



The Magazine

*Williamsburg Chapter - Virginia
Society*

Sons of the American Revolution



Vol. XXXVI

Number 33

December 2025

President's Message

Compatriots,

The November luncheon saw our attending membership unanimously voting in the proposed slate of chapter officers for 2026. Hearty congratulations to President-elect Ron Adolphi, Vice President-elect Ray Duncombe (new to the Board of Managers), Secretary-elect, Mike Braswell, Treasurer-elect Bill Dorn, Registrar-elect Ron Miller (new to the Board of Managers), Public Relations Officer -elect Bob Davis, Newsletter Editor/Webmaster-elect Sean Heuvel, Chaplain-elect George Corbett, Sergeant-at-Arms-elect Steve Holm, Historian-elect Stuart Butler, Member-at-large -elect Kevin Brown (new to the Board of Managers), and Member-at-Large -elect Mike Doucette. Immediate past Registrar Hunt Berryman and immediate past Member-at-Large Steve McGuffin both served many years on the Board of Managers and did outstanding work; gentlemen, thank you for your work! The annual award ceremony, held during the luncheon, recognized many compatriots and DAR members for jobs well done and strong support to chapter activities.

On 11 November 2025, we awarded a Bronze Good Citizenship Medal to Catherine Pittman for her work at Colonial Williamsburg Foundation's Natin Builder Martha Washington. Robert Kelly, from the Gloucester Historical Museum, was awarded the Bronze Henry Knox Medal for his support of color guard black powder safety training. On 25 November 2025 Compatriots Bruce Laubach, John Lynch, and Ron Miller traveled to Kittiewan Plantation in Charles City County. There they visited the Rickman Cemetery where Dr. William Rickman, a senior Continental Army surgeon, is buried. A grave marking ceremony is being planned for the Fall of 2026.

Happy Holidays!

Respectfully,

John Lynch - President, Williamsburg Chapter, Virginia Society, SAR

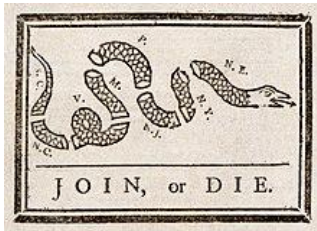


Calendar

In Memoriam: Henry Kelley Sr.

Monday Jan. 5, 2026

7:00pm BOM meeting by ZOOM



**No Chapter Meeting in
December**

**See you at our next meeting on
January 10 – at Fords Colony
Country Club at 11:30am**

Chapter Announcements:

- If you have not already done so, please pay your 2026 SAR membership dues as soon as possible.
- Two Williamsburg Chapter logo polos for sale. One is a red cotton size large for \$36.00; one is a teal blue NIKE poly polo size large for \$56.00. Both are brand new, never used. If interested, please contact Bob Davis, 757-229-5653 or macnider@cox.net.

Chapter News



On 23 November 2025 President John Lynch of the Williamsburg Chapter SAR presented the SAR Medal of Appreciation to KJ Corbett for her support of the Williamsburg Chapter and for her outstanding work in genealogical research (photo courtesy of Bruce Laubach).

Williamsburg Chapter November Happenings



November (as well as late October) was a busy period for the Williamsburg Chapter as it participated in multiple commemorative events. These included the Battle of Hampton Commemoration (October 26), the Veterans Day ceremony at Colonial Williamsburg (November 11), the Battle of Kemps Landing Commemoration (November 15), and the JCC Committee of Observation Commemoration (November 23). Photos courtesy of John Lynch and Bruce Laubach.

Honoring Dr. William Rickman

Williamsburg Chapter SAR honors a Continental Army Surgeon

On 25 November 2025, Williamsburg Chapter SAR Compatriots John Lynch, Bruce Laubach, and Ron Miller visited Kittiewan Plantation in Charles City County to see the grave of senior Continental Army surgeon Dr. William Rickman (who has once owned that plantation). Dr. Rickman held of the rank of colonel in the Continental Army and was in active service between 1776 and 1780, helping to oversee military hospitals in Williamsburg and other places. He was married to Elizabeth “Betsey” Harrison, a daughter of Benjamin Harrison V, who was a signer of the Declaration of Independence and the owner of nearby Berkeley Plantation. Plans for an official SAR grave marking ceremony in Fall 2026 are currently underway (group photo courtesy of John Lynch; photo of Kittiewan Plantation is from Wikipedia).





UPCOMING EVENTS!

1. December 6: Battle of Great Bridge Commemoration
2. December 13: Wreaths Across America Commemoration
3. January 5: WMSBG Chapter Board of Managers Meeting
4. January 10: Joint Meeting with Thomas Nelson Jr. Chapter

From WHRO TV: If you have not yet seen it, make sure to watch Ken Burns' six-part documentary series on the American Revolution!



