



# 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. XX

NO 2

FEBRUARY 2016

## Message from the President

Please join me in thanking Don Swain for his excellent leadership in a very successful year for our Chapter. It was a pleasure serving with Don. He will continue to be on the Chapter's Board of Managers in 2016. Don is also chairman of the Elam Church/Cemetery commemoration in February.

Our chapter has grown greatly. The 110 members at the start of 2015 and 132 members at the end represents an astonishing 20% increase. We have Ron Losee, our Registrar, to thank for the induction of 21 new SAR members. A goal during 2016 will be to translate our strength into increased activities involving new members.

The joint dinner/meeting of the Thomas Nelson, Jr. Chapter of the SAR and our Chapter took place on Saturday evening, January 9<sup>th</sup>. Close to 70 people attended and thoroughly enjoyed this annual event. You will not want to miss our next meeting on February 13<sup>th</sup>, which will be a ladies/ Valentine's Day gala with flowers. This event was a great success last year. Another important date will be the VASSAR Annual Meeting on February 19-20 to be held at the Omni Hotel in Richmond. We will see our own Ed Truslow being installed as President of the Virginia Society SAR. Please join us at the Elam Church/Cemetery commemoration on February 21<sup>st</sup> for a wreath-laying, color guard ceremony at the Cemetery marker for 26 Revolutionary War patriots. I look forward to working with you during this coming year.

*-Harbey Stewart*

## Registrar's Corner

I've had numerous inquiries regarding the charter bus trips to the DAR Library in Washington D. C. that I speak of occasionally. They are sponsored by the Tidewater Genealogy Society and are run four times a year. Next trip will be March 16<sup>th</sup>. Bus departs Virginia Beach and works its way to Williamsburg, stopping at Shorty's Diner, near a parking lot where you can leave your vehicle. Bus picks up about 6:30am, arrives D. C. around 9:30am. Also delivers those interested to the National Archives and Library of Congress. Pick up at DAR Library about 4:30pm, followed by Archives. It stops at the Fredericksburg Golden Corral for dinner.

(There is a lunch room at DAR, bring a sandwich, several machines provide drinks, cookies, etc.) The bus arrives back in Williamsburg around 9:00pm.

Peggy\_lutton@kindermorgan.com is the contact. Reservations are necessary. Cost is \$60 for TGS members, and \$75 for nonmembers. Call Ron for more information. Second subject: Come on, members, do some recruiting. Know someone with a Revolutionary War ancestor? Send me his name.

*- S.F. Ron Losee*





### Chapter/VASSAR Calendar

Upcoming SAR Events in Our Region & Beyond

February 6<sup>th</sup> 2016

**Battle of Cowen's Ford  
(Hosted by NCSSAR)**

February 13<sup>th</sup> 2016

**Luncheon Meeting  
Ft. Magruder Inn**

February 12-13<sup>th</sup> 2016

**Crossing of the Dan  
South Boston, VA**

**(Hosted by NCSSAR and VASSAR)**

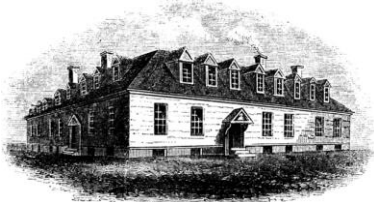
February 19-20<sup>th</sup> 2016

**VASSAR Annual Meeting**

**Omni Hotel  
Richmond, VA**

February 21<sup>st</sup> 2016

**Ceremony at Old Elam Cemetery  
Ruthville, Charles City County, VA**



### *February 13<sup>th</sup> Chapter Luncheon*

The Williamsburg Chapter invites all members, and especially their ladies, to attend the February 13<sup>th</sup> Luncheon to honor the ladies of SAR.

We look forward to seeing you there.

**Date:** Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup> 2016

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

6945 Pocahontas Trail (Rt. 60 east)

**Social:** 11:30 am

**Meeting:** 12:00 pm

Please see the sign-up form on the last page of this newsletter.

**Reservations MUST be received not later than  
Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>.**



## *Crossing of the Dan*

The crossing of Greene's Army across the Dan River from North Carolina into Virginia was the climactic moment of the famed "Race to the Dan," a chase across North Carolina that began after American forces stunned British troops at the Battle of Cowpens in South Carolina. The stunning achievement is remembered today at the Crossing of the Dan Exhibit in South Boston, Virginia.

