



# 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 7

JULY 2016

## President's Message

I never tire of reading the story about the signers of the Declaration of Independence printed under the masthead of our newsletter, and I never tire of reading some of the closing paragraphs in David McCullough's famous book "1776." In it he writes, "the year 1776, celebrated as the birth year of the nation and for the signing of the Declaration of Independence, was for those who carried the fight for independence forward a year of all-too-few victories, of defeat and discouragement." But "Washington never gave up. Again and again, in letters to Congress and to his officers, and in his general orders, he called for perseverance – for perseverance and spirit, for patience and perseverance, for unremitting courage and perseverance."

These are lessons that we of, the SAR, need to hold dear, conveying them to our countrymen and especially to our youth – that courage and determination can carry the day through discouragement and against great odds.

If we can apply these lessons in our own times, no matter the difficulties, we, of the SAR, will have helped keep intact this unique and blessed nation that our patriot ancestors sacrificed so much to create.

In order to recognize SAR member veterans, our National Society has established five Veterans Corps: WWII, Korea, Vietnam, S.W. Asia, and Military Service. At our most recent meeting Bob Davis, our Veterans Affairs Chair, awarded seven Certificates and Medals of Patriotism. More are being processed and Bob invites our veteran members to contact him about making an application. Well done, Bob Davis!

[The President's Message is continued on page 5.](#)





## Chapter/VASSAR Calendar

Upcoming SAR Events in Our Region & Beyond

July 3rd<sup>h</sup> 2016

Independence Day Concert

Flag Distribution

Merchants Square

Colonial Williamsburg

July 4<sup>th</sup> 2016

Independence Day Celebrations

Bruton Parish Church and

Berkeley Plantation

July 6<sup>th</sup> 2016

Battle of Green Spring

Commemoration

Church on the Main

Jamestown, VA

## July 9<sup>h</sup> Chapter Luncheon

The Williamsburg Chapter invites all members, and their guests, to attend the July 9<sup>th</sup> luncheon. We look forward to seeing you there.

Date: Saturday, July 9, 2016

Location: Ft. Magruder Inn

Williamsburg

Meeting: 11:30

Please see the RSVP information on the last page of this newsletter.

Reservations **MUST** be received no later than Wednesday, July 6<sup>th</sup>.

## James M. Brown

James M. Brown, a member of the Williamsburg Chapter SAR, passed away on March 22 of this year. Jim joined SAR in 2012 by identifying Captain Benjamin Vail Jr. of the New York State Militia as his ancestor. He was born in The Bronx, New York City on 15 March 1935 and married to Elizabeth Tucci on 29 October 1966 in Baldwin, New York.



## Chapter Happenings

### New Members Welcomed



On the left, Williamsburg Chapter President Harley Stewart welcomes new member Lowery McNeel who is accompanied by his wife Carole.

New members were inducted by the Williamsburg Chapter. L-R Ron Losec, SAR Registrar, Lee Trolan, Harley Stewart, Williamsburg SAR President, Fred Siegel, his wife Barbi.



L-R Harley Stewart, Williamsburg Chapter President, Linda Icenhour, James Icenhour, former JCC Supervisor, Robert Norman, and Leona Norman, his wife



# The Battle at Spencer's Ordinary Commemoration



L-R: J. Lee, J. Hess, E. Truslow, Virginia SAR President, J. Smith, B. Greaf, G. Bridewell, B. White, H. Stewart, Williamsburg Chapter President, J. Henry, B. Thompson, R. Losee, J. Icenhour, F. Siegel, D. Swain.

## James Cameron as John Rolliston,



James Cameron, pictured on the left as John Rolliston, is presented with a Jefferson cup by Jay Smith Williamsburg Chapter Vice-President in appreciation of his interpretation at the June luncheon meeting.

## Chapter Members Receive Military and War Service Medals

Below L-R: Bob Davis, Veterans coordinator, Duncan McIver, Rich Snyder, Ward Gypson, Joe Spruill, Don Swain, Bill Greaf, Chris Holmes, Harley Stewart, Williamsburg Chapter President.