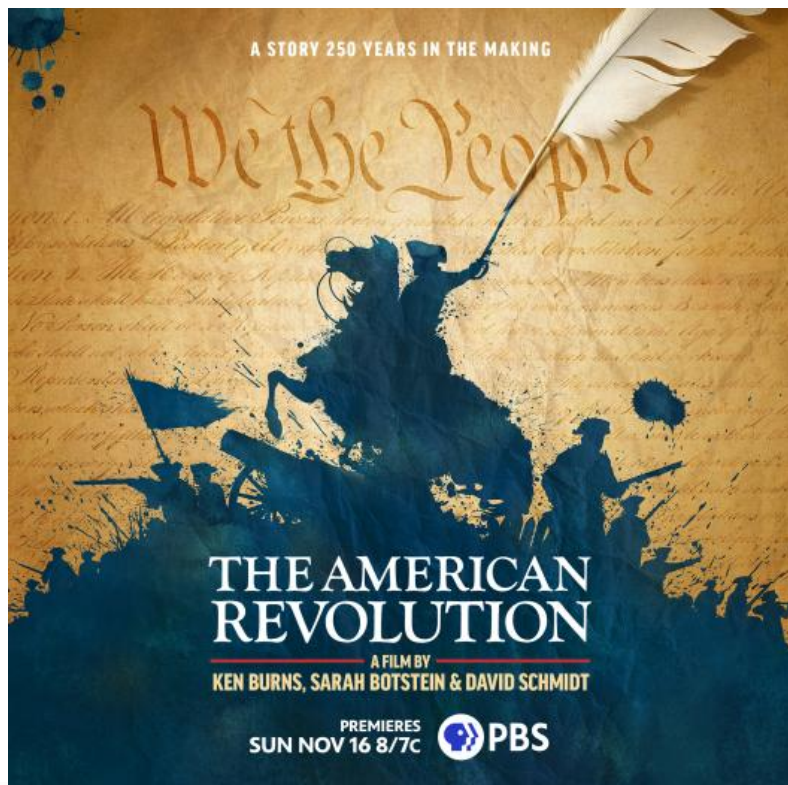
SAVE THE DATE(S)

Bicentennial of Lafayette's Farewell Tour
2024-2025



The American Friends of Lafayette
is the proud official sponsor of the
commemoration of Lafayette's Farewell Tour.

www.friendsolafayette.org
www.lafayette200.org
americanfriendsoflafayette@gmail.com



WILLIAMSBURG CHAPTER SAR POLO SHIRTS!

Williamsburg Chapter Polo Shirt Order Information

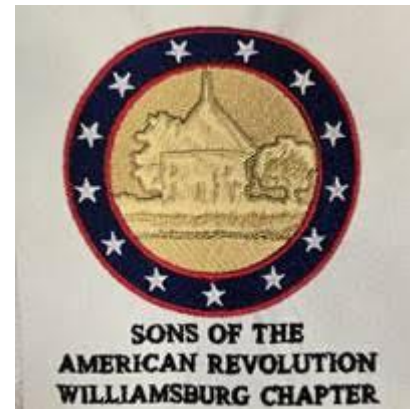
Type of Polo:

EZ Cotton Polo – S to XL, XXL, 3X, 4X

Color for Cotton – multiple colors available

Pique Polo – S to XL, XXL, 3X, 4X

Color for Polyester – multiple colors available



***Please Order Directly from the “A Logo For You”
Website (see link below)***

Phone Number: 757-220-9259

Email: Alfy@alogoforyou.com

Website:

https://stores.inksoft.com/sons_of_am_rev_wmsbg/shop/home

Questions: macnider@cox.net



Register through Member Clicks or mail in the registration form that will be provided soon!

Save the Date!

January 10, 2026 Meeting

Our annual officer's induction will take place on 10 January 2026 at the Fords Colony Country Club. As is our custom, it will be a joint event with our friends/fellow Compatriots at the Thomas Nelson Jr. Chapter. Note that this event will be a luncheon instead of a dinner. More details to come!



Commemoration of the James City County Committee of Observation

On 23 November 2025, the Williamsburg Chapter SAR Color Guard presented the colors at the Commemoration of the formation of the James City County Committee of Observation in 1774.

Featured in the picture (from left to right) are Ron Miller John Lynch Gary Dunaway, Ron Adolphi and Katie Nowell who represented the Williamsburg Chapter Daughter's of the American Revolution (photo courtesy of Bruce Laubach).



