



# 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. XIX

Number 11

November 2015

## Message from the President

A note to the 100 plus members who were unable to attend our October meeting. You missed an exceptional presentation!! Our speaker was Doug Cummings, historian, Christopher Wren instructor and author. His insightful assessment of the four leadership participants in the battle of Yorktown provided fresh insights into this pivotal struggle for our independence.

With that admonition please do not miss our signature Veterans Day events. On Wednesday November 11 we will gather at the Governor's Palace in Colonial Williamsburg at 11 AM. Ceremonial wreaths will be presented by the Williamsburg DAR, the Thomas Nelson Jr. SAR and our chapter. This is the site where anthropologists in 1930 discovered 156 skeletons and confirmed these remains to be from the battle at Yorktown in Oct 1781. Tom Campbell has been coordinating our Chapter participation with Colonial Williamsburg, and Joe Spruill will be the event narrator. At the completion of the events at the palace we will adjourn to the Fort McGruder Inn for lunch

Jay Smith, our VP has again "hit a home run" with our speaker, Andrew O'Shaughnessy. Professor O'Shaughnessy's newest book, "The Men Who Lost America: British Leadership, the American Revolution and the Fate of the Empire" has received five national awards. Please do not miss these special events honoring all veterans, with our special focus on our colonial forefathers.

We have all received the slate of officers for 2016 via E-mail. If any of you have not, they are listed on page 7 of this newsletter. As our bylaws require we will conduct an election at our 11 November meeting.

Fellow Williamsburg SAR members, we are indeed fortunate to have this group of men agree to continue to commit their time and expertise, ensuring the success of our Chapter.

- Don Swain





### Chapter/VASSAR Calendar

Upcoming SAR Events in Our Region & Beyond

**NOVEMBER 11th, 2015**

**Veterans Day SAR Governor's Palace  
Williamsburg, VA**

**NOVEMBER 11th, 2015**

**Williamsburg Chapter Meeting  
Williamsburg, VA**

**DECEMBER 5th, 2015**

**Commemoration of the Battle of  
Great Bridge  
Great Bridge, VA**

### REMINDER

**No Chapter Meeting in December**

**JANUARY 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Commemoration of the Battle of  
Cowpens  
Gaffney, SC**

**A NSSAR event sponsored by SCSAR**



## November 11th Chapter Luncheon

The Williamsburg Chapter invites all members and their ladies to attend the November luncheon meeting following the Veterans Day Ceremonies at the Governor's Palace in Colonial Williamsburg.

There will be an excellent guest speaker, **Andrew Jackson O'Shaughnessy**, author of "The Men Who Lost America" Looking forward to seeing you there.

**Date:** Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015

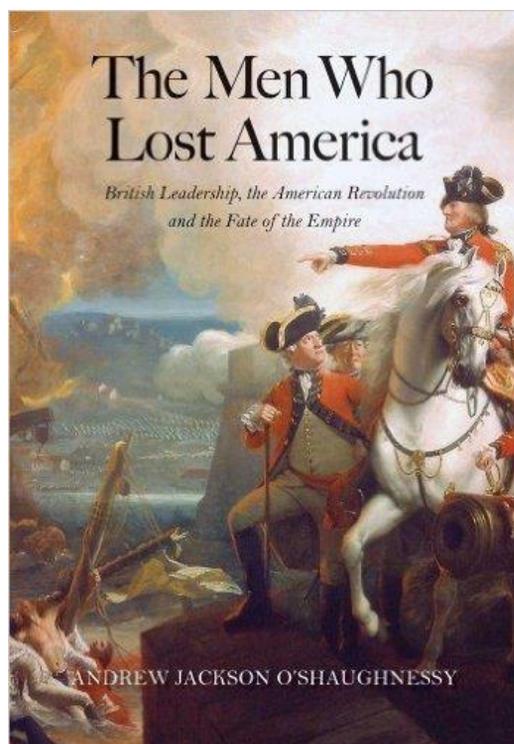
**Location:** Fort Magruder Inn  
& Conference Center

6945 Pocahontas Trail (Rt. 60 east)

**Meeting:** 12:00 noon

**Sign-up Form on page 11 for the Wednesday  
November 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting @ 12:00 noon.**

**Reservations MUST be received not later than  
Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup>.**



## November Luncheon Speaker: **Andrew O'Shaughnessy**

Dr. Andrew O'Shaughnessy is the Saunders Director of the Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies at Monticello, as well as a Professor of History at the University of Virginia. He is the author of "An Empire Divided: The American Revolution and the British Caribbean" (2000), as well as his new work, "The Men Who Lost America: British Leadership, the American Revolution, and the Fate of the Empire".

