



# The Magazine

*Williamsburg Chapter - Virginia  
Society  
Sons of the American Revolution*



Vol. XLII

Number 24

February 2025

## President's Message

Compatriots,

Last month we presented four new Eagle Scouts with their SAR Eagle Scout Certificates and scholarship packages. The recipients were Grace Berquist (Troop 20), Thomas Berquist (Troop 103), Samuel Geesaman (Troop 103), and John J. Hitt (Troop 1607). Ron Adolphi, Harley Stewart, and I attended the Troop 20 and Troop 103 ceremonies. Harley attended the Troop 1607 Eagle Charge ceremony and presented Scout Hitt with his certificate and scholarship package. Also on the Scouting front: the first-place winner of our Chapter's Eagle Scout contest was Ryan Dereix (Troop 414) with the second place prize going to Delaney Robbins (Troop 20). Scout Dereix's submission was sent to VASSAR for judging; he took first place at the state level and will receive his award during the 7-8 February VASSAR Annual Conference in Glen Allen.

The 1781 Skirmish at Charles City Courthouse commemorative event scheduled for 11 January 2025 was postponed to 1 February 2025 because of foul weather. Recently I received SAR documents and a Williamsburg Chapter Roster for the year 2007. The roster showed 86 compatriots in our chapter; 77 of them were living in Virginia and eight others were living out of state and scattered over seven states. 2023 data had 182 members with 161 of them in Virginia and 21 members living outside of Virginia in 11 states. Lastly, the 2024 figures showed 182 compatriots with 160 living in Virginia and 22 out of state compatriots living in 12 states. We've grown! We certainly grew our commemorative events in 2024 and set the stage for others in 2025 and beyond. In 2025 we will consolidate these gains. We will also focus upon our educational efforts, our support to veterans, and our membership. Be on the lookout for a change in the luncheon venue, a relaxed dress code during the warmer months, family events (barbeque cookouts, pizza parlor dinners) and some field trips. Bob Davis has been working hard on developing a Williamsburg Chapter polo shirt. Your board of managers appreciates feedback and ideas from chapter membership. Feel free to contact me or a board member with your thoughts.

Respectfully,

John Lynch

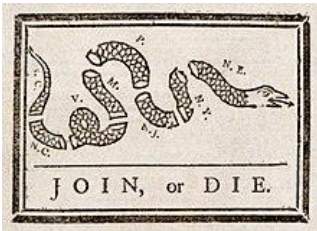
President, Williamsburg Chapter, VASSAR.



# Calendar

***In Memoriam: Compatriot  
Robert Schmidt***

**Monday Feb. 3, 2025**  
7:00pm BOM meeting by ZOOM



**Saturday Feb. 15, 2025**  
Chapter Lunch Meeting  
11:30 am Social  
Fords Colony Country Club  
(New Location!)

## **Content Wanted for *The Magazine!***

Do you have announcements, photos, patriot biographies, or articles that you would like to see published in upcoming issues *The Magazine*? Then please contact newsletter editor Sean Heuvel ([sheuvel@cnu.edu](mailto:sheuvel@cnu.edu)) for further information and for instructions on how to submit them. We look forward to hearing from you!

## Chapter News



An Eagle Scout Recognition of the Sons of the American Revolution was presented to Samuel Geesaman of Troop 103 during a Court of Honor at Lifepoint Church in Toano on January 12, 2025. Williamsburg Chapter President John Lynch made the presentation which included an SAR Scholarship application. Also attending were Vice President Ron Adolphi, who presented a personal gift, and Chairman Harley Stewart. Pictured L to R, are John Lynch and Samuel Geesaman. Samuel is the last of four brothers to have achieved Eagle Scout rank, all of whom have been recognized by the Williamsburg Chapter over the past six years. He is also only 15 years of age, which is remarkably early for achieving Eagle rank (photo by Bruce Laubach).



