



The Magazine

Williamsburg Chapter - Virginia
Society
Sons of the American Revolution



Vol. XXXV

Number 32

November 2025

President's Message

Compatriots,

October was a busy month. We participated in two educational public outreach events. Compatriots Joe Segar and John Lynch formed part of a panel for a Williamsburg Area Genealogical Society (WAGS) presentation "Revolutionary War Ancestors" at the College of William and Mary's Osher adult learning program. The second was a genealogical workshop sponsored by the James City County 250th Committee and local chapters of the SAR and DAR; compatriots Ron Adolphi, Hunt Berryman and Ron Miller supported this workshop. Our annual participation in the Yorktown Day celebrations was truncated this year by the federal government shutdown. The popular parade was canceled and for several reasons the Thomas Nelson commemoration had to be moved to York Hall. Despite these changes the Nelson commemoration was a success. Compatriots Gary Dunaway and John Lynch formed part of the VASSAR color guard supporting the reinternment of Eliza Monroe Hays, daughter of President James Monroe, at Hollywood Cemetery on 23 October 2025. Eliza Hays' remains were repatriated earlier this year to the United States from Paris, France, where she had been buried in an unmarked grave. Colonial Williamsburg Foundation has kept us apprised of the work at the Palace Cemetery. An excerpt from the most recent correspondence:

While we have identified burials in each of the test units we have excavated so far, they are not in the locations that we thought they would be based on the historic maps. Therefore, we will need to expand our excavations in order to expose a few more burials so that we can definitively identify which of the burials mapped during the 1930s excavations we have found. Unless the maps are very wrong, we should be able to complete these excavations and refill our excavation units within the next two weeks, weather permitting.

We are in process of coordinating a special service at Bruton Parish to honor these patriots.

Respectfully,

John Lynch - President, Williamsburg Chapter, Virginia Society, SAR



Calendar

In Memoriam: Henry Kelley Sr.

Monday Nov. 3, 2025
7:00pm BOM meeting by ZOOM



Saturday Nov. 8, 2025
Chapter Lunch Meeting
11:30 am Social
Fords Colony Country Club

Menu for September Chapter Meeting:

The main entree is Eye Round Beef Bourguignon w/Mushrooms & Pearl Onions in Beef Broth, served over Rice Pilaf. Dessert is Apple Pie with Vanilla Ice 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 November 2.

The payment deadline is Tuesday November 4

See page 7 for additional information!

Chapter News



The Williamsburg Chapter SAR recognized six new Eagle Scouts of Troop 414 (sponsored by Our Saviour's Lutheran Church) at a Court of Honor held at LifePointe Christian Church in Toano, VA on October 19, 2025. President John Lynch presented NSSAR Certificates of Recognition and Scholarship Application packages. Chairman Harley Stewart also attended. Pictured, L to R, are Gavin Asbell, Luke Bascom, Ryan Kline, Erik Dereix, Bryce Charlton, Christopher Lampitt, and John Lynch (photo courtesy of John Lynch).

Williamsburg Chapter October Happenings



On October 19th, several Williamsburg Chapter members took part in the annual Gov. Thomas Nelson commemoration ceremony at Grace Episcopal Church in Yorktown. On October 25th, the 250th anniversary of the Culpeper Minutemen Muster was commemorated. Past chapter President Harley Stewart is a direct descendant of Captain John Chilton, one of the company commanders listed on the monument. (Photos courtesy of John Lynch and Gary Dunaway).

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 18th 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!

1. November 8: Chapter Luncheon and Annual Awards Ceremony
2. November 11: CWF-SAR Veterans Day Commemoration
3. November 15: Kemps Landing
4. November 23: James City County Committee of Observation

From WHRO TV: In December 1775, William "Billy" Flora, a free Black man from Portsmouth and member of the 2nd Virginia Regiment, performed a heroic act during the Battle of Great Bridge. [Watch now](#)



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
www.lafayette200.org
americanfriendsoflafayette@gmail.com



WILLIAMSBURG CHAPTER SAR POLO SHIRTS!

