



# The Magazine

*Williamsburg Chapter - Virginia  
Society  
Sons of the American Revolution*



Vol. XXX

Number 27

June 2025

## President's Message

Compatriots,

Last month was a busy and successful one for our chapter. We held three significant events: The May 3 commemoration of the 250th anniversary of Virginia's Response to the Powder Incident, the repair and rededication of the SAR memorial stone at Elam Cemetery on May 25, and our Memorial Day ceremony with the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Our color guard supported the opening ceremonies for Lions Club Virginia State Conference on May 2. Three members of our chapter's color guard marched in a parade in Fredericksburg on May 4. The parade was sponsored by the Washington Heritage Museums and celebrated the Mary Washington Monument in Fredericksburg.

The commemoration of the Powder Incident is particularly noteworthy in that 19 VSSAR chapters, 10 VSDAR chapters, two V.S.C.A.R. chapters, and seven lineage societies were represented. Approximately 250 people attended the commemoration.

This month we will initiate a relaxed dress code for our luncheons and our commemorations of the Spencer's Ordinary and Green Spring battles. The new code will be smart casual (e.g. polo shirt, khakis) or business casual (blazer/sport coat, no tie). Compatriots wishing to continue wearing a coat and tie to our functions are certainly welcome to do so.

Respectfully,

John Lynch

President, Williamsburg Chapter, Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution.



# Calendar

***In Memoriam: Wentworth Vail  
Harned***

**Monday June 2, 2025**  
**7:00pm BOM meeting by ZOOM**



**Saturday June 14, 2025**  
**Chapter Lunch Meeting**  
**11:30 am Social**  
**Fords Colony Country Club**  
**(New Location!)**

## **Menu for June Chapter Meeting:**

The main entree is Chimichurri Flank Steak, Cilantro Lime Rice Pilaf, Sautéed Onions & Peppers, & Roasted Corn.

The usual alternatives are:

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

The reservation deadline is Sunday June 8.

The payment deadline is Tuesday June 10

See page 7 for additional information!

## Chapter News



The Williamsburg Chapter SAR recognized seven new Eagle Scouts of Troop 414 (sponsored by Our Saviour's Lutheran Church) at a Court of Honor held at St. Olaf Catholic Church in Norge, VA on May 4, 2025. Chairman Harley Stewart presented NSSAR Certificates of Recognition and Scholarship Application packages. Pictured, L to R, are Noah Layou, Alex Tomasso, Andrew Coenen, (Harley Stewart), Isaac Stockburger, David Layou, Jacob Hower, and Ryan Dereix.

Submitted by: Harley Stewart  
Chairman, Eagle Scout Recognitions  
and Scholarships



# The Williamsburg Chapter at Memorial Day 2025



Several Williamsburg Chapter members were on hand to commemorate Memorial Day at Colonial Williamsburg on May 26<sup>th</sup>. In the top left photo, Virginia SAR Color Guard members are shown with Colonial Williamsburg Nation Builders (photo courtesy of John Lynch). Williamsburg Chapter members and other guests are shown in the bottom left photo (courtesy of John Lynch). On the right, Chaplain George Corbett is shown giving the recessional near the end of the ceremony (photo by Debbie Misiag; courtesy of John Lynch). More Memorial Day photos on page 10!

# Challenge Coin!

## An Official Williamsburg Chapter Challenge Coin!

Recently, the Board of Managers decided to create an official challenge coin for the Williamsburg Chapter. After exploring several options, the BOM decided to feature the Colonial Williamsburg Powder Magazine on the coin's obverse, as it is an iconic Williamsburg landmark with a close association to the American Revolution. With cooperation and permission from The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, the BOM also secured an image of the Powder Magazine (currently undergoing restoration) that accurately depicts what it looked like in the 18<sup>th</sup> century based on the most current historical and archeological research.

Our new challenge coin costs **\$20 per coin** and will be available for sale at our chapter luncheon chapter meetings. Be sure to buy one (or more) while supplies last!

Side A



Side B







## UPCOMING EVENTS!

**June 08:** Yorktown 250th Committee Commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of Lord Dunmore's arrival in Yorktown

