



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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June 2017

President's Message

An SAR certificate and bronze medal of recognition were presented to Cadet Sergeant Marcia E. Otey at the Charles City High School's Annual JROTC Awards Ceremony on May 18th. The award was made by your president accompanied by Treasurer Bill Greafe, since our ROTC/JROTC chairman, Tom Morr, was unable to attend. It was very uplifting to see these young men and women and to meet Cadet Otey, an outstanding Freshman.

Memorial Day with beautiful weather featured a large turnout of SAR and DAR members. We provided five color guardsmen with flags and muskets: Jeff Brown, Warren Deal, Norm Fuss, Chris Melhuish and Tom Morr. The three wreath carriers were Gary Hodges of Thomas Nelson, Jr. SAR Chapter, Sydney Riddle of Williamsburg DAR Chapter and your president. The parade, in order, was the Colonial Williamsburg Fifes and Drums, speakers, wreath carriers, color guards, CW Militia, and DAR/SAR units. At the luncheon meeting at Kings Arms Tavern that followed Dr. Mitchell Reiss of Colonial Williamsburg was the featured guest.

He was thanked for his support of our events and, in turn, commented on the value of SAR and DAR contributions to preserving and honoring our history. It was a wonderful day.

Several events will be taking place soon. The first will be a commemoration of the Battle of Ramsour's Mill on June 10th by the NCSAR at Lincolnton, NC. Member John Holt will be presenting our Chapter's wreath and I'm sure he wouldn't mind some company.

On June 26th please join compatriots for the annual commemoration of the Battle of Spencer's Ordinary in James City County's Freedom Park.

On July 4th please plan to join us for commemoration of Independence Day. Our chapter will sponsor our 32nd Service of Prayer and Thanksgiving at nine in the morning at Bruton Parish Church. The Williamsburg Chapter NSDAR invites us to join their annual commemorative wreath laying ceremony at noon at Benjamin Harrison's grave site, Berkeley Plantation. A pot luck lunch will follow in the Carriage House.

- Harley



Chapter/VASSAR Calendar
Upcoming Events in Our Region & Beyond

June 10, 2017

**Ramseur's Mill
Commemoration
Lincolnton, NC**

June 26, 2017

**Battle of Spencer's Ordinary
Commemoration
Freedom Park
James City County, VA**

July 4, 2017

**Special SAR Prayer Service
Bruton Parish Church
Colonial Williamsburg, VA**

July 6, 2017

**Battle of Green Spring
Commemoration
Jamestown, VA**

July 7- 13, 2017

**SAR Annual Conference
Knoxville, TN**



June 17th Chapter Luncheon

The Williamsburg Chapter invites all members and their guests to attend the June luncheon held at the clubhouse at Colonial Heritage. Please note that reservations are required and the reservation form is on the last page of this newsletter. We look forward to seeing you there.

Date: Saturday, June 17, 2017

Location: The Clubhouse

Colonial Heritage

Social: 11:30

Meeting: 12:00

**Please see the RSVP information on the last page of this newsletter.
Reservations MUST be received no later than Saturday, June 10th.**



Registrar's Corner

It is not uncommon for names of "interested" persons to be referred to the Registrar, but when contacted, they do not respond. Please continue to refer but be sure that someone is truly interested in SAR and has some knowledge of their family history. They should not need to be cajoled into the idea.

Applicants will often submit copies of Bible pages as generational linkage, but it should be known that such Bible pages will not be acceptable without a title page from that Bible. Obituaries from FindAGrave may be acceptable if the newspaper source of the obituary is clearly identified.

I am still very interested in having a biography of each member in the Biography Book. Of our ~160 members, there are only 62 individuals represented and some of these are now deceased. The ancestors and personal history of those not included will eventually be forgotten by the chapter. The Biography Book is always at the entrance to a luncheon and contains some interesting reading. You may or may not be surprised at the talent within our ranks and find things you may not know you have in common with other members.

- Jim Hess



Annual July 4th Events

Every 4th 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 4th 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 "Taps".



Memorial Day

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in service of the United States of America. Over two dozen cities and towns claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day. While Waterloo N.Y. was officially declared the birthplace of Memorial Day by President Lyndon Johnson in May 1966, it's difficult to prove conclusively the origins of the day.

