



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.*

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December 2023

President's Message

Compatriots,

Another year is almost over, our chapter election has been held and we have a new slate of officers who will be inducted in January. All these Compatriots are enthusiastic and are ready to serve. I hope all of you will give your support and encouragement. I wish to congratulate all of them and wish them success.

Our last luncheon of the year was also an opportunity to recognize the Board members and other Compatriots who have helped our chapter over the past year. You will see a list of the awards and recipients elsewhere in this newsletter. I want to congratulate all for their hard work and devotion.

There will not be a BOM meeting in December and no Chapter Luncheon as well. We want to wish everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving. As well as a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Shalom. I do hope that all have a wonderful time with family and friends over the next month.

We will start out a happy New Year with our joint meeting with the Thomas Nelson Jr. Chapter on January 20th which is our formal banquet where we induct our new officers to our respective chapters. I hope to see you all at the Colonial Heritage club house.

Bruce Laubach President Williamsburg Chapter VASSAR



Calendar

Sunday December 10, 2023

Battle of Great Bridge
Commemoration



Chesapeake, VA

Monday December 11, 2023

10 am Ann Wager Chapter NSDAR
Compatriot Bill Schwetke speaking on
DAR/ SAR relationships
Room 127 Stryker Building
Williamsburg

Monday January 8, 2024

7:00 pm BOM meeting by ZOOM

Saturday January 20, 2024

5:30 pm Social
6:00 pm Joint Dinner meeting
with Thomas Nelson, Jr Chapter
Installation of Officers
Colonial Heritage Country Club
Williamsburg

Chapter News



3 November DAR 250th Marker Dedication



PHOTO by Robert Davis

4 November Kemps Landing Commemoration

We have about a month left for our 2024 dues campaign. We are now using Member Clicks, so the process is different from previous years. With the new system, everyone received an email with an invoice attached in mid-September and again in mid-October. You have a couple options...

You can pay your dues online from your Member Clicks profile securely with your credit card. This will update your profile instantly and save the chapter from manually processing the transaction. If you are comfortable with online transactions, this works very much like buying from Amazon, etc. We have been using the online payment system for our luncheons/dues and it works great.

You can also print the invoice and mail it with your check. If you choose that method, return the check to:

Gary Dunaway, Chapter Treasurer
104 Pageland Drive
Yorktown, VA 23693
sarwilliamsburg@gmail.com

Either method is fine, and I hope you will use one of them.

We sent out a second round of invoices on October 20th – both by email and snail mail. I know it's easy to set mail aside and forget it, so please send your payment soon. If you have misplaced the invoice, let me know and I can email you another one.

Over 81 percent of our members have paid their 2024 dues so far, but we have about 37 outstanding. Our board members will be contacting those folks by phone to follow up. Members who have not paid dues by Dec 31 will be moved to Inactive and Lapsed status.

As always, let me know if you have any questions.

In patriotism,
Gary

Recent Events



VETERAN'S DAY



A SAR Certificate of Recognition and Scholarship Application were presented to Eagle Scout Jayden Ryberg by compatriot Ray Duncombe – Scout Chair at a Court of Honor of Troop 414 at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Norge, VA on November 6, 2023. With John Dereix, scoutmaster of Troop 414. Harley Stewart

Future Events

Our 2024 Officers will be installed at our January meeting.

Ann Wager Chapter NSDAR

Invites

Williamsburg Chapter, VASSAR

To its General Meeting on

Monday, December 11, 2023

To hear

VASSAR William Schwetke

Speak on Origins and Early Relationship of DAR and SAR

The meeting starts at 10:00 a.m. in Room 127 of
Williamsburg's Stryker Building



The Ann Wager Chapter NSDAR invited our Chapter to attend subject meeting. VASSAR compatriot Bill Schwetke will be speaking about origins and early relationships of DAR and SAR.

“Sail250® Virginia is honored to be among the elite group of US ports selected to host the 2026 Sail250® America international fleet, including New Orleans, Baltimore, New York, and Boston.