**June 14:** Chapter luncheon

**June 28:** Battle of Spencer's Ordinary

**July 04:** Bruton Parish service

**July 04:** DAR's Benjamin Harrison commemoration, Berkeley Plantation, Charles City County

**July 06:** Battle of Green Spring

**July 12:** Chapter luncheon



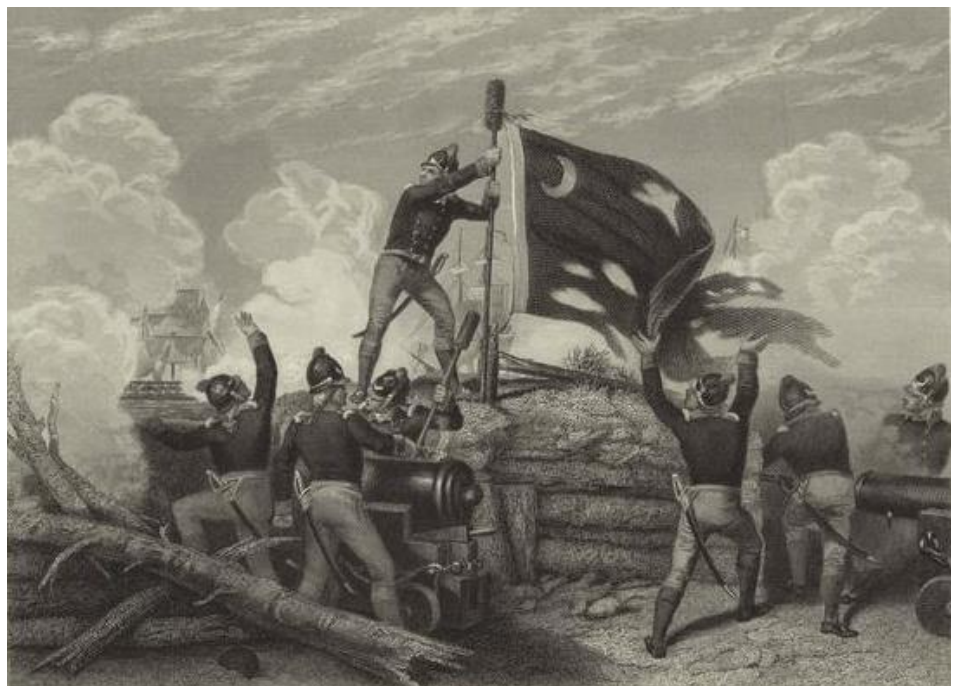
## SAVE THE DATE(S)

*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)  
[americanfriendsoflafayette@gmail.com](mailto:americanfriendsoflafayette@gmail.com)



# **INTRODUCING OUR NEW WILLIAMSBURG CHAPTER SAR POLO SHIRTS!**

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

***Type of Polo:***  
***Cotton – S-XL, XXL, 3X, 4X***  
***Polyester – S-XL, XXL, 3X, 4X***

***Color: Black----- White----- Royal Blue-----***

***For future Chapter Polo Shirt purchases and unit pricing please contact,***

***Regina Kenerley***

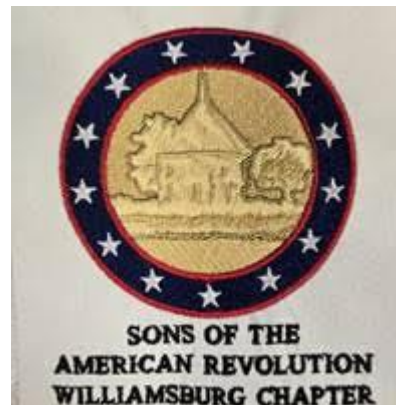
***General Manager***

***A Logo For You***

***100 Stafford Court***

***Williamsburg, VA 23185***

***757-220-9259 office***



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



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

***Topic: “Our One Society of Friends”:  
An Introduction to the Society of the  
Cincinnati***

## **June 14, 2025 Meeting Speaker: Dr. Sean Heuvel**

Dr. Sean Heuvel is a higher education professional who has served in both faculty and administrative roles. He is currently employed at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Virginia, where he serves as Director of Graduate and Professional Enrollment. A military historian by trade, Dr. Heuvel specializes in the American Revolution as well as the Civil War. The author of several books and publications, he holds an MA from the University of Richmond and a BA, MEd, and PhD from The College of William and Mary. Along with the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, Dr. Heuvel is an active member of the Society of the Cincinnati and the Sons of the American Revolution. He and his family live in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Reservation for the Saturday, June 14, 2025 Meeting

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

Please reserve\_\_\_\_\_regular meals at \$27.00 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](mailto:wrdorn48@gmail.com)



# ***Elam Cemetery SAR Monument Rededication***

On May 25<sup>th</sup>, Williamsburg Chapter members along with other officials gathered at Elam Cemetery (at Elam Baptist Church) in Charles City County to rededicate a SAR monument to Charles City County's black Revolutionary War patriots. Williamsburg Chapter Compatriot Kevin Brown's SAR qualifying ancestor is buried in the cemetery and is among those who are named on the monument. Several other Brown family members were also in attendance. A barbecue (hosted by Elam Baptist Church) was held following the ceremony (photos courtesy of Bob Davis).





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

### **What happened to Governor Dunmore after Virginia? (Submitted by Stuart Butler, Chapter Historian)**

John Murray, 4th Earl of Dunmore, former governor of Virginia, was a bitter man following his failure to retain Virginia for the British crown in 1776. By August 1776, Dunmore was in New York still hoping to interest the British military commanders that he could win back Virginia by raising a loyalist force in western Virginia. This idea, not surprisingly, went nowhere, and Dunmore sailed on November 12, 1776, for London, never to return to Virginia. He re-entered politics as a lord in the House of Lords and became the chief apologist for loyalist refugees in Britain. In 1777 he was awarded £15,000 in compensation for his losses in Virginia. By December 1781, he was at Charleston, South Carolina, and learned of General Cornwallis' defeat at Yorktown. Dunmore tried to interest the Crown in settling loyalists in the backcountry of the West, with the aim of forming an army to reclaim western parts of America, a plan that was again ignored by the British government. On February 25, 1784, Dunmore refiled additional claims due him from the new Loyalist Claims Commission and was awarded with an additional £15,000.