## Annual July 4<sup>th</sup> Events

Every 4<sup>th</sup> of July members and guests of the Williamsburg Chapter SAR are invited to participate in a special prayer service at Bruton Parish Church beginning at 9:30am.

Following the special service at Bruton Parish, the SAR members dash for their cars and make their way up Route 5 to Berkeley Plantation for the commemoration held annually by the Williamsburg Chapter DAR, at the tomb of Benjamin Harrison V, who was a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Berkeley Plantation is also noted for being the location of the first "Thanksgiving" here in America when on December 4<sup>th</sup> 1619, two years before the Pilgrims in Massachusetts held their Thanksgiving, the founders of Berkeley Plantation celebrated "Thanksgiving" on their safe arrival from England.

Berkeley Plantation is also the site where, in July of 1862, Union General Daniel Butterfield wrote the now famous bugle call of "Taps".



## President's Message, Cont'd

We have entered a very patriotic time of year for our nation and for our chapter. On June 26<sup>th</sup> we commemorated the Battle of Spencer's Ordinary at Freedom Park. On July 3<sup>rd</sup> Ron Losee and his SAR crew will pass out small American flags at the U.S. Air Force Concert in Merchants Square. Our chapter will sponsor a July 4<sup>th</sup> Service of Prayer and Thanksgiving at Bruton Parish Church: our Chaplain, Rev. Dr. Jim Henry has coordinated this event and SAR members will serve as ushers, scripture reader and flag presenter. Also on July 4<sup>th</sup>, our chapter will attend and place a memorial wreath at the DAR ceremony at Berkeley Plantation. On July 6<sup>th</sup> we will commemorate the Battle of Green Spring at the Church-on-the-Main near Jamestown. We wrap all this up with a general meeting at Ft. Magruder on July 9<sup>th</sup> at which the speaker will be Dr. William M. (Bill) Kelso, Director of Jamestown Rediscovery and member of SAR Williamsburg Chapter. It will have been two weeks well spent, fellow compatriots! Be sure to take part.

- Harley Stewart



## Williamsburg Chapter Color Guard

In military organizations, the Color Guard refers to a detachment of soldiers assigned to the protection of regimental colors.

This duty is so prestigious that the color is generally carried by a young officer, while experienced non-commissioned officers are assigned to the protection of the flag.

These NCOs can be ceremonially armed with either sabers or rifles to protect the color.

As armies became trained and adopted set formations, each regiment's ability to keep its formation was potentially critical to its, and therefore its army's, success. In the chaos of battle, not least due to the amount of dust and smoke on a battlefield, soldiers needed to be able to determine where their regiment was. Flags and banners have been used by many armies in battle to serve this purpose.

Regimental flags were generally awarded to a regiment by a Head-of-State during a ceremony and Colors may be inscribed with battle honors or other symbols representing former achievements.

Colors were therefore treated with reverence as they represented the honor and traditions of the regiment. The loss of a unit's flag was not only shameful, but losing this central point of reference could make the unit break up. So regiments tended to adopt Color guards, a detachment of experienced or élite soldiers, to protect their colors. As a result, the capture of an enemy's standard was considered as a great feat of arms.

Due to the advent of modern weapons, and subsequent changes in tactics, Colors are no longer used in battle, but continue to be carried by Color Guards at events of formal character.

The Williamsburg Chapter SAR Color Guard plays an important role in many of the commemorations and celebrations conducted by the chapter during each year (see the photos below). The Rev. James Henry is in charge of the Color Guard for the Williamsburg Chapter. Please contact Rev. Henry ([thedawgsdedit@cox.net](mailto:thedawgsdedit@cox.net)) if you have an interest in joining our Color Guard. Like the US Marines, they are always looking for a few good men.



## Benjamin Harrison V Descendant is Williamsburg Chapter Member

Each Independence Day the Williamsburg Chapter, SAR, joins with the DAR at Berkeley Plantation along old Route 5 to pay respects to Benjamin Harrison V who is buried there. Harrison devoted most of his life to liberty and was among the leaders of the Continental Congress during the Revolutionary period. He signed the Declaration of Independence!

