



George Washington Chapter Sons of the American Revolution Newsletter

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Volume 16, Issue 2

February 2015

V.S.C.A.R Officers Address the Chapter!



Left: The State President of the Virginia Society, Children of the American Revolution gave an informative presentation on the recent archeological finds at Ferry Farm, George Washington's boyhood home, and promoted her state project. The State President's project is two-fold, incorporating the aspects of conservation and education. The conservation side of the project is helping to conserve a fork and knife that were found in the excavation of the Washington House. The education aspect of the project is underwriting children's and school program materials that will give children a more authentic experience.

Right: The State Recording Secretary gave an interesting history lesson on the Bermuda Gunpowder Plot. The SAR, DAR and C.A.R. have joined forces to bring attention to Bermuda's role in the American Revolution with a series of events over a three-year period for which the V.S.C.A.R is raising funds.

Upcoming Chapter Meetings

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

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

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

Events Information

February 14: Crossing of the Dan Celebration, South Boston, Virginia.

February 16: George Washington's Birthday Parade, Alexandria, Virginia.

February 16: Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the Revolution, at The Old Presbyterian Meeting House.

February 20-22: VASSAR Annual Meeting, Richmond, Virginia.

March 5-7: NSSAR Spring Leadership Meeting, Louisville, Kentucky.

March 14: Commemoration of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, North Carolina.

April 11: VASSAR Gold Good Citizenship Medal Gala, Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia.



President's Corner

My fellow compatriots:

Last Month. In last month's article, outgoing President Scott Wagoner gave a concise recap of the year's activities.

In mid-January, we submitted the Chapter's 2014 Annual Report to VASSAR. The data in the report confirm that the state of the George Washington Chapter remains vibrant and thriving. We ended the year with a net growth in membership of 34, leaving us at 297 at year's end. Our activities and member participation appear on par with previous years. We will see how this all stacks up to our peers at the VASSAR Annual Meeting in February.

The 2015 season began with a record turnout for our January meeting. We had over 60 in attendance, which I am reasonably certain is the largest turnout at a regular Chapter meeting since I joined back in 2010. It was a great time of fellowship with many of our newest members, and quite a few guests turned out to honor our special guest.

We inducted two new members at the meeting, John Darwin Martin and Joshua William Walker. Their buddies are Tom Roth and Greg Bodge, respectively.

Thomas Y. "Jay" Johnson Jr., President of the Alexandria Volunteer Fire Department, was presented the Fire Safety Medal Commendation Medal in recognition of his accomplishments and over twenty-five years of steadfast service to the Alexandria community. He was once asked what his proudest moment was, to which he replied "Every call is my proudest moment."

Congratulations to the Awards Committee for bringing attention to a deserving *volunteer* protector of the community.

The audience also enjoyed two interesting presentations from the Virginia Society of the Children of the American Revolution. State President "Mackie" Storage informed us of recent archeological finds at Ferry Farm, George Washington's boyhood home. She also explained her project to preserve and document articles of cutlery from among those finds. Then State

Recording Secretary Emily Elston gave a great show on the story behind the Bermuda Gunpowder Plot. She also came prepared with a poster display and "Bermuda Plot" pins for sale before and after the meeting. Both of these young ladies were well prepared and gave an impressive performance fielding many questions from the audience. Following the presentations, a hat was passed around the room for donations and yielded a sizable sum of \$924 to support the V.S.C.A.R. Ferry Farm project. Well done!

Upcoming Events. February is always a busy time for the Chapter, and this year is no exception. Please consider attending one or all of these great opportunities in February. Lord willing, I'll be at every one of the following events (except two). I hope to see you there!

February 7th: Members are requested to attend the rededication of the Grayson tomb, the last initiative of VASSAR President Bill Broadus' term. President Broadus has been a great friend to the Chapter and I'm hoping for a good show of support.