Regardless of the exact date or location of its origins, one thing is clear – Memorial Day was borne out of the Civil War and a desire to honor our dead. It was officially proclaimed on 5 May 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his General Order No. 11. “The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land,” he proclaimed. The date of Decoration Day, as he called it, was chosen because it wasn't the anniversary of any particular battle.

On the first Decoration Day, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, and 5,000 participants decorated the graves of the 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried there.

The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873. By 1890 it was recognized by all of the northern states.

The South refused to acknowledge the day, honoring their dead on separate days until after World War I (when the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war).

It is now observed in almost every state on the last Monday in May with Congressional passage of the National Holiday Act of 1971. This helped ensure a three day weekend for Federal holidays, though several southern states have an additional separate day for honoring the Confederate war dead: January 19th in Texas; April 26th in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi; May 10th in South Carolina; and June 3rd (Jefferson Davis' birthday) in Louisiana and Tennessee.



General John Logan

Chapter Happenings

President of Colonial Williamsburg Foundation Attends SAR Luncheon

Mitchell Reiss, President of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, was a featured guest at the SAR luncheon on Memorial Day which was held at the King's Arms Tavern in Colonial Williamsburg. On the left, Mr. Reiss is presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for his support of SAR activities.



Williamsburg Chapter Luncheon

On the right, more than 50 chapter members enjoyed the beautiful weather at the Memorial Day luncheon held in the garden of the King's Arms Tavern in Colonial Williamsburg.



Williamsburg Chapter Inducts Newest Member

The Williamsburg Chapter of SAR inducted its newest member at the Memorial Day luncheon held at the King's Arms Tavern in Colonial Williamsburg. Pictured at the left are Thomas Hale and his wife, Linda, with Registrar Jim Hess.

Chapter Happenings Cont'd



Wreaths Laid at Bruton Parish Church

On the left, members of the several heritage societies participating in the memorial Day ceremonies stand ready to present their wreaths at Bruton Parish Church, the second stop on the parade route. Note the large crowd in the background.

Williamsburg Chapter Luncheon

On the right, your chapter President, Harley Stewart, enjoys the Memorial Day luncheon along with more than 50 chapter members. The Memorial Day luncheon was held in the garden of the King's Arms Tavern in Colonial Williamsburg.



Remembering the French

The Williamsburg Chapter of SAR participated in the final stop for the parade at the Capital building in Colonial Williamsburg. Here the ceremony honored the French soldiers who gave their lives aiding the revolutionary effort which gained our freedom from Great Britain

Chapter Happenings Cont'd

Williamsburg Chapter Co-hosts Memorial Day Ceremonies

The Williamsburg Chapter of SAR co-hosted Memorial Day ceremonies with Colonial Williamsburg. Pictured at the right is the Williamsburg Chapter SAR Color Guard and chapter members in front of the Governor's Palace.



Future Members of SAR?

On the left, two young men march with a squad of Revolutionary War soldiers at the Memorial Day celebrations in Colonial Williamsburg.

Williamsburg Chapter Presents ROTC Award

Chapter President Harley Stewart on the left presents Cadet Sergeant Marcia E. Otey, JROTC Charles City High School with the SAR Bronze JROTC certificate and Medal.



The Battle of Spencer's Ordinary

The Battle of Spencer's Ordinary, Virginia, was fought on June 26, 1781, between Continental troops and local militia from the army of the Marquis de la Fayette and Loyalist and Hessian troops under British Lieutenant Colonel John Graves Simcoe. On June 23, British commander Charles Cornwallis ordered Simcoe to take his Queen's Rangers and a detachment of Hessian troops to destroy boats and supplies on the Chickahominy River. Upon learning of the move on June 25, la Fayette directed Colonel Richard Butler, with a regiment of Pennsylvanians, a detail of Virginia riflemen, and 120 cavalymen and light infantry under Major William McPherson, to intercept Simcoe on his way back to Williamsburg. After marching all night, the patriot troops caught up with Simcoe near Spencer's Ordinary, at the fork of the Jamestown and Williamsburg roads, about six miles northwest of Williamsburg. As la Fayette explained, McPherson's light infantry made an immediate charge on Simcoe's Rangers, who repulsed the Americans and counter-attacked. By then, however, the Virginia riflemen arrived on the field and "behaved most gallantly and did great execution." The result was a "smart" back and forth engagement. Simcoe broke off the fight to fall back to Williamsburg when he became concerned that la Fayette's main body was on the way. At the same time, Butler, hearing that Cornwallis would soon arrive with heavy reinforcements, was also anxious to end the battle and therefore did not pursue the enemy.