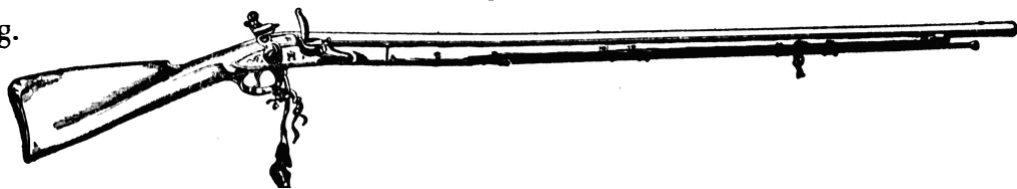
Harrison IV built Berkeley in 1726; his great grandfather, Benjamin I, set foot on American soil in 1633. The old plantation rightfully claims the first Thanksgiving, on 4 December 1619. In 1780 traitor Benedict Arnold ravaged the plantations along the James, ordering all Harrison ancestral portraits burned. Union General George McClellan established headquarters there in his failed attempt to take Richmond during the Civil War; however, it was on this ground that the musical score for "Taps" was written. The Jamison family purchased the plantation in the early 1900s.

Patriot Benjamin V met Thomas Jefferson and Patrick Henry at William & Mary, but studies were cut short when his father and two sisters were killed by lightning at Berkeley in 1745; he took over management of the 1000 acre operation which also included ship building and horse breeding.

His achievements in the development of the world's most successful democracy included service in the House of Burgesses beginning in 1749 and lasting about 25 years; he was a delegate to the Continental Congress. In Philadelphia he roomed with his cousins, Peyton Randolph and George Washington. Harrison V was a large man, well over 6 feet tall and weighing about 250 pounds. While preparing to sign the Declaration he quipped to a smaller gentleman: "I have great advantage over you, Mr. Gerry; when we are all hung for what we are now doing. From the size and weight of my body I shall die in a few minutes and be with the Angels, but from the lightness of your body you will dance in the air an hour or so before you are dead."

After the war Harrison V was a leader in Virginia politics, serving as Speaker of the House of Delegates and later several terms as governor. He died of gout, 24 April 1791.

In April, 2015, Compatriot Peter Randolph Taylor, a descendant of Benjamin Harrison V, became a member of the Williamsburg Chapter of the SAR. He currently resides in Georgia.



## Revolutionary War Lecture Series Leads Up to Exhibition Galleries Debut

This year's Revolutionary War Lecture series, on four consecutive Tuesdays in September, previews the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown exhibition galleries opening in mid October. In presentations illustrated with elements of the new galleries, including a selection of artifacts that will be on exhibit, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation staff will explore a range of topics linking to gallery story lines. The free public lectures are at 7:00pm in the Yorktown Victory Center theatre.

**September 6:** "Defending the Commonwealth: Lafayette and the summer of 1781."

**September 13:** "Journey through the American Revolution in ten objects."

**September 20:** "James Lafayette: Invisible Spy."

**September 27:** "Digging Yorktown's Past: An Archaeological View of 18<sup>th</sup> Century Yorktown."



## Colonial Williamsburg Opens Liberty Lounge for Military Guests



Colonial Williamsburg held the grand opening for its new Liberty Lounge on the Thursday before Memorial Day. Liberty Lounge is a high priority project for Elisabeth Reiss, wife of Mitchell Reiss, President of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. It represents her effort to give something back to the military. The lounge is a respite spot for active duty, retired, and military veterans, located on Duke of Gloucester St. near the Raleigh Tavern. Here ticketed military members and their guests can relax and enjoy hot and cold beverages, and socialize with military comrades, during their visit to Colonial Williamsburg.

The lounge is open daily from 9:00 -5:00 and staffed by volunteers seven days a week. Anyone wishing additional information, or who might like to become a volunteer should contact Patricia Barner, Volunteer Programs Coordinator for Colonial Williamsburg, at [pbarner@cwf.org](mailto:pbarner@cwf.org), or call her at 757-220-7181.



## Dr. William Kelso to Speak at July Luncheon

Dr. Kelso, Director Research and Interpretation Historic Jamestown, is an archaeologist with a BA in history from Baldwin-Wallace College, a Masters in American History, William & Mary College, and a PhD from Emory University.

