



# The Magazine

Williamsburg Chapter Virginia Society  
Sons of the American Revolution



*By signing the Declaration of Independence,  
the fifty-six Americans pledged their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor. Nine died of wounds during the  
Revolutionary War. Five were captured or imprisoned. Wives and children were jailed, mistreated, or left penniless.  
Twelve signers' houses were burned to the ground. No signer defected. Their honor, like their nation remained intact.*

Vol. XXVI

Number 8

AUGUST 2021

## President's Message

First, an administrative note. Our meeting venue for the remainder of 2021 will be the Colonial Heritage Club. This month our speaker is Compatriot Ross Schwalm. His bio can be found later in this newsletter. He will be speaking on the Amphibious Assault on Long Island. I encourage you to attend the upcoming luncheon meeting on August 14 to hear about this very interesting event.

Highlights of chapter activities this past month included our 36<sup>th</sup> annual July 4 Service of Prayer & Thanksgiving at Bruton Parish Episcopal Church. We were able to meet in person and for the first time, Patrick Henry (CW Interpreter Richard Schumann), attended as the newly elected Governor of Virginia. The service was well attended by the SAR, DAR and the public. Thanks go to Jim Morford, Chaplain, for planning and organizing the event.

We also supported the Williamsburg Chapter DAR at their July 4 event at Berkeley where Compatriot Ron Adolphi represented the chapter and presented a wreath.

We participated in grave markings for two Virginia signers of the Declaration of Independence. On July 3<sup>rd</sup>, Francis Lightfoot Lee's grave at Mount Airy Farm near Warsaw, Va. was commemorated. On July 5, Benjamin Harrison V's grave at Berkeley Plantation was commemorated. This event was organized by Bill Greafe, VASSAR 3<sup>rd</sup> VP with attendance by many VASSAR chapters and representatives including President Jeff Thomas, DAR and CAR chapters and the VASSAR Color Guard.

The Battle of Green Spring at the Church on the Main was commemorated with both the Ann Wager and the Williamsburg DAR chapters on July 6.

Additionally, Color Guard Commander John Lynch represented the chapter at The Battle of Cricket Hill near Gwynn's Island on July 17 and a grave marking on July 24 for 5 patriots buried in Lovettsville, Va, north of Leesburg.

Since I always learn something new about the Revolutionary War at each event, I encourage you to take the opportunity to participate and support the many chapter activities offered.

The primary upcoming event is the VASSAR semi-annual meeting held from September 9-11 at Berryhill Resort near South Boston, Va. The detailed agenda will be distributed shortly but one highlight will be the opportunity to visit Patrick Henry's last home at Red Hill on Friday, September 10.

Finally, enjoy this excellent and always informative newsletter published by our Newsletter Editor Dave Westenberger.

Roger W Cross





# Calendar

**Monday Aug 2, 2021**

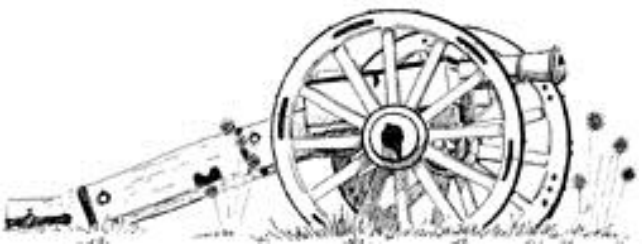
10:00 BOM meeting  
by ZOOM

**Saturday Aug 14, 2021**

11:30 Social gathering  
12:00 Chapter meeting  
Colonial Heritage CC  
(reservation on last page)

**Saturday Sep 4, 2021**

Battle of the Virginia Capes  
11:00 Commemoration starts  
Fort Story-Virginia Beach  
**Details on page 11**



## Chapter News



Pres. Roger Cross unveiling our SAR Patriot Medallion at the Grave Marking Ceremony for Col. Benjamin Harrison V at Berkley Plantation.



# Benjamin Harrison V Grave Marking, July 5th



“Harley”

Gentlemen,

Compatriot Harley Stewart routinely provides the Chapter with excellent photographic evidence of its events.

This excellent work precludes inclusion of his personal active work into our Chapter newsletters etc. So, please enjoy and use as needed the attached photographs taken during the Berkeley Commemoration today.