# New Chapter Officers Installed!



**On January 11, 2025 the Williamsburg Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution inducted the new Board of Managers for 2025. From L to R: John Lynch (President), Ronald Adolphi (Vice President), Hunt Berryman (Registrar), George Corbett (Chaplain), Michael Doucette (Member at Large), William Dorn (Treasurer), Stewart Butler (Historian), Mike Braswell (Secretary), and Stephen McGuffin (Member at Large). Not Shown: Sean Heuvel (Newsletter Editor) and Steve Holm (Sergeant at Arms). Photo by Bruce Laubach.**

# Challenge Coin!

## An Official Williamsburg Chapter Challenge Coin!

Recently, the Board of Managers decided to create an official challenge coin for the Williamsburg Chapter. After exploring several options, the BOM decided to feature the Colonial Williamsburg Powder Magazine on the coin's obverse, as it is an iconic Williamsburg landmark with a close association to the American Revolution. With cooperation and permission from The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, the BOM also secured an image of the Powder Magazine (currently undergoing restoration) that accurately depicts what it looked like in the 18<sup>th</sup> century based on the most current historical and archeological research.

Our new challenge coin costs **\$20 per coin** and will be available for sale at our chapter luncheon chapter meetings. Be sure to buy one (or more) while supplies last!

Side A



Side B







## UPCOMING EVENTS!

**1 February:** Dedication of Black Patriots Marker (1:00pm – across from General District Court - Warsaw).

**1 February:** Skirmish at Charles City County Commemoration – (2:00pm at Charles City County Courthouse).

**7-8 February:** VASSAR Annual Conference ( Virginia Crossings Hotel - Glen Allen).



### 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](http://www.friendsoflafayette.org)  
[www.lafayette200.org](http://www.lafayette200.org)  
[americanfriendsoflafayette@gmail.com](mailto:americanfriendsoflafayette@gmail.com)



# **Welcome to the 135th Virginia SAR Annual Meeting! Greetings, Patriots!**

**Get ready for a memorable experience at the 2025 Virginia SAR Annual Meeting! The Richmond and Williamsburg Chapters are excited to welcome members of the Sons of the American Revolution and their guests to our 135th gathering set at our new venue this year, the picturesque Virginia Crossings Hotel and Conference Center in Glen Allen, VA.**

**This year, we are thrilled to reintroduce the much-anticipated Ladies Luncheon at The Historic Hanover Tavern on Friday before our main event kicks off. President Greaf extends a warm invitation to all compatriots to bring their spouses or significant others to celebrate and support the Virginia SAR compatriots and Virginia DAR Daughters who will join us.**

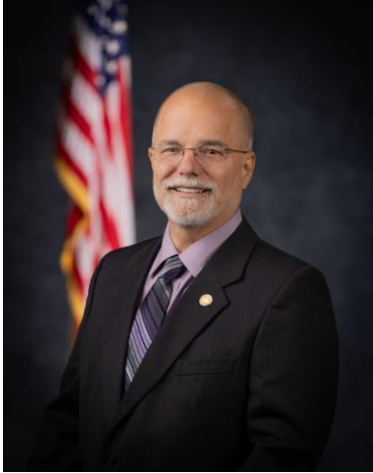
**Our Annual Meeting begins on Friday, February 7th, with a lineup of engaging and festive activities, including our traditional Scrapbook Contest, the vibrant Virginia SAR Color Guard Drumhead Muster event, and a hands-on MemberClicks Workshop. The Ladies Program will offer a fun Game Night with exciting prizes, and the evening will close with President Greaf's delightful Reception.**

**On Saturday, February 8th, the day will be filled with meaningful moments, starting with our General Membership Meeting. We will then witness the eloquence of the Rumbaugh Orations Contest and honor our young achievers at the Youth Awards ceremony. A heartfelt Memorial Service will take place at The Virginia Crossings, where we will announce and celebrate our Public Service Awardees, new State Officers, and the 2024 Chapter Winners. The event will conclude with a commemorative group photo on the portico steps of the Jefferson Building.**

**Saturday evening will conclude our weekend with the Black-Tie Banquet Dinner to install our new President. We close our time together with the new President's Reception.**

**Do Not Delay! Register for the 2025 [Virginia SAR 135th Annual Meeting](#) before midnight on January 31, 2025.**





***Register through Member Clicks or  
mail in the registration form below!***

***Topic: Origins of Distillation in the  
New World***

## **February 15, 2025 Meeting Speaker: Dr. William Dodson, Jr.**

Dr. William Dodson, Jr. is an endodontist who specializes in root canals and root canal surgery. He also operates 8 Shires Coloniale Distillery (7218 Merrimac Trail) in Williamsburg – which also includes a museum that honors America’s history of distillation. Dr. Dodson also serves on the Portsmouth, Virginia City Council.