He has lectured widely to both scholarly and general audiences. He is an editor of the Jeffersonian American Series of the University of Virginia Press; a member of the advisory board of the Founding Fathers' Libraries Project; a member of the advisory board of the Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution; and a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. He lives in Charlottesville, VA.



**Topic:** "The Men Who Lost America"

### *Registrar's Corner*

We're missing a great opportunity. We live in America's most visible colonial area among people who enjoy history. The community is patriotic, there are many retired veterans and government employees. There are many social activities where we meet new people. If we are proud to be members of the SAR, we should be spreading information to other men about joining. Ask if they are interested. I was introduced to a new couple at our church; they said they were from Connecticut (ah ha, my brain said "one of the 13 colonies") In the next ten minutes the gentleman promised he would write a relative for the family info; his wife has hers and will join the DAR. Another example: one of our members was in a local business and spotted an employee with a nametag that said "Washington," and he remarked that with that name he should be in the SAR. Tom Washington was inducted a few months later. Find a prospect, and notify the registrar by e-mail; he will follow up.

*-Ron Lisee*

# Williamsburg Chapter SAR Veterans Day 2014



2014: Bob Spencer, Williamsburg Chapter, President for 2014, lays a wreath to commemorate the patriots who gave their lives for our freedom and are buried in the area behind the Governors Palace in Colonial Williamsburg



Don't miss the opportunity to participate in this years Veterans Day ceremony with your fellow SAR compatriots on November 11<sup>th</sup>. The ceremony will start at 11:00am in the burial area behind the Governors Palace in Colonial Williamsburg. Following the commemoration we will enjoy our luncheon meeting at the Fort McGruder Inn.

2014: Members of local Boy Scout Troops participate in the ceremony to commemorate the patriots who gave their lives at the Battle of Yorktown and are buried in the area behind the Governors Palace in Colonial Williamsburg



## SAR 1st Lady Mickey Jo Lawrence Visits Bob Dunnells



National Society President General Tom Lawrence and his lady Mickey Jo came up from Houston, Texas for the Yorktown Day events. One of Mickey Jo's initiatives this year is to visit veterans wherever they may be. So Laura Truslow took Mickey Jo over to Dominion Village to visit with WWII Veteran and Past Chapter President Bob Dunnells. Bob immediately recognized Mickey Jo since she, Tom and the family are on the front cover of the current SAR Magazine. Bob was obviously honored by Mickey Jo's visit. Pictured are Bob and Mickey Jo.

## SAR Donates Bust of Rochambeau

SAR President General Tom Lawrence and other national officers, together with SAR Virginia Society officers, gathered in Yorktown to present to the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation (JYF) a work-of-art bronze bust of French General Comte de Rochambeau. He was with George Washington, who commanded the campaign that effectively ended the Revolutionary War in 1781. The SAR Atlantic Middle States District of 7 state societies commissioned prominent Franco-American sculptor Pierre Lefebvre to create and cast the bronze bust for presentation to the museum. The bust will be displayed and used in the education wing of the new American Revolution Museum at Yorktown when the Museum opens in late 2016.



