



The Magazine

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



Vol. XLII

Number 39

June 2026

President's Message

Compatriots,

May has been a month of meaningful remembrance and proud service for the Williamsburg Chapter. I'm grateful to each of you who contributed your time, talent, and patriotic spirit to our recent commemorations. Our chapter's observance of The Gunpowder Incident on May 3rd was a huge success. Thanks to the dedication of our Color Guard, program participants, and all who assisted with planning and logistics, we once again honored a pivotal moment in Virginia's Revolutionary story.

On May 16th, our Color Guard had the distinct honor of presenting the Colors to open the 102nd Commencement Exercises of Christopher Newport University. This invitation reflects the growing recognition of our chapter's professionalism, historical stewardship, and commitment to public service. We are grateful to our Color Guardsmen for representing the SAR with distinction on this important academic occasion. Finally, on May 25th, we had planned to support the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation's Memorial Day Observance on the Palace Green, but the event was cancelled the evening before due to an inclement weather forecast. My thanks to the Color Guard and all others who helped prepare for this event.

As we look ahead, our calendar remains full as the nation's Semi quincentennial continues to unfold. In the coming weeks, we will join with partners and the wider community to mark several important anniversaries:

- July 4th – The Service of Prayer and Thanksgiving at Bruton Parish Church followed by a wreath presentation and musket salute at the Berkeley Plantation commemoration of our nation's founding hosted by the Williamsburg Chapter, NSDAR.
- July 6th – The Battle of Green Spring
- July 9th – The Battle of Cricket Hill and Gwynn's Island

These observances, along with many others throughout the remainder of the year, offer us continued opportunities to honor the courage, sacrifice, and ideals that shaped the American story. I encourage all members to participate as they are able and to take pride in the role our chapter plays in preserving and interpreting this history for our community.

Thank you for your steadfast dedication to the work and mission of the Sons of the American Revolution. Together, we carry forward a legacy worthy of the patriots we honor.

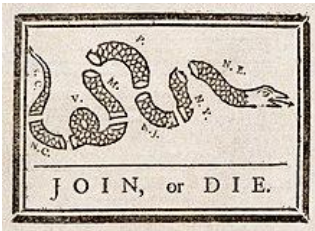
In patriotism,
Ronald Adolphi President



Calendar

In Memoriam: Don Swain

Monday June 1, 2026
7:00pm BOM meeting by ZOOM



Saturday June 13, 2026
Chapter Lunch Meeting
11:30 am Social
Fords Colony Country Club

Menu for June Chapter Meeting:

The main entree is shrimp scampi w/linguini, spinach, herbs, and shaved parmesan. Dessert is cheesecake w/ 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 June 7

The payment deadline is Tuesday June 9

See page 7 for additional information

Chapter News



A 250th Anniversary commemoration. On April 18, 1776, an incident at Sandy Point that excited local interest was an engagement involving a British ship loaded with flour. The ship was taken by men at the fort but was later retaken by the British. A Charles City militia man injured in the fighting and a Charles City resident who came to watch the conflict was charged with treason.

On April 18th a 250th Anniversary commemoration of the Revolutionary War incident at Sandy Point, Charles City County. The incident involved a British ship loaded with flour that exchanged hands several times during the altercation. Guest speaker Dr. Patrick Hannum was introduced by Bruce Laubach, Past President Williamsburg Chapter SAR (photo and text submitted by Bob Davis).

Williamsburg Chapter May Happenings



The formal Memorial Day ceremony at Colonial Williamsburg was cancelled due to inclement weather, but that did not stop Williamsburg Chapter compatriots (L to R) Stuart Butler, Ray Duncombe, and Morgan Gardner from joining the Marquis de Lafayette, James Madison, and Thomas Jefferson from assembling on the Palace Green! Photos courtesy of Stuart Butler.

Color Guard Report - By Ron Miller, Color Guard Commander

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

April 26 OFPA Page - Burwell Grave Marking at Abingdon Episcopal Church in Hays VA.

May 3; Commemoration of the Williamsburg Gunpowder Incident at the Upper County Park in James City County.

May 16; Commencement at Christopher Newport University; Our Color Guard had the Honor of presenting the Colors for the 2026 Commencement at Christopher Newport University

May 25; Memorial Day Celebration at Colonial Williamsburg was cancelled due to the weather forecast.