Williamsburg Chapter Polo Shirt Order Information

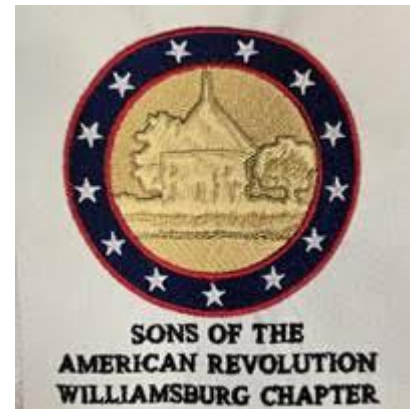
Type of Polo:

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

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: Colonial Elections

Nov. 8, 2025 Meeting Speaker: Gary Dunaway

Gary Dunaway was born and raised in Illinois. He served 22 years in the US Air Force, retiring as a Chief Master Sergeant. His second career was as an Information Systems Engineer and Database Administrator at QVC in Suffolk, VA. Gary has a BS in Business Management from The University of Maryland European Division, and an MBA from The College of William and Mary. He joined the Williamsburg SAR chapter in March 2020. He presently serves as Virginia Society Assistant Secretary for Membership and Database Administrator. He was appointed President of the Jamestown Headquarters chapter in 2024. He is past Color Guard Commander for the Williamsburg chapter and is a qualified Black Powder Safety Officer and Musket Squad Commander for the Virginia Society. Gary has volunteered at the Yorktown Battlefield since 2016. He mans the information desk in the Visitor Center, is a member of the Royal Artillery crew, and previously served as docent at the Nelson House. He has volunteered at the American Revolution Museum Yorktown since 2019. Gary's bride of 52 years, Kathy, passed away in January 2025. She was a member of the Yorktown Comte de Grasse DAR chapter. He has two daughters and two grandchildren.

Reservation for the Saturday, November 8, 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

Registrar's Corner – By Hunt Berryman, Registrar

Good News! The genealogy committee in Louisville has added additional genealogists and improved the processing time for new member applications to less than four months and twelve months for supplementals.

Recent approvals for new compatriots include Kevin Weldon, who was inducted in September and Howard Smith. Howard is pictured below with his wife Sarah at his induction at our October meeting. We just received word that new member applications for Weston Tilley, Jake Miller and John Steel have been approved. Also, we had two supplemental applications approved for Ray Duncombe and an application for Tom Rees.

We currently have 12 new member applications and 10 supplemental applications under review for approval.

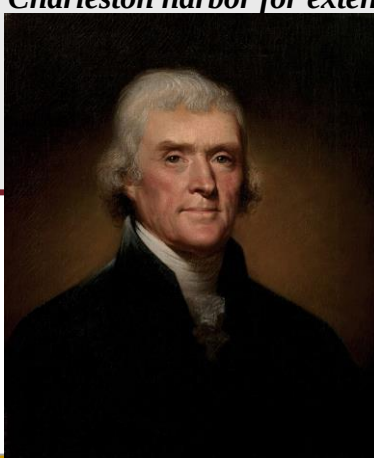


Revolutionary War History of the Month ***Submitted by Stuart Butler, Chapter Historian***

Between the latter weeks of March and early April 1781, the counties of the Northern Neck of Virginia were the scene of repeated and destructive raids that appeared to its inhabitants as piratical and wanton destruction. The British flotilla consisted of six vessels, most likely sloops or brigs outfitted with twelve to eighteen guns each, along with about six smaller vessels. The flotilla was dispatched by British General William Phillips (1731-1781) after he arrived in Hampton Roads with 2,000 troops. The primary purpose of the flotilla was to prevent Maj. General Lafayette from crossing the Potomac with additional forces to join other Virginia militia in opposing General Cornwallis' advance into Virginia.

No sooner had the raids started to penetrate the upper Potomac in late March, they were all gone by the middle of April. However, before that, many Potomac plantations were raided, homes and outbuildings destroyed, and livestock stolen. But the most expensive loss to Virginia's planters was the scores of runaway enslaved people who took every opportunity to escape aboard British vessels. The flotilla's victims also included plantations in Maryland as well. The flotilla was commanded by British Capt. Richard Graves who commanded the fleet from his warship, HMS Savage. British vessels under his command came as high as Alexandria before retreating down the river. Even portions of the Mount Vernon estate were not spared (see next newsletter). Several of the enemy vessels were captured, and their crews taken and sent either to Fredericksburg or Alexandria. Reports received by Governor Jefferson, especially from Henry Lee (General Lee's father) and Richard Henry Lee, detailed the devastation inflicted by enemy vessels on the Northern Neck counties of Westmoreland, Northumberland, and Stafford. Many of the reports requested that the governor provide more arms and ammunition to the beleaguered militia, who proved inadequate to prevent the raids.

