



# The Magazine

Williamsburg Chapter - Virginia  
Society



*Sons of the American Revolution*

Vol. XXXVIII

Number 35

February 2026

## President's Message

Compatriots,

It is an honor to greet you in my first message as President of our Williamsburg Chapter. I am grateful for the trust you have placed in me and mindful of the responsibility that comes with leading a chapter whose mission is rooted in remembrance, patriotism, and service. I begin by expressing our collective appreciation to Past President John Lynch for his exemplary leadership. His dedication strengthened our outreach, expanded our educational efforts, and deepened our presence in the community. We are well-positioned for the year ahead because of the strong foundation he has built. The year 2026 offers a rare and profound opportunity. As our nation commemorates the 250th Anniversary of its founding, we are called to help our fellow citizens reflect on the courage, sacrifice, and ideals that shaped the United States. Our chapter will take an active role in sharing the significance of this milestone—through programs, public engagement, and educational initiatives that highlight the enduring relevance of the American Revolution.

Looking forward, our chapter will focus on three priorities:

- **Honoring Our Heritage:** Preserving and promoting the stories of our patriot ancestors through meaningful programs and commemorations.
- **Serving Our Veterans:** Expanding our efforts to support those who have defended our nation, recognizing their service as a continuation of the same devotion to liberty shown by our forebears.
- **Strengthening Our Fellowship:** Fostering a welcoming, engaged, and collaborative chapter where every member feels valued and connected to our shared mission.

I am excited for the work ahead and confident in what we can accomplish together. Thank you for your commitment to the ideals of the Sons of the American Revolution and for the privilege of serving as your President. May our efforts this year honor the past, enrich the present, and inspire the future.

Patriotically,

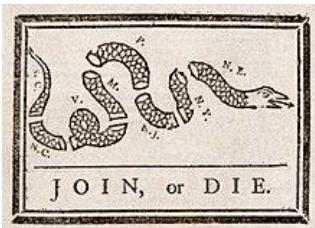
Ron Adolphi – President, Williamsburg Chapter, Virginia Society, SAR



# Calendar

## *In Memoriam: Don Swain*

Monday Feb. 2, 2026  
7:00pm BOM meeting by ZOOM



Saturday Feb. 14, 2026  
Chapter Lunch Meeting  
11:30 am Social  
Fords Colony Country Club

### Menu for February Chapter Meeting:

The main entree is Garlic and Herb Grilled Chicken Breast, Loaded Baked Potato, Zucchini and Summer Squash. Dessert is New York Cheesecake with Strawberry Sauce(a gluten free brownie is available upon request).

The usual alternatives are:  
#1: Grilled Chicken Breast Salad, Greens, Veggies, Balsamic Vinaigrette, or  
#2: 3 Cheeses, Crackers, Melon, Pineapple, & Berries.

The registration deadline is Sunday February 8.

The payment deadline is Tuesday February 10

See page 7 for additional information

## Chapter News



The presidency of the Williamsburg Chapter SAR has officially transitioned from John Lynch to Ron Adolphi. They are shown here during the officer induction ceremony at the January meeting with Tim Dioquino, Secretary for the Virginia Society, SAR. Photo courtesy of Bob Davis.

# Williamsburg Chapter January Happenings



The Williamsburg Chapter had a busy January as it inducted its 2026 Board of Managers, admitted new Companions, and issued awards to current Companions. Photos courtesy of Bob Davis.

