



# The Magazine

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



Vol. XXXIX

Number 21

October 2024

## President's Message

Compatriots,

The VASSAR semi-annual conference in Williamsburg was a success. We had volunteers working preplanning details, manning the registration desk, and participating in the color guard. Williamsburg Chapter also conducted two patriot grave marking ceremonies during the Semi-Annual conference. The ceremonies, which honored four patriots, were impressive. My thanks to Stuart Butler, Gary Dunaway, Mike Doucette, Ray Duncombe, Jason Finch, Bruce Laubach, Ron Miller, Steve McGuffin, and Robert Neely. You made a difference.

The Nominating Committee is busy producing a slate of nominees for next year's chapter officers. The officer positions are President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar, Chaplain, Public Relations, Historian, Newsletter Editor, Sergeant at Arms and two Managers at Large. The slate will be announced during the October luncheon. Nominations from the floor are encouraged and, if seconded, will be added to the list of nominees. Electronic nominations are NOT allowed. Membership will vote for the nominated officers during the November luncheon.

This edition of the Magazine contains an article submitted by the George Wythe Society, Children of the American Revolution. It's refreshing to read history as seen by these young people.

Lastly, hearty congratulations to Williamsburg Chapter Compatriot Jim Gaskins (a dual member of VASSAR and FLSSAR) for being elected to be the president of FLSSAR last May.

Respectfully,

John Lynch - President, Williamsburg Chapter, VASSAR



# Calendar

**NOTE: Our Book of the Month column will return next month!**

**Monday Oct. 7, 2024**  
7:00pm BOM meeting by ZOOM



**Saturday Oct. 12, 2024**  
Chapter Lunch Meeting  
11:30 pm Social  
Colonial Heritage  
Williamsburg

## Content Wanted for *The Magazine!*

Do you have announcements, photos, patriot biographies, or articles that you would like to see published in upcoming issues *The Magazine*? Then please contact newsletter editor Sean Heuvel ([sheuvel@cnu.edu](mailto:sheuvel@cnu.edu)) for further information and for instructions on how to submit them. We look forward to hearing from you!

## Chapter News



Williamsburg Chapter President John Lynch presents a certificate of appreciation to William Welch for his presentation on “Washington Crossing the Delaware in History and Popular Culture” at the September 2024 Williamsburg Chapter meeting (photo courtesy of Bruce Laubach).



# RECENT EVENTS



**Lt. Col. William Langborn Grave Marking Ceremony – Saint Peter’s Episcopal Church, New Kent County, 9/13/24**  
(Photos Courtesy of Bob Davis)

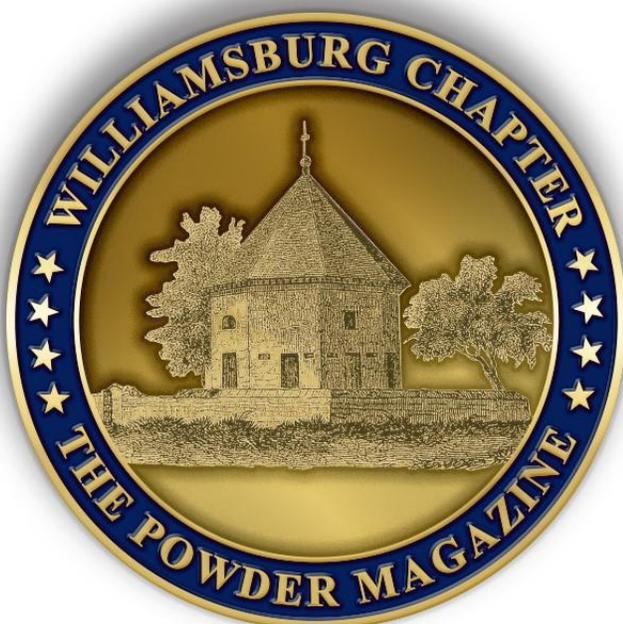
# Challenge Coin!

## 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





## Grave Marking Ceremony at Bruton Parish Church

On September 14, 2024 the Williamsburg Chapter of the Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution and Bruton Parish Church, Williamsburg, Virginia held a Grave Marking Ceremony for Revolutionary War Patriot Dr. John M. Galt, Judge Joseph Prentis and Dr. Anthony T. Dixon.

The invocation was given by The Very Reverend Christopher L. Epperson, Bruton Parish Church. Dr. John Lynch, President, Williamsburg Chapter SAR, gave the event Welcome, recognition of Special Guests and greeting to the various Lineage Societies. Dr. Charles Driscoll, VASSAR Surgeon General gave the Patriot Biographies (photo courtesy of Bob Davis).



