



The Magazine

Williamsburg Chapter - Virginia
Society
Sons of the American Revolution



Vol. XXXIX

Number 36

March 2026

President's Message

Compatriots,

On February 21st, our chapter had the privilege of hosting the Washington's Birthday commemoration in cooperation with the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown. Standing before the Houdon likeness of General Washington - a figure shaped from life and rich with historical presence - I offered reflections on his enduring legacy in this 250th anniversary year of the Declaration of Independence. I would like to share a portion of that message with you here.

As we mark the semi quincentennial, Washington's example speaks with renewed clarity. The ideals proclaimed in 1776 were bold, but they were fragile. Washington's leadership - steady, principled, and self-restrained - gave those ideals the chance to take root. He held together an army, a cause, and a nation not through certainty of victory, but through unwavering devotion to liberty and the common good.

Yorktown reminds us that the triumph of the Revolution was not the end of the story. Washington understood that the true test would come afterward: whether a free people could sustain the virtues necessary for self-government. Two and a half centuries later, that challenge remains. The spirit of 1776 still calls each of us to vigilance, civic responsibility, and unity.

As members of the Sons of the American Revolution, we inherit Washington's charge. Our mission — to preserve the memory of the struggle for independence and to promote the principles that animated it — is especially meaningful in this anniversary year. I encourage each of us to look for opportunities to share this history, inspire our communities, and strengthen the bonds of patriotism that define our Society. May Washington's example continue to guide our work and deepen our commitment to the ideals that shaped our nation.

Patriotically,

Ron Adolphi
President, Williamsburg Chapter
Virginia Society

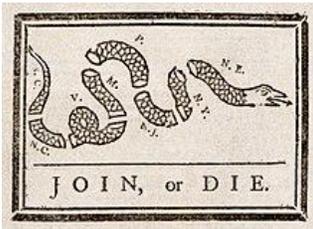




Calendar

In Memoriam: Don Swain

Monday March 9, 2026
7:00pm BOM meeting by ZOOM



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

Menu for March Chapter Meeting:

The main entree is **Chicken Fried Steak, Onion Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, and Green Beans, with Family Style Assorted House Made Cookies for dessert** (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 March 8.**

The payment deadline is **Tuesday March 10**

See page 7 for additional information

Chapter News



The Williamsburg Chapter SAR recognized a new Eagle Scout of Troop 414, Jayce Ryberg, at a Court of Honor at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Norge, VA, on February 16, 2026. President Ron Adolphi presented a Certificate of Recognition of the National Society SAR. Chapter member Steve Holm also attended. Pictured, L to R, are Ryberg and Adolphi (photo by Steve Holm).

Williamsburg Chapter February Happenings



On February 7, 2026, Virginia Society SAR President Michael Weyler presents the saber of command to John Lynch of the Williamsburg Chapter as he becomes the new Color Guard Commander for the State Society (photo courtesy of Bob Davis).

Williamsburg Chapter Recognition

The Williamsburg Chapter SAR was well represented during the awards ceremony of the Virginia Society SAR annual meeting held on Feb. 7, 2026. From left to right, past chapter President John Lynch, Chapter Vice President Ray Duncombe, Chapter President Ron Adolphi, Gary Dunaway and Bruce Laubach.

Virginia Society SAR Annual Awards to the Williamsburg Chapter SAR:

Chapter Excellence Award 2025

Program Innovation 2025

Best Chapter Award, Second Place, Very Large Chapter 2025

Virginia Society Cup, Third Place, Very Large Chapter 2025

History Day Support 2025

Revolution Grave Registration 2025

100% Participation - Flag Recognition Program 2025

Participant - Flag Retirement Program 2025

Participant - Public Service Contests 2025

Participant - Youth Program/Contests 2025





UPCOMING EVENTS!

1. March 5-7: NSSAR Spring Leadership, Louisville, KY
2. March 9: Chapter Board of Managers Meeting
3. March 14: Chapter Luncheon
4. March 14: Don Swain Memorial Service, Williamsburg Presbyterian Church, 1:00 PM

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS!