John Lynch



VASSAR Officers



Presentation of Wreaths



Ann Wager Chapter DAR







Williamsburg Chapter Officers



VASSAR Color Guard



Pres. Roger Cross and CW "Patrick Henry" gave opening welcome to those in attendance.

### Thirty-Sixth Annual Service of Prayer & Thanksgiving

The Williamsburg Chapter's Thirty-Sixth Annual Service of Prayer and Thanksgiving took place at Bruton Parish Church on Sunday, July 4, 2021. For those that were not able to attend, this is the YouTube video of the service.

<https://youtu.be/aos58oa7aj8>





## Continuing with other Recent Notable Events



PHOTO by Jim Hess

**Commemoration of Battle of Green Spring**  
Pictures at the commemoration on July 6, 2021 were, L to R: Eric Ely, Harley Stewart, Jim Morford, Kim Defibaugh (Regent, WCDAR), Roger Cross, Bill Greaif, and Pam Meiring (Officer of VSDAR).



President Roger Cross with new members Paul Pyle and Thomas Rees displaying their NSSAR Membership Certificates



Registrar Hunt Berryman receiving a Flag recognition Certificate from George Corbett, chairman of flag recognitions.



Vice President Steve McGuffin presented a Certificate of Appreciation to speaker William Williamson







Compatriots,

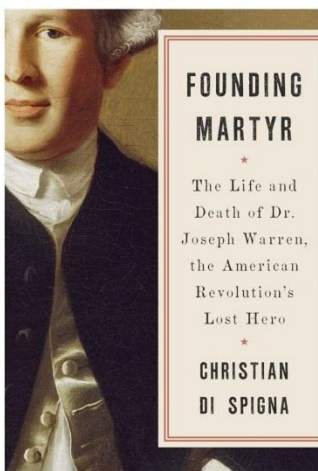
Bruce Laubach, a Williamsburg Chapter compatriot and ASM of Troop 103, presented NSSAR Certificates of Recognition and packets of information for SAR Scholarship applications to three new Eagle Scouts of Troop 103, Kourage Craig, Ethan Wunibald, and Isaac Scruggs. The Court of Honor ceremony took place on July 8 at the Williamsburg United Methodist Church on Jamestown Road.

Harley Stewart - Eagle Scout Recognitions and Scholarships

## “Book of the month”

Raffle tickets for this book will be available at our next luncheon meeting.  
One ticket for \$1 or 7 tickets for \$5 – Steve Holm, Sgt. of Arms

**A rich and illuminating biography of America’s forgotten Founding Father, the patriot physician and major general who fomented rebellion and died heroically at the battle of Bunker Hill on the brink of revolution**



Little has been known of one of the most important figures in early American history, Dr. Joseph Warren, an architect of the colonial rebellion, and a man who might have led the country as Washington or Jefferson did had he not been martyred at Bunker Hill in 1775. Warren was involved in almost every major insurrectionary act in the Boston area for a decade, from the Stamp Act protests to the Boston Massacre to the Boston Tea Party, and his incendiary writings included the famous Suffolk Resolves, which helped unite the colonies against Britain and inspired the Declaration of Independence. Yet after his death, his life and legend faded, leaving his contemporaries to rise to fame in his place and obscuring his essential role in bringing America to independence.

Christian Di Spigna’s definitive new biography of Warren is a loving work of historical excavation, the product of two decades of research and scores of newly unearthed primary-source documents that have given us this forgotten Founding Father anew. Following Warren from his farming childhood and years at Harvard through his professional success and political radicalization to his role in sparking the rebellion, Di Spigna’s thoughtful, judicious retelling not only restores Warren to his rightful place in the pantheon of Revolutionary greats, it deepens our understanding of the nation’s dramatic beginnings.

# Guest speaker for August

Mr. Ross Schwalm

Topic

## The Amphibious Assault on Long Island August 1776



The presentation will focus on the role of the German Auxiliary units, known as the Hessians, in the battle in support of the British forces. One of the Hessians was the presenter's Third Great Grandfather. This regiment was provided to the British in March 1776 by a subsidy treaty. This was the largest amphibious operation ever conducted up to this point in history. The British and Hessian victory on Long Island was widely reported throughout Europe which will be shown via original newspaper reports.

Mr. Ross Schwalm is a compatriot in the Sons of the American Revolution through his Great Grandfather Adam Lebo, a Continental Militiaman in 1779. He is also the 3<sup>rd</sup> Great Grandson of Johannes Schwalm, a Hessian soldier captured at the battle of Trenton. Mr. Schwalm is the current president of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter, and the Johannes Schwalm Historical Association.