### 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.friendsof Lafayette.org](http://www.friendsof Lafayette.org)  
[www.lafayette200.org](http://www.lafayette200.org)  
[americanfriendsof Lafayette@gmail.com](mailto:americanfriendsof Lafayette@gmail.com)





*Save the Date!*



## **249th Anniversary of the Battle of Great Bridge**

**124th Annual Great Bridge Chapter Daughters of the  
American Revolution Commemoration**

**and the**

**14th Annual National Society Sons of the American Revolution  
Celebration**

**Saturday, 11AM, December 7, 2024**

**Great Bridge Battlefield and Waterways Museum**

**1775 Historic Way, Chesapeake, Virginia**

**For more information contact:**

**Cindy Bruce ([meandbobb@hotmail.com](mailto:meandbobb@hotmail.com)) or Steve Rowe ([steve.rowes.mail@gmail.com](mailto:steve.rowes.mail@gmail.com))**





***Register through Zelle or mail  
in the registration form below!***

***Topic: Women in the American  
Revolutionary War***

## **October 12, 2024 Meeting Speaker: William Blanchfield**

William “Larry” Blanchfield retired from Newport News Shipbuilding in December 2010 and, the next month, began volunteering at the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown). He serves as a militiaman in the living history museum’s military encampment as he believes the militia hasn’t received the proper recognition for its contribution to the war for independence. He also thinks many Americans don’t know about Yorktown and the role that battle played in the fight for American independence. Larry has contributed over 3,000 hours to the museum telling the stories of the American Revolution and the trials and tribulations of the common soldier. Larry holds an AS in Civil Engineer Technology from WV Institute of Technology, a BS in Industrial Technology, Building Construction from WV State and an MS in Industrial Relations from WV College of Graduate Studies. He served on the Board of Directors for the 300th Anniversary of Yorktown, the York County Beautification Committee and the Hampton Clean Community Commission. He and Betty, his wife of 54 years, reside in Georgia but maintain a residence in Yorktown.

Reservation for the Saturday, Oct. 12, 2024 Lunch Meeting

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

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ regular meals at \$25.00 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)

# George Wythe Society – CAR Update

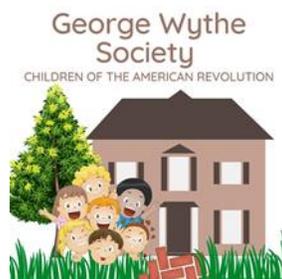
George Wythe Society members and prospective members learned about the history of the Bray School in Colonial Williamsburg and were able to see its renovation in progress. The Bray School was begun to educate free and enslaved black children living in Williamsburg. The building was wrapped securely and moved to its current site carefully and slowly on a specially built frame of steel beams. Prospective Member London (13 years old) said, "I thought it was really amazing how they were able to recover some of the same bricks from the chimney and use them in the remodel. It adds sentiment to the building and it really amazed me how they were able to go under the first location where the building was and find parts of the school house."

The Society then went to the Art Museum Cafe to discuss the events of 9-11 and learn about the National Project and Theme while they colored and created two quilt cards for our local first responders. Society members reflections on this meeting and project:

Carter (8 yo) said "I liked coloring the Eagle because it represents the United States and is being given to people that serve our community."

Oliver (5 yo) my favorite part was everything! It was our way to say thanks to all the police and firefighters that help us! Ethan (13 yo) It is important to remember and make connections between First Responders and the national theme of courage, service, and honor. Alexandra (11 yo) I liked doing something that would help people who help the community.

Contact Senior Society President Denise Thomas at 757-344-6049 or [denise.thomas.dar@gmail.com](mailto:denise.thomas.dar@gmail.com) for information on joining. Open to ages birth to 21.



