



The Magazine

Williamsburg Chapter - Virginia
Society
Sons of the American Revolution



Vol. XLIII

Number 40

July 2026

President's Message

Compatriots,

This July, our nation reaches a milestone that few generations are privileged to witness: the 250th anniversary of American independence. As Sons of the American Revolution, we are uniquely called to honor this moment with gratitude, reverence, and renewed dedication to the ideals first proclaimed in 1776. Our chapter will begin the July 4th day of celebration with our **Service of Thanksgiving and Praise** at 10:00am at historic **Bruton Parish Church**. This annual gathering—now made even more meaningful by the Semi quicentennial—invites us to reflect on the courage, faith, and resolve of the patriots who secured the blessings of liberty we cherish today.

Following the service, we will join our partners of the Williamsburg Chapter, NSDAR, for their commemoration at **Berkeley Plantation at 12:30pm**. This ceremony, held at the ancestral home of Benjamin Harrison V, offers a fitting setting to honor the signers of the Declaration and the enduring legacy of the founding generation.

Our commemorations continue the following Monday. On **July 6th at 10:00am**, the Williamsburg Chapter will gather at **Church on the Main** to remember the **Battle of Green Spring**, one of the final engagements of the Revolutionary War on Virginia soil. This solemn observance reminds us that independence was not secured in a single moment, but through years of sacrifice, perseverance, and unwavering commitment to the cause of freedom.

As we stand in this historic year, let us take pride in the role our chapter plays in preserving the memory of the Revolution and in sharing its meaning with our community. May our participation in these commemorations strengthen our resolve to uphold the principles for which our patriot ancestors fought. I look forward to seeing many of you during these important observances as together we honor the Semi quicentennial of our nation's founding.

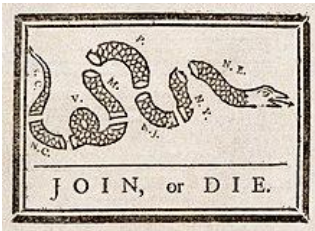
In patriotism,
Ronald Adolphi, President – Williamsburg Chapter



Calendar

Happy 4th of July!

Monday July 6, 2026
7:00pm BOM meeting by ZOOM



Saturday July 11, 2026
Chapter Lunch Meeting
11:30 am Social
Fords Colony Country Club

Menu for July Chapter Meeting:

The main entree is a turkey club with bacon, lettuce, tomato, and ranch dressing with pub fries. Dessert is a chocolate brownie sundae with vanilla ice cream, chocolate sauce, and whipped cream (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 July 5

The payment deadline is Tuesday July 7

See page 7 for additional information

Chapter News



During the George Wythe Society, Children of the American Revolution meeting on 6/14/26, members learned about the American flag from the Williamsburg DAR and Williamsburg SAR Flag Chairs. The members then worked together to fold dozens of flags in preparation for a flag retirement ceremony in September with the VFW (photo courtesy of Tatton Mason).

Williamsburg Chapter June Happenings



On June 23rd, Compatriot Gary Dunaway participated with the VASSAR Color Guard in a joint DAR/SAR grave marking at Lexington, VA to honor patriot James Logan McKee. About 60 McKee descendants attended the ceremony, which was highlighted by a McKee descendant bagpiper and VASSAR musket salute. A lunch reception followed the ceremony. Gary, as VASSAR Membership Secretary, assisted Gen Daniel Morgan chapter president Edmund Davidson with the induction of new member William Trevey, Jr - another McKee descendant (photos courtesy of Gary Dunaway).

Color Guard Report - By Ron Miller, Color Guard Commander

The Color Guard participated in two events since our last Newsletter:

June 12; Sail Yorktown 250 Festival. The Color Guard presented the Colors for an event at the Yorktown Monument.

June 20; The Williamsburg Chapter was represented by Gary Dunaway and Ron Miller at the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the 251st Anniversary of General Washington's Call to Command at the George Washington Birthplace National Monument in Colonial Beach, VA.

