



# 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. XXIII

Number 1

January 2018

## President's Message

We close out the year 2017 with membership reaching 180 and with ever expanding activities and participation. The first meeting reached a sign-up of 84 and was held at our new location of Colonial Heritage, which has been well received by all. Four new wreath-presentation sites were reached – Cowpens and Ramseur's Mill by John Holt, Fairfax Resolves, and the Pohick Plaque dedication. New Constitution and Bylaws were created by Ron Losee and approved. Steve McGuffin created a power-point program on the SAR for use in presenting the SAR to any group. Heath Richardson was appointed Eagle Scout Recognition chairman and has added four committee members, so that 10 awards were made and 16 await scheduling. Thirty SAR caps were provided to members, an Artifacts Table added to meetings, and an SAR table set up at the W & M Fair in the fall. A letter of welcome and summary of chapter activities and interest has been added to our new member's package. Our losses included Jim Henry's resignation from the board, Richard Newsome leaving as newsletter editor, and the passing of Fred Wilson, Bob Dutro and our late, great SAR leader and friend Ed Truslow.

It's time to say farewell as your president. Serving the past two years as your president has been one of the high points of my life. I have enjoyed the job, enjoyed working with all of you, and enjoyed working with the wonderful board that you have. I think we've done some good. God bless you all and God bless and sustain this United States of America that our ancestors sacrificed so much to create.

Oh by the way, I hope you have had January 13<sup>th</sup> marked on your calendars for the annual joint evening meeting with the Gov. Thomas Nelson, Jr. chapter, during which officers of each chapter will be installed.

Happy New Year!

Harley



# Chapter News



Harley Stewart presents Andrew Julian “Jay” Brown Esq. his SAR membership certificate after an induction ceremony in his home.  
Chapter registrar Jim Hess is on the right.



“Jay”’s SAR Rosette being “pinned” on by his wife.

## Battle of Great Bridge and Ceremony

December 2, 2017, Chesapeake, VA

The Battle of Great Bridge took place on December 9, 1775 just seven months before the Declaration of Independence. The defeat of the British at this battle resulted in the capture of Norfolk three weeks later on January 1, 1776. This was to be the end of British rule in the colonies.

Lord Dunmore and his regiment had defeated the Americans at Kemp's landing ten miles south of the Great Bridge. Theirs was an easy victory in which the regiment captured two commanding colonels. The Ethiopian Regiment's first and only major military conflict was the battle of the Great Bridge.

Dunmore had been informed by a patriot double spy that the Americans were inadequately armed and few in number. Overconfident, Dunmore ordered the 300 member Ethiopian Regiment and 300 British troops to attack on Great Bridge.<sup>3</sup> On the morning of December 10, Dunmore's men marched over the bridge toward battle. Expecting little opposition, the soldiers were quickly overcome by the heavily armed Americans. The losses were devastating. Over 100 of Dunmore's men were killed or wounded; only one American was wounded.

Dunmore and his men abandoned Norfolk and retreated to the British fleet. Crowded into the ship with hungry and wounded soldiers, many succumbed to smallpox. After the ship became harassed by American and French privateers, Dunmore evacuated the ship to New York. In the end, only 300 of the original 800 regiment members survived.