For seven days in June 2026, 4,000 officers, cadets, and crews of more than 55 ships from 20 nations will engage with residents and visitors across the Chesapeake Bay region in events and programs symbolic of the bonds of international goodwill.”↓

<https://sail250virginia.com/?fbclid=IwARlkQHn0G3P7-ky73PnW88H3Vwn2zBpd8M1Ela5mu8Wsy7uU2fH2vFv20K4>



SAVE THE DATE(S)

*Bicentennial of Lafayette's Farewell Tour
2024-2025*



*The American Friends of Lafayette
is the proud official sponsor of the
commemoration of Lafayette's Farewell Tour.*

www.friendsoflafayette.org
www.lafayette200.org
americanfriendsoflafayette@gmail.com

December 3rd, 2023, Sunday (5:00 pm) - Gold Star Family Gala, Virginia Beach, VA

Event Level: Public Service

Host/POC: Honor and Remember Organization / George Lutz, the founder and Gold Star father.

VASSAR POC: Thompson.

Location: The Founder's Inn, 5641 Indian River Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23464. Hotel reservation: [833-449-1273](tel:833-449-1273)



Your Color Guard

Compatriots.

Williamsburg Chapter's color guard members were busy this year amid increased color guard activities relative to 2022. The numerical data related to their efforts are tabulated in Table 1. A chronologically ordered list of events supported by our color guard members is found in Table 2. There are two events remaining on our Chapter's color guard schedule at the time of this writing (21 November 2023): the Commemoration of Battle of Great Bridge on December 2nd, and support for a Gold Star Family Gala which takes place on December 3rd.

Date	Event	Date	Event
10 February	Crossing the Bannister	15-16 September	VASSAR Semi Annual
11 February	Crossing the Dan	16 September	Daniel Morgan Bee-line March
11-12 February	VASSAR Annual Mtg	30 September	Bruton Parish Grave Marking
12 March	Committee of Correspondence	19 October	Thomas Nelson Commemoration
18 March	Fort Valley Grave Marking	19 October	Yorktown Victory Parade
28 April	James Monroe Birthday (Hollywood Cemetery)	28 October	Potts Family Plaque Dedication and Grave Marking
21 May	Parker-McIlhenny Grave Marking	3 November	Williamsburg Chapter NSDAR 250th Monument Dedication
29 May	Memorial Day	4 November	Mike Lyman Funeral
24 June	Spencer's Ordinary	4 November	Kemps Landing
26 June	Wayne Rouse Funeral	5 November	Joseph Eggleston Grave Marking
4 July	Bruton Parish Service	11 November	Veterans Day Commemoration
6 July	Green Spring	11 November	Colonial Williamsburg Veterans Day Parade
15 September	Robert Wood Grave Marking	2 December	Battle of Great Bridge
15 September	Daniel Morgan Plaque Dedication	3 December	Gold Star Family Gala



2023 Colonial Williamsburg Veterans Day Parade, SAR Color Guard, following the last veteran as they leave the parade ground at the end of the ceremony.

Please talk to any of our Chapter's color guard members about their experiences, especially if you are interested in joining the color guard. You will likely find that participation in our Chapter's activities as a color guardsman enhances your overall SAR experience. Come join us!



Musket Salute at Joseph Eggleston 2023 grave marking, Amelia County

AWARDS at our November meeting



Vice President John Lynch II and President Bruce Laubach receive the Meritorious Service Medal.



Ron Adolphi and Gary Dunaway receive Distinguished Service Certificates from President Bruce Laubach.



Members of the Williamsburg Chapter received the Roger Sherman Bronze Medal. John Lynch II Vice president, Steve Holm Sergeant at Arms, Hunt Berryman Registrar, and Bruce Laubach President of the Williamsburg Chapter.



President Bruce Laubach presented the Roger Sherman Bronze Medal Oak leaf clusters to Eric Ely, Jim Morford Chaplin, and Roger Cross III past President



President Bruce Laubach presents the Distinguished Service Medal to Treasurer Gary Dunaway



President Bruce Laubach presents the Bronze SAR-CAR Medal to Tatton Mason



The Lydia Darragh Medal is presented to Kathy Dunaway for her service and support to the Williamsburg Chapter by President Bruce Laubach

Registrar's Corner

Congratulations and welcome to our latest new compatriots!