He is a retired US Marine Corps Artillery Officer with combat service during Desert Storm as a Headquarters Battery Commander. He has been a contractor performing analytical and systems engineering duties for 20 years with military services.

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The Prince William County Office of Historic Preservation is developing a Revolutionary War History Trail which will initially be on-line, and which will later feature a driving tour and tour map. This trail and tour is being developed in anticipation of the 250th Anniversary of American independence in 2026.

<https://www.visitpwc.com/history/revolutionary-war-trail/>

# Registrar's Corner

We currently have five new member, one supplemental and one memorial application being reviewed by NSSAR for approval. We also have six new member and three supplemental applications in progress, and eleven prospects in the que. Did You Know? - That an active member of SAR can file a memorial application for a deceased close male relative under the following guidelines. The deceased relative should be within two generations of the SAR member and whose application is based on the same lineage as the SAR member. A copy of the birth and death certificates of the memorialized applicant is required and a record copy of the SAR member's application. The PDF application found on the NSSAR website can be used to file a memorial application. Application fees are \$135 to NSSAR and \$9 to VASSAR. I will be glad to assist with any memorial application.

We currently have five new member, one supplemental and one memorial application being reviewed by NSSAR for approval. We also have six new member and three supplemental applications in progress, and eleven prospects in the que.

**Hunt Berryman Registrar**

**Email:**

[huntberryman@aol.com](mailto:huntberryman@aol.com)



**WE NEED  
YOU**

The saying, "It Takes A Village", can apply to our Chapter. The Board of Managers keeps the Chapter running. Without it there would be no speakers, luncheons, etc. It is now time to start thinking about Board membership for 2022. We will have multiple vacancies as members' terms expire. Having been on the board in various positions for over seven years, I can honestly say that it has been a great way to not only learn more about our Society but also make friends throughout the state and Mid-Atlantic region. If you have questions about the various duties or time requirements or are interested give me a call (631) 219-6616 or email [hsaprof@gmail.com](mailto:hsaprof@gmail.com)

Past President William Greaif



# Commemorating the 245<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Gwynn's Island July 10, 1776 – July 10, 2021

On July 10, 2021, The Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution dedicated a new plaque commemorating the July 9-10, 1776, Battle of Gwynn's Island (also known as the Battle of Cricket Hill). The strategic results of the battle were twofold: it ended colonial rule in Virginia, and it allowed the redeployment of Virginia State troops to support of the Continental Army's Northern Campaign.

Dunmore, his army, and a fleet of about 82 ships arrived unopposed and occupied Gwynn's Island on May 27, 1776. Many of the ships were unarmed private vessels. There were less than a 1000 men distributed amongst five British units or detachments on the island: about 100 men of the 14<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot (which had tasted defeat in December 1775 at the Battle of Great Bridge), 150 men of the Queen's Own Loyal Virginians (loyalists from Norfolk), about 300 former slaves in the Ethiopian Regiment, 100 marines (they gained "royal" status in 1802), and 50 seamen (manning cannon landed from the ships). Smallpox and a "putrid fever" (perhaps typhoid or typhus) was rapidly shrinking British ranks. Dunmore reported each of his ships throwing one to three dead bodies overboard every night due to disease. The marines were the healthiest and so bore the brunt of building entrenchments and guard duty. The loyalist unit was hard hit by smallpox. The Ethiopian Regiment was in process of being inoculated against smallpox in addition to suffering from the full blown smallpox outbreak; disease killed half of the regiment. The British completely evacuated Gwynne's Island by July 13, 1776. They left behind their sick and burned their small vessels which were unable to withstand ocean sailing.

The Virginians (the 7<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment and local militia) eventually numbered about 2000 men and were commanded by General Andrew Lewis. Lewis was a respected veteran officer from the French and Indian War. Lewis' men built earthen fortifications which were embrasured for the artillery which had been brought up. The artillery pieces included two 18 pound cannon, four 9 pound cannon, and some small mortars.

The artillerymen had two targets: British shipping clustered in the water between the opposing forces, and British artillery earthworks on Gwynn's Island. General Lewis ordered the two 18 pounders to concentrate their fire on Dunmore's flagship, the Dunmore.