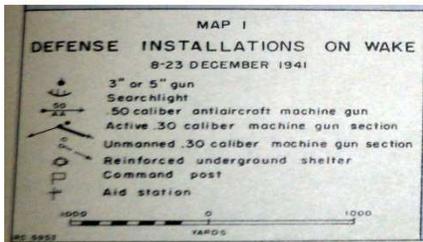
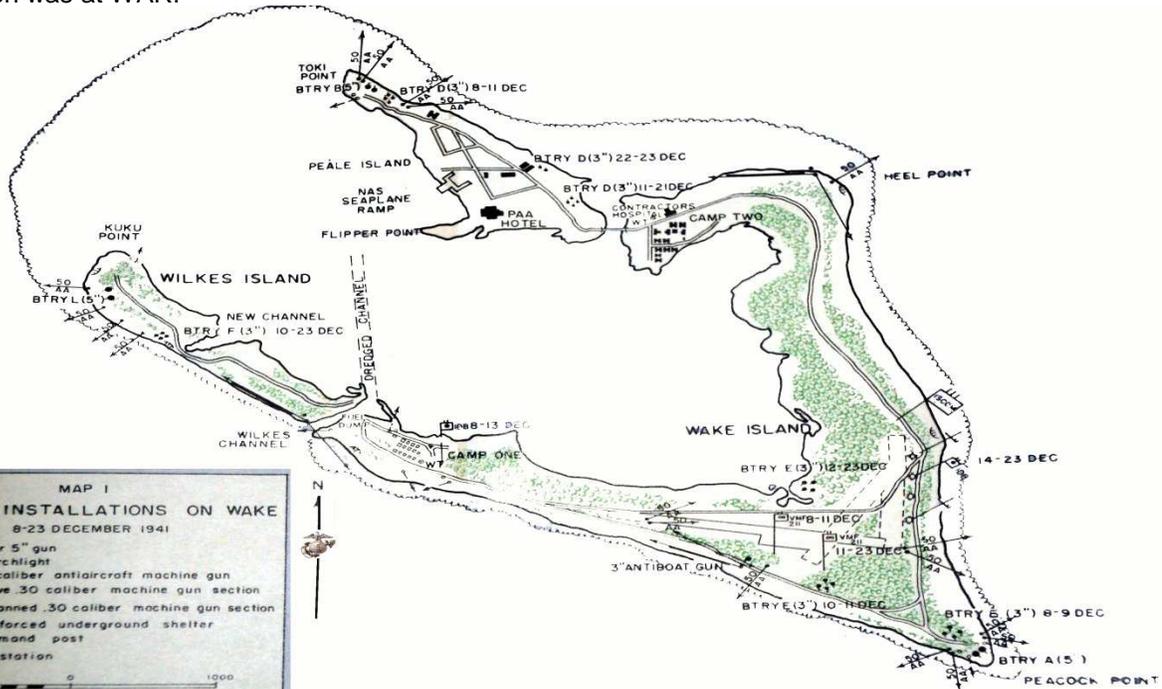
L to R: Donna Crisp, Regent, Great Bridge Chapter NSDAR  
Larry Guzy, President General NSSAR  
Kenneth Hawkins, President Norfolk Chapter SAR  
DAR/SAR Commemoration of The Battle of Great Bridge,

# WAKE ISLAND

By Ron Losee



Seventy-six years ago this month, January 1942, Americans were recovering from the “Day of Infamy” at Pearl Harbor and the surrender of an isolated detachment of U.S. Marines and civilian contractors on Wake Island. Japanese military forces were sweeping across the Pacific Ocean and into Southeast Asia. Our nation was at WAR!



Wake Island is wishbone-shaped, 26 acres in size, located about 2300 miles west of Honolulu. Uninhabited, it became important about 1935 for trans-Pacific air travel. The Pan Am “Philippines Flying Clipper” used it as a refueling stop. In February, 1941 President Roosevelt, directed that the coral atoll be converted into a naval base for possible future military use. Navy Commander Winfield Scott Cunningham was appointed base commander. In August the first of 500 Marines of the First Marine Defense Battalion arrived, to join 1200 civilian contractors who were improving the airfield, constructing gun emplacements and building base facilities. VMF 211, a Marine F4F Grumman “Wildcat” fighter squadron, also arrived. There also were 68 Navy and six Army soldiers on the island



On December 8<sup>th</sup> (7<sup>th</sup> in Hawaii because of the International Date Line) flights of Japanese bombers appeared overhead; several of the 12 Marine fighter aircraft were destroyed on the ground, but most unfinished gun positions were undamaged. Commander of the Marines, Major James P.S. Devereux, knew the Japanese would be back and for the next three days makeshift defenses were improved, small coastal artillery cannon were assembled, some without rangefinders, and some of the civilians volunteered to join in the defense. On December 11 a Japanese task force steamed offshore after air raids and naval gunfire pummeled the little island. Japanese special landing force troops headed for the apparently unoccupied beaches.

Few of them made it to the shoreline. At point blank range, the concealed Marines opened fire. The task force hastily withdrew to a safe distance, but continued to bombard the island using large naval guns and Japanese aircraft, some being flown from the aircraft carriers that had bombed Pearl Harbor. They were constantly overhead. From then on, attacks continued daily.

By December 22 it was obvious that the defenders could not continue to resist without risking total annihilation, supplies were running short, the last "Wildcat" had crashed and more than 1,000 Japanese that landed at night were sweeping across the island. Commander Cunningham, with concurrence of Major Devereux, agreed to surrender. A U. S. Navy task force, at sea in bad weather heading for Wake, reversed course and returned to Hawaii.