Pictured L-R are:

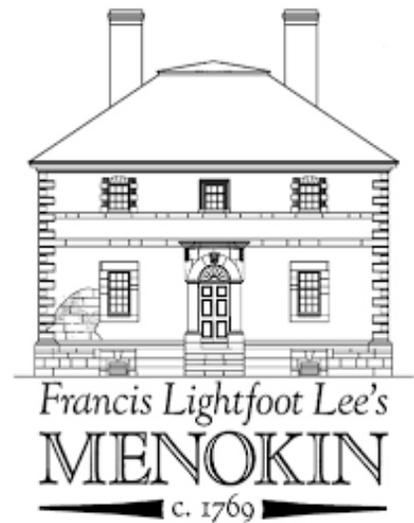
Edward Truslow, 1st Vice President, Virginia Society  
 Reverdy Wright, President of the Virginia Society  
 Larry Leslie, Surgeon General  
 Tom Lawrence, President General  
 Pierre Lefebvre, Sculptor  
 George Jones, Vice President General, Mid-Atlantic District  
 Peter Armstrong, Sr. Director of JYF Museum Operations and Education  
 Randy Flood, JYF Interpreter and Museum Educator

## Teacher of the Year Certificate Awarded

Don Swain, President, Williamsburg SAR, standing on the left, presents the SAR Teacher of the Year Certificate to Richard Ambler, Jamestown High School U.S. Government teacher. Howard Perley, Williamsburg SAR, and Catherine Worley, Jamestown Principal are also shown.



## Rappahannock Chapter Joins Virginia State Society



On Saturday October 17<sup>th</sup>, National Society President General Tom Lawrence presented the newly formed Rappahannock Chapter with their charter, inducted their charter members and installed their officers. The event was held at "Menokin" near Warsaw, Virginia. "Menokin" was the 18<sup>th</sup> century home of Francis Lightfoot Lee, who was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. It was a fitting site for the ceremony. The new chapter area encompasses the upper portion of Virginia's Middle Peninsula which includes Middlesex and Essex counties. Pictured L-R are Ed Truslow, Williamsburg Chapter member and Virginia Society 1st Vice President, Trice Taylor Past Virginia Society President, Tom Lawrence, President General and Pat Kelly Virginia Society 3rd Vice President as well as a VASSAR Color Guard member.

# Williamsburg Chapter Board of Directors Nominations for 2016



|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| President        | Harley Stewart   |
| Vice President   | Jay Smith        |
| Secretary        | Roger Cross      |
| Treasurer        | Jack Lee         |
| Registrar        | Ron Losee        |
| Chaplain         | Jim Henry        |
| Historian        | Bill Greaif      |
| Public Relations | Lew de Seife     |
| Projects         | Tom Campbell     |
| Sergeant-at-Arms | George Bridewell |



## *Ron Losee Receives NSSAR Liberty Medal*

Don Swain, Williamsburg Chapter President presents the Liberty Medal to Registrar Ron Losee. The medal was awarded to Ron at the 125th Congress of the NSSAR, Louisville, KY, June 29, 2015.

The Liberty Medal is a national award in recognition of outstanding services in the recruitment of new members. Ron has successfully recruited, and assisted over 30 new members for our chapter during his tenure as our Registrar. This is his third recruiting award.

**Congratulations Ron!**



# Williamsburg Chapter Meeting, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015



Williamsburg Chapter Registrar, Ron Losee, on the right, welcomes newest chapter member, Jack Moon at the October 10<sup>th</sup> luncheon meeting



Don Swain, Williamsburg Chapter President, on the left, presents Steve Riddle with a Supplemental Patriot Certificate at the October 10<sup>th</sup> luncheon meeting.



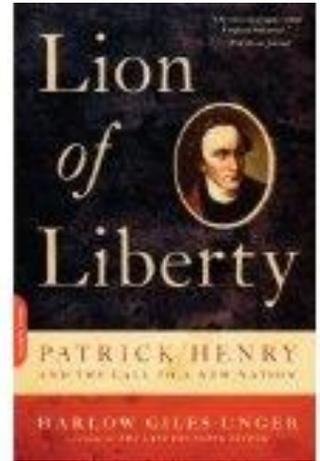
Jay Smith, Williamsburg Chapter Vice-President, presents luncheon speaker Doug Cummings with a Certificate of Appreciation, and a Jefferson cup, for his insightful presentation about the primary leaders at the Battle of Yorktown.



## November 11<sup>th</sup> 2015 Book Raffle



The November Raffle Book is entitled, "Lion of Liberty: Patrick Henry And The Call To A New Nation", by Harlow Giles Unger. It presents a gripping drama of Patrick Henry, a monumental figure in American history, hailed in his time as the first of the nation's founding fathers. Raffle tickets are \$1 per ticket or \$5 for seven, and may be purchased at the chapter meeting.