On April 11, 2026, at 12:30 pm, the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence and Berkely Plantation will be holding a wreath laying ceremony in honor of Benjamin Harrison's 300th birthday. Parking will be available at the Taps memorial near the cemetery. The ceremony will be held in the Rose Garden near the Berkeley manor house. It would be a good idea to bring your own chair.

On April 18, 2026, The Williamsburg Chapter will be hosting the 250th anniversary of the Incident at Sandy Point. The ceremony will begin at 2 PM; the address is 14931 Sandy Point Rd, Charles City County. In 1776 there was a fortress erected to protect the ferry crossing the James River. Virginia Militia and riflemen were posted when a British Picket ship came upriver the boat was captured and a militiaman was wounded. The Ferry site also played a major role in the movement of patriot troops preceding the battles of Kemps Landing, Great Bridge and the burning of Norfolk.

The Williamsburg Chapter is looking for a member who can assist the Newsletter Editor/Webmaster with social media operations. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please contact Chapter President Ron Adolphi at ronald.adolphi@cox.net – thanks for your consideration!

WILLIAMSBURG CHAPTER SAR POLO SHIRTS!

Williamsburg Chapter Polo Shirt Order Information

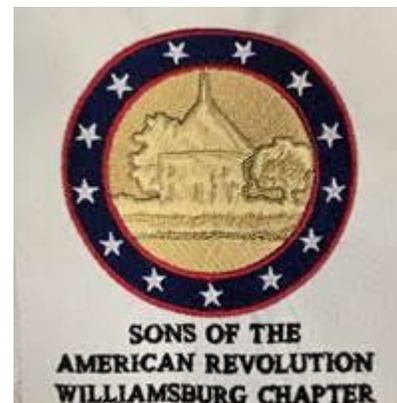
Type of Polo:

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



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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 below!

Topic: Virginia Militia Commanders at the Siege of Yorktown

March 14, 2026 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. 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. An active member of the Society of the Cincinnati and the Sons of the American Revolution, Dr. Heuvel also serves on the Board of Directors of the Virginia War Museum Foundation. He and his family live in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Reservation for the Saturday, March 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

Registrar's Corner – By Ron Miller, Registrar

We need your INPUT!

The Williamsburg Chapter is looking to participate in some public events during this 250th Anniversary year that will give us the opportunity to talk about our chapter and the SAR with the general public. In preparation, we seek to zero in on reasons/interests that attract new members.

We need your help by answering the following questions. Your answer shouldn't be very long, but they need to be candid and personal. Your name will not be shared with anyone, but your comments without attribution will be compiled with all of the other responses received. Here are the questions:

1. Why did you want to join the SAR initially?
2. What is the most meaningful benefit to you as a member of the SAR?

The more that participate, the better results!! Please take a moment today and send your comments to Ron Miller at ronmsar@gmail.com.

Registrar Report

Three HUZZAHS for Hunt Berryman for his past five years of dedicated work as Registrar, working on over 200 applications. Hunt has graciously agreed to complete the applications that he is in the process of completing, as we transition. I look forward to receiving requests for new member and supplemental applications as well as general registrar questions. I have been working with the new member requests since December and look forward to many new members in 2026.