February 14th: Regular Chapter meeting at the Belle Haven Country Club. Make your reservations early to hear Kurt Muse talk about his "Six Minutes to Freedom!"

February 14th: The annual commemoration of the Crossing of the Dan occurs on the same day as our Chapter meeting this year. For the first time I will not be able to attend, but Compatriots Bob Carr and Mike Elston are planning to be there. This is a NSSAR national event and we could use more representation; so if you can go, please get in touch with one of us.

February 16th: We will celebrate the 283rd Anniversary of the Birth of George Washington on Monday, February 16th with a wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the Revolution and then Alexandria's Washington's Birthday Parade. Every member who marches in the parade will be awarded the Jack Evans Medal. While the full size medal is free, the mini is \$10.

February 20th – 22nd: The 125th Annual Meeting of the Virginia Society will take place in Richmond. Hotel information, registration forms,

and conference schedules are available on the VASSAR website. We've already been notified of some state winners in the JROTC and Eagle Scout competitions that I'm looking forward to. Come and see how your state society operates, get to know other members across the state, and be there to support our Orations contest entrant. Your attendance counts! If you can't stay the whole conference, come out for the day on Saturday and hear the committee reports and see the presentation of awards.

March 6th – 8th: The Spring Leadership Conference will be held at the NSSAR Headquarters, Louisville, Kentucky.

March 7th: Once again, the Chapter is supporting the National History Day Competition this year. The event will commence Saturday morning at the Mount Vernon High School. Judges are needed. If you want to get a lift, volunteer to be a judge and see young Americans show off their understanding of history. Notify the Chapter coordinator Rich Sherman for information and to get on the list.

Administrivia: Chapter Meeting Reservations.

I am very happy to see a growing trend in attendance at our monthly chapter meetings. With growth comes a challenge; that is, our attendance is beginning to reach the capacity of our regular room at Belle Haven. Now, we are working to manage this, but we cannot ensure success without your cooperation.

The reservation form asks for reservations by the preceding Wednesday. This last month, we had more than the usual number of responses rolling in as late as Saturday morning, and we even had a few surprise walk-ins. The situation was exacerbated when the head count climbed above the seating arrangement and a few people had to be squeezed in as there was no room for more tables. By the time we knew it, it was too late to request a larger room. With enough advance notice, however, we can manage.

So please, heed the reservation request and make your plans as early as possible. Submit your reservations by the preceding Wednesday as a rule. If your plans change, let us know. We will continue to honor late notices through Friday noon as an exception. Walk-ins on

Saturday will be accommodated if possible, but an extra fee will be charged to offset the club's added expense.

Dwight Whitney

Chapter President

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.

Present officers are:

*President: Dwight Whitney: 540-349-2375
Vice President: Gregory Bodge: 770-789-3252
Secretary: Ernie Coggins: 703-241-2807
Treasurer: Paul Walden: 703-347-9770
Registrar: Dave Thomas: 703-583-8791*

Immediate Past President:

Scott Wagoner: 571-239-3221

This monthly 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.

Rumbaugh Oration Contest

Congratulations to Alexandra Rodriguez! She was the winner of the Chapter's first place award in the Joseph S. Rumbaugh Orations Contest. Her speech explained what it means to be an American, linking important Revolutionary principles with today's world.

Youth Activities Chairman Richard Sherman is shown here presenting Alexandra with her monetary prize of \$100 from the Chapter.



From the Secretary

Updates and time sensitive information are being sent to the membership via email as necessary. However, if I do not have your email address, you are not receiving these emails. If you fall in to this category, please send me your email address at sargw.secretary@gmail.com

Ernie Coggins

Secretary



From the Editor

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 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

Researcher Needed...

VASSAR is looking for volunteers to assist new applicants with their genealogy research. Although VASSAR has a registrar and assistant registrar, it is beyond their ability to conduct research for applicants. A volunteer can determine how much time he is willing to spend. It would be ideal however if he is familiar with the DAR Library and has access to various online tools (Ancestry.com, Fold3, genealogybank.com, etc.). The volunteer should also understand the SAR genealogy standards outlined in the *NSSAR Application Preparation Manual* (available at <https://www.sar.org/node/1846>).