Reservation for the Saturday, February 15, 2025 Meeting

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

Please reserve\_\_\_\_\_regular meals at \$27.00 each

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

Please make checks payable to “Williamsburg Chapter SAR”

Mail to:

William Dorn – Chapter Treasurer

349 Capeside Court

Williamsburg, VA 23188

(252) 658-2348

[wrdorn48@gmail.com](mailto:wrdorn48@gmail.com)

# George Wythe Society C.A.R. Update

The George Wythe Society C.A.R. presented a program at the Williamsburg Library to community members on January 19th. The program was Colonial Music and Games. Members demonstrated a variety of instruments and games to the visitors who then had an opportunity to try them. The program was also sponsored by the Ann Wager Chapter DAR (photos courtesy of Denise Thomas).





## Tidewater Virginia Patriot of the Month

### Brig. Gen. Jethro Sumner (ca. 1733-1785)

#### North Carolina Line – Continental Army

Jethro Sumner was born in 1733 in Nansemond County (modern-day Suffolk), Virginia, the son of Jethro Sumner and Margaret Sullivan. From 1755-1761, he served in the Virginia Militia; he was promoted to lieutenant in 1758, commanded Fort Bedford in 1760, and ended the French and Indian War as a captain. In 1764, he moved to Warren, North Carolina, where he married Mary Hurst, daughter of a wealthy planter, in 1765. They had three children. He soon opened a tavern and became involved in local politics, first as a justice of the peace in 1768, and then as the Warren County sheriff from 1772 to 1777.

Sumner was elected major in the Halifax district minutemen in 1775, and the following year became a colonel of the Third Battalion of North Carolina Continentals. He participated in the defense of Charleston in June 1776, and served under Washington at Brandywine, Germantown, and Valley Forge. In 1778, he suffered from an illness and returned home to recruit replacements for the Continental units. Sumner was made brigadier general by the Continental Congress in January 1779, and the following June, led a brigade in the Battle of Stono Ferry. In 1780, he joined the defense of North Carolina against Cornwallis' invasion and resigned in protest when General William Smallwood was given command of the state troops in October. General Nathanael Greene persuaded him to return to the field shortly thereafter, and he performed his most important service commanding a brigade that reinforced Greene at Eutaw Springs in September 1781. He retired in 1783, his health seriously impaired, and died two years later. (University of Michigan Library).



# Registrar's Corner – By Hunt Berryman, Registrar

Pictured are Chapter President John Lynch, Virginia Society President Bill Grief, Jim O'Donnell and his wife Mary Ann. Jim was inducted into the society and the Williamsburg Chapter at the January 11<sup>th</sup> officer installation dinner. Jim's patriot ancestor is William Dunnington Sr., who took the oath of allegiance in Maryland in 1778. Past Williamsburg chapter president Tom Campbell was Jim's sponsor (photo courtesy of Bruce Laubach).

Jim was one of fifteen new compatriots, whose applications were approved in 2024, along with four supplemental applications. There are nine new member and eighteen supplemental applications under review for approval by the genealogy committee in Louisville. I am currently processing six new member applications and are in contact with fifteen additional prospects.