Statistics since 12/2025

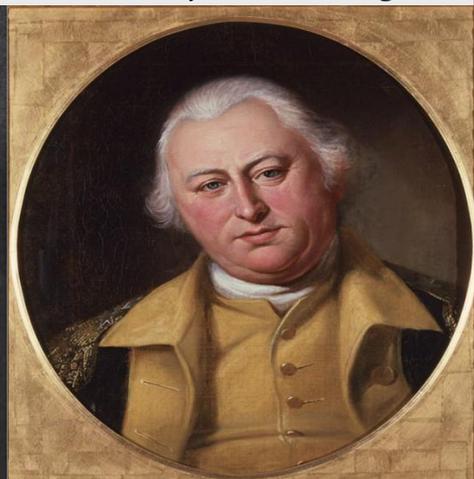
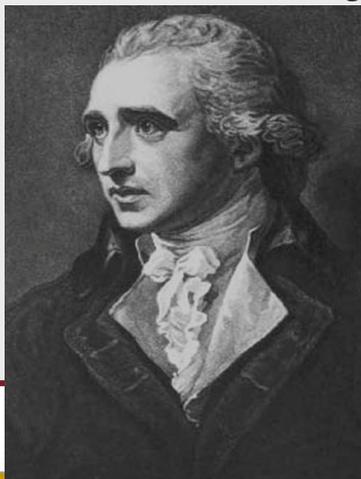
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|--|----|
| New inquiries for membership | 12 |
| New member applications completed | 5 |
| New member applications submitted for review | 2 |
| Completing work on applications from last year | 16 |

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

The Duke of Cumberland's Regiment

On May 12, 1780, Gen. Benjamin Lincoln surrendered the entire American army in the South to the British in the largest single capitulation of the war. Although the figure of 5,500 is often quoted as the total number, the total includes militia, non-combatants, and those who aided materially in the defense of Charleston. Military historians have determined the Continental component to have been about 2,571 with Virginia regiments comprising the largest contingent. While the capture of so many troops was a spectacular British victory, it also proved for them to be an untenable situation. How could the British now hope to feed and house so many prisoners of war and, at the same time, provision their own troops in times of growing scarcity and deprivation? At first, the British paroled the militia and Continental officers with promises not to fight again but kept the rank and file as prisoners. Initially, the American prisoners were allowed to walk about the town, but soon after 500 of them escaped, the rest were confined to whatever structures could hold them. Later, many were placed on six dilapidated British ships in Charleston harbor. On board, the conditions were appalling. Here they were subjected to fetid and damp quarters, rampant diseases, and barely enough food to keep them alive. Continental efforts to send food, medicine, and blankets were infrequent, inadequate, and often misappropriated by their captors. To alleviate the situation in Charleston, the former Royal Governor of South Carolina, Lord Charles Greville Montague, then in Jamaica, persuaded the British government to raise a regiment of 500 former prisoners and to enlist them in the British army with the same pay as other British soldiers. The regiment later became known as the Duke of Cumberland's Regiment. Its soldiers would be deployed only to Jamaica to fight against the French and Spanish in the West Indies, and not against American forces. Recruitment started in February 1780. Enlistment would be voluntary and not forced; however, the line between the two was probably somewhat blurred. Many refused service, but others, unable to continue to endure such wretched conditions they faced, took the King's shilling. Two months after the Cumberland Regiment landed in Jamaica, Lord Cornwallis surrendered. The regiment never engaged with the King's enemies and remained in Jamaica until the end of the war, at which time the British gave the former Americans options to either remain in Jamaica or be resettled in Great Britain or Nova Scotia. Those who had refused service in the British army remained in Charleston until a final exchange of prisoners took place on May 3, 1781, at which time they were sent to Jamestown, Virginia, where they were discharged by August 1780.

**Lord Charles Greville
Montague & Maj. Gen. Benjamin
Lincoln**



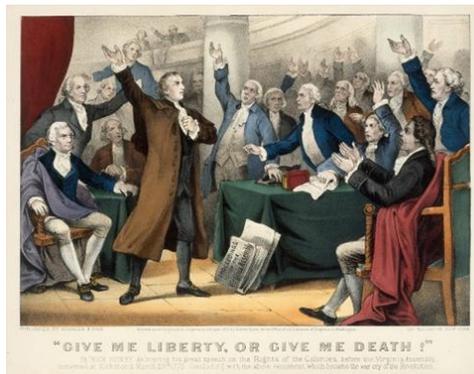
Chaplain's Corner – By George Corbett, Chaplain

A Speech to Remember

On March 23, 1775, less than a month before the beginning of the American Revolution, Patrick Henry addressed the Second Virginia Convention in historic St. John's church in Richmond. In his speech, he implores his fellow Virginians to declare war against the British.