A section of the battery earthworks (likely the site for the 9 pound cannon battery) mentioned by Stadler still exists at the commemoration site. The works are unique in that they have not been reconstructed or otherwise preserved. The commemorative plaque is sited at one of the embrasures.

A letter written in 1778 by Stadler to George Washington discussed Stadler's experience at Gwynn's Island. In it he sadly commented "...the affair was no sooner over than forgotten."<sup>6</sup> Stadler was wrong; the Battle of Gwynn's Island is not forgotten.

The artillery reportedly struck the vessel twelve times and caused several casualties, including a splinter wound to Dunmore himself. British return fire was ineffective, with Patriot earthworks providing effective protection.

The man responsible for these earthworks was Lieutenant Colonel John Stadler. Stadler, a German who immigrated to Philadelphia prior to 1758, was a seasoned military engineer. He served in the Pennsylvania Regiment during the French and Indian War and helped build Forts Stanwix and Pitt. He was a music master and was employed by the Washington, Carter, and other families. Stadler served both the budding Continental Army and Virginia State forces as one of the earliest – likely the first – military engineer officer. He was supported by a letter of recommendation from George Washington. He eventually left the service due to starvation wages and the need to support his family. After the war Stadler mentioned his efforts at Gwynn's Island in a letter written to James Madison while trying to obtain compensation for his Revolutionary War service.

Gen. Lewis knew very well what duty I had performed in the space of three Months—Viz. Going every morning two Miles with two hundred Men (sometimes more) at eight OCK to work untill Sunset (and sometimes the whole day without Victuals) standing and directing in the day in the broiling Sun, and in the Evening after Tap too with another fresh Party of as many Men standing in the Night dews in Glouster County opposite Lt. Dunmore's Camp untill Reveille beating in the Morning—erecting Batteries, which Batteries effectually drove Dunmore's Forces with his Piratical Fleet of one hundred and Thirty Vessells (large & small) off.



Compatriot John Lynch presenting our wreath



## From the Chaplain

Jim Morford

### *The Spirit of '76*



These are the “Dog Days” of August when enduring Williamsburg’s heat and humidity is the price paid for mild winters. But as uncomfortable as the month may be, some significant things have happened in August. July 4 is the day we have long celebrated the nation’s 1776 Declaration of Independence uniting the states in separation from English rule. John Hancock, the first to sign, was the only one to sign on July 4. Many of the other delegates would place their names on the document on **August 2, 1776.** (Matthew Thornton, delegate from New Hampshire, was the last to sign, doing so on November 4, 1776.) No matter who signed and when, ultimately all 56 delegates added their names to a document, the last sentence of which reads, “And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm Reliance on the Protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.” It was also in **August** that WW II came to an end when President Harry S Truman announced on **August 14, 1945**, that Japan had surrendered – **76 years ago.**

The announcement of **victory over Japan** sent millions of Americans - citizens and members of the armed forces - **into the streets** of cities and towns across the country and around the world.

The **Spirit of '76** inspired our patriot forbearers to risk everything for freedom and liberty. That same spirit infused America’s Greatest Generation who, like their predecessors, risked (and in many cases gave) their lives to save the world from three evil dictatorships. **Today, 76 years after the end of World War II, does the Spirit of '76 still live in the hearts of Americans?**



Let us pray that it does.

Most gracious God, Holy Spirit, we thank you that we are privileged to live in this country. We thank you that for so long we have enjoyed liberty. We are grateful for the blessings we have received from you through our patriot forbearers. We thank you for our families and friends and the freedoms we have enjoyed. We pray that the spirit that inspired our ancestors in 1776 and our heroes that brought an end to World War II 76 years ago, still lives in our hearts today.

Lord, we pray that you will provide for those that are in need, feed those that are hungry, comfort those that are sorrowing, and heal those that are sick.

We pray that you will grant us wisdom and courage to meet the challenges that we face each day. AMEN



*The Norfolk Chapter Sons of the American Revolution  
Invites You To  
The 240<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of the Virginia Capes*

The formal Commemoration of the Battle of the Virginia Capes will start at 11:00 A.M., Saturday, September 4, 2021, at the Admiral Francois-Joseph-Paul, Comte de Grasse, Marquis of Grasse-Tilly Statue, Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story, Virginia Beach, VA. The ceremony will conclude with the wreath laying.