As winter descended on the Carolinas in December of 1780, the British army of Lt. Gen. Charles, Lord Cornwallis, appeared to be on the verge of ultimate victory in the South. One of Gen. George Washington's most able subordinates, Gen. Nathaniel Greene, was sent to North Carolina in a desperate effort to salvage the situation. Greene sent Gen. Daniel Morgan into South Carolina with one wing of his army. Morgan allowed himself to be pursued by British troops under Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton. Morgan turned on him at the Battle of Cowpens on January 17, 1781 and smashed Tarleton's command and then retreated rapidly north into North Carolina with hundreds of prisoners and a wealth of captured weaponry and supplies.

Gen. Greene also turned his wing of the army North. He knew that Lord Cornwallis would be furious over the loss and would move quickly to destroy the American army and recapture the prisoners taken by Morgan. Greene and Morgan moved rapidly north, pushing the prisoners forward as quickly as possible and destroying boats and ferry crossings as they advanced. Cornwallis burned his own burdensome trains of supply wagons and chased with remarkable speed.

There was some skirmishing as the two armies raced north, but Greene refused to turn and fight a major battle that he knew he would almost certainly lose.



As the Race continued, Gen. Greene aimed his army for the Dan River, a wide and important natural barrier near the line dividing North Carolina from Virginia. If he could reach the Dan, he knew, he would be able to prevent Cornwallis from crossing. With Cornwallis and his cold and exhausted army close behind, Greene reached a place called Boyd's Ferry on the Dan River. On February 14, 1781, St. Valentine's Day, and with some of his men manning defensive earthworks to hold off the British, he moved his men across the river. A flotilla of ferryboats and every small boat the Americans could find was used to carry men, wagons, supplies and cannon across.

The Crossing of the Dan was a brilliant success. Greene saved his army and just one month later crossed back over the river to challenge Cornwallis at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. The American army would go on to reconquer much of the South, while the British would march on to ultimate defeat at the Battle of Yorktown.

The Crossing of the Dan is interpreted today by a beautiful museum in Halifax, Virginia. The Crossing of the Dan Exhibit is located in The Prizery, a cultural center that stands on the site of the home of the Boyd Family, the operators of the ferry where Greene's army crossed the river.

## *Commemoration at Old Elam Cemetery*

### *Sunday, February 21st 2016*



The Williamsburg SAR chapter has accepted an invitation from the Pastor of Elam Baptist church in Ruthville, Charles City County, Virginia to present a brief ceremony honoring Black American heroes who participated in the Revolutionary War. This presentation will take place at the Elam church facilities on Sunday 21 February at 1:00 PM following his morning church service. He plans on inviting other Charles City congregations to attend as well. The Charles City County Historian, Judith Ledbetter, has agreed to present remarks detailing aspects of black patriots significant contributions to America's successful war for independence. We hope to have members of our chapter color guard present the colors. Following this event members of our SAR chapter and the church congregation will travel two miles to the Old Elam cemetery. This is the site of a granite monument dedicated in 2008 by the Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolutionary listing 26 Charles City County patriots. At this brief event our chapter president, Harley Stewart, will present our chapter wreath and Chaplin James Henry will provide a benediction. . Please join us in honoring these men of color who fought to gain our liberty.

**DIRECTIONS:** From Williamsburg travel west on Route 5 approximately 15 miles. Turn right onto The Glebe Road. The church is about two miles ahead on the left in Ruthville. To reach the cemetery, go past the church on The Glebe Road for about a mile and turn right onto Old Elam Cemetery Road. The cemetery is about a mile or so down on the left.

## *Williamsburg and Thomas Nelson Jr. Annual Joint Chapter Meeting*

On Saturday, January 9th, The annual joint meeting dinner of the Williamsburg and Thomas Nelson Jr. chapters was held at the Fort Magruder Inn. We were especially pleased that VASSAR President Reverdy Wright was able to attend and offer remarks. The new Board of Officers for each chapter took the oath of office, and new members from each chapter were inducted.