La Fayette wrote that "Lord Cornwallis was heard to express himself vehemently upon the disproportion between his and our killed, which must be attributed to the great skill of our riflemen" — an assessment that was true enough, although the casualty totals varied widely between la Fayette's account and that of Cornwallis. La Fayette reported that his troops killed 60 and wounded more than 100 of Simcoe's men, while Cornwallis admitted to 33 killed and wounded. Nevertheless, la Fayette's losses — 9 killed and 12 wounded — were still minor in comparison. The body of one of Simcoe's lost Loyalist officers — 20-year-old Cornet Charles Jones of Weston, Massachusetts, who had been a Harvard student when the war began — was returned to Williamsburg and buried in the city with full military honors.

In an important sense, the battle represented the beginning of the end of the American Revolution. Lafayette informed Virginia Governor Thomas Nelson, Jr., that "Your return to Richmond and this little affair will particularly mark his Lordship's retreat and the recovery of every part of the state not under naval protection." All that was left to Cornwallis was the protection of the British navy, which the Comte de Grasse's fleet eliminated with his defeat of the British fleet at the Battle of the Capes just over a month later, which set the stage for the decisive campaign at Yorktown.

[Please join the members of the Williamsburg Chapter SAR on June 26th to commemorate this battle with the laying of a wreath and a presentation. The ceremony will be held at Freedom Park, in James City County, which occupies portions of the original battlefield.](#)

The Battle of Green Spring Discovery

It will be more meaningful this year when members of the Williamsburg Chapter, SAR, gather at the Church on the Main July 6 to lay a wreath memorializing patriots who died at the Battle of Green Spring on that date in 1781.

Ten years ago a large granite stone was placed by the Chapter adjacent to the historical church location, found during archaeological searches. Beneath the stone lie the remains of six Virginia and 22 Pennsylvania soldiers. None were identified.

British forces, exhausted after retreating through the Carolinas and into Virginia, had been shadowed by Colonial units commanded by Lafayette and General Anthony Wayne. A skirmish had occurred May 26 near Spencer's Ordinary as the British moved to Williamsburg. Cornwallis now was ordered to cross the James River and head to Portsmouth. He moved his forces to Jamestown ferry crossing, the most satisfactory location.

Cornwallis sent some cavalry across the river, but maintained his infantry and artillery hidden in a tree line to face approaching colonial forces, headquartered at Governor Berkeley's plantation to the north, who were crossing a causeway along what is now Green Springs Road leading toward Jamestown.

There are numerous accounts pertaining to individual heroism and tactical deployments, most of which agree the battle was a draw, primarily because General Wayne's troops

charged when the British thought they would retreat, and both sides escaped a brutal confrontation. The next day Cornwallis was unopposed as he ferried across the James; the colonials remained out of range.

Names of the participants in most accounts are limited to the officers. Lafayette and Wayne enhanced their reputations. Cornwallis and Tarleton led the British.

Several months ago research to complete the applications of John Lynch, and his son, John III, revealed that their SAR ancestor was at the Battle of Green Spring. Ancestor Belfield Cave was a lieutenant, and although he did not apply for a pension after the war, several militiamen from Orange County, Virginia, did apply, and mentioned Cave in their affidavits.

The pension applications on file at the National Archives of Duncan Campbell, James Furnish and Jeremiah White indicate they had each served earlier tours with the army and were home in Orange County when the British entered Virginia. They were drafted into the militia, and after marching to Richmond, joined other regiments for the Battle at Green Spring. Two of them were at the siege of Yorktown and guarded British prisoners of war who were marched to Winchester Barracks after the Yorktown surrender in October, 1781.

For the first time the Chapter has members connected to a colonial soldier who fought at the Battle of Green Spring. Thanks to Lieutenant Belfield Cave...and the Lynch family.