William Douglas Thomas – Bill's patriot ancestor is Isaac Foster, who was a Captain in the Gloucester County Virginia Militia. Bill's father, Eugene Foster Thomas, served as Chaplain for the SAR Virginia Society.

Nathanael Thomas Kreimeyer – Nathanael's patriot ancestor is Charles Consolver, who was a soldier in the Virginia Militia and died at the battle of Cowpens, South Carolina.

We currently have five new member applications and 14 supplemental applications in Louisville under review by the genealogy committee. There are 14 supplemental and 18 new member applications being worked on.

Hunt Berryman
Registrar
Email:

huntberryman@aol.com



Gerry Ward sharing his Patriot ancestor Evan Shelby

GERRY WARD

Patriot – DAR Ancestor # A102413

Gerry is the 4th great grand-son of Evan Shelby who was born in Hagerstown, Maryland in 1751 and died in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina in 1825. Evan Shelby was the son of Moses Shelby, 1728-1777, and Isabella Alexander.

Evan Shelby was married to Susan Polk Alexander. She was born in 1756 in Maryland and died in 1837 in Mecklenburg County. They were married in 1776 in Mecklenburg County and had four children.

Children: Isabella Sarah Alexander
Sarah Alexander
Harriet C. Alexander
John Milton Shelby

Service: South Carolina
Pension # R9471V

Served in: 96th District of South Carolina

He assisted in establishing American independence while serving as a private in South Carolina. Evan served in General Sumter's Brigade during the Revolution. Sumter's Brigade began when a British party of exiles from South Carolina fled into North Carolina as the British advanced. They selected Colonel Thomas Sumter to be their leader and he took the field against the British. Sumter's Brigade were woodsmen of the frontier upcountry.

Neither North Carolina nor South Carolina was in a position to pay, cloth or feed troops, so Sumter's men furnished their own horses and brought along their own muskets and rifles. General Sumter was so daring and fearless he earned the nickname "The Gamecock." This name has lived on as the University of South Carolina's athletics are known as "The Gamecocks."

Served Under: Captain William Alexander
Lieutenant Colonel Wade Hampton
General Thomas Sumter

Post Note: Fort Sumter was built in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina and was named for General Thomas Sumter. With walls five feet thick and fifty feet high, it was designed to mount 135 heavy cannons and garrison 650 officers and men. Just before sunrise on April 12, 1861 the first shot of the Civil War was fired on Fort Sumter by cadets of The Citadel.

Flags of the American Revolution

1775 The 2nd Continental Light Dragoons, also known as "Sheldon's Horse," named after their commander Colonel Elisha Sheldon, was the first of four Dragoon regiments to be raised during the War and the only Dragoon regiment to serve throughout the War. Appointed Colonel Commandant by order of General Washington in December of 1776, Sheldon served as commander of the Second Dragoons until the end of the American Revolution. Under his command, the regiment would see action at the Battle of Brandywine, Battle of Saratoga, Battle of Germantown, Battle of Crooked Billet and the Battle of Yorktown.



Colors of the 2nd Regiment of the Continental Light Dragoons

In this era of slow moving armies with rigid, massed battle formations, Dragoons were unique. Often described as mounted infantry, a combined troop of mounted and dismounted Dragoons could speedily sweep into an enemy's flanks, then under the cover fire from the dismounted Dragoons, the mounted Dragoons would assault the enemy with rapid saber charges, then retreat and reform before the enemy could react.

This mobility also made them excellent for information gathering. The Light Dragoons have been called "Washington's Eyes," and were reportedly used by Major Benjamin Tallmadge, Washington's "Spy Master", for that purpose.