# SAR Patriot Profile

Biographical Sketch of Joseph Bennett  
By Sean Heuvel, Ph.D. (his sixth great-grandson)

Joseph Bennett was born on 5 October 1758 in Scituate, Rhode Island. He was a son of John Bennett (1708-1778) and Deborah Reynolds (1718-1760) who descended from families that had long been established in New England. Joseph enlisted as a private in the Scituate Militia Company near Bristol in December 1776 and spent the next several months with other Rhode Island militia companies (under the overall command of Maj. Gen. William West and later Maj. Gen. Joseph Spencer – shown below) monitoring British activity in the area. In June 1778, Joseph enlisted as a private in the Rhode Island State Troops in a regiment led by Col. Archibald Crary under the overall command of Maj. Gen. John Sullivan (also shown below). In that capacity, Joseph was present during the Battle of Rhode Island on 29 August 1778, though he was in sick bay during the height of the engagement. He married Jemima Fairbanks in 1778 and following the war settled with his family in Belchertown, Massachusetts, where he passed away on 19 December 1838.





## UPCOMING EVENTS!

1. February 2: WMSBG Chapter Board of Managers Meeting
2. February 6-7: Virginia Society SAR Annual Meeting
3. February 14: WMSBG Chapter Lunch Meeting
4. February 22: George Washington's Birthday Commemoration

PHOTO: by Linda Westcott

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



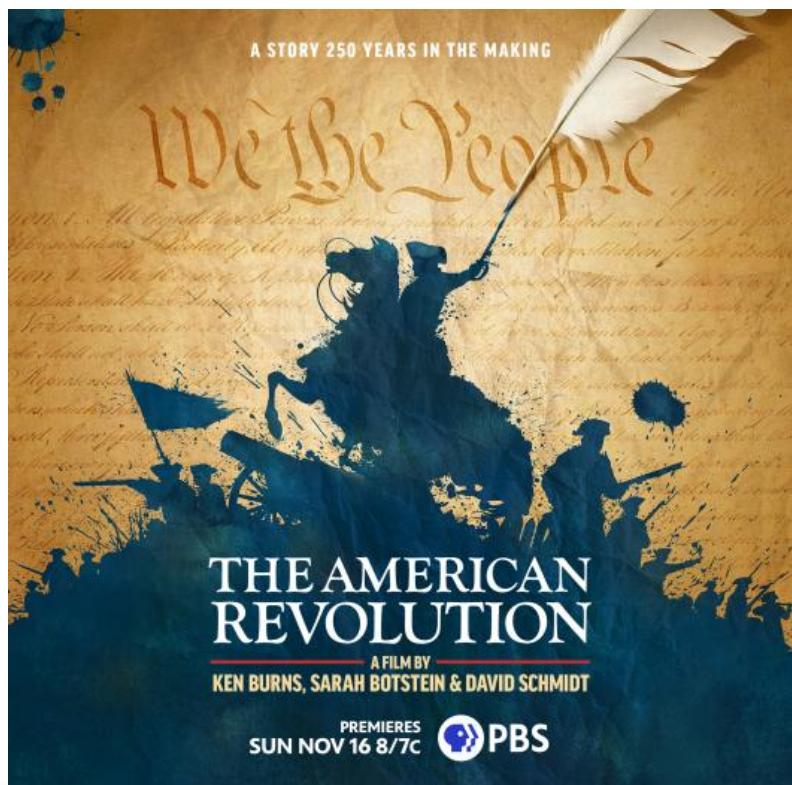
### SAVE THE DATE(S)

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.friendsoflafayette.org](http://www.friendsoflafayette.org)  
[www.lafayette200.org](http://www.lafayette200.org)  
[americanfriendslafayette@gmail.com](mailto:americanfriendslafayette@gmail.com)