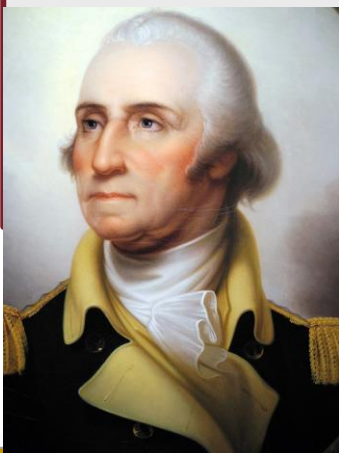
Revolutionary War History of the Month

Submitted by Stuart Butler, Chapter Historian

Was Mount Vernon Ever Occupied By the British?

*The answer is no, but it could have been. Last month's newsletter account of the British naval force in the Potomac in the spring of 1781 indicated that a small British naval force had penetrated the upper Potomac all the way to Alexandria. Had the British desired to do so, it was in their power to occupy or ravage the grounds of Mount Vernon. Why didn't they? While Washington was away commanding the Continental Army, he entrusted the management of his eight-thousand-acre plantation, along with Mount Vernon, to his distant cousin, Lund Washington. The British naval force under the command of Capt. Richard Graves had reached the vicinity of Mount Vernon in early April 1781 and had burned neighboring plantations across the Potomac in Maryland and appeared to be on its way to Mount Vernon. Graves demanded provisions from Lund with the implied threat that Washington's property would be threatened if the request was denied. Lund initially refused to cooperate, but after Graves brought his 16 gunship, *Savage*, closer to the shore, Lund met the captain with a small gift of poultry. At Graves' invitation, Lund later went aboard the ship. Soon after Lund's departure, a number of sheep, hogs, and other provisions were received on board.*

*While this exchange was underway, about seventeen enslaved persons absconded and were taken aboard the *Savage*. Although Lund's letter to Washington describing the incident is lost, it is known through other sources, that Captain Graves appeared to have no plans to ravage Mount Vernon and that nothing "could compel him to entertain the idea of taking the smallest measure offensive to so illustrious a character as General Washington." (Marquis de Chastallux, *Travels in North America in the Years 1780, 1781, and 1782*, Vol 2, 597-98). Although thankful that his property was not ravaged, the General was, nevertheless, not amused by his cousin's performance. In a letter to Lund, April 30, 1781, he expressed his dissatisfaction with his cousin's behavior towards the British. While he understood his cousin's actions were done to avoid destruction, as Lund had no means to defend the property, "but to go onboard their vessels; carry them refreshments; commune with a parcel of plundering scoundrels, and request a favor by asking the surrender of my Negroes, was exceedingly ill-judged . . ." Washington went on to imply that it would have been better to have his property despoiled than do business with the enemy. Despite the incident at Mount Vernon, Washington kept Lund on until after the war. Most of the enslaved persons seeking freedom on board *Savage*, were returned to Washington after the war.*



2026 Slate of Williamsburg Chapter Officers

Congratulations to the following Williamsburg Chapter members who were elected to serve on the 2026 Board of Managers at the November 2025 Chapter Meeting:

President,	Ron Adolphi
Vice President,	Ray Duncombe
Secretary,	Mike Braswell
Treasurer,	Bill Dorn
Registrar,	Ronald Miller
Public Relations,	Robert Davis III
Newsletter/Webmaster,	Sean Heuvel
Chaplain,	George Corbett
Sergeant-at-Arms,	Stephen Holm
Historian,	Stuart Butler
Member-at-Large,	Kevin Brown
Member-at-Large,	Michael Doucette
Immediate Past President,	John Lynch

We are especially excited to welcome to new members to the Board – Ron Miller (Registrar) and Kevin Brown (Member-At-Large). These officers-elect, along with the rest of the officers will be sworn in at the January 2026 Chapter Meeting. In the meantime, we are most grateful to two longtime officers who are concluding their service on the Board – Hunt Berryman (Registrar) and Steve McGuffin (Member-At-Large). Thanks for your service, Hunt and Steve!



Chaplain's Corner – By George Corbett, Chaplain

Christmas

As we begin the celebration of our Saviors birth, I thought I would take a little look at what Christmas would have been like in colonial times. What I found was somewhat surprising. In 1674, parliament set down strict rules against the celebration of Christmas due to its original pagan roots. In Roman times, it was celebrated to honor various pagan gods. These restrictions followed colonists across the Atlantic. While in the northern colonies, the Puritans strictly followed these rules, the southern colonies, to include Virginia, ignored them. In the northern colonies, it was just another day of work in service to the Lord, while in the southern colonies it was an “adult” holiday celebrated with parties, hunts, feasting and church services. Christmas began on 25 December and lasted for 12 days until 6 January which was known as the Twelfth Day. Many of our traditions followed the various settlers based on their traditions.