Photo by Karen Corbett

The Williamsburg Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, presented NSSAR Flag Recognition and Retirement Certificates to the Christmas Mouse in Williamsburg, VA. The store properly displays and maintains the flag of our nation and provided a number of used flags to the chapter for proper retirement. Pictured (L to R) is George Corbett, chapter flag committee chairman, and Kathy Kirby, store manager.

From the Chaplain

Jim Morford

I Did Not Speak Out Because....



Credit: etsy.com

As we approach the holiday season – the season of “Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men” – wars in the Middle East and Ukraine threaten to bring the world to what could quickly escalate into WW III. A terrifying thought.

Also terrifying is the widespread antisemitism finding expression from our colleges and universities to the halls of government.

I am reminded of another time when antisemitism took hold of a nation and the freedoms of Jews and non-Jews alike were destroyed.

One individual stands out as a reminder that even if we come around late, it is important that we recognize the dangers posed by those who threaten our basic freedoms.

Friedrich Gustav Emil Martin Niemoller, born in 1892, was a German theologian and Lutheran minister. He was a very complex and very stubborn individual. As a young Naval officer in WW I, he commanded a U-boat and refused to turn it over to England after the Armistice. Following the war, he married and entered seminary. He became a strong German nationalist, highly critical of the Treaty of Versailles that he felt made Germany vulnerable to the communists.

Niemoller believed that Germany needed a strong leader to promote national unity and restore its honor. Hitler was to him that leader and he voted for the Nazi Party. He later confessed that even Hitler's antisemitism reflected a more extreme version of his own prejudice at that time.

Niemoller's conflicts with National Socialism grew as his opposition to the German Christians, a pro-Nazi faction within the German Protestant Church, sought to apply Nazi racial dogma to church membership in such a way as to bar so-called non-Aryans (people considered Jewish under Nazi racial laws) from the ministry and from religious teaching positions. He later said, I put “my hopes on Hitler for a while. I am paying for that mistake now..” He became an outspoken critic of Hitler and the Nazis.

Arrested on July 1, 1937, brought to trial in March of 1938, he was found guilty of activities against the state, fined 2,000 Reichsmarks and sentenced to seven months in prison. Having already served more than seven months, he was released. However, he was immediately rearrested by the Gestapo, interned in prison camps (including Dachau) for "protective custody" from 1938 to 1945.

In late April 1945, Niemoller – together with about 140 high-ranking prisoners – was transported to the Nazi's Alpine Fortress, possibly to be used as hostages in surrender negotiations. The transport's SS guards had orders to kill everyone if liberation became imminent. However, the entire group was eventually liberated by advanced units of the U S Seventh Army.

In 1947, Niemoller was denied Nazi victim status. He never denied his own guilt in the time of the Nazi regime.

In a confession of lessons learned, albeit late, but hopefully a warning to others, Niemoller frequently use his now famous words in speeches and sermons.

First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a socialist.

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

May we in this country heed those words before it's too late.

Pray that we might be a light in this dark world.

Transforming God, whose light penetrates the darkness and whose love overcomes hate, we ask that You sustain us as we struggle to make Your light visible in an angry and frightened world. Uphold us each day as we work for Your justice in unjust places and Your peace where there is no peace. Give us courage and strength when we are fearful and weak. Give us hope and forgiveness when we feel hopeless and angry. Guide us every step of the way as we walk toward Your light. Amen

Newsletter delivery

I have had difficulty for the last two months emailing our newsletter to our 191 compatriots. It has been sent in three groups but members within their group get dropped during transmission.

The alternative is using our web site. When opened just click news at the top then newsletters. I have copied the newsletters over into our web site for access following creation. Dave W – Ed

www.williamsburgsar.org

Thank you

For all the support I received during my 6 years as your editor and web master. Special thanks to compatriot David Hess for setting up our web site for us.

The monthly creation of our newsletter was always something I looked forward to enjoying the challenges of dealing with formats, what font to use here, did I give credit to the photo creators, and spell check was always helpful too.

We received the Virginia SAR Best Newsletter award for 2020 along with a streamer and in 2022-2023 the National SAR Best Newsletter Carl Bessent Award.