### *Proudly Presenting the 2016 Board of Officers*

L - R Reverdy Wright, VASSAR President,  
Williamsburg Chapter SAR Board:  
Harley Stewart, President, Jay Smith,  
Vice President, Jack Lee, Treasurer,  
Ron Losee, Registrar, Jim Henry,  
Chaplain, Bill Greafe, Historian,  
Roger Cross, Secretary. Not pictured,  
Lew de Scife, Public Relations

### *Induction of New Members*

Both chapters were pleased to induct new members.

Williamsburg Chapter: L - R Don Swain Williamsburg Chapter President, inductees Richard Martin, James Morford.

Thomas Nelson Jr. Chapter: Carroll Owens, inducted by Bruce Meyer, Chapter President.



*February Luncheon Speaker***John Grady**

John Grady has lived in Williamsburg for a few years and works as a group interpreter for Colonial Williamsburg. Most of his public speaking experience was gained when he lived in New Jersey and spoke frequently to groups on the history and architecture of the area. John, along with a colleague authored two books on Plainfield, New Jersey's architecture.

Since living in Williamsburg, he has immersed himself in Revolutionary War history. He became fascinated with the Thaddeus Kosciuszko story and feels that he is much under rated. Much of what he was involved in directly impacted the events in Yorktown. John has a period costume but does not speak 'in the moment'. He relates Kosciuszko's early education in Poland, his reasons, for coming to America, his activities here during the war, his return to Poland to fight and then his triumphant return to America where he became close friends with Vice-president Jefferson. It is a story he feels the need to tell.



Thaddeus Kosciuszko

*"Let Freedom Ring" Challenge*

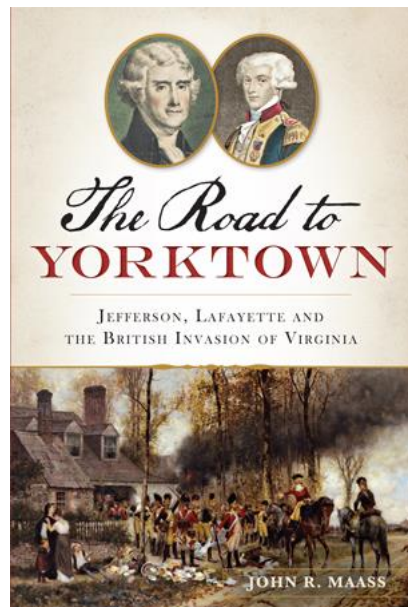
Williamsburg SAR chapter has reserved three time slots for members to ring the Freedom Bell at the First Baptist Church in Williamsburg on Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup>. The times are 10:30-10:35am, 10:35-10:40am, and 10:40-10:45am. Each time slot can accommodate 4-5 persons. Information on signing up will be forwarded shortly.

The church was secretly founded in 1776 by a group of enslaved and free men and women. It's bell has been silent for generations. Now, during Black History Month, the public is invited to ring the recently reconditioned bell to celebrate freedom. The Williamsburg chapter of SAR is both proud and honored to take the "Let Freedom Ring" Challenge.



# Book Raffle for February

The Raffle book is The Road to Yorktown: Jefferson, Lafayette and the British Invasion of Virginia by John R. Maass, History Press Charleston, SC, 29403, 2016.



Raffle tickets are \$1 each or 7 for \$5 and can be purchased at the meeting..

## 2016 Williamsburg Chapter Officers

President	Harley Stewart	<a href="mailto:hstewart9@cox.net">hstewart9@cox.net</a>
Vice-President	Jay Smith	<a href="mailto:jay.smith92346@gmail.com">jay.smith92346@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Roger Cross	<a href="mailto:rogercross@msn.com">rogercross@msn.com</a>
Treasurer	Jack Lee	<a href="mailto:valec@widomaker.com">valec@widomaker.com</a>
Public Relations	Lew de Seife	<a href="mailto:ldeseife@cox.net">ldeseife@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:thedawgsdedit@cox.net">thedawgsdedit@cox.net</a>
Projects	Tom Campbell	<a href="mailto:tcampbell113@cox.net">tcampbell113@cox.net</a>
Sergeant-at-Arms	George Bridewell	<a href="mailto:gbridewell@aol.com">gbridewell@aol.com</a>

*Cut along dotted line*

**Reservation for the Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup> 2016 Chapter Luncheon 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

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