# **WILLIAMSBURG CHAPTER SAR POLO SHIRTS!**

## ***Williamsburg Chapter Polo Shirt Order Information***

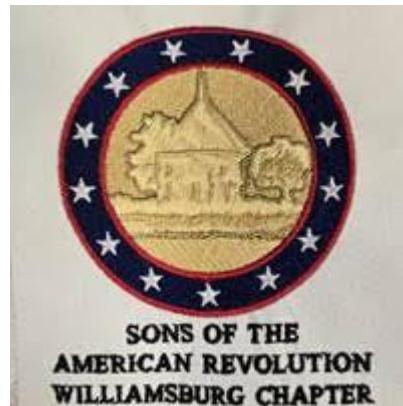
### ***Type of Polo:***

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)***

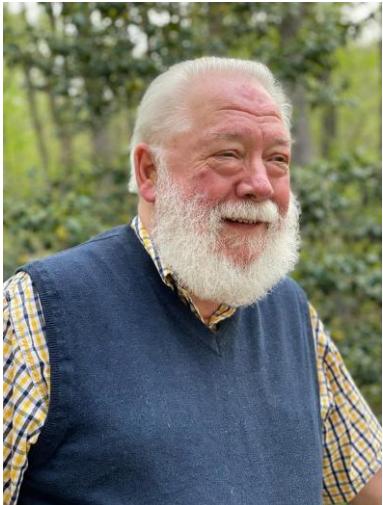
**Phone Number: 757-220-9259**

**Email: [Alfy@alogoforyou.com](mailto:Alfy@alogoforyou.com)**

**Website:**

**[https://stores.inksoft.com/sons\\_of\\_am\\_rev\\_wmsbg/shop/home](https://stores.inksoft.com/sons_of_am_rev_wmsbg/shop/home)**

**Questions: [macnider@cox.net](mailto:macnider@cox.net)**



***Register through Member  
Clicks or mail in the  
registration form below!***

***Topic: The College of William &  
Mary and the Revolutionary War***

## **February 14, 2026 Meeting Speaker: Wilford Kale**

Wilford Kale was born and reared in Charlotte, N.C. He came to Williamsburg in September 1962 as a freshman at William & Mary. Mr. Kale has remained in the community for the past 64 years with the exception of years in the Army and in Vietnam. He received his B.A. from Park College in 1971 and his master of philosophy in history in 2012 from the University of Leicester in Leicester, England.

Mr. Kale was a journalist for the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* for 25 years and served in a leadership position with the Virginia Marine Resources Commission for 13 years before retiring in 2007. He has written or edited 12 books and currently writes for the *Virginia Gazette*.

### Reservation for the Saturday, February 14, 2026 Meeting

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

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ regular meals at \$28.50 each

Special need \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to "Williamsburg Chapter SAR"

Mail to:

William Dorn – Chapter Treasurer

349 Capeside Court

Williamsburg, VA 23188

(252) 658-2348

wrdorn48@gmail.com

# **Remembering Former Williamsburg Chapter SAR President Don Swain**

Former Williamsburg Chapter President Donald Woodman Swain (who served in 2015) passed away on 3 January 2026. Born on 19 January 1934, Don earned a bachelors degree from the University of New Hampshire and a master's degree in

East European/Russian Studies from Syracuse University's Maxwell School of International Relations. He then served in the U.S. Air Force for 29 years and saw service during the Vietnam War, where he flew over 60 combat missions over Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia. Don retired from the Air Force in 1985 with the rank of colonel, having flown over 4,000 hours. His numerous military decorations included the Legion of Merit, a Bronze Star, and four Air Medals.

Following his military retirement, Don spent 15 years working for Lockheed Martin.

He served as president of the Colonial Capital Kiwanis Club and served as a historical guide for the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation. In the SAR's Williamsburg Chapter, Don was also the chairman of the History Day Committee for several years.

Don's Revolutionary War ancestors included Lt. Col. Samuel Chesley, who served in the second regiment of the New Hampshire Militia; and Pvt. Hezekiah Swain of New Hampshire, who served in the Continental Army under the legendary Col. Alexander Scammell.



## **Revolutionary War History of the Month**

### **Submitted by Stuart Butler, Chapter Historian**

#### **George Washington and His Horses**

Thomas Jefferson is often quoted as saying that Washington was “the best horseman of his age, and the most graceful figure that could be seen on horseback.” The Marquis of Chastellux agreed and wrote that the general “is a very excellent and bold horseman, leaping the highest fences, and going extremely quick without standing upon his stirrups. . . or letting his horse run wild.” An outstanding rider required outstanding horses and Washington loved horses, so much so that by 1787 he had over 135 of them on his Mount Vernon farms.