Coming up in June:

June 12; 250 Sail Yorktown has asked us to present the Colors for the Ceremony at the Victory Monument

June 27; Commemoration of the Battle of Spencer's Ordinary: Commemoration of the Gunpowder Incident in Williamsburg – Upper County Park, JCC – 2:00 pm (Muster 1:00 pm). This is one of the six events that will qualify Color Guardsmen, who participate, to receive the “Road to Virginia’s Independence” Medal.

June 27; Commemoration of the James City Resolves May 16 The Color Guard has the honor of presenting the colors at this event.



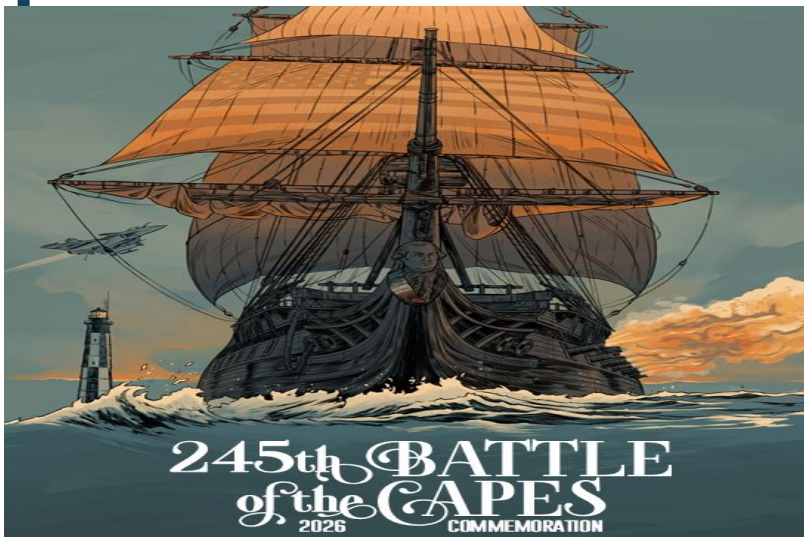


UPCOMING EVENTS!

1. June 1: Chapter Board of Managers Meeting
2. June 13: Chapter Luncheon Meeting
3. June 27: Battle of Spencer's Ordinary Commemoration
4. June 27: James City County Resolves Commemoration
5. July 4: Bruton Parish Service of Thanksgiving

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Yorktown Days will run from Friday, the 12th to Sunday the 14th. Given the 250 focus this year, there will be a number of activities, demonstrations and ceremonies. The Eastern Region-Virginia Society SAR will be manning a booth at York Hall from noon to 5pm that Friday and from 9:00 to 5:00 on Saturday/Sunday. We've broken the time into three shifts: 9:00 to 11:30, 11:30 to 2:30, and 2:30 to 5:00 and are soliciting two volunteers for each of the shifts. This is a great way to help the chapter recruit members and participate in a patriotic and historical event. Please consider helping. Contact Ken Hawkins at drklhawkins@gmail.com for more information.



SAVE THE DATE



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



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.

Sons of the American Revolution





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

Topic: First Person Interpretation

June 13, 2026 Meeting Speaker: Stephen Seals

Stephen Seals started off his professional career as a freelance actor traveling the country performing and directing theatre for 14 years before being hired at Colonial Williamsburg. He spent ten years acting, directing, stage managing, production managing and lighting design for the Science Museum of Virginia’s Carpenter Science Theatre Company. Stephen started his time at Colonial Williamsburg Foundation in 2008 as a first-person Actor Interpreter and was also a Supervisor of the unit for three years before becoming the Manager of Program Development for African American and Religion Interpretation for the Foundation. Stephen is currently portraying Revolutionary War spy, James Lafayette, and is the director and co-writer of the program Promise of Freedom currently being performed daily on the Charleton Coffee House Stage.

Reservation for the Saturday, June 13, 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

Registration Statistics since last newsletter

New Member Applications:

New requests for membership	2
Requests waiting for additional information from potential member	11
Applications submitted for review	5
Total applications at National Or State waiting for review	14
Applications approved	4

Supplemental applications:

Currently in work	14
Total at National or State waiting for review	11



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

VIRGINIA'S MINUTEMEN IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

Raised from Culpeper, Orange, and Fauquier counties, the famous "Culpeper Minute Man" battalion was justly known for its ability to assemble and march at a "minute's" notice. They embodied that accolade by marching all the way to Williamsburg in the fall of 1775 to join the newly formed army of Virginia and to later participate in the battle of Great Bridge and in Norfolk. The future Supreme Court justice, John Marshall, was an officer in that unit. But they were not the only minutemen raised by the Virginia during the war. The Virginia Third Convention, which met in St. John's Church in Richmond on July 17, 1775, followed up on the Second Convention's recommendation to place the colony on a war footing. The Third Convention created a Committee of Safety to act as a governing body until a more permanent state government could be created.

