



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. XXIV

Number 1

January 2019

President's Message

Compatriots,

As I am preparing the Chapter's Americanism report to VASSAR, I am amazed at how many activities the Chapter undertook during the year. Besides our monthly meetings, members laid wreaths honoring various patriots, attended various patriotic activities both in Williamsburg and other places in Virginia and honored various citizens in the Williamsburg area. Our actual score on the report will be reported in the February newsletter.

Although it is a Wednesday evening, I encourage you to attend the joint chapter meeting with the Thomas Nelson Jr. chapter in Newport News on January 9. We will install officers for both chapters and VASSAR President, Pat Kelly, will be there. We have a great list of speakers for 2019 and many activities already planned. Please note them as they are announced in the Newsletter and by email. Remember that all can attend the VASSAR annual meeting in Richmond in February. The main meeting is the Saturday of the weekend and if you have not heard the high school students give the orations, I encourage you to do so. Our future looks bright. Have a great New Year and I will see you in January.



Bill





Calendar

Mon. Jan 7

10:00AM Board Meeting
Williamsburg Library

Wed. Jan 9

6:30pm Joint Meeting w/
Thomas Nelson Jr. Chapter
Installation of Officers
James River Country Club
1500 Country Club Rd, Newport
News

Mon. Feb 4

10:00AM Board Meeting
Williamsburg Library

Feb 8 – 18

VASSAR Annual Meeting



Chapter News



On December 1, 2018 Eagle Scout Tyler Coenen of Troop 414 was presented with a NSSAR Certificate of Recognition during a Court of Honor at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Norge, VA.

L to R: Matthew Slack
Assistant Scoutmaster and Chapter member.
Tom Spalthoff, Assistant Scoutmaster.
Heath Richardson, Scoutmaster and Chapter Chairman of Eagle Scout Awards.
Tyler Coenen, Eagle Scout.
Harley Stewart, Chapter Public Relations.

The Williamsburg Chapter SAR represented by Pres. William Greaif at the Battle of Great Bridge Commemoration on December 8.



A NSSAR Flag Certificate was presented to Mr. and Mrs. Antony Abate on 11 November 2018. Antony and Eileen were recommended by Compatriot Donald Brannon, Williamsburg Chapter VASSAR, for this award due to their proper display and care of the flag of our great nation. They live in the St. Andrews Village area of Ford's Colony, a community just west of Williamsburg, VA. The attached photo was taken on Sunday afternoon, 11 November 2018, in front of their home and their flag pole. From left to right is Don Brannon, Eileen Abate, Antony Abate and George Corbett, Williamsburg Chapter SAR Flag Recognition Program chairman.



Registrar Corner



Compatriots,

This is my last note as chapter registrar. The position will return to the very capable hands of Ron Losce (valosee@aol.com). I took the position to learn a bit about genealogy and am very grateful to Ron for his tutelage. Although I learned a great deal, I did not become a genealogist and am sorry not every application succeeded. I will continue to work on those four new applications that are pended. My name will come up more frequently next year as chapter treasurer. The one to whom you will mail your monthly luncheon check and annual dues. It is my fervent hope that you will all mail your checks promptly. Jim Hess



AMERICAN REVOLUTION EVENTS IN JANUARY

The Battle of Princeton was a battle of the American Revolutionary War, fought near Princeton, New Jersey on January 3, 1777. General Lord Cornwallis had left 1,400 British troops under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Charles Mawhood in Princeton. Following a surprise attack at Trenton early in the morning of December 26, 1776, General George Washington of the Continental Army decided to attack the British in New Jersey before entering winter quarters. On December 30, he crossed the Delaware River back into New Jersey. His troops followed on January 3, 1777. Washington advanced to Princeton by a back road, where he pushed back a smaller British force but had to retreat before Cornwallis arrived with reinforcements. The battles of Trenton and Princeton were a boost to the morale of the Continental troops, leading many recruits to join the Continental Army in the spring.

After defeating the Hessians at the Battle of Trenton on the morning of December 26, 1776, Washington withdrew back to Pennsylvania. He subsequently decided to attack the British forces before going into winter quarters. On December 29, he led his army back into Trenton. On the night of January 2, 1777, Washington repulsed a British attack at the Battle of the Assunpink Creek. That night, he evacuated his position, circled around General Lord Cornwallis' army, and went to attack the British garrison at Princeton.