Despite British strategy to disrupt or prevent altogether Lafayette's forces from crossing over to Virginia, it did disrupt or upset the regularly scheduled militia call-up to assist Continental efforts to oppose Cornwallis advance. Simply put, many of the militia in northern Virginia had to be diverted to protect the Potomac counties instead of moving south. A further footnote to the story of the Savage was that it was defeated in one of the most hard-fought ship duels in the war and captured by the American privateer Congress on September 6, 1781, off Charleston, South Carolina. Six days later, however, Congress and her prize, Savage, were taken by HMS Solebay, a 28 gun frigate which shepherded both vessels into Charleston harbor for extensive repairs.



2026 Slate of Williamsburg Chapter Officers

The Williamsburg Chapter will be ending the 2025 chapter year with the election of new officers during the November meeting. The 2026 slate of officers that will be presented to the Board of Managers at that time is as follows:

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

The Board of Managers is still accepting nominations from the members of our chapter. ***Please submit your nominations or volunteer for a position to Bruce Laubach at vabelring@msn.com prior to the October BOM meeting.*** There are also appointed positions within the Chapter, such as liaison with other SAR, DAR, and C.A.R. chapters, Assistant Registrars, Assistant Sergeants at Arms, Public Relations. The Vice President could also use suggestions of potential speaker for the upcoming year.



Chaplain's Corner – By George Corbett, Chaplain

November

One of my favorite months is here. Besides being my birth month, November brings the crisp Fall air, changing leaves and of course, college football. It also celebrates one of my favorite holidays, Thanksgiving. A time of family and friends enjoying the bountiful repast and giving thanks for all the many blessings we've received through the year

As Sons of the American Revolution, we are truly thankful for a nation of free citizens bequeathed to us by our patriot ancestors. From the beginning, our ancestors, when reaching the shores of this land, immediately gave thanks to their Creator for safe passage over perilous waters; the first being here in Virginia at what is now Berkeley Plantation in 1619.

As we sit down at the table this Thanksgiving, let us take a moment to remember these ancestors and ensure that we raise our voices in thanks to them and our Creator for this great nation. By their selfless sacrifices and His Divine Hand, The United States of America exists. In conclusion, KJ and I wish each and everyone a most bountiful and blessed Thanksgiving. Huzzah!!

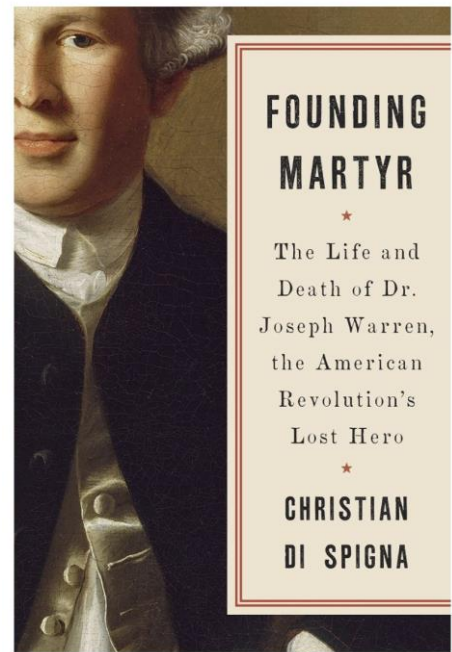
Almighty God, we thank You for all of the blessings of this life, especially for those that are ours in this free land, for the fruits of the soil, the untold resources of the earth, the opportunities of work and play, for liberty in speech and written word, for public education and regard for the welfare of all. We pray that You will make our nation great to honor and glorify Your Holy Name. Amen.

2025 Williamsburg Chapter SAR Officers



President	John Lynch II
Vice President	Ron Adolphi
Secretary	Mike Braswell
Treasurer	Bill Dorn
Registrar	Hunt Berryman
Public Relations	Robert Davis III
Newsletter Editor/Webmaster	Sean Heuvel
Chaplain	George Corbett
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



Founding Martyr: The Life and Death of Dr. Joseph Warren, the American Revolution's Lost Hero

by Christian Di Spigna

Date of book. Aug. 14, 2018, 322 pages

A rich and illuminating biography of America's forgotten Founding Father, the patriot physician and major general who fomented rebellion and died heroically at the battle of Bunker Hill on the brink of revolution. Little has been known of one of the most important figures in early American history, Dr. Joseph Warren, an architect of the colonial rebellion, and a man who might have led the country as Washington or Jefferson did had he not been martyred at Bunker Hill in 1775. Warren was involved in almost every major insurrectionary act in the Boston area for a decade, from the Stamp Act protests to the Boston Massacre to the Boston Tea Party, and his incendiary writings included the famous Suffolk Resolves, which helped unite the colonies against Britain and inspired the Declaration of Independence. Yet after his death, his life and legend faded, leaving his contemporaries to rise to fame in his place and obscuring his essential role in bringing America to independence.