While most of these horses were farm animals, used for pulling carriages and wagons, it is the horses that were used by Washington during wartime that are the subject of this article. The general relied on two very different horses on which he rode into battle. The most famous of these and the one most seen in paintings of Washington on horseback was a gray half-Arabian bred stallion called Blueskin, a gift from Col. Benjamin Tasker Dulaney (1752-1816) of Maryland. Blueskin was noted for his endurance over long rides during the campaign. While Blueskin got Washington to the battlefield, it was the general’s other favorite, Nelson, that he rode during the thick of battle. Unlike Blueskin’s tendency to become skittish amidst the roar of the battlefield, Nelson, a chestnut gelding, showed no such tendency, and seemed to be unfazed by the battle’s roar. Nelson was named in honor of Thomas Nelson, Jr., who gave him to the general in 1778. In Jonathan Trumbull’s famous painting of the surrender at Yorktown, Washington is depicted on Nelson. Both horses survived the war. Blueskin lived until he was about twenty-seven after being returned to the Dulaney family in 1785. Nelson remained with Washington at Mount Vernon, pampered and well-cared for, and was often sought after by visitors. Nelson died about 1790.

Other named horses associated with Washington were Prescott and Jackson, both whitish gray stallions that Washington employed while President. He rode Prescott from Mount Vernon to New York for his first inauguration. He used both in presidential processions and parades. Washington’s step-grandson, Washington Parke Custis, described Prescott as “a fine parade horse, purely white, and sixteen hands high.” One other horse, Magnolia, a pure bred Arabian chestnut stallion he bought for £ 500, he used in local races, however, the horse didn’t perform as well as the general had hoped it would!



# ***Chaplain's Corner – By George Corbett, Chaplain***

## **Democracy or Constitutional Republic?**

During this mid term election season, we hear the term “Democracy” being tossed around quite frequently by the various politicians to reflect our form of government. Is the United States of America a Democracy or as we quote in the SAR Pledge, a Constitutional Republic?

The Founding Fathers clearly understood the difference based upon their knowledge of previous forms of governments throughout the ages.

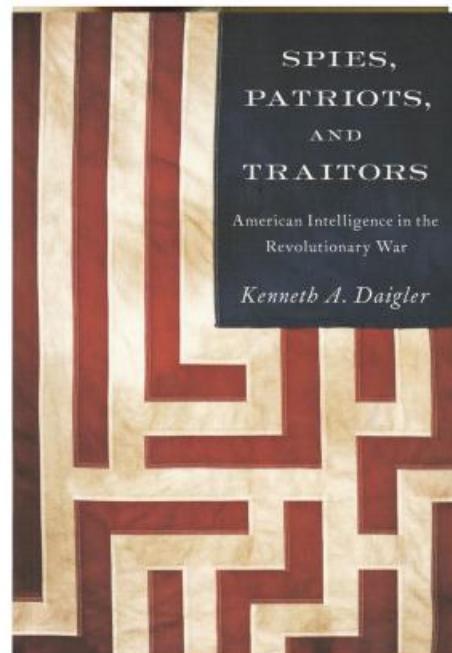
Alexander Hamilton recognized the real harm of a democracy.

Democracy excludes the minority’s rights. It reminds me of the classic saying “Democracy is like two wolves and a lamb voting on what to eat for lunch, but a Republic is a well armed lamb contesting the vote.”

The Founding Fathers recognized the terrible consequences of letting the majority have total power, therefore they created a system that ensured that everyone’s opinion mattered. So, as we recite the SAR Pledge, let us be thankful to God that our founders had the foresight to create this glorious Constitution Republic with its system of checks and balances to allow for all to have a say in our governance.