On January 3, Brigadier General Hugh Mercer of the Continental Army clashed with two regiments under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Charles Mawhood of the British Army. Mercer and his troops were overrun, and Mercer was mortally wounded. Washington sent a brigade of militia under Brigadier General John Cadwalader to help them. The militia, on seeing the flight of Mercer's men, also began to flee. Washington rode up with reinforcements and rallied the fleeing militia.



He then led the attack on Mawhood's troops, driving them back. Mawhood gave the order to retreat and most of the troops tried to flee to Cornwallis in Trenton.

In Princeton itself, Brigadier General John Sullivan encouraged some British troops who had taken refuge in Nassau Hall to surrender, ending the battle. After the battle, Washington moved his army to Morristown, and with their third defeat in 10 days, the British evacuated southern New Jersey. With the victory at Princeton, morale rose in the American ranks and more men began to enlist in the army. The battle (while considered minor by British standards) was the last major action of Washington's winter New Jersey campaign.



The video this month is about the Battle of Princeton when Gen. Washington rallied and led his troops in a successful January 3rd 1777 battle.

Just click the link below the mouse.



<https://youtu.be/y1qOon4lv4g>

The Battle of Trenton was a small but pivotal battle during the American Revolutionary War which took place on the morning of December 26, 1776, in Trenton, New Jersey. After General George Washington's crossing of the Delaware River north of Trenton the previous night, Washington led the main body of the Continental Army against Hessian mercenaries garrisoned at Trenton. After a brief battle, almost two-thirds of the Hessian force was captured, with negligible losses to the Americans. The battle significantly boosted the Continental Army's flagging morale, and inspired re-enlistments.

The Continental Army had previously suffered several defeats in New York and had been forced to retreat through New Jersey to Pennsylvania. Morale in the army was low; to end the year on a positive note, George Washington—Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army—devised a plan to cross the Delaware River on the night of December 25–26 and surround the Hessian garrison.

Because the river was icy and the weather severe, the crossing proved dangerous. Two detachments were unable to cross the river, leaving Washington with only 2,400 men under his command in the assault, 3,000 less than planned. The army marched 9 miles (14.5 km) south to Trenton. The Hessians had lowered their guard, thinking they were safe from the American army, and had no long-distance outposts or patrols. Washington's forces caught them off guard and, after a short but fierce resistance, most of the Hessians surrendered and were captured, with just over a third escaping across Assunpink Creek.

Despite the battle's small numbers, the American victory inspired rebels in the colonies. With the success of the revolution in doubt a week earlier, the army had seemed on the verge of collapse. The dramatic victory inspired soldiers to serve longer and attracted new recruits to the ranks.



“The Joint chapter meeting of the Thomas Nelson Jr. and Williamsburg Chapters is scheduled for January 9th at 6:30pm. The location is the James River Country club located at 1500 Country Club Road, Newport News, Cost is \$28.00/person, cash bar and black tie optional. Incoming chapter officers normally are in Black tie.”

Installation of Williamsburg 2019 Chapter Officers

President	William Greaif	Chaplain	Jim Morford
Vice-President	Jay Smith	Newsletter Editor	David Westenberger
Secretary	Roger Cross	Sergeant-at-Arms	Eric Ely
Treasurer	Jim Hess	Color Guard	John Lynch
Public Relations	Harley Stewart	At-Large	Richard Snyder
Registrar	Ron Losee	At-Large	Richard Durst
Historian	Stephen McGuffin		



Send your reservations to the Williamsburg Chapter
by **Saturday Jan 4th**

Cut along dotted line as it will fit in a No. 8 6 3/4 Security envelope.

Ed

Reservation for the **Wednesday Jan. 9th 2019** Joint Chapter Luncheon

Name(s) _____

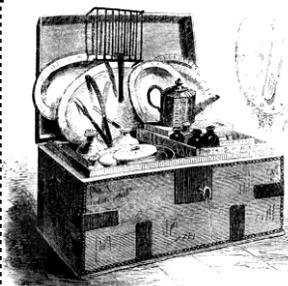
Please reserve _____ regular meals at \$28.00

#Vegetarian _____ Vegan _____ Gluten free _____ Special need _____

Please make checks payable to

“Williamsburg Chapter SAR”

Mail to:



Fred Siegel
3006 Downing St.
Williamsburg, VA 23185
(757) 259-0184
fwsiegeljr@gmail.com