As we begin this holiday with family and friends, let us rejoice for the greatest gift ever given to mankind, the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

2025 Williamsburg Chapter SAR Officers



President	John Lynch II
Vice President	Ron Adolphi
Secretary	Mike Braswell
Treasurer	Bill Dorn
Registrar	Hunt Berryman
Public Relations	Robert Davis III
Newsletter Editor/Webmaster	Sean Heuvel
Chaplain	George Corbett
Sergeant-at-Arms	Stephen Holm
Historian	Stuart Butler
Member-at-Large	Stephen McGuffin
Member-at-Large	Michael Doucette
Immediate Past President	Bruce Laubach



Virginia Society Children of the American Revolution 99th State Conference Sponsorship Form



The purpose of these sponsorships is to decrease the cost to attend for C.A.R. members and families. With our event moving to Williamsburg, VA we have been able to return to a history-filled area with many opportunities for member activities, but we have also assumed an increase in lodging and event costs. To offset raises in costs, we will provide sponsorship opportunities to groups and organizations in a means that does not disturb the operations of the event, nor take away attention from the success of the year and the state project, but deepens the Virginia Society's relationships with other organizations. By completing this sponsorship form, the organization, group, or individual, is agreeing to make a payment to the V.S.C.A.R. in exchange for the sponsorship rewards listed below, to encourage more families and members to attend and participate in the annual State Conference event. This sponsorship is valid for the one event listed on the form and not for continued sponsorship unless filled out again.

First-Year Student	House Member	Prefect
\$49.99 and below	\$50-\$99	\$100-\$249
Includes mention in the conference program and banquet program ~ Thanks and recognition at the end of year banquet ~ Mention included in banquet slideshow	All previously listed and additionally: Thanks given from State President during sponsored event	All previously listed and additionally: The State President will read some words from the sponsor during the business meeting. Words will be submitted and approved.
Candidates Party	Candidates Party	Candidates Party
Saturday Event	Saturday Event	Saturday Event
Member Dance	Member Dance	Member Dance
Head of House	Professor	Headmaster
\$250-\$499	\$500-\$999	\$1000 and above
All previously listed and additionally: Their name/logo customized onto a toy given to members at sponsored event (Candidates Party/Member Dance) OR printing and distribution of organization material given to attendees (Saturday Event)	All previously listed and additionally: 1 complimentary meal and seat at the end of year banquet.	Includes exclusive mention in the conference program and banquet program ~ Thanks and recognition at the end of year banquet included in slideshow ~ Thanks given from State President during sponsored event and a few words from sponsor ~ Printing and distribution of material given to attendees ~ Sole name/logo customized onto a toy given to members at event (If Candidates Party or Member Dance) ~ 2 complimentary meals and seats at the end of year banquet
Candidates Party	Candidates Party	Candidates Party
Saturday Event	Saturday Event	Saturday Event
Member Dance	Member Dance	Member Dance

* Completed forms can be returned to VirginiaCARconference@gmail.com * Checks can be made payable to **V.S.C.A.R., Inc.** and mailed to **V.S.C.A.R. Inc., 14333 Ferndale Road, Dale City, VA 22193-2132** **OR** using the QR code provided, make sure in the notes line to list the level and event for your sponsorship



Sponsorship Opportunities

For the C.A.R.'s upcoming 99th VSCAR state conference!



Virginia Society Children of the American Revolution 99th State Conference Sponsorship Form

**Sponsor Contact Information:**

Contact Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Email Address: _____ Payment Method: ☐ Check ☐ Clover/Digital**Head of House:** ☐ Printing/Distribution of Printed Material ☐ Customized toy/item for attendees**Head of House, Professor, and Headmaster:**** Deadline for these levels is February 13th 2026*

- Please email logo or individual name to use for the item given to attendees, printed in banquet program, and used in presentation by *February 13th 2026* or name only will be used
- Please email PDF of material to print and distribute to the members by *February 20th 2026* anything submitted later will be included as a digital document given to the attendees via QR code

Professor and Headmaster:** Deadline for these levels is February 13th 2026*Name of Guest(s) Attending Banquet: *(Professor = 1 guest, Headmaster = 2 guests)*

Guest 1: _____ Guest 2: _____

** Meal options will be emailed to the Sponsor Contact and will need to be determined and returned by February 21st 2026*

To learn more about the Virginia State Society Children of the American Revolution State Project, visit our website at
<https://www.vscar.org/state-theme-project/>

Sponsorship Opportunities

For the C.A.R.'s upcoming 99th VSCAR state conference!

SAR GIFTS AND FASHIONABLE APPAREL



SAR apparel and other items are available for purchase at: store.sar.org

Nametags can be purchased at: <https://store.sar.org/personalized-items-C46.aspx>