If interested, please contact Paul Walden at PaulWalden@live.com and he will pass this along to the appropriate persons in VASSAR.

Registrar's Report

Since the last Registrar's Report, six new member applications were approved by NSSAR. There are five new member applications in review and two supplemental applications in review by NSSAR.

New Member Applications Approved

APPLICANT	PATRIOT
Garner Bennett	Archibald Barron
Joseph Gilliland	Charles Powell, Sr.
Robert Gilliland	Charles Powell, Sr.
John Martin	John Van Doren
John Markle	Gad Corse
Timothy Markle	Gad Corse

Supplemental Applications Approved

APPLICANT	PATRIOT
None	

New Member Applications Submitted

APPLICANT	PATRIOT
Josh Martin	John Van Doren
Kevin Rogers	Poucey Bunch

Supplemental Applications Submitted

APPLICANT	PATRIOT
None	

Dave Thomas

Registrar

Memorial Membership



Clarke Walden

31 Oct 1926 – 13 May 1999

Clarke Walden came from six generations of Georgians and was born in Macon, Georgia, 31 October 1926. His patriot ancestor was Edward Davies, who was a

member of the “rebel” Georgia Congress in 1780. He attended Kings Point Merchant Marine Academy and the University of Florida Law School. He served in the U.S. Merchant Marine Corps 1944-1948 and as LTJG in the U.S. Navy stationed in Japan during the Korean War. He settled in Dania, Florida after military service where he practiced law with his brother. He was also City Attorney for the City of Dania from 1955 to 1975, General Counsel for the Dania Bank from 1955 to 1988, and General Counsel for the South Broward Hospital District from 1988 until his retirement in 1997.

In Memory of Charles Joseph Herbert

Compatriot Charles (Chuck) Joseph Herbert on December 31, 2014 died after a long battle with lung cancer. He passed away peacefully surrounded by his family.

Chuck was born on October 4, 1931 in Capitol Heights, Prince George's County, Maryland to Charles Walter Herbert, Jr. and Hilda Bradley Meynell. He graduated from Bladensburg High School in Maryland in June 1950 and in November 1951 enlisted in the U.S. Army after

having worked as a meat cutter in a Safeway store in northeast Washington, D.C.

He graduated from the Signal Corps Fixed Station Radio Repair Course and later was assigned to the Army Security Agency Headquarters European Command in Frankfurt, Germany. He was promoted to Sergeant prior to his release from active duty on November 11, 1954, but kept in standby reserve for five more years. On November 25, 1959 he received his Honorable Discharge from the Army.

He returned to work at the Safeway store where he worked previously then went to work as a helper at J. E. Hurley Machine and Boiler Works, located in S.E. Washington. In 1958 he began a four year apprenticeship to become a boilermaker.

In 1964, he accepted a position with the federal government as an operating engineer working at the Pentagon Airport Field Office, Temporary Building 7 at National Airport. He retired December 31, 1993.

Chuck is survived by his wife Barbara, their two children Chuck, Jr. and Sharon (Shari) Rexrod, and their three grandchildren — Matthew, Michael and Christine. He and Barbara have been members of St. John's since 1958. Chuck served St. John's many years as a dedicated usher captain, an Institutional Representative for Boy Scout Troop 1107, and a Eucharistic Minister with Barbara for nearly 14 years. He also had helped with maintenance around the church whenever needed. He was a member of the George Washington Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution since 1994.

A funeral was held at St. John's Lutheran Church, January 8 and interment was at Fairfax Memorial Park.

Author Kurt Muse to Speak at February Meeting



Our own compatriot Kurt Muse, author of *“Six Minutes to Freedom”*, will be our February guest speaker. For those of you who are not familiar with Kurt, I think that you will find his story an exciting and captivating adventure.