The island Marines and fighter aircraft had sunk a Japanese submarine, two destroyers, damaged an old cruiser and six other ships and shot down 24 enemy airplanes. Between 700 and 1,000 Japanese Marines and sailors were dead. Actual U.S. losses were 52 military personnel and 70 civilians. There was no Christmas celebration at Wake Island in 1941.

Within a month the invaders began shipping prisoners of war to Japan and China. Three hundred civilians were initially kept on Wake as laborers; later 200 were relocated from the island. In 1943, after Allied planes bombed Wake, the Japanese commander ordered 98 of the civilians executed; an escapee was able to carve a message on a rock reporting the atrocity. It was later found when U. S. forces reoccupied the island in 1945. The Japanese commander was tried, convicted and hung at war crimes trials in 1946.

Other Wake Island personnel were confined at numerous prisoner of war camps in Asia; Major Devereux was first imprisoned at Woosung and Shanghai, China; moved to at least two other camps within a year, and was found imprisoned in northern Hokkaido in Japan and released on 15 September 1945. Conditions were unbelievably punishing; many perished during nearly four years of captivity.



I visited Wake Island on a trip to the Far East in 1962; the island is flat, mostly no more than 20 feet above sea level. Hearing is severely restricted because of the constant roar of waves crashing against the beaches. In 1971 I was assigned to deliver a presentation at the convention of the American Prisoner of War Association, Wake Island Detachment, at Wichita Falls, Texas. Subject was "Marine Corps of the Future". The military aircraft flying to Texas was occupied by the Assistant Commandant, the invited guest of honor, myself, and one other gentleman: retired Brigadier General James P. S. Devereux. It was an interesting flight.

While at the convention I talked with a number of survivors, military and civilian, and they unanimously credited the leadership and discipline of their old commanding officer to their survival under horrendous conditions. He had been awarded the Navy Cross for his actions.

After retirement in 1948 the general served four terms as a Congressman from Maryland and was deeply involved in community activities and local government while living on his 200 acre farm north of Baltimore. He died at the age of 85 in 1988 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

General Devereux was descended from William Rogers, a continental soldier from Maryland, and was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution. His national number is 109968.

(If interested in more details, read the lengthy article about Commander Winfield Scott Cunningham by his son, Greg, at [http://www.chuckhawks.com/admiral\\_cunningham.htm](http://www.chuckhawks.com/admiral_cunningham.htm) for his biography, conditions endured at POW camps, escape attempts and Navy-Marine Corps dispute.)



## The Battle of Cowpens January 17, 1781



Was an engagement between American Colonial forces under Brigadier General Daniel Morgan and British forces under Sir Banastre Tarleton, as part of the campaign in the Carolinas (North and South). Tarleton's force of 1,100 British in the King's Army were sent against 2000 men under Morgan. The Colonial forces conducted a double envelopment of Tarleton's force, and suffered casualties of only 12 killed and 61 wounded. Tarleton was one of around 160 British troops to escape.

A small force of the Continental Army under the command of Brigadier General Daniel Morgan had marched to the west of the Catawba River, in order to forage for supplies and raise the morale of local Colonial sympathizers. The British had received incorrect reports that Morgan's army was planning to attack the important strategic fort of Ninety Six, held by American Loyalists to the British Crown and located in the west of the Carolinas. The British considered Morgan's army a threat to their left flank. General Charles Cornwallis dispatched cavalry / dragoons commander Lieutenant Colonel Sir Banastre Tarleton to defeat Morgan's command. Upon learning Morgan's army was not at Ninety Six, Tarleton, bolstered by British reinforcements, set off in hot pursuit of the American detachment.

Morgan resolved to make a stand near the Broad River. He selected a position on two low hills in open woodland, with the expectation that the aggressive Tarleton would make a headlong assault without pausing to devise a more intricate plan. He deployed his army in three main lines. Tarleton's army, after exhaustive marching, reached the field malnourished and heavily fatigued. Tarleton attacked immediately; however, the American defense-in-depth absorbed the impact of the British attack. The British lines lost their cohesion as they hurried after the retreating Americans. When Morgan's army went on the offensive, it wholly overwhelmed Tarleton's force.

The battle was a turning point in the American re-conquest of South Carolina from the British. Tarleton's brigade was wiped out as an effective fighting force, and, coupled with the British defeat at King's Mountain in the northwest corner of South Carolina, this action compelled Cornwallis to pursue the main southern American army into North Carolina. Cornwallis was eventually defeated at the Siege of Yorktown in Virginia in October 1781.