June Luncheon Speaker: Dr. Dennis R. Cogswell

Dr. Dennis R. Cogswell is Professor Emeritus of Social Work, Radford University and founder of Dr. D's Domains. He holds a Doctorate in Adult and Continuing Education from Virginia Tech., and a Master's Degree in Social Science Administration, from Case-Western Reserve, University. He teaches for Christopher Wren at William and Mary. He has published, taught and presented extensively in the areas of families, critical thinking and colonial history. Presently several additional books are under pen. For his alter ego, "The Squire", he maintains a website that explores historical events and experiences as told through the life and eyes of a 396-year-old man. Dr. Cogswell topic is titled: "The Squire, Adopted Step-Brother of Dennis Cogswell."

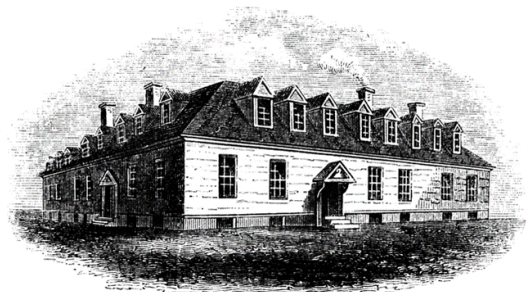
In Memory: Robert S. Dutro

It is with deep sorrow that I inform you that Williamsburg Chapter SAR member and past Chapter President (1988) Robert S. Dutro passed away on April 30. Robert served proudly in the US Navy during the Korean War. A graduate of William and Mary Law School he was a practicing lawyer in Williamsburg for many years. He was buried at Bruton Parish Church, where he was a member for more than 50 years.

SAR Baseball Caps Now Available

"The Chapter Board of Managers has approved a proposal that Navy blue caps procured from the NSSAR gift shop will be made available to members for wear at appropriate outdoor activities. This is a method of identifying SAR members at ceremonies and parades. Board members have purchased caps and they will be worn at the Memorial Day parade. Some additional caps will be made available at the June luncheon sign in; more will be ordered if necessary. Chapter cost of the cap is \$20; your cost is also \$20."

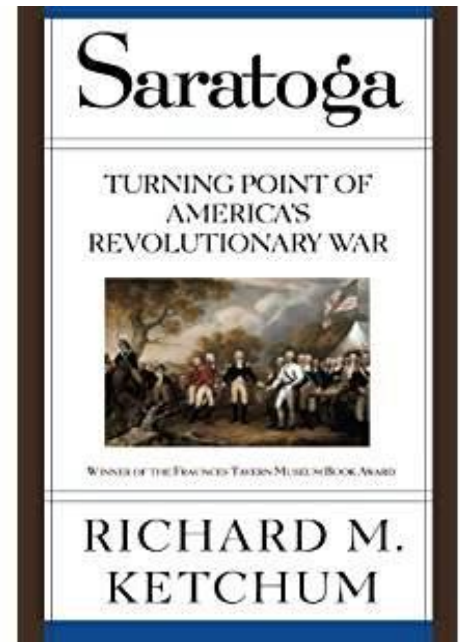
Get one while supplies last! Contact Bill Greaf at (631) 219-6616 saprof@gmail.com



June Book Raffle

“SARATOGA: Turning Point of America’s Revolutionary War” by Richard M. Ketchum. Basing his account on diaries, letter, and field documents of the participants, the author shows how ordinary Americans turned a lost cause into a great victory. With a win at Saratoga, France entered the war as America’s ally whose navy, troops, financial and military aid enabled the Americans eventually achieve their independence.

Raffle tickets can be purchased at the June luncheon/meeting for \$1 each or seven tickets for \$5.



2017 Williamsburg Chapter Officers

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

For information about the Williamsburg Chapter SAR please contact Harley Stewart, President, at hstewart9@cox.net.

Cut along dotted line

Reservation for the Saturday, June 17th 2017. Chapter Luncheon:

Please reserve _____ regular meals at \$20.00

Name(s) _____

Vegetarian meals _____ # Vegan Dinners _____ # Gluten free meals _____

Please make checks payable to “Williamsburg Chapter SAR”

and mail to arrive by June 10th:

SAR

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