Kurt spent most of his life in Panama City and considered himself “a true expatriate.” As Manuel Noriega extended his use of the Panamanian Defense Force as surrogates for his drug trafficking, money laundering, arms smuggling, and physical violence to consolidate his power and strangle Panamanian democracy, Kurt felt that something must be done.

Muse and his Panamanian friends decided that a peaceful revolution was required. He took on the leadership role of an underground movement, and used his lifelong American and Panamanian business connections for financial and technical assistance. The group decided the best method of reaching the common Panamanian citizen was through broadcasting anti-Noriega messages by radio and came to be known as The Voice of Liberty.

The Voice of Liberty decided a large mass event was needed to act as a revolutionary catalyst to support a peaceful demonstration to successfully overthrow Noriega. Muse and his group decided that the event would be Noriega’s official state address to the Panamanian people. On that day, just as Noriega began to talk, Muse’s group interrupted Noriega’s State of the Union address with a two-minute recording demanding free and democratic elections. Kurt’s actions resulted in his arrest in March, 1989 as he was returning to Panama from the United States, and his eventual imprisonment in the notorious Carcel Modelo.

While Kurt’s capture and imprisonment were harrowing, his eventual release would be the true adventure. In the early morning of December 20, 1989, in conjunction with the start of Operation Just Cause, which was the mission to expel Noriega from Panama, operators from the U.S. Army’s Delta Force executed Operation Acid Gambit, the mission to free Kurt from Carcel Modelo. That morning, 23 Special Forces soldiers, with elements of the 160th Special Operations Aviations Regiment, occupied the prison’s roof and moved to Kurt’s cell, where they were able to free him and move him to an MH-6 helicopter on the roof. But, despite his safe removal from his cell, Kurt’s adventure was not quite over.

Soon after the helicopter lifted off from the roof with Kurt and the soldiers onboard it crashed in the street near the prison. Kurt and the soldiers, some now wounded and injured, moved to a nearby building where they established a perimeter and began fighting off the now omnipresent Panamanian forces. During the fighting, the soldiers were able to contact a patrol from an armored cavalry regiment, who moved to Muse’s group and were able to get them into armored personnel carriers and to safety.

Kurt’s willingness to risk his life in order to spread the ideals of democracy in a dictatorship should be an inspiration to all of us, and uphold the true ideas of our Patriot forefathers.

New Member Biographies



JOHN D. MARTIN

Compatriot John Darwin Martin was born in Orlando, FL and raised in Canton, Georgia. He received a B.B.A. in Management Information Systems (MIS) from the University of Georgia. He later received a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from both the Naval War College and the Air War College.

John is a Colonel in the United States Air Force, where he has worked for over 22 years and is considering making it a career. A B-1 Weapon Systems Officer, he has over 2500 flying hours (approximately 1000 combat hours in the B-1).

He and his wife Susan have three sons: 17 year-old Josh, 15 year-old Dillon, and 9 year-old Jacob. Son Josh is currently a Junior Member applicant.

John's membership in the Society is based on his descent from Patriot John Van Doren Sr. who served during the Revolution as a Private in Captain Conrad Ten Eyck's Company, 2nd Battalion, in the New Jersey Militia from Somerset County.



JOSHUA W. WALKER

Compatriot Joshua William Walker was born in Henderson, North Carolina and is from Richmond, Virginia, but was raised in Sapporo, Japan where his missionary parents have served since 1983. He received a double B.A. in Leadership Studies and International Economics from the University of Richmond. He later received a M.A. in International Relations from Yale University and a Ph.D. in Politics and Public Policy from Princeton University.

Joshua is currently the Vice-President of Global Programs at APCO Worldwide in the Office of the CEO, a Transatlantic Fellow at the German Marshall Fund of the United States, and an Adjunct Professor at the George Washington University teaching US National Security Strategy. Before joining the private sector, he worked at the U.S. Department of State in Secretary Kerry's Office of the Chief Economist in 2013, and served in Secretary Clinton's Global Partnership Initiative as a senior advisor; prior to this was an academic and researcher.

