



# 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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January 2017

### President's Message

A successful year of 2016 was completed by Williamsburg Chapter SAR. For a refresher on just how active we are, take a good look at our Calendar of activities for 2017 that will be sent out soon. Your participation at events and meetings has been impressive. There were the usual commemorative events across our locale and the mid-Atlantic region, but there were some new ones as well. Special winter events were Let Freedom Ring at Williamsburg First Baptist Church, the installation of Edward Truslow, our past president, as VASSAR President 2016, and a commemoration of men of color who supported our revolution at their marker in Old Elam Cemetery, Charles City County. Spring saw the dedication of a monument in Blandford Cemetery at Petersburg, VA. During summer there was the reposting of the British Flag over the Royal Welsh Fusiliers redoubt in Yorktown. Fall saw the chartering of the Isaac Carter Chapter, the first mostly African-American SAR chapter, in Harlowe, NC, and the dedication of a Battle of the Hook marker at Hayes, VA.

During 2016, 20 more service veteran members of our chapter were awarded Medals and Certificates of Patriotism bringing our total VetCorps members to 32.

Certificates and Pins in the First Virginia Regiment were awarded to 16 members who had contributed funds to the Virginia Society. We led all other chapters in contributions. As a result the Society contributed \$25,000 to the Museum of the American Revolution in Yorktown. The Williamsburg Chapter hosted the VASSAR Semi-Annual meeting at Colonial Williamsburg in September for which it received a Resolution of Gratitude. Our standout event, once again, was the Veterans Day commemoration at the Governors Palace cemetery arranged by Tom Campbell. The expanded event was well planned, executed, and moving. A large crowd had gathered to witness it.

**The President's Message is continued on page 2.**



## Chapter/VASSAR Calendar

### Upcoming Events in Our Region & Beyond

January 14<sup>th</sup> 2017  
**Joint Dinner Meeting  
 And Induction of Officers**  
**James River Country Club**  
**Newport News, VA**

January 14<sup>th</sup> 2017  
**Battle of Cowpens**  
**SCSAR**  
**Cowpens SC**

## Registrar's Corner

The Williamsburg Chapter finished up the year 2016 with 20 new members on its rolls with another 13 applications at VASSAR and NSSAR registrar offices awaiting final action. During the year we probably received more than 60 inquiries about membership, each was answered promptly and application worksheets were provided. Our present members are the greatest source of recruiting applicants; we also note that after major events such as Vets Day or Yorktown Day, the publicity inspires interested candidates. After membership calculations that include new members and those deleted from our rosters, we will announce the name of our 150th member, hopefully in next month's newsletter.

- *S.F. Ron Lotze*

## Annual Joint Chapter Meeting

Please plan on joining your fellow compatriots of both the Williamsburg Chapter and the Thomas Nelson Jr. Chapter at our annual joint meeting and dinner to be held on Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at the James River Country Club, 1500 Country Club Rd, Newport News, VA.

More information about the meeting, and the reservation form are on the last page of this newsletter. Reservations are due by Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. The dinner cost is \$45.00.

## President's Message Cont'd.

Special thanks are given to Richard Newsome for the excellent newsletters that he has edited and issued each month. Special thanks are also given to Jay Smith for the truly outstanding speakers at our meetings throughout 2016. Also, thanks go to Roger Cross for all his communications to you and other less visible activities, such as rosters and board minutes, to name a few.

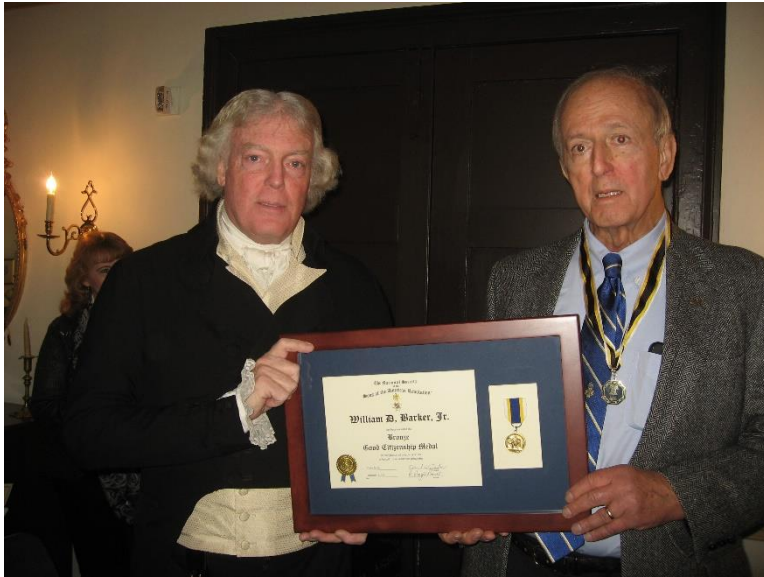
I hope to see you at the Joint Meeting with the Thomas Nelson, Jr. Chapter on January 14<sup>th</sup>. The feature of the evening will be the installation of 2017 officers of both chapters.

