mission are most welcome.

Fraternally,

Ernie Coggins, GWSAR President

For Virginia History Day District 5 competition on March 17, 2018 at Mt. Vernon High School, there were four judges from the GW Chapter, plus two wives also judging: Rich Sherman, Hank and Debbie Foresman, Dave and Carole Thomas, and Richard Gilliland.

The Hello Girls: America's First Women Soldiers

In 1918 the U.S. Army Signal Corps sent 223 women to France to help win World War 1.

RSVP Only
Limited Seating available
First Come, First Serve--No Walk-in access
RSVP by 24 April 2018
Marie Vayer
Marieinc@verizon.net

This FREE Documentary film is being generously donated by the Film Director Mr. James Theres! Mt. Vernon has generously donated the space of their auditorium for this special showing for the members of the DAR and other special guests.

30 April 2018 7:00—9:00 pm
Mount Vernon: 3200 Mount Vernon Hwy, Mt. Vernon, VA 22121
The showing is FREE
You must RSVP to attend

http://www.mountvernon.org/plan-your-visit/directions-parking-transportation/
This evening is the Hello Girls only.
NO access to any other portion of Mt. Vernon

This corps were formed in 1917 from a call by General John J. Pershing to improve communications on the Western front. Applicants had to be bilingual in English and French. Over 7,000 women applied, but only 450 were accepted. Many were former switchboard operators or employees at telecommunications companies. They completed their Signal Corps training at Camp Franklin, now a part of Fort George G. Meade in Maryland.

I hope you will come out and join us celebrate our WW1 Women who set the bar for future Women to follow in their Military Service.

RSVP DEADLINE—24 April 2018

March GW Chapter (con't)

At our March 10 Chapter Meeting we were pleased to induct Major Nic Martinez, USMC, as a new member of the George Washington Chapter and SAR. Major Martinez, a 2005 USNA graduate, is shown in top photo with Chapter President Ernie Coggins (left) and Chapter Registrar Richard Sherman (right).

Bottom photo -- Chapter President Ernie Coggins pinned Major Martinez with the SAR Rosette.

President	*Ernie B. Coggins: 703-241-2807*
Vice President	*David R. Thomas: 703-583-8791*
Secretary	*Thomas Roth, III: 703-739-8811*
Treasurer	*Jay M. Henn: 703-447-0820*
Registrar	*Richard Sherman: 301-654-6319*

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, Alexan-dria, Virginia.

Immediate Past President:
Paul Walden: 703-347-9770

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 Pete Farley. Inputs from chapter officers, committee chairmen, and fellow compatriots are always needed. Please send your inputs and comments to **nyyno7@verizon.net** *or call 703-585-3163.*

March GW Chapter (con't)

Richard Gilliland (past Chapter Newsletter Editor 2014-2017) received the VASSAR Newsletter Editor of the Year Award for each of the last three years. Rich is shown here receiving the 2017 Award from Chapter President Ernie Coggins.

Compatriot Virgil "Pete" Farley was presented with a Flag Certificate by our Flag Chairman (and past Chapter President) Paul Walden. Pete is shown here with Paul Walden (left) and Chapter President Ernie Coggins (right).

April GW Chapter Speaker Curt Viebranz

In September 2012, Curt Viebranz was selected as only the tenth leader of George Washington's Mount Vernon in the 160-year history of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association. Mount Vernon is the nation's most visited historic home attracting more than a million visitors a year. Over the next five years, Viebranz guided Mount Vernon through an exciting period of transformation. Viebranz spearheaded a major revolution in the estate's media offerings — launching a new website which attracts more than five million visitors a year, two new mobile apps and an immersive virtual tour while revamping marketing communications. With his direction, Mount Vernon also affirmed its position as a leading source for new scholarship with the September 2013 opening of the Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington which hosts an array of programs for scholars, teachers and students, and community and business leaders.

In keeping with Mount Vernon's status as a leader in the historic preservation community, Viebranz also championed the establishment of a dedicated endowment for the Mansion and historic area, and the ongoing installation of a new state-of-the-art fire suppression system in the Mansion.

He oversaw the development of dozens of new on-site events and programs, including one of the nation's largest Revolutionary War living history encampments, a holiday fireworks celebration, and a 10K road race, honoring our nation's military.

Prior to his arrival to Mount Vernon, Viebranz spent his business career leading media companies in the U.S. and abroad. Most recently, he served as an Executive Vice President at AOL, a role he took on after successfully growing an Internet advertising company and engineering its sale to the media giant. Before joining AOL, he spent nearly 20 years at Time Warner, where he managed a number of enterprises including Time Inc. Europe and HBO Video. As president of HBO International, he led the effort to extend the HBO brand outside the United States.

Viebranz has devoted significant time and energy to a variety of not-for-profit enterprises, particularly the Boys & Girls' Club movement, including as a past president of the Boys and Girls' Club of Newark.

A member of the Council on Foreign Relations, he holds a BA from Middlebury College and an MBA from Harvard University.