He and his wife Megan, who works at the United Way, have lived in Del Ray, Alexandria since 2012.

Joshua's membership in the Society is based on his descent from Patriot John Armistead, who served during the Revolution as a Private in the Virginia Continental Line.

DID YOU KNOW?

The *Sons of Liberty* was an organization primarily composed of up-and-coming merchants who united to oppose the Stamp Act of 1765. They organized nightly marches in New York City that were attended by hundreds of people who cried out for "liberty," and they effectively reached out to mobilize the diverse ethnic communities of colonial urban centers and the sailors, laborers, and craftsmen of New York.

Prominent leaders of the Sons included Isaac Sears, John Lamb, and Alexander McDougall. The Sons were a driving force behind some of the first colonial boycotts of British goods. (Note that there is a bit of confusion here.) Tenants along the Hudson River (north of New York City) also called themselves the "Sons of Liberty" when they began seizing their own rented land and refusing to pay rent. But the original Sons of Liberty opposed these rebellious tenants, who were soon suppressed by a combination of British troops and colonial militia¹.

February Dates in History *American Revolutionary War*

February 10, 1763: Treaty of Paris ends French and Indian War (1754-1763). Canada (east of the Mississippi River) added to the British Empire

February 1764: James Otis urges a united response to the recent acts imposed by England. The phrase "Taxation without Representation is Tyranny" is usually attributed to James Otis.

February 9, 1775: English Parliament declares Massachusetts to be in a state of rebellion.

February 6, 1778: France signs a treaty of alliance with the United States and the American Revolution soon becomes a world war.

February 27, 1782: English Parliament votes against further war in America.

February 4, 1783: England officially declares an end to hostilities in America.

February 1783: Spain, Sweden, Denmark and Russia recognize the United States of America.

George Washington Quotes

"The house shakes...with the roar of the cannon. No sleep for me tonight."

August 1775²

¹ <http://www.shmoop.com/american-revolution/terms.html>

² Richard Norton Smith, *Patriarch: George Washington and the New American Nation* (New York: Houghton Mifflin, 1993), 14-15.

Highlights of the January Chapter Meeting



Jay Johnson (C), President of the Alexandria Volunteer Fire Department, was awarded the Fire Safety Commendation Medal, shown here with President Whitney (L) and Awards Committee Vice Chairman Paul Wagoner (R).



Two new members were inducted: Joshua W. Walker (L) and John D. Martin (R).

Highlights of the January Chapter Meeting (Continued)



Top: We had a large turnout for our first meeting of the year, including President General Joe Dooley, shown here with (L-R) Ann Whitney, Compatriot Brett Decker, and Julia Carr.

Bottom Left: The Virginia State President of the C.A.R. receiving a monetary gift for her state project from the generous attendees at the meeting.

Bottom Right: President Whitney with the Thomas Jefferson Medal recognizing support of the SAR Knight Essay Contest. The presentation was made by Past President Mike Elston.



Compatriot John Martin was the lucky winner of the door prize drawing.

Future Events 2015

February 7 - Grayson brothers' plaque dedication. This is a VASSAR Presidential Initiative sponsored by the Col. William Grayson Chapter. Service begins at 2 p.m. in the small family cemetery located at 2338 West Longview Dr., Woodbridge, VIRGINIA. †

February 14 - **Chapter Meeting** at 11:30 a.m. at the [Belle Haven Country Club](#), Alexandria, Virginia. Our guest speaker will be Compatriot Kurt Muse, author of *Six Minutes to Freedom*, the remarkable tale of his rescue from Panama by the elite Delta Force.*

February 14 - [Crossing of the Dan Celebration](#), South Boston, Virginia. †

February 16 - Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony. *Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the Revolution* begins 11 a.m. at The Old Presbyterian Meeting House (OPMH), 323 South Fairfax Street, Alexandria. Please arrive 30 minutes early to prepare for the ceremony. *

February 16 - [George Washington's Birthday Parade](#), Alexandria, Virginia. * The assembly time is at **noon**. Our assembly area has not been assigned yet, but typically we are between S. Pitt Street between Wilkes Street and Gibbon Street.