## DAR Celebrates 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The 125th Anniversary of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution and the 300th Anniversary of Bruton Parish Church were celebrated on October 11, 2015 at Bruton Parish Church. The history of the Church was presented by church historian, Anne Conkling. Ed Truslow made remarks and gave congratulations on behalf of the Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution. Several other Williamsburg Chapter SAR members attended the ceremony.



From L-R: Edward Truslow, 1st Vice-President Virginia Society, SAR, Jane Stewart, Sandy Reese, Jack Lee, Eunice Cannon, State Librarian of Virginia Society, DAR, Virginia Lee, Regent of Williamsburg Chapter, DAR, Sydney Riddle, Linda Pearson, Pam Meiering, State Treasurer Virginia Society, DAR, Ron Losee, Don Swain, President Williamsburg Chapter, SAR, and Harley Stewart

## Williamsburg Chapter Welcomes Descendent of Benjamin Harrison V



Peter Randolph Taylor of Athens, Georgia, recently became a member of the Williamsburg Chapter SAR. Mr. Taylor's Revolutionary War Patriot is Benjamin Harrison V, whose family was prominent in the development of America and lived at nearby Berkeley Plantation. He is also an active member of the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, the Carter Family Society and Page-Nelson Society.



## Williamsburg Chapter Represented at Yorktown Days



Williamsburg Chapter Vice-President, Jay Smith, on the right, and member Bob White, prepare to place a wreath at the tomb of Gen. Thomas Nelson Jr., Governor of Virginia, and Commander of the Virginia Militia, during the Battle at Yorktown. The wreath was placed during celebrations at Yorktown Days commemorating the victory in 1781.



A ramrod straight US Marine Corps officer enjoys the Army's "Old Guard" Fife and Drum Corps perform in front of the victory monument during the annual Yorktown Days parade commemorating the victory won in October 1781 by combined American and French forces.



### Williamsburg Chapter Information

For more information, please visit our website at

<http://williamsburg.virginia-sar.org/>

Current Membership: 125

2015 New Members: 15

If you are interested in joining the Williamsburg Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, please contact our Registrar, Ron Losee, at [valosee@aol.com](mailto:valosee@aol.com).

### 2015 Williamsburg Chapter Officers

|                       |                    |  |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--|
| President             | Don Swain          | <a href="mailto:dswain1015@aol.com">dswain1015@aol.com</a>             |
| Vice-President        | Jay Smith          | <a href="mailto:jay.smith92346@gmail.com">jay.smith92346@gmail.com</a> |
| Secretary             | Harley Stewart     | <a href="mailto:hstewart9@cox.net">hstewart9@cox.net</a>               |
| Treasurer             | Jack Lee           | <a href="mailto:valce@widomaker.com">valce@widomaker.com</a>           |
| Public Relations      | Lew de Seife       | <a href="mailto:ldescife@cox.net">ldescife@cox.net</a>                 |
| Registrar/Genealogist | Ron Losee          | <a href="mailto:valosee@aol.com">valosee@aol.com</a>                   |
| Historian             | William Greaif     | <a href="mailto:hcaprof@verizon.net">hcaprof@verizon.net</a>           |
| Chaplain              | Rev. Dr. Jim Henry | <a href="mailto:thedawgsdidit@cox.net">thedawgsdidit@cox.net</a>       |
| At-Large Member       | Tom Campbell       | <a href="mailto:tcampbell113@cox.net">tcampbell113@cox.net</a>         |
| At-Large Member       | George Bridewell   | <a href="mailto:gbridewell@aol.com">gbridewell@aol.com</a>             |

*Cut along dotted line*

**Reservation for the Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> 2015 Chapter Meeting:**

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ dinners at \$20.00

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

# of Vegetarian Dinners \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to "Williamsburg Chapter SAR"

and mail to:

Jack Lee

521 Newport Ave.

Williamsburg, VA 23185-4012

(757) 221-6686

[valce@widomaker.com](mailto:valce@widomaker.com)