# Chaplain's Corner – By George Corbett, Chaplain

## Valentine's Day

When most people think of 14 February, they think of Valentine's Day and their significant other. As a history buff and a proud compatriot to the Sons of the American Revolution, the date brings to mind a major event during our ancestor's quest for a free nation. On 14 February 1781, Major General Nathanael Greene's patriot army crossed the Dan River at what is now South Boston, VA ahead of the British forces chasing him led by Lieutenant General Lord Charles Cornwallis. After the staggering defeat at Cowpens, SC, Cornwallis vowed to destroy the patriot army. Greene, realizing that the army was no match for Cornwallis' entire force retreated through North Carolina with the goal to cross into Virginia and recruit additional men and provide his force with a much-needed rest/recuperation. With the British force in hot pursuit, Greene sent a detachment ahead to the Dan River to gather up boats in preparation to cross the river. The patriot army reached the Dan River ahead of the British force and crossed the river taking all the boats with them. Cornwallis had stretched his supply lines dangerously and had to retreat. Greene was able to reequip the army and recruit new men. The aftermath of this event was the Battle of Guilford Courthouse and Cornwallis' move to Wilmington, NC and then to Yorktown, VA where victory would be won by a combine American and French army. So, when you think of Valentine's Day, you might want to also think about this major event in our American Revolution.

Most Gracious Father, we thank You for this Land of Freedom and all the blessings that You have bestowed upon it through the years. We are eternally grateful for Your Divine hand in the affairs of this nation. May we never forget the selfless sacrifices of our patriot ancestors. Let us seek to be ever mindful of Your grace and love for each of us, Your children. In Your Most Holy Name, Amen.

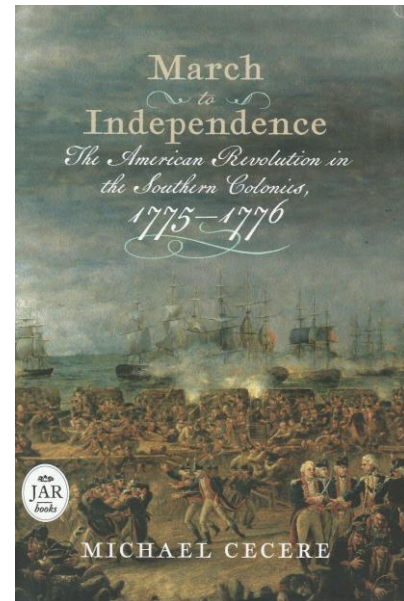
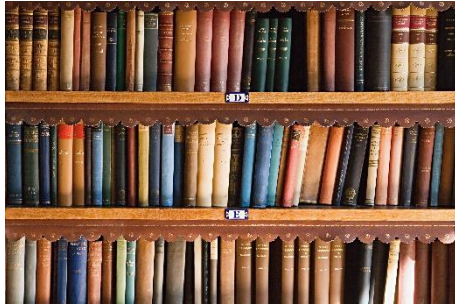


## 2025 Williamsburg Chapter SAR Officers



President	John Lynch II
Vice President	Ron Adolphi
Secretary	Mike Braswell
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	Stuart Butler
Member-at-Large	Stephen McGuffin
Member-at-Large	Michael Doucette
Immediate Past President	Bruce Laubach

## ***Book of the Month – By Stephen Holm, Sergeant-at- Arms***



### ***March to Independence: The American Revolution in the Southern Colonies, 1775-1776***

In *March to Independence: The American Revolution in the Southern Colonies, 1775–1776*, historian Michael Cecere, consulting primary source documents, examines how Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia ended up supporting the colonies to the north, while East Florida remained within the British sphere. South Carolina, Georgia, and East Florida all retained their royal governors through the summer of 1775, and no military engagements occurred in any of the southern colonies in the six months following the battles in Massachusetts. The situation changed significantly in the fall, however, with armed clashes in Virginia and South Carolina; by early 1776 the war had spread to all of the southern colonies except East Florida. Although their march to independence did not follow the exact route as the colonies to the north, events in the South pulled the southern colonists in the same direction, culminating with a united Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. Maps and images, a bibliography, and an index to full-names, places and subjects add to the value of this work.

Raffle tickets for this book will be available at our next luncheon meeting. One ticket for \$1 or 7 tickets for \$5 - See Stephen Holm - Sergeant-at-Arms



# 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>



8778  
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))