February 20-22 - VASSAR Annual Meeting, Richmond, Virginia. † Dr. Reynolds will be leading a van pool leaving Belle Haven Country Club at 6 AM on the 21st for those who want to attend the business meeting only. Please contact him to coordinate.

March 5-7 - NSSAR Spring Leadership Meeting, Louisville, Kentucky. †

March 7 - [National History Day Competition](#), 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Mount Vernon High School, Alexandria. Judges needed - if interested contact [Rich Sherman](#). ‡

March 14 - [Commemoration of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse](#), North Carolina. †

March 14 - Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the [Belle Haven Country Club](#), Alexandria, Virginia. *

April 11 - VASSAR Gold Good Citizenship Medal Gala, Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia. **

May 9 - Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the [Belle Haven Country Club](#), Alexandria, Virginia. *

May 9 - Commemoration of the Raid at Martin's Station, Wilderness Road State Park, Ewing, Virginia. †

May 25 - National Memorial Day Parade, Washington, DC. **

June 27 - July 1 - 125th Annual SAR Congress, Louisville, Kentucky. †

July 4 - 54rd Annual Independence Day Ceremonies, 10 a.m., George Washington's Mount Vernon, Virginia. *

August 7-8 - Atlantic Middle States District Meeting. †

August 12-17 - SAR-DAR Bermuda Gunpowder Plot Commemorations in Bermuda. **

September 12 - Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the [Belle Haven Country Club](#), Alexandria, Virginia. *

September 17 - Constitution Day at Montpelier, Orange, Virginia. †

September 24-26 - NSSAR Fall Leadership Meeting, Louisville, Kentucky. †

October TBA - Point Pleasant Days, Point Pleasant, West Virginia. ‡

October 3-4 - Battle of Kings Mountain, Kings Mountain, North Carolina. ‡

October 10 - Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the [Belle Haven Country Club](#), Alexandria, Virginia. *

November 11 - Veterans' Day Ceremony at General Washington's Tomb, Mount Vernon, Virginia. *

November 14 - Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the [Belle Haven Country Club](#), Alexandria, Virginia. *

December 12 - Chapter Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the [Belle Haven 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.

Saturday, February 14, 2015

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

Lunch Meeting Reservation Form

Please make your **reservation by telephone or e-mail**. This is the preferred way to ensure your reservation is received in time to get a seat. Please send reservations by Wednesday, February 11.

Please send reservations and payment to Paul Walden. For e-mail reservations, send to paulwalden@live.com with **RESERVATION** in the subject line.
For call-in reservations, call **Paul at 703-347-9770**.

The lunch cost is \$35.00 per person (\$12.00 per child) and you may pay at the door or send a check in the mail in advance of the meeting. Make checks payable to "**G.W. Chapter SAR.**" Walk-ins will be accommodated if possible, but to cover the Club's charge for serving those without a timely reservation a walk-in price of \$40.00 is required.

When calling or writing, please include the following:

Compatriot Name: _____
Guest Name (s): _____

When mailing checks, be sure I'm notified in time to hold seating for you and your guests! Please include the following information:

Compatriot Name: _____
Guest Name (s): _____

A check for ____ persons in the amount of \$_____ payable to **G.W. Chapter SAR** is enclosed.

Mail this reservation form and your check to:

Paul Walden
Treasurer, G.W. Chapter SAR
5902 Mount Eagle Drive, #1609
Alexandria, VA 22303

Check-in and social begin at 11:30 a.m. The meeting will be called to order at 12:00 noon. Valet parking is available.