Sights and Sounds of Patrick Henry's Richmond

Ernie Coggins (in rear, behind red wreath) placed a wreath on behalf of the GW Chapter. Also present were Chapter Secretary Tom Roth, and Compatriot Richard Rankin. Dual Chapter Member (and former President-General) Joe Dooley spoke.

E-mail from Dennis C. Peterson, President, Richmond Chapter, VASSAR

Hi Ernie, Tom -

I can't thank you enough for your great contributions to our program this month. Your photographs are just great.

We published our Newsletter today and I hope you want to have a look. Your work is featured throughout.

Talk with you soon.

Your friend -

Dennis

Chapter Secretary Tom Roth (left), and Compatriot Richard Rankin.

Sights and Sounds of Patrick Henry's Richmond (con't)

The Chapter was represented at the first annual celebration of Patrick Henry's "Give Me Liberty of Give Me Death Speech" held on march 17th, 2018 at the site of the speech, St. John's Episcopal Church, Richmond, Virginia.

Above: Young and old in period dress enjoy the Patrick Henry Day -- and right, Edmund Randolph with Patrick Henry.

Re-enactors
Chris Dunn & Joseph Bronfield

Madison's Birthday Celebration at Montpelier

John Blair represented the GW Chapter at the wreath laying at the grave site of James Madison.

James Madison.

Wreaths at the grave site of James Madison.

On March 18, at Pohick Church, Paul Walden presented Diana Armstrong with a SAR Memorial Certificate in memory of Chapter Compatriot Robert Armstrong, who passed on 25 Jan 2018. Several compatriots who are also parishioners of Pohick Episcopal Church were there for the presentation. Left to Right: Tom Bland, Paul Leon (not a chapter member), Paul Walden, Diana Armstrong, Vern McHargue and Wayne McHargue.

In the name of the George Washington Chapter, former GW Chapter President, Larry Lisle placed a wreath at the 237th Ceremony of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse on Saturday, February 17, 2018. Seven Virginia chapters were represented at the ceremony, including Fairfax Resolves, Lt. David Cox, Thomas Nelson Jr., George Washington (me), George Mason, Culpeper Minutemen, and Col. George Waller. Larry has the streamer, and will try to get up to a chapter meeting this spring to deliver it.

Larry Lisle at the Revolutionary War Living History Day in Hillsborough, NC, on February 17, 2018. The two men in British uniform represent the occupation of Hillsborough by Gen. Lord Charles Cornwallis, on February 20, 1781. Was told he remained there for eleven days.

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 rights 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 the flag is displayed. Make sure to include your name and your mailing address. I will issue the certificate and have it sent to you to present. Email requests to paulwalden@live.com

Thanks!

Grave Marking Ceremony Honoring

Patriot Robert Vicars

Saturday, April 7, 2018

2:00 pm

Old Vicars Cemetery at Grassy Creek

Russell County, VA

Hosted by Chapters of TN and VA

Sons of the American Revolution

and

Daughters of the American Revolution

The Tennessee and Virginia
Societies Sons of the American Revolution
We are here to honor an American Hero & Patriot

Robert Vicars

Born Nov. 8, 1747 — Died Mar. 13, 1821

April 7, 2018

Following the ceremony, all guests are invited to a reception and tour of the Historic Old Russell County Courthouse, Dickenson-Bundy Home, schoolhouse, and grounds County Rd 836 (Alt Hwy 58) just minutes from the cemetery (see below for directions)

Courtesy of the Russell County Historical Society

Helen Owens, President

Refreshments are provided and hosted by the Tabitha Adams Russell Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

Family members and de-scendants of Robert Vicars are encouraged to attend to get to know one another. Sincere thanks to the host organiza-tions for their hospitality in sharing this historic gathering place, tour, and refreshments.

Driving Directions from Vicars Cemetery
Highway 71, to Old Russell County Courthouse
Russell County, VA

From the cemetery, continue on Hwy 71 to the intersection of Alternate 58. Take Alternate 58 toward Abingdon, VA and watch for the Old Russell County Courthouse sign. The distance is approximately 5 miles from the cemetery.

Note: You can GPS the Old Russell County Courthouse from Abingdon, VA. It is 21 miles.

FINDING YOUR LOVED ONES – BEYOND ANCESTRY.COM WORKSHOP

CITY OF FAIRFAX REGIONAL LIBRARY

10360 North Street Fairfax, VA 22030

Saturday, April 21, 2018 9:00 AM- 5:00 PM

FREE

Morning presentations include:

National Archives Genealogical Resources

Virginia Room Genealogical Resources

How to find a "Lost" Cemetery

What to do and look for when visiting a cemetery

Iconography

Afternoon opportunities:

Guided tours of the Virginia Room and Rare Book Room Receiving assistance with family research

Independent research time

Please note:

Beginning at 8:30 AM, before the library opens to the public at 10:00 AM, attendees may enter the library at the G2 parking garage level. Coffee will be provided. The workshop begins at 9:00 AM. Lunch will be on your own. There are several nearby eateries.