1. Please use Gate 8 to Fort Story. This gate is just off Atlantic Avenue and is on the south-east end of the Base. The Admiral Comte de Grasse statue is about one mile down the road on the right. Parking is at the statue.
2. For attendees with valid U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) ID Cards, please use normal base access procedures.
3. For attendees without valid U.S. DoD ID Cards, please submit the following information to me by email or phone: Last Name, First Name, Social Security Number, and Date of Birth. At the gate, please show a valid form of photo ID. Allow time to clear the gate.
4. If you plan to place a wreath, please let us know your organization's name and who will be the presenter. Include this information along with your pass information to the Norfolk Chapter President.



Admiral Comte de Grasse flagship Ville de Paris

RSVP by August 2<sup>nd</sup> to Gary Pridgen at [gpridgen@cox.net](mailto:gpridgen@cox.net) or by phone at (757) 301-2862.



# Virginia Society

*Sons of the American Revolution*

## Gwynns Island commemoration



VASSAR officers presenting VASSAR wreath



PHOTOS BY JOHN LYNCH



Compatriots, John Lynch, the chapter's Color Guard Commander, represented the chapter on June 5 at the VASSAR Commemoration of General Wayne's crossing of the Potomac near Leesburg. John Lynch with Jeff Thomas, VASSAR President, standing behind the Williamsburg Chapter wreath.



Jeff Thomas, VASSAR president, honoring marked grave of Col. Benjamin Harrison V.

You may also access the public folder of the Virginia SAR YouTube channel with videos from several of our public events at the following link: [www.youtube.com/channel/UCJrzGKzULSPLsSUDXvxgtuw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJrzGKzULSPLsSUDXvxgtuw)

# Williamsburg 2021 Chapter Officers

<b>President</b>	Roger Cross	<a href="mailto:roger.cross66@gmail.com">roger.cross66@gmail.com</a>
<b>Registrar</b>	Hunt Berryman	<a href="mailto:huntberryman@aol.com">huntberryman@aol.com</a>
<b>Newsletter&amp;WEB</b>	David Westenberger	<a href="mailto:pal744@cox.net">pal744@cox.net</a>
<b>Vice-President</b>	Stephen McGuffin	
<b>Secretary</b>	Milt Holt	
<b>Asst Secretary</b>	Duncan McIver Jr.	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Jeff Wooldridge	
<b>Public Relations</b>	Harley Stewart	
<b>Historian</b>	Steve Perger Jr.	
<b>Chaplain</b>	James Morford	
<b>Sergeant-at-Arms</b>	Stephen Holm	
<b>Past President</b>	William Greaif	
<b>At-Large</b>	James Swords	
<b>At-Large</b>	Gerald Sailors	
<b>Color Guard</b>	John Lynch	



**August 14<sup>TH</sup> Chapter meeting at Colonial Heritage Club**  
 6500 Arthur Hills Drive, Williamsburg  
**Social at 11:30                      Meeting at 12:00**  
**RSVPs and checks must be received by Monday, August 9<sup>TH</sup>.**

Fits well in a #6 envelope

**Reservation for the Saturday August 14<sup>TH</sup> 2021 Luncheon Meeting**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ regular meals at \$21.00

Special need \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to  
**“Williamsburg Chapter SAR”**

Mail to:

**Jeff Wooldridge – Chapter Treasurer**  
 101 Peach Tree  
 Williamsburg, VA 23188  
 (315) 725-4754  
[jwooldridgecpa@gmail.com](mailto:jwooldridgecpa@gmail.com)





# SAR GIFTS AND FASHIONABLE APPAREL



SAR apparel is available at (502) 589-1779 or on the National SAR WEB site at:

<https://store.sar.org/storefront.aspx>



0928

Personalized Name Badge  
(Name Tag) - Pocket  
Attachment Nametag

\$25.00

There has been confusion on how to add this item to the cart. There is a statement that says "I understand personalized items are not refundable" that has a small box after it on the bottom of the page where the personalized items are added. You must click that box before the "ADD PERSONALIZED ITEM TO CART" button will become active. Unless you click the box agreeing that Personalized Items are not refundable, the item can not be added to the cart.

Personal Name Badge link is:

[https://store.sar.org/categories.aspx?Keyword=personalized%20name%20badge%20\(name%20tag%20\)](https://store.sar.org/categories.aspx?Keyword=personalized%20name%20badge%20(name%20tag%20))