Upcoming Color Guard events:

July 4: Wreath Laying at Berkeley Plantation - event 12:00 noon - Berkeley Plantation – Muster time 11:00 am.

July 6: Commemoration of the Battle of Green Spring – event 10:00 am - Church on the Main – Muster time 9:15 am.

July 9: 250th Anniversary of the Battle of Cricket Hill/Gwynn's Island – event 10:00 am Morningstar Marinas – Muster time – 9:15 am – Firing event. This is one of the six events that attendance qualifies for the VSSAR Road to Virginia Independence Medal.

July 25: Ceremony at Gloucester Courthouse - details TBD.

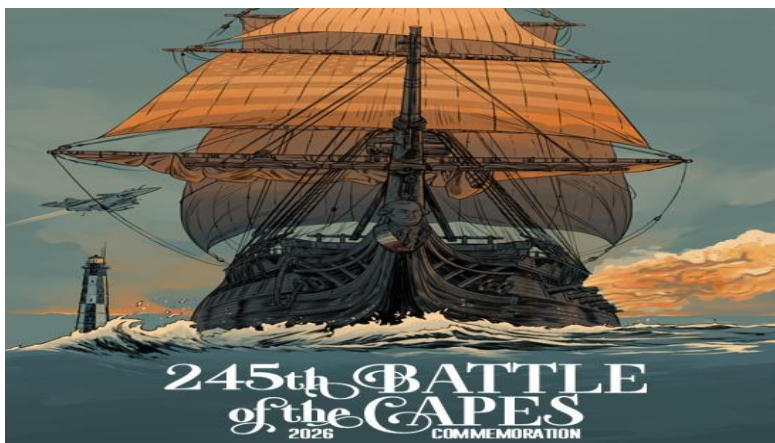




UPCOMING EVENTS!

1. July 4: Bruton Parish Service of Thanksgiving
2. July 4: Commemoration at Berkeley Plantation
3. July 6: Battle of Green Spring commemoration
4. July 9: Battle of Cricket Hill/Gwynn's island commemoration
5. July 25: Ceremony at Gloucester Courthouse

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS!



SAVE THE DATE



SATURDAY 5TH SEPT 2026 11:00 AM
FORT STORY, VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA



NOTICE: Please be advised that a vote will be taken on the proposed revised Bylaws of the Chapter at the July 11, 2026 meeting. An affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the members present at the meeting is necessary in order to adopt the proposed revised Bylaws.

Ray Duncombe -
Chairman of the Bylaws Committee



The 41st Annual SAR Service of Prayer & Thanksgiving – Bruton Parish Church

Saturday – July 4, 2026 – 10am



The 41st Annual
SAR Service of Prayer & Thanksgiving
Saturday, July 4, 2026, at 10:00 AM
Bruton Parish Church
Duke of Gloucester Street
Williamsburg, VA



All are invited to join the Williamsburg Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) and the clergy of Bruton Parish Church for the 41st Annual Fourth of July Service of Prayer and Thanksgiving.

The service will be conducted by Bruton clergy who will be assisted by SAR members. The service will be followed by the ringing of the Virginia Liberty Bell. Saturday, July 4, 2026, will be an especially appropriate day for us to thank God for the blessings of liberty provided to us through the courage and sacrifice of our patriot forebears.

Parking is permitted on Duke of Gloucester Street near the church for the duration of the service.





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

Topic: Explosive Architecture: Powder Magazine Design in the British North American Colonies During the 18th Century.

July 11, 2026 Meeting Speaker: Tessa Honeycutt

Tessa Honeycutt graduated from University of Mary Washington in 2020 with a Bachelor's degree in Historic Preservation. Through internships with Kenmore, George Washington's Ferry Farm, and Traditional Building Associates, she gained a wide range of experience in preservation, archaeology, and collections management. Following graduation, Tessa served as Preservation Technician at James Madison's Montpelier, where she worked on the documentation of the twentieth century DuPont buildings. In 2024, she joined the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, where she now serves as the Shirley & Richard Roberts Associate Architectural Historian in the Architectural Preservation and Research Department. Much of her work has focused on the restoration of the Powder Magazine and reconstruction of the African Baptist Meeting House.