## My Patriot Ancestor: Submitted by Sean Heuvel

**Pvt. Joseph Bennett  
(1758-1838)**

**Rhode Island State Troops**

**6<sup>th</sup> Great Grandfather of Compatriot Sean Heuvel**

Joseph Bennett was born in Scituate, Rhode Island on 5 October 1758 and grew up in that area. He was drafted for service in the Scituate Company of the Rhode Island Militia in December 1776 as part of a wider response to the British landing at Newport. He served in that capacity under Maj. Gen. William West and later served for a month in March 1777 in the Warwick area. In April 1777, Bennett re-joined for seven months of service and was part of the ill-fated campaign led by Maj. Gen. Joseph Spencer (shown below) that resulted in Spencer's censure by Congress (from which he was later exonerated). In June 1778, Bennett returned to service once again, serving in the 1<sup>st</sup> Rhode Island State Regiment commanded by Col. Archibald Crary. Illness prevented him from serving in the Battle of Rhode Island, fought on 29 August 1778, though his regiment and his brigade (commanded by Brig. Gen. Ezekiel Cornell) participated in the battle. Bennett was finally discharged on 16 March 1779 and went on to settle in Massachusetts. He married twice – Jemima Fairbanks (1778) and Esther Green (1800) - and had multiple children with each wife. In his later years, Bennett applied for and was granted a pension, which provides a thorough account of his wartime service. He passed away in Belchertown, Massachusetts on 19 December 1838.

Source: Joseph Bennett Pension Application – W8359, BLW#26044-160-55



Major-General Joseph Spencer (1714-1789) by Chas. Noel Flagg (1903) from a sepia sketch by Colonel John Trumbull Aide-de-camp during siege of Boston 1775



# Williamsburg Chapter News



At the Williamsburg Chapter's September 2024 meeting, Compatriot Michael Braswell was presented with the Sons of the American Revolution Southwest Asia Veteran's Medal. He is shown here receiving the medal from Williamsburg Chapter President John Lynch. Congratulations Compatriot Braswell and thank you for your service! (Photo courtesy of Bruce Laubach).

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## Did You Know???



Compatriot Jim Gaskins (shown here) who holds a dual membership in our Williamsburg Chapter was recently elected President of the Florida Society, SAR? Jim's brother Larry Gaskins is a fellow Williamsburg Chapter Member. Congratulations to Compatriot Gaskins and best of luck in your service as President of the Florida Society!

# Chaplain's Corner – By George Corbett, Chaplain

## The Divine Hand

The Scriptures tell us that stormy winds fulfill God's work (Psalms 148:8). We see this in many passages where God has used the weather to fulfill the destiny of nations. During the American Revolution, a number of weather-related events occurred that either saved and helped the American forces. Two such events come to mind.

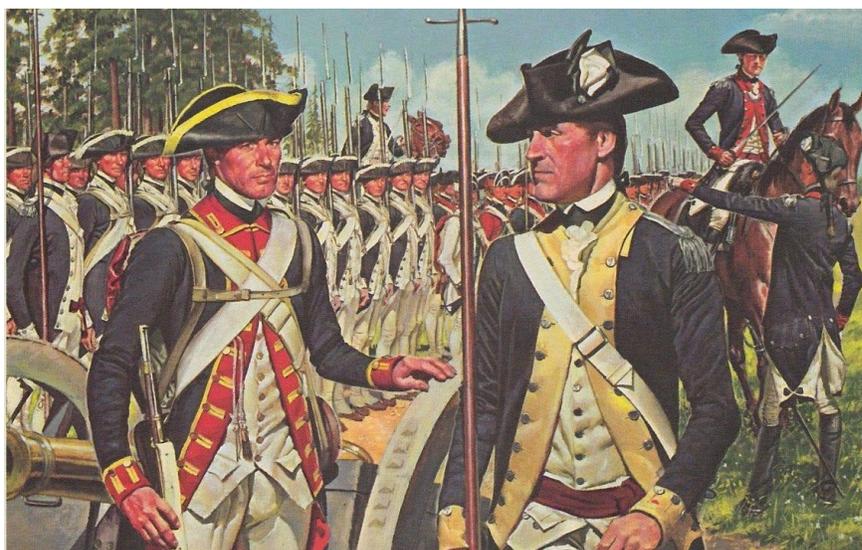
During the British occupation of Boston, General George Washington used a sudden fog and the darkness of night to move his army to the Dorchester Heights to gain an advantage of higher ground over the much larger and better trained British forces. British General Howe decided to attack despite this situation with a night attack. The day before the attack, the weather had been pleasant with unseasonably warm. That night, however, a major storm with hail and sleet raged and continued into the next day forcing him to cancel the attack.

And as we approach Yorktown Day, another weather-related event came about the night of 17 October 1781 at Yorktown. With his army trapped there, General Cornwallis planned an escape over the York River using small boats at Gloucester Point. That night, a great thunderstorm came up and swept the boats downstream, stopping the planned retreat.