### Chapter/VASSAR Calendar Upcoming Events in Our Region & Beyond

Mon. January 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2018  
Williamsburg Chapter SAR/  
Board of Managers Meeting  
10:00am Williamsburg Library  
Williamsburg, VA



Sat. January 13, 2018  
Joint Chapter Dinner Meeting  
With Thomas Nelson Jr. Chapter  
6:00pm  
Colonial Heritage Country Club

SAT. January 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2018  
Cowpens Battle Commemoration  
Cowpens, SC

SAT, January 27<sup>TH</sup>, 2018  
Battle of Cowens Ford  
Commemoration of the Battle of  
Cowens Ford NSSAR

A reminder to everyone that the 2018 Dues deadline was Wednesday, November 15, 2017. If you have not already sent in your dues, please mail your check to our Treasurer.

## Bill of Rights Amendments 1 - 10 Ratified December 15, 1791

# Bill of Rights

### Amendment 1: The Five Freedoms

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

### Amendment 2: Right to Bear Arms

A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.

### Amendment 3: No Quartering of Soldiers

No soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

### Amendment 4: No Unreasonable Search and Seizure

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

### Amendment 5: Rights for Accused

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

### Amendment 6: Right to a Speedy Trial

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the state and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.

### Amendment 7: Trial by Jury

In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise reexamined in any court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

### Amendment 8: No Cruel and Unusual Punishment

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

### Amendment 9: Rights Reserved to the People

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

### Amendment 10: Rights Reserved to the States

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.



### REGISTRAR's MESSAGE

To all who have expressed an interest in Sons of the American Revolution membership. I am very much in hope of hearing from you in early 2018 if you still have an intention of submitting an SAR application. Please advise me soon if you do or do not plan to pursue SAR membership so that I may cull my list of those who have not yet responded to my invitation. Eager am I to assist those who have a patriot ancestor and know their lineage to him or her.

### From your Newsletter Editor

Compatriots,

Our newsletter "The Magazine" has been submitted for the VASSAR Jennings H. Flathers Chapter Newsletter Competition. The contest covers the period January-December 2017.

Our WEB site is in the process of being updated and should be completed by January 13<sup>TH</sup>.

Dave Westenberger - Ed  
258-5883 or email [pal744@cox.net](mailto:pal744@cox.net)



### The Chapter's Eagle Scout Recognition program is gaining momentum. WE NEED VOLUNTEERS.

Our chapter Scout committee chairman is Heath Richardson, who is with Troop 414 in Norge. Since his appointment, six SAR certificates have been presented at Courts of Honor. Twelve more are pending at various troops in the area.

Although President Harley Stewart has been assisting, they need several volunteers to help. The duty only entails attending a Scout ceremony, saying a few words (they are in print), presenting the award and posing for a photo. Accompanying Harley or Heath to an event is adequate preparation. You don't have to be a former scout to volunteer. You'll find it a very inspiring experience.

The Chapter is dedicated to patriotic events and especially when we can gain the attention of the young men in the community who are achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. Call Harley at (757)564-1897 for more information.

The video this month is about the Battle of Cowpens. Very interesting and necessary.

Click the link below the mouse



<https://youtu.be/bHN3nl-yAJI>

The Williamsburg Chapter will host the joint meeting with the Thomas Nelson Jr. Chapter on Saturday January 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2017. It will be held at the Heritage Landing Country Club, Williamsburg. The social time will start at 6:00. The 2017 VASSAR President Mike Elston will offer remarks and conduct the installation of newly elected 2018 officers of both chapters.



This dinner is priced at \$20.00 per person. Send your reservations to the Williamsburg Chapter Treasurer by Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup>.

The reservation form is below.

*2017 Williamsburg Chapter Officers*

<b>President</b>	Harley Stewart	<b>Registrar</b>	Jim Hess
<b>Vice-President</b>	Jay Smith	<b>Historian</b>	Steve McGuffin
<b>Secretary</b>	Roger Cross	<b>Chaplain</b>	Jack Lee
<b>Treasurer</b>	William Greaif	<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	David Westenberger
<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 William Greaif, President, at [hsaprof@gmail.com](mailto:hsaprof@gmail.com).

*Cut along dotted line*

**Reservation for the Saturday, January 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2018 Chapter Dinner**

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 January 6<sup>TH</sup> to:



**SAR**  
PO Box 3622.  
Williamsburg, VA 23187  
(631) 219-6616  
[hsaprof@gmail.com](mailto:hsaprof@gmail.com)