Registration is required. It opens on March 24. Register through Library Events at Fairfax County Public Libraries. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library Need assistance? Call 703-293-6227 x6. Questions?? Contact Laura Wickstead. Laura.wickstead@fairfaxcounty.gov

Presented by the Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Association and the Virginia Room of the Fairfax County Public Library.

Fairfax County Public Library
12000 Government Center Pkwy.
Suite 324
Fairfax, VA 22035
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library

A Fairfax County, Va., publication

Reasonable accommodations will be made upon request. Call 703-324-8380 or TTY 703- 324-8365.

Colonel William Grayson Society,
Children of the American Revolution

Invites you to attend the

Patriot Grave Marker Dedication Ceremony Honoring Colonel William Grayson & Spence Grayson

April 8, 2018 at 2 p.m.
(C.A.R. member and participant arrival by 1:30 p.m., please.)

Past Society Presidents and Past Senior Society Presidents of the Colonel William Grayson Society are invited to participate with the carnation placement during the ceremony.

The Graysons were from Prince William County, Virginia. Col. Grayson was an aide to George Washington during the Revolutionary War and Spence Grayson was a Chaplain. Col. Grayson was also the first of two United States Senators from Virginia.

Address: 2336-2338 West Longview Drive, Woodbridge, Va. 22191
at the Grayson Burial Site.
Parking is limited. There is parking on the street.

Please RSVP to Elizabeth Bays:
By email to elizabeth.bays@yahoo.com
By mail: 7828 Mulberry Bottom Lane Springfield, Va. 22153

Upcoming Events

13 April – Friday: **Jefferson Birthday Celebration**
Wreath Laying Ceremony begins 11:00 a.m.
Jefferson Memorial
701 E Basin Drive, SW, Washington, DC 20242

13 April – Friday: **Thomas Jefferson's Birthday (Founder's Day)**
Wreath Laying at Monticello – 10am – 1pm
931 Thomas Jefferson Parkway
Charlottesville, VA 22902

14 April – Saturday: **George Washington Chapter Meeting** at 11:30
Speaker: **Curt Viebranz – His experiences as CEO, George Washington's Mount Vernon**
Belle Haven Country Club
6023 Fort Hunt Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22307

28 April – Saturday: **Patriots and Pathfinders Day – Commemoration of the Siege of the Blockhouse**
Duffield, Virginia 24244

28 April – Saturday: James Monroe – Two Ceremonies
Colonial Beach at 10:00 a.m.
Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond at 10:00 a.m.

11-12 May – Friday and Saturday: **Raid on Martin's Station**
Martin's Station
8501 Wilderness Road
Ewing, Virginia 24248

12 May – Saturday: George Washington Chapter Meeting at 11:30. Speaker: Mr. Charles Herndon, **WH, Assistant Deputy to the President, IT Services**
Belle Haven Country Club
6023 Fort Hunt Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22307

28 May – Monday: The National Memorial Day Parade at 2:00 p.m.
The Mall Washington, DC

08-10 June – Friday and Sunday: **SAR Annual Conference on the American Revolution**
Johns Hopkins University
3400 N Charles Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21218

15-16 June – Friday and Saturday: **Battle of Ramsour's Mill** at 10:00 a.m.
FD Jack Kiser School
301 Jeb Seagle Drive
Lincolnton, North Carolina 28092

04 July – Wednesday: **Mount Vernon Fourth of July Ceremony**
Wreath Laying Washington's Tomb
Mount Vernon Estate
3200 Mount Vernon Highway
Mount Vernon, Virginia 22121
Time: TBD

George Washington Chapter, VSSAR

Luncheon Meeting Reservation Form

Chapter Meeting: 11:30 a.m., **Saturday, April 14, 2018**
Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, VA 22307

Please join us for our April Chapter meeting. Our guest speaker, Mr. Curtis G. Viebranz, immediate past President and CEO of George Washington's Mount Vernon, will be giving us an inside look at his nearly five years in charge of operating one of America's most treasured landmarks. We also plan to recognize our 2018 JROTC Award winners.

You may make your reservation in one of two ways. First, you may complete this form and mail it with your check to the address below. The cost of the meal is **$35.00** per person (**$12.00** for a child). Please make checks payable to *George Washington Chapter, VASSAR*. Second, you may email the Chapter Treasurer at jaymhenn@gmail.com. To help ensure receipt, please put "RESERVATION" ***followed by your last name*** in the subject line. You will receive an email confirming receipt of your reservation. Payment will be collected at the door. Checks are preferred over cash, and - if paying with cash - exact change is appreciated.

For both ways, please make sure that your reservation is received no later than **Tuesday, April 10** so that we may provide the Club with our anticipated attendance. Walk-ins (members and guests who have not made reservations) will be charged **$40.00**.

Please provide the following information when making reservations:

Meeting Date: **Saturday, April 14, 2018**

❶ Compatriot Name: _____

❷ Guest Name(s): _____
Please note if any of the guests are children

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

$ _____ is enclosed.

❹ Return this form and check to:

Jay M. Henn, Treasurer
16920 Chapel Hill Court
Woodbridge, VA 22191-4569

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.