In addition, it authorized two regular state regiments and divided the colony into sixteen military districts from which minute men battalions of fifty men each could be raised. Such districts consisted of three to five different counties. Each district would be named after one county in each district such as the Amelia District Battalion, which included Amelia, Chesterfield, and Cumberland. The Elizabeth City District Battalion consisted of Elisabeth City, Warwick, York, James City, Charles City, New Kent, and Williamsburg. These battalions were active from 1775-1776 and were raised primarily to respond to enemy threats within their areas, but they also marched to more active threats. The Gloucester Battalion, for instance, was present at the battle of Great Bridge and the Lancaster district minutemen responded to British incursions along the Rappahannock and Potomac rivers. Princess Ann District minutemen were active during the Great Bridge and Norfolk conflicts, and the Southampton minutemen were stationed at Yorktown in 1776. By the end of 1776 most, if not all, the minutemen battalions were defunct as their activities were absorbed by more organized county militias.



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.

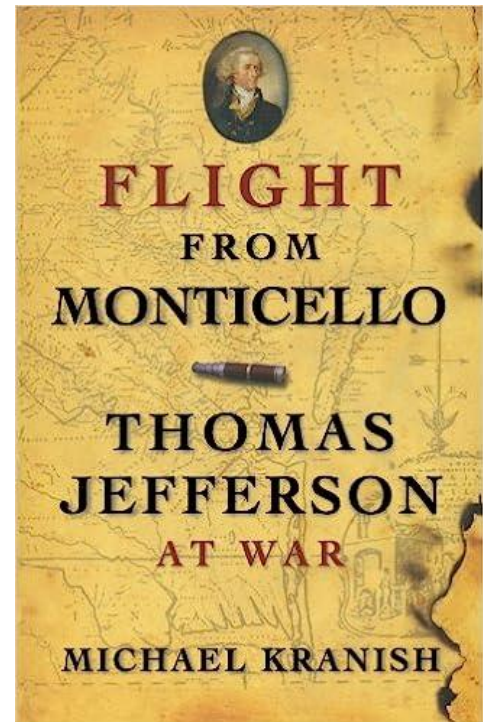
The flag has undergone 27 versions in its history. On August 3, 1949, President Harry S. Truman officially declared 14 June as Flag Day. The last change to the flag was in 1959 when Alaska and Hawaii were admitted as states and two stars were added to its field. I remember as a school child the excitement 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, our nation's 250th birthday, 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.

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



***Flight From Monticello – Thomas Jefferson at War*
by Michael Kranish
Published 2010, Oxford University Press**

On July 4, 1781, the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson had retreated to the safety of a small cabin at a remote plantation in the southwestern foothills of Virginia. Three columns of British forces had invaded the state during the last six months of Jefferson's term as governor. One force was led by Benedict Arnold, a former ally turned traitor.

The second was led by Major General William Phillips, who until recently had been Jefferson's favored guest at Monticello. A third general, Lord Cornwallis, arrived with a massive army and set up headquarters at another home owned by Jefferson. The rebellion that Jefferson had helped set in motion seemed in danger of turning decisively for the British as thousands of enemy troops overran Virginia.

In vivid, precisely observed scenes, Michael Kranish captures the tumultuous outbreak of war in Virginia with a sweeping narrative of clashing armies, of spies, intrigue, desperate decisions, and gut-wrenching battles. A lifelong belief in the corrupting influence of a powerful executive led Jefferson to argue for a weak governorship. The state was woefully unprepared for the invading British troops. Kranish describes Jefferson's struggle to respond to the invasion and paints an intimate and compelling portrait, illuminating Jefferson's flights from the British, his family turmoil, and his private hours at Monticello. Jefferson would be haunted for the rest of his life by his actions as governor, and his career was dogged by accusations of wartime incompetence. The lessons he learned during those dark hours would have a profound and lasting influence on his political thinking, and on the nature of the American presidency. *Flight from Monticello* sheds new light on a little-known yet momentous time in Jefferson's life-and in the birth of America.

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	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>