These and other occurrences during the American Revolution, in many peoples view, were the Divine Hand of God intervening in our patriot ancestors pursuit of freedom. I personally have no doubts that it was His Divine Hand in our affairs. I still believe He will act when He deems such time as fitting to His purposes. George Washington, in his first inaugural address on April 30 1789 said "No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the invisible Hand which conducts the affairs of men more than those of the United States of America. Every step which they have taken has been distinguished by some token of providential agency."

*Almighty God, we beseech thee to continue Your blessings and protection on this great nation. May we be filled with steadfastness and wisdom and a Patriot's heart and may we be ever mindful of Your Divine hand in our destiny. Amen*

## 2024 Williamsburg Chapter SAR Officers



President	John Lynch II
Vice President	Ron Adolphi
Secretary	Gerry Ward
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	Tatton Mason
Member-at-Large	Stephen McGuffin
Member-at-Large	Michael Doucette
Immediate Past President	Bruce Laubach

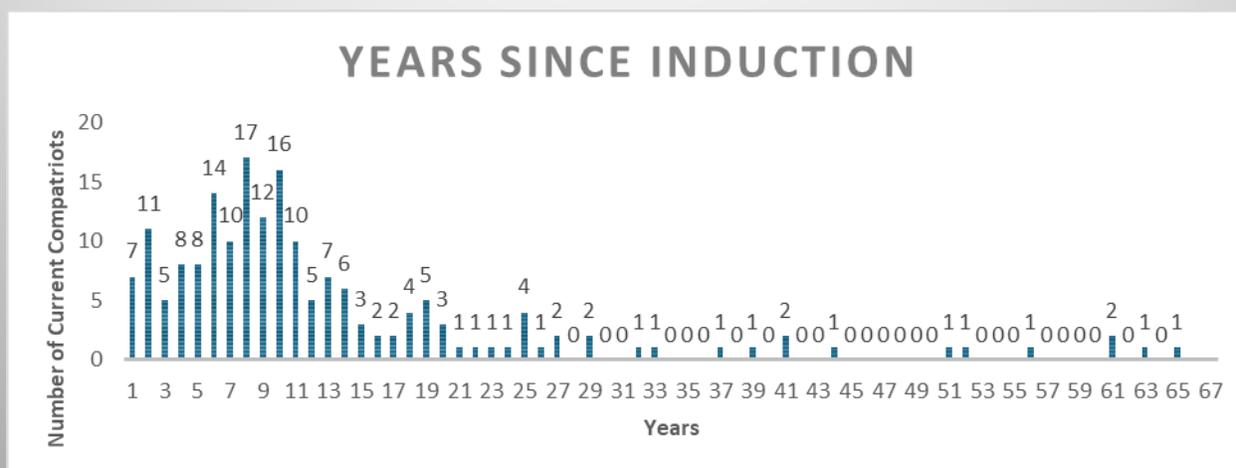
***Welcome to the first Newcomers' GPS. It is designed to provide nuggets of information about the Sons of the American Revolution and will be a regular feature in The Magazine.***

**IMPORTANT CHAPTER ANNAL ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER**

The Chapter's Nominating Committee, chaired by the Chapter's immediate past president, begins its work of identifying the initial slate of chapter officer nominees for the next calendar year. The October luncheon brings the first general announcement of the list of officer nominees. The general membership may nominate themselves or others for chapter office during the luncheon. Compatriots often receive recognition for their state level work in October.

The Chapter's main awards ceremony occurs during the November luncheon. Additionally compatriots formally vote for the officer nominees during this final luncheon of the year.

On another note, This chart shows the number of years since our chapter compatriots were inducted. There were a few who experienced lapsed memberships but later renewed their membership. Not shown are the seven compatriots who have less than 12 months since they were inducted.



***The Newcomers' GPS***

# SAR GIFTS AND FASHIONABLE APPAREL



SAR apparel is available at (502) 589-1779 or on the National SAR WEB site at:

<https://store.sar.org/storefront.aspx>



8778  
Personalized Name Badge  
(Name Tag) - Pocket  
Attachment Nametag

\$25.00

There has been confusion on how to add this item to the cart. There is a statement that says "I understand personalized items are not refundable" that has a small box after it on the bottom of the page where the personalized items are added. You must click that box before the "ADD PERSONALIZED ITEM TO CART" button will become active. Unless you click the box agreeing that Personalized items are not refundable, the item can not be added to the cart.

Personal Name Badge link is:

[https://store.sar.org/categories.aspx?Keyword=personalized%20name%20badge%20\(name%20tag%20\)](https://store.sar.org/categories.aspx?Keyword=personalized%20name%20badge%20(name%20tag%20))