Reservation for the Saturday, July 11, 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

Registrar's Corner – By Ron Miller, Registrar

During this semi quincentennial year, now is the perfect time to have your sons and grandsons join the SAR! If your registration date is 2018 or later, all I need to complete his application is a copy of your son's birth certificate that contains your name and the word "male" or "boy". If it is your grandson, then I will need his parents birth certificate as well. Now is the time to apply so that they will have a registration date of 2026, as the process takes 3-4 months to complete. Let me know if you have any questions.

The Williamsburg Chapter, represented by Ron Adolphi, Gary Dunaway and Ron Miller volunteered at different times along with other VSSAR members to man the VSSAR table at the Sail Yorktown 250 three-day event.

Registration Statistics since last newsletter

New Member Applications:

New requests for membership	5
Requests waiting for additional information from potential member	11
Applications submitted for review	1
Total applications at National Or State waiting for review	15
Applications approved	1

Supplemental applications:

Currently in work	13
Total at National or State waiting for review	10



Revolutionary War History of the Month Submitted by Stuart Butler, Chapter Historian

THE CURIOUS DEATH OF CAPTAIN D'OHICKEY ARUNDEL

By July 1776, patriotic Virginians had driven Governor Dunmore and his naval forces from Williamsburg to take their last stand at Gwynn's Island in Mathews County. Dunmore hastily had established several small defensive forts on the island. All told, the British forces on the island and aboard an assorted array of vessels consisted of loyalists, former slaves, and British marines, numbering around eight hundred. The British naval vessels, however, were anxious to leave as soon as possible as the ships would become easy targets for the increasing number of field guns the patriots were quickly concentrating nearby. Overall command of the Virginia forces opposite Gwynn's Island rested with Gen. Andrew Lewis. Lewis was charged with gathering enough men and guns to finally drive British forces from Virginia. Lewis left Williamsburg on July 8, 1776, at the head of two Virginia regiments and arrived the next day. Lewis quickly realized that he needed field guns of any caliber to sink the motley British flotilla and force Dunmore off the island. The bombardment of the island began on July 9. To command the patriot artillery force, Lewis relied on a French artillery captain by the unusual name of D'Ohickey Arundel. Arundel was from the Alsace region of France and was one of first of many French officers accepted into patriot service. He was recommended by General Philip Schuyler and commissioned captain on March 19, 1776. Once up and operating, Arundel's batteries were highly effective in striking a number of British vessels including the governor's ship, *Dunmore*, nearly killing the governor. British naval vessels were unable to fire their larger caliber guns in return to any effect because they remained out of range of American guns and too far away to do any real damage. During the bombardment, Arundel employed a controversial weapon, an improvised mortar, consisting of several pieces of hardwood banded together like a barrel with an iron shaft. Apparently, Arundel was aware of the use of such weapons in European warfare. It was highly risky and his fellow officers recommended against it. Arundel ignored the warnings and paid with his life when the weapon exploded instantly upon firing. Unfortunately, Arundel did not live to see how successful his batteries had been in driving off the British the next day. He was the first foreign officer to die for the cause of American Independence and the only American casualty of the Gwynn's Island campaign. The Virginia Gazette of July 19, 1776, observed "that his zeal for the service cost him his life."