Compatriot Sean Heuvel will be your new editor and web master and I will be working with him during the transition.

Dave Westenberger



Williamsburg 2023 Chapter Officers



President	Bruce Laubach	vabelling@msn.com
Vice-President	John Lynch II	cslasoz@aol.com
Secretary	Gerry Ward	Gerry-Ward@outlook.com
Assistant Secretary	Duncan McIver	Duncanmciver@cox.net
Treasurer	Gary Dunaway	ormazd72@gmail.com
Assistant Treasurer	Bill Dorn	wrdorn48@gmail.com
Registrar	Hunt Berryman	huntberryman@aol.com
Public Relations	Robert Davis III	macnider@cox.net
Newsletter & WEB	Dave Westenberger	pa1744@cox.net
Chaplain	Jim Morford	Morfordjc@gmail.com
Sergeant-at-Arms	Steve Holm	
Historian	Tatton Mason	
At-Large	Eric Ely	
At-Large	Ron Adolphi	
Past President	Roger Cross III	



ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ALL MEMBERS

All chapter members have put a significant amount of time in researching their Patriot. Adding Patriot biographies to the PRS is a way to honor your ancestors and possibly help other compatriots in their searches. It is also an easy way to support your chapter and only requires writing a paragraph or two about your Patriot. Whether your Patriot signed the Declaration of Independence, wintered at Valley Forge or simply supported the Revolution by providing supplies, all deserve our recognition. I encourage you to take a few minutes and provide your Patriot's biography to

Gary Dunaway at ormazd72@gmail.com.

Roger Cross

The VASSAR is hosting the Atlantic Middle States at the Williamsburg Lodge on August 9-11, 2024. I have been asked by 1st VP Virginia Society SAR Bill Greaif to provide up to two members of our Chapter to assist in planning this event. I am looking for some volunteers to assist in this planning. This is a great way for you to get more involved in our Chapter and State societies. Please provide me with your name and mailing address and phone number so that I can provide them to 1st VP Greaif. Thank you Bruce Laubach President Williamsburg Chapter VASSAR.

No meeting for December, Installation of 2024 Officers with dinner will be held at The Colonial Heritage Club House, Williamsburg with the Thomas Nelson chapter on Saturday January 20, 2024. 5:30 pm Social.



President	John Lynch II
Vice President	Ronald Adolphi
Secretary	Gerry Ward
Asst. Secretary	Duncan McIver Jr.
Treasurer	Bill Dorn
Registrar	Hunt Berryman
Public Relations	Robert Davis III
Newsletter Editor/Webmaster	Sean Heuvel
Chaplain	George Corbett
Sergeant-at-Arms	Stephen Holm
Historian	Tatton Mason
Member-at-Large	Stephen McGuffin
Member-at-Large	Michael Doucette
Immediate Past President	Bruce Laubach



A Resolution

Whereas the Boston Tea Party is a seminal event in the history of the founding of these United States of America, and

Whereas the nature of this event enacted by American Colonists, generally known as the "Sons of Liberty", was in defiance of the tax on tea which was seen unlawful as "taxation without representation," and

Whereas it is with the spirit and mission of the Compatriots of our great organization to join with our patriotic brothers and sisters in a ceremonial act of independence, and

Whereas, thanks to the sacrifices of our patriot ancestors, we have the liberty to join with others in the ceremonial "Destruction of Tea" as a sign of solidarity with those patriot ancestors.

I, John Dodd, President General of the Sons of the American Revolution do Proclaim Saturday, December 16, 2023, the 250th Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party, as a time of celebration for every patriotic American, and encourage every patriot to assemble with other patriots and at 8:00 PM Boston time join in unison to "destroy tea" as our Patriot Ancestors did 250 years before, be that by imbibing, sharing, or tossing of tea, as the case may be, and general merrymaking.

(And be sure to check out our Boston Tea Party "merch" at the SAR store!)

Under my seal as President General, I proclaim this on November 27, 2023, in Louisville, Kentucky, Headquarters of the Sons of the American Revolution.

John L. Dodd
President General, 2023-2024

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))