His achievements include starting excavation at Jamestown, Virginia, the first permanent settlement in American, in 1994. By 1996 he had uncovered the remains of James Fort, which to this point had been considered lost to the James River. In addition, he has been Commissioner Archaeology Virginia Historical Landmarks Commission, Resident Archaeologist Monticello, Director Archaeology Colonial Williamsburg's Carter's Grove, Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, Jamestown Rediscovery Project and Chief Archaeologist, Jamestown, Virginia. He was also Assistant Field Archaeologist on Colonial Virginia excavations with Ivor Noel Hume and Adjunct Professor, College of William & Mary. He authored "Jamestown: The Buried Truth" and also authors an annual summary of discoveries at Jamestown.

He is married to Ellen Kelso and enjoys Bluegrass music, playing the banjo and running. Dr. Kelso is a fellow member of the Williamsburg Chapter SAR.

## July 4<sup>th</sup> Flag Ceremony at Ft. Monroe

A flag ceremony, sponsored by the James Monroe Foundation, will be held at Fort Monroe July 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:am in observance of the 185<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of President James Monroe.

All are welcome to attend this patriotic flag ceremony which will include participants in period attire, a eulogy of President James Monroe, and live period music. A reception will follow.

For more information:

[www.nps.gov/fomr](http://www.nps.gov/fomr)

[www.fmauthority.com/calendar/](http://www.fmauthority.com/calendar/)  
or call 757-722-FORT (3678)

## Registrar's Corner

The Williamsburg chapter will distribute American flags at the 3 July Merchants Square Independence Day band concert featuring the USAF Band from Langley, AFB. A volunteer crew will hand out approximately 1,000 flags to attendees. All chapter members are encouraged to attend this annual patriotic event; we'll be operating from an area near the old toy store commencing about 4:30 p.m. Concert begins at 7. Parking will be tight, come early, bring a picnic snack and lawn chairs.

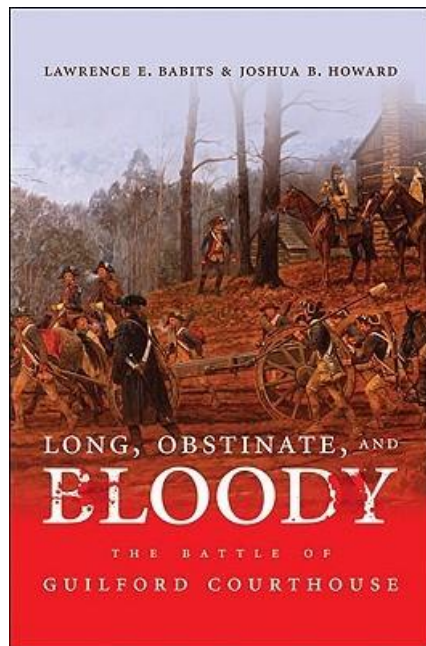
A trip to the DAR Library in late June was beneficial with reference information found on three pending applications. We're continuing to look for "a few good men"; refer any candidates you know to the registrar.

- S.F. Ron Lisee

## Book Raffle at July 9th Luncheon

The Book Raffle Book for July is "Long, Obstinate, and Bloody: The battle of Guilford Court House", By Lawrence E. Babits & Joshua B. Howard, The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, 2009.

Tickets are \$1 each or 7 for \$5 and may be purchased at the meeting.



## Williamsburg Chapter Officers

<b>President</b>	Harley Stewart	<b>Registrar/Genealogist</b>	Ron Losee
<b>Vice-President</b>	Jay Smith	<b>Historian</b>	William Greaf
<b>Secretary</b>	Roger Cross	<b>Chaplain</b>	Rev. Dr. Jim Henry
<b>Treasurer</b>	Jack Lee	<b>Projects</b>	Tom Campbell
<b>Public Relations</b>	Lew de Seife	<b>Sergeant-at-Arms</b>	George Bridewell

For information about the Williamsburg Chapter SAR please contact Harley Stewart, President, at [hstewart9@cox.net](mailto:hstewart9@cox.net).

*Cut along dotted line*

### Reservation for the Saturday, July 9th 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

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