Eternal Father, we seek your blessings upon this great nation. We pray for your guidance and wisdom upon our elected leaders that they may act upon behalf of all our citizens. Let us remember our Patriot Ancestors who called upon your divine providence in times of peril and sought your guidance in the affairs of our young nation. May we never forget these and all other blessings you have bestowed upon our great nation. Amen.

## **Book of the Month – By Stephen Holm, Sergeant-at- Arms**



*Spies, Patriots, and Traitors  
American Intelligence in the Revolutionary War  
By Kenneth A. Daigler*

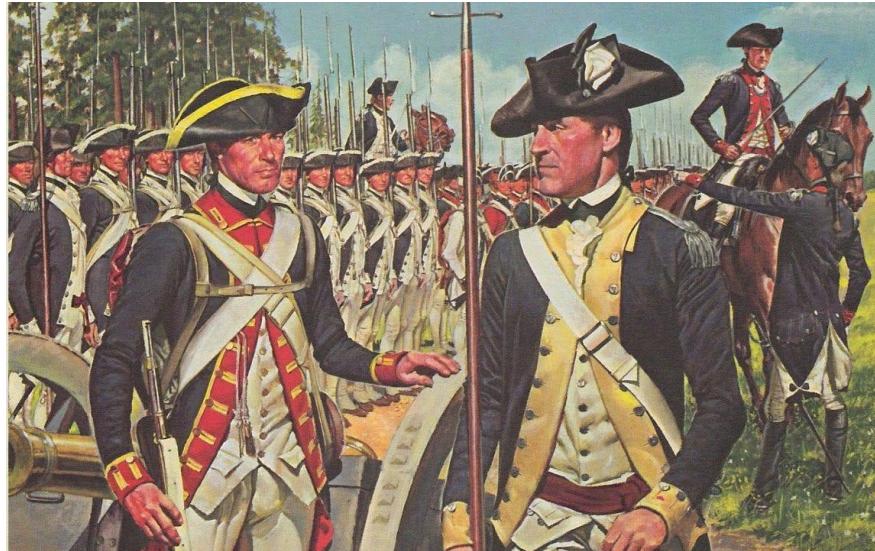
*Students and enthusiasts of American history are familiar with the Revolutionary War spies Nathan Hale and Benedict Arnold, but few studies have closely examined the wider intelligence efforts that enabled the colonies to gain their independence. Spies, Patriots, and Traitors provides readers with a fascinating, well-documented, and highly readable account of American intelligence activities during the era of the Revolutionary War, from 1765 to 1783, while describing the intelligence sources and methods used.*

*Much of the book describes intelligence-collection activities against the British by various American agents during the war. Individual chapters describe intelligence efforts in British-occupied Boston, Philadelphia, and New York, and in areas of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Particular attention is given to the Culper Ring, the best-documented American intelligence network of the war, which operated in and about New York City.*

*However, the book also provides details of George Washington's background in intelligence, which started prior to the French and Indian War, and gave him the mindset and experience to organize and direct intelligence activities while commander of the Continental Army*

*The author, a retired CIA officer, provides insights into these events from an intelligence professional's perspective, highlighting the tradecraft of intelligence collection, counterintelligence, and covert actions and relating how many of the principles of the era's intelligence practice are still relevant today. Kenneth Daigler reveals the intelligence activities of famous personalities such as Samuel Adams, George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Nathan Hale, John Jay, and Benedict Arnold.*

# 2026 Williamsburg Chapter SAR Officers



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



## 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
<b>\$49.99 and below</b>	<b>\$50-\$99</b>	<b>\$100-\$249</b>
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
<b>\$250-\$499</b>	<b>\$500-\$999</b>	<b>\$1000 and above</b>
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 <b>exclusive</b> 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](mailto: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 99<sup>th</sup> 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**

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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 99<sup>th</sup> VSCAR state conference!

# SAR GIFTS AND FASHIONABLE APPAREL



SAR apparel and other items are available for purchase at: [store.sar.org](https://store.sar.org)

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