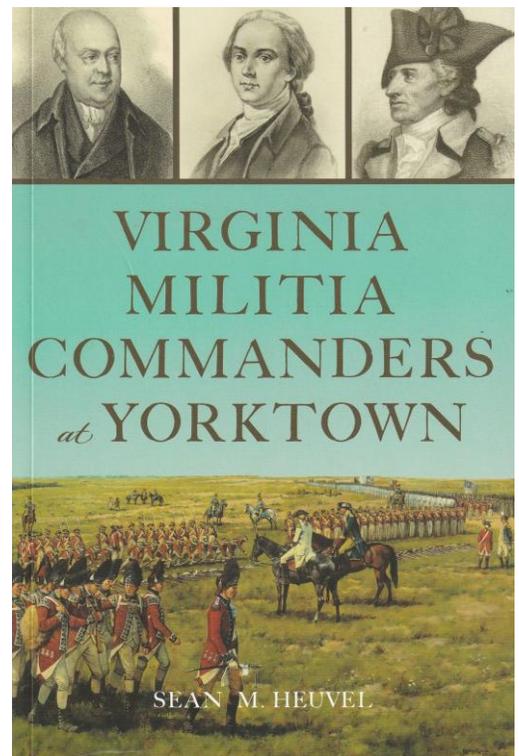
He points to the presence of British troops, not for their protection, but rather to enforce the rule of the Crown. He lists the number of attempts in which the colonists sought compromise and were rebuffed by the Crown

And lastly, he points out that they have already been subjugated and the only way to obtain freedom from the Crown is through war. His fiery words ring down through American history as he declared, "Give me liberty or give me death". May we, in this time, continue this love of liberty and have the faith to defend it against every foe.



God of our fathers, who did kindle in them a love of liberty and did grant them such faith in thee. Bestow upon us, their children, in our own days, a love of liberty as was theirs, and prevent us by thy hand, that we neither grow faint in faith nor fail in courage. Amen

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



Virginia Militia Commanders at Yorktown By Sean M. Heuvel

Each month I preview a book I selected to raffle off during our monthly chapter luncheons as a fund-raising effort in support of Williamsburg Chapter activities. This month we are fortunate to have Dr. Sean Heuvel, Christopher Newport University's Director of Graduate and Professional Enrollment speak on "Virginia Militia Commanders of Yorktown." We are also going to raffle of his book *Virginia Militia Commanders at Yorktown* which was released last fall for sale at bookstores nationwide. The book focuses on 28 militia officers who served in Yorktown, delving into who they were, why they fought, and what happened to them after the Revolutionary War. Everyone familiar with American Revolution know The Siege of Yorktown proved to be a decisive battle in 1781 that helped end the Revolutionary War. However, most don't know how important the Virginia militia were to the success of the battle. The Virginia militia, a force made up of citizens, comprised 40 percent of the allied force at Yorktown. It included men from Virginia and what is now West Virginia. The militia played a key role in Yorktown, not only fighting, but constructing earthworks and redoubts. From a historical perspective, Heuvel knew about the militia's role during the siege, but what he was most intrigued by were the people behind it, the personalities and the life stories of the officers who led and fought.

It took Heuvel a year to research the history and another year to write the book. He hopes *Virginia Militia Commanders of Yorktown* will not only shed light on a moment in military history that was important to the future of Virginia and the nation but also educate people on who the heroes of the time were, what motivated them, and how their actions changed the course of the country. Dr. Heuvel is an avid history buff who loves sharing knowledge and educating others about the past. In fact, before beginning his current position he was a faculty member in CNU's Department of Leadership and American Studies from 2006 to 2022. He has written many books on Revolutionary War history and plans to sell *Virginia Militia Commanders at Yorktown* and provide a book signing at the conclusion of the Chapter Luncheon on Saturday, March 14.

2026 Williamsburg Chapter SAR Officers



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|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 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



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