Have a Happy Holiday and my best wishes for the New Year!

- *Harley*

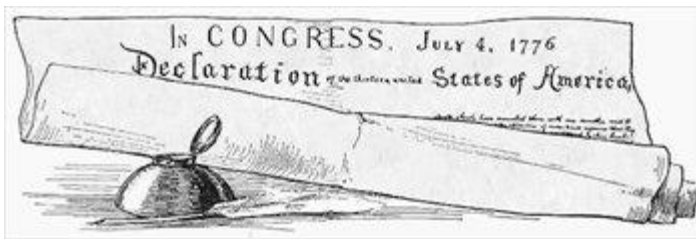


## Chapter Happenings



### Good Citizenship Medal Awarded to "Thomas Jefferson"

On Thursday December 15th VASSAR President Ed Truslow presented William D. "Bill" Barker Jr. with a NSSAR Bronze Good Citizenship medal. Bill has been the Thomas Jefferson interpreter for Colonial Williamsburg for the past 24 years. He has brought our history and the legacy of Thomas Jefferson alive for thousands of people over the years both in Williamsburg and in schools and at organizations across the nation. Due to the Bill's very busy schedule, he received the award at the St. George Tucker House in Colonial Williamsburg following his Thomas Jefferson presentation there. We are proud to have Bill as a member of the Williamsburg Chapter.



### The Battle of Great Bridge Commemorated

Pictured on the right is the monument commemorating the Battle of Great Bridge with the wreath placed by Williamsburg Chapter SAR President Harley Stewart during the annual celebration of the victory by Patriot forces on Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>, 1775.





## To The Rescue

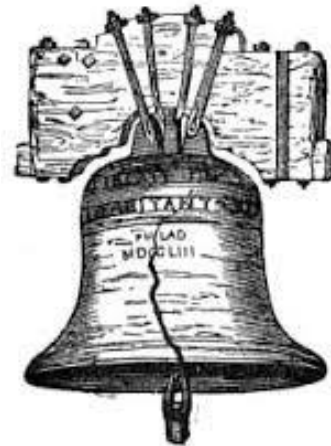
Thomas Polk was a signer of the famous Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence of North Carolina in 1775. As a colonel of the 4th Regiment, North Carolina Continental Line, he saw frequent combat in his three years, and spent the winter at Valley Forge with General George Washington. His father, William, was also there. Upon appointment to general he returned south to become the Commissary General of the State and Colonial Army.

He founded Charlotte, North Carolina, and after the British victory at Camden, Lord Cornwallis appropriated Polk's house as his headquarters. Among the various events in General Polk's life that probably impact most on American history is this footnote.

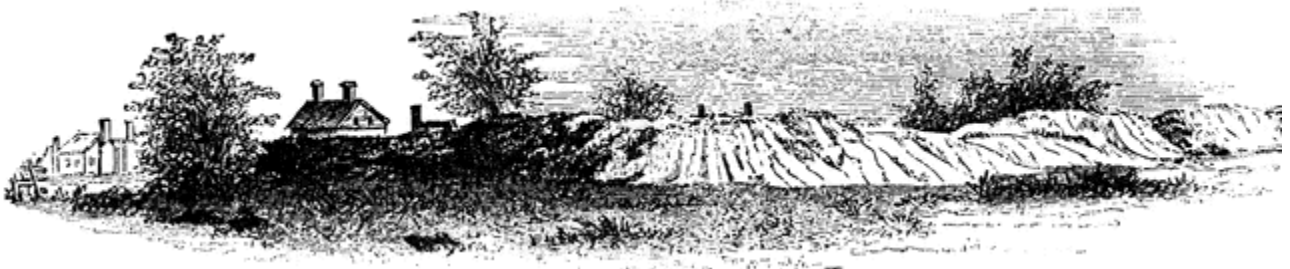
As Lord Howe's British troops were approaching Philadelphia, colonial officials feared an attack. Colonel Polk was directed by General Washington to lead a battalion of his regimental troops to provide security escort for a baggage train of 700 wagons of Army stores to safety in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. On these wagons were also loaded all the bells in the city, in order to prevent the British from casting them into weapons and cannon balls.

Among these bells was one from the State House, known as the Liberty Bell, rung on 8 July 1776 to proclaim the Declaration of Independence. When the British threat subsided, the bells were returned, and today the famous Liberty Bell, all 2080 pounds with its jagged crack, sits at Liberty Bell Center, Market Street and 6<sup>th</sup>, in Philadelphia, a lasting symbol of freedom.

Compatriot John Brough of the Williamsburg Chapter, is a descendant of General Thomas Polk.



LIBERTY BELL.



## Annual Joint Chapter Dinner Meeting

The Thomas Nelson Jr. Chapter will host the joint meeting with the Williamsburg Chapter on Saturday January 14, 2017. It will be held at the James River Country Club, 1500 Country Club Road, Newport News, VA 23606.