With friends in high places, Dunmore managed to wrangle the position of Royal Governor of the Bahamas in 1786. As in Virginia, he managed to alienate the lower house of government by refusing to hold elections, and placed his son as collector of customs and later as lieutenant governor. He spent lavishly on Government House (I.e. Palace), and constructed elaborate fortifications at Nassau that the colony's income could ill afford. He barely survived a petition for his recall. Adding to his woes was the fact that his oldest daughter, Lady Augusta, secretly married a younger son of King George III, without the King's approval, which was unlawful. The scandal helped cause Dunmore's removal as governor and he was dismissed in July 1796. His daughter's marriage was annulled but she was given a large pension instead. In the end, Lord and Lady Dunmore retired with a £600 pension and moved to Ramsgate in Kent, where he died on February 25, 1809. They were buried at the Church of St. Laurence, Thanet, Kent.



***More photos from Memorial  
Day 2025! Photos courtesy of  
Bob Davis.***





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

## **Old Glory**

As we begin the month of June, I am preparing to replace my outside US flag with a new one on 14 June, Flag Day. In preparing this article for The Magazine, I did some research on our nation's flag. It is popularly believed that the first "official" flag of our nation was sewn by a Philadelphia flag maker, Elizabeth Griscom, also known as Betsy Ross, in June 1776. While a popular story, there is no conclusive proof of this event.

The flag has undergone 27 versions in its history. On August 3, 1949, President Harry S. Truman officially declared 14 June as Flag Day. The last change to the flag was in 1959 when Alaska and Hawaii were admitted as states and two stars were added to its field. I remember as a school child the excitement of this historic event.

At each of our meetings and other events, we pledge allegiance to this flag. The pledge was adopted by the US Congress in 1942 and on 14 June 1954 two words, "Under God" were added to it. As we enter this patriotic time of the year with Flag Day and the 4th of July right after it, let us give thanks to our Creator for our patriot ancestors, and all those who came after them, for keeping its colors flying high all over the globe. May she wave proudly over the land of the free and the home of the brave forever.

Almighty God, our Heavenly father, in whose hands are the living and the dead, we give thee thanks for all those thy servants who have laid down their lives in the service of our country. Grant to them Thy mercy and the light of Thy presence, that the good work that thou has begun in them may be perfected. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

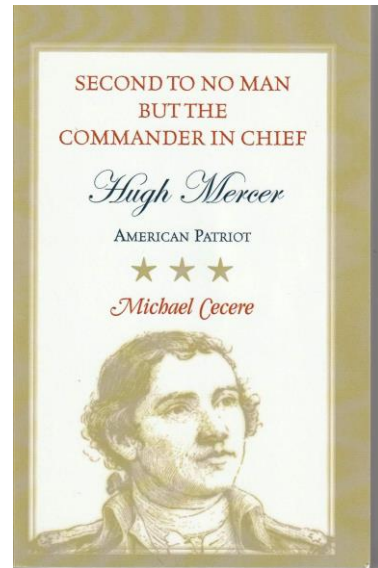
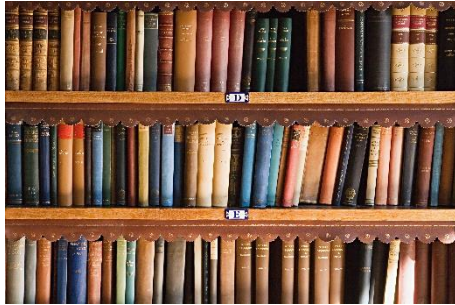
## 2025 Williamsburg Chapter SAR Officers



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



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



### **Second to No Man but the Commander in Chief, Hugh Mercer: American Patriot**

**By Michael Cecere**

*Copyright 2015, Heritage Books, Paper back, 200 pages, signed by the author*

*General George Washington's positive assessment of Hugh Mercer was based on their nearly twenty-year acquaintance and friendship, a relationship that began in the French and Indian War. When the decade long political dispute with Great Britain turned violent in 1775, Virginia's political leaders considered Hugh Mercer for command of one of Virginia's two regiments of regular troops. After two close ballots, the Virginia Convention opted instead to appoint Virginia natives Patrick Henry and William Woodford to command. Mercer was selected a few months later to command the 3rd Virginia Regiment, but six months after his appointment, the Continental Congress elevated him to the rank of Brigadier General in the Continental Army and he left Virginia to assume command of the newly formed Flying Camp in New Jersey. While he served in the northern theatre, Mercer played a critical role in the battles of Trenton and Princeton, two battles that helped save the American army and American independence. Sadly, General Mercer did not live to see the victorious end to America's struggle; he was mortally wounded at the Battle of Princeton in 1777. This book seeks to chronicle Mercer's life and service. An appendix with a transcript of Mercer's Last Will and Testament, maps, a bibliography, and an index to full-names, places and subjects add to the value of this work.*

# SAR GIFTS AND FASHIONABLE APPAREL



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