Chaplain's Corner – By George Corbett, Chaplain

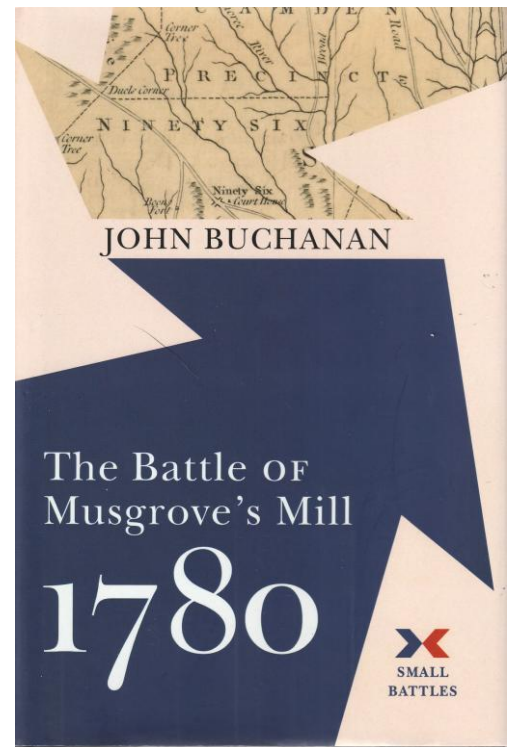
The Signers

With the 250th birthday of our glorious republic approaching, I thought about the signers of the Declaration of Independence and what they must have been thinking at the time. The Battle of Lexington/Concord was over a year behind them and numerous other skirmishes with the British forces. Loyalties were divided and so many questions were unanswered. By signing this document, they pledged their lives and their fortunes to the cause of freedom. And, indeed, many paid a heavy price later. Homes were torched, land was ravaged and families were forced out into the forests. Of course, as the saying goes “Hindsight is 20/20”. They had no such ability and only an uncertain future. Now, the question I ask myself is, given all of this, would I have signed the document? Of course, 250 years later, I could say yes because I had hindsight. Without that, I must be honest and say, I don't know. Through their actions, we now have a glorious republic truly blessed by our Divine Creator with freedom and justice for all (Sounds like a pledge, doesn't it). KJ and I wish everyone a blessed 4th of July filled with family, friends and faith.



Almighty and merciful God, thank you for this great land and the many freedoms we enjoy in it. We pray for Your continued blessings and grace upon us. May we always honor You and seek to follow in the paths You provide for us. We ask this in Your Holy Name, Amen.

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



The Battle of Musgrove's Mill - 1780 By John Buchanan

Hard Cover, 144 pages, 11 illustrations, published November 2022

On August 19, 1780, near a ford of the Enoree River in northwest South Carolina, a short and savage encounter occurred between Rebel militia and a combined force of Loyalist militia and Provincial regulars. Despite the Rebels being outnumbered more than two to one, it was an overwhelming victory for the American cause. The Rebels defended from the top of a ridge, inflicted heavy casualties on the Loyalist force as it advanced, then charged and drove the enemy from the field of battle. Just as Bunker Hill had done on a larger scale in Massachusetts, this clash of hundreds of soldiers in the Carolina backwoods invigorated the Rebel cause and led directly to the Battle of King's Mountain, the turning point of the war in the South. This Battle --a true civil war, pitting neighbor against neighbor -- is also remarkable because instead of one leader the Rebel force was directed by a joint command of three colonels.

The Battle of Musgrove's Mill, 1780, by award winning historian John Buchanan, begins by describing the situation in South Carolina following the British invasion of 1780 before introducing the three colonels: Isaac Shelby, James Williams, and Elijah Clarke. These men who operated in complete accord led Rebel militia from North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia in an effort to disrupt British operations and their Loyalist support. The colonels and other leaders directed mounted Rebel militia in a sweeping and bloody guerilla war that played an essential role in opening path to the eventual British surrender at Yorktown and Britain's loss of America.

John Buchanan is author of *The Road to Guilford Courthouse: The American Revolution in the Carolinas*, *Jackson's Way: Andrew Jackson and the People of the Western Waters*, *The Road to Valley Forge: How Washington Built the Army That Won the Revolution*, and *The Road to Charleston: Nathaniel Greene and the American Revolution*.

2026 Williamsburg Chapter SAR Officers



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Member-at-Large	Bruce Laubach
Member-at-Large	Michael Doucette
Immediate Past President	John Lynch

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>