Christian Di Spigna's definitive new biography of Warren is a loving work of historical excavation, the product of two decades of research and scores of newly unearthed primary-source documents that have given us this forgotten Founding Father anew.

Following Warren from his farming childhood and years at Harvard through his professional success and political radicalization to his role in sparking the rebellion, Di Spigna's thoughtful, judicious retelling not only restores Warren to his rightful place in the pantheon of Revolutionary greats, it deepens our understanding of the nation's dramatic beginnings. Christian Di Spigna is a writer based in New York City and Williamsburg, Virginia. A regular speaker and volunteer at Colonial Williamsburg. Di Spigna is an expert on the history of the era and educates a wide array of audiences.



2025-2026 Virginia C.A.R.

The Diplomatic World of James Madison

Tournament Patron Form

James Madison was a natural diplomat who used his diplomatic relationships, Marquis de Lafayette for example, to turn around America's economy and ensure our nation's success as it was a developing new nation.

The Virginia Society Children of the American Revolution invites you join the "Wizarding World" and support the Virginia State Project promoting James Madison and the Marquis de Lafayette's diplomatic friendship.

Mission Partners

This year, VSCAR will be partnering with Montpelier and The Lafayette Trail to raise funds to support educational initiatives around Madison and Lafayette.

Goal = \$16,000.00

\$10,000.00 - Support James Madison's Montpelier to help renovated rooms in Constitutional Village.

\$6,000.00 - Support The Lafayette Trail. \$2,500.00 will go toward placing a plaque along Lafayette's Farewell Tour route and the additionally \$3,500.00 will go towards the production of an historic video about Lafayette.

Additional funds will support additional projects for both organizations.

Become a "Wizarding World" Patron

Your voluntary support of the state project is greatly needed and appreciated. Each donor and their organizations will be recognized in the State Conference Banquet Program and on social media. High level champions will receive extra "wizardwear."

Levels of Wizardry Support

Tournament Champion: \$1500.00 (receives a t-shirt, house pin, & wand) **School Champion: \$1000.00** (Receives a house pin & wand)

School Headmaster: \$500.00 (Receives a wand)

Head of House: \$100.00 (Receives a tournament sticker)

Professor: \$ 50.00

Wizard: \$25.00

Join the Wizarding World Today!

SCAN THE QR TOURNAMENT CODE
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2025-2026 VIRGINIA C.A.R.

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QTY _____



CLANDESTINE T-SHIRT \$20 (YS,YM,YL,SM,M,L,XL) \$25
(2XL,3XL)

QTY ___ SIZE ___ QTY ___ SIZE ___ QTY ___ SIZE ___ QTY ___ SIZE ___



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If e-paying: scan QR code, in memo type your name and "wizardwear"

Email order form rugradslp@hotmail.com



The Williamsburg Chapter

Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution

cordially invites you to the joint

Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

And

Sons of the American Revolution

Veterans' Day Commemoration

on

Tuesday, 11 November 2025 at 10:00 AM

at

The Palace Green

In front of the Governor's Palace

Colonial Williamsburg, Va 23185

Dress: Business

Williamsburg Chapter Host/POC: John Lynch at cslasoz@aol.com





Calling all Veterans

of the United States Armed Forces

Thank you for your service!

On Tuesday, November 11, at 3:15 p.m.,
U.S. Veterans are hereby invited to assemble at
the Capitol Circle on the Duke of Gloucester Street
to partake in—

A Veterans Day Salute & Procession

Honoring America's Veterans, accompanied by the
Colonial Williamsburg Fifes & Drums to Market Square.

A Commemoration Ceremony

Immediately following the address by General George
Washington to honor the valiant men & women for their
service on behalf a grateful nation.

For additional Veterans Day 2025 information, **visit colonialwilliamsburg.org**

Colonial Williamsburg

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>