(From I64 East turn south-(right) onto J Clyde Morris; cross Warwick Blvd and bear right onto Avenue of the Arts; proceed to the traffic circle and go  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way around the circle, essentially a left turn; onto Shoe Lane; at Country Club Road take a right; at the Y stay right and proceed to the club house.

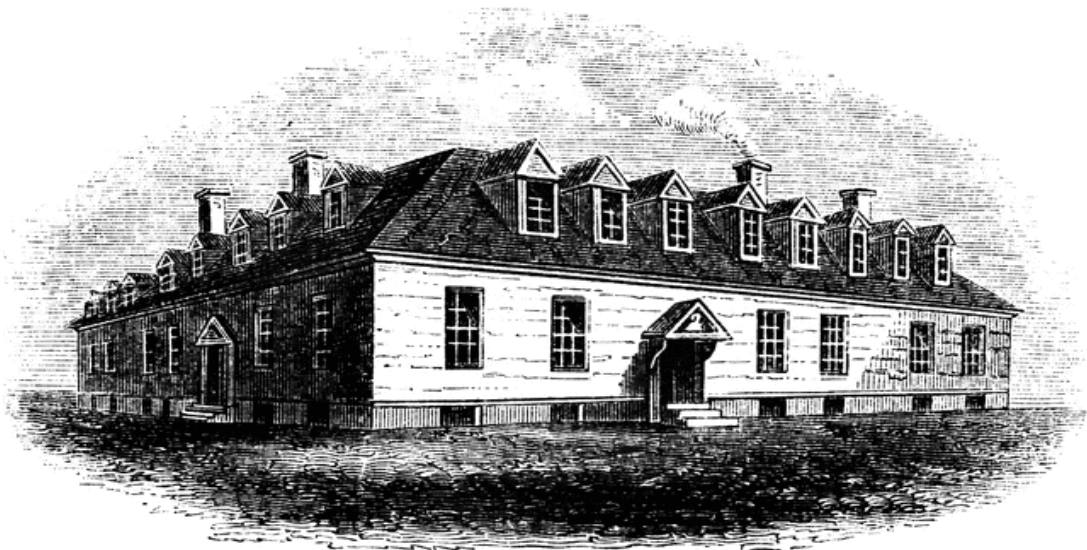
The guest speaker is John Quarstein whose subject is the Battle of the Capes. Black Tie is strongly suggested for the officers and Black Tie or a dark suit is encouraged for members.

The evening will start at 6:30 with social time and a cash bar. The formal meeting will begin at 7:00. 2016 VASSAR President, and Williamsburg Chapter member, Ed Truslow, will offer remarks and then swear-in the newly elected officers of both chapters. Remarks on the Battle of the Capes, by John Quarstein, will follow the dinner.

The meal will be chicken marsala, house salad, vegetables, rolls, and peppermint ice cream. Either vegetable or pasta alternative dinners are available. This meal is priced at \$45.00 per person.

Reservations are due to the Williamsburg Chapter Treasurer by Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>.

Please use the reservation form on the next page.



## The Battle of Great Bridge

In mid-1775, Lord Dunmore, Royal Governor of Virginia, fled the colonial capital in Williamsburg for the safety of the British fleet. He later took up headquarters in Norfolk, a town with a large loyalist population. Dunmore sought to quiet patriot ardor by destroying farms and plantations belonging to rebels.

He assembled a small army composed of British regulars, loyalist volunteers and a number of runaway slaves who had been promised their freedom in return for their service.

The patriot force comprised militia and volunteers from Virginia and Maryland, including young John Marshall.

Dunmore chose to confront the patriots in a small fortification located at the south end of a causeway over a swamp south of Norfolk. The advancing force was met on December 9, 1775, by entrenched patriot riflemen who inflicted a heavy toll. More than one hundred of Dunmore's men were killed or wounded; one rebel soldier was injured. The thoroughly defeated loyalist army retreated to Norfolk and Dunmore again sought refuge aboard ship.

## 2017 Williamsburg Chapter Officers

<b>President</b>	Harley Stewart	<b>Registrar/Genealogist</b>	Jim Hess
<b>Vice-President</b>	Jay Smith	<b>Historian</b>	Steve McGuffin
<b>Secretary</b>	Roger Cross	<b>Chaplain</b>	Rev. Dr. Jim Henry
<b>Treasurer</b>	William Greaif	<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Richard Newsome
<b>Public Relations</b>	Lew de Seife	<b>Sergeant-at-Arms</b>	Eric Ely
<b>At-Large</b>	Ron Losec	<b>At-Large</b>	Tom Campbell

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, January 14th 2017 Joint Chapter Dinner:**

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Marsala dinners at \$45.00

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

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

Please make checks payable to "Williamsburg Chapter SAR"

and mail to:

**SAR**

521 Newport Ave.

Williamsburg, VA 23185-4012

(757) 870-4516

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

