



The Magazine

*Williamsburg Chapter - Virginia
Society*

Sons of the American Revolution



Vol. XXXIV

Number 31

October 2025

President's Message

Compatriots,

September was comfortably busy for our chapter. Compatriots Kevin Brown, Bill Greaf, Bruce Laubach, and Stuart Butler attended the 244th Anniversary of Battle of the Capes Commemoration on 6 September. Reports are the event was impressive and had increased attendance by U.S. and French naval officers and sailors. We presented the SAR Bronze Good Citizenship Award to Colonial Williamsburg Foundation's Nation Builder Ron Carnegie, who plays General George Washington, during our luncheon on 13 September. Lastly, four compatriots, Ron Adolphi, Gary Dunaway, Bill Greaf, and John Lynch, attended the Virginia SAR Semi-Annual Conference in Herndon Virginia; They were also present at a grave marking ceremony which preceded the opening of the conference.

We will be busy this month (see Upcoming Events). I anticipate October's luncheon speaker, the Honorable Elizabeth O'Conner, Williamsburg-James City County Clerk of the Circuit Court, will give us an interesting presentation. The slate of officers for 2026 will be announced during the luncheon and nominations from the floor will be accepted. Voting will be in November.

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation (CWF) will be removing trees and bushes in the Palace Cemetery at the end of October 2025. They will also excavate five graves to the extent of finding the boundaries of each of them; no remains will be removed. This is being done to ensure the graves are not disturbed during the landscaping project. The work is coordinated with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. The Foundation accepted our suggestion to hold a small joint CWF-SAR commemoration for the men and women buried in the cemetery. No dates have been set as of this writing. CWF will be providing us periodic updates and a final report related to the excavations and landscaping. Stay tuned!

Respectfully,

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



Calendar

In Memoriam: Henry Kelley Sr.

Monday Oct. 6, 2025

7:00pm BOM meeting by ZOOM



Saturday Oct. 11, 2025

Chapter Lunch Meeting

11:30 am Social

Fords Colony Country Club

Menu for September Chapter Meeting:

The main entree is chicken & vegetable pot pie with side salad & house dressing. Dessert is family style house made cookies & brownies.

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
October 5.

The payment deadline is Tuesday October
7

See page 7 for additional information!

Chapter News



At the September 19-20 Virginia Society SAR semi-annual, Compatriot Gary Dunaway was awarded the Silver Distinguished Service Medal. He is shown here with fellow Compatriot and past Virginia Society President Dr. Bill Greaf. Congratulations, Gary!

Submitted by: John Lynch

Williamsburg Chapter September Happenings



On Friday, 19 September 2025, Compatriots Ron Adolphi, Gary Dunaway, William Greaf, and John Lynch attended the Sgt. Major John Champe Chapter's grave marking ceremony for five patriots: John Marks Sr., John Chew Sr., James Copeland, John C. Copeland, and Thomas Humphrey. These patriots are buried at Ketoclin Baptist Church in Purcellville, Virginia. Ron, Gary, and John were part of the VASSAR color guard supporting the commemoration (photos courtesy of John Lynch).

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!

October 11: Williamsburg Chapter October Meeting

October 19: Yorktown Victory Day and Thomas Nelson Commemoration (Yorktown)

October 25: Culpeper Minutemen Muster (Culpeper)

October 26: Battle of Hampton Commemoration (Bethel Recreation Area, Hampton)



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:

Cotton – S to XL (\$36 each), XXL (\$38 each), 3X (\$42 each), 4X (\$45 each)

Color for Cotton – black, white, navy blue, royal blue, red

Polyester – S to XL (\$32 each), XXL (\$35 each), 3X (\$38 each), 4X (\$41 each)

Color for Polyester – black, white, navy blue, royal blue, red, teal green

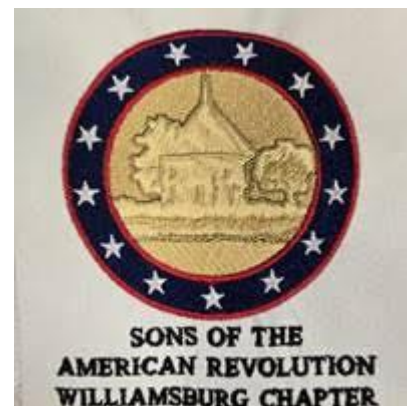
Please Order Directly from “A Logo For You”

Phone Number: 757-220-9259

Email: Alfy@alogoforyou.com

Website: <https://alogoforyou.com/>

Questions: macnider@cox.net





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

***Topic: An Introduction of Public
Records in the Commonwealth of
Virginia Electronic Recordation
Systems (COVERS)***

**October 11, 2025 Meeting Speaker: The Honorable
Elizabeth O'Conner**

A lifelong resident of Williamsburg, The Honorable Elizabeth O'Conner obtained a bachelor's degree in early American history from The College of William and Mary; her introduction to records was during her undergraduate years when working in Swem Library's Special Collections. Swem Library provided her the opportunity to work with primary documents, such as the Tucker-Coleman family collection, manage their inventory of rare books, and assist customer requests. After graduation, O'Conner catalogued rare books at The Bookpress Ltd. In 1992, she married Tim O'Connor and was a full-time mother to their four children. As time progressed, she returned to the workforce in the Circuit Court's Land Records department. She was able to apply her interest in record keeping and became the supervisor of the department. O'Conner expanded her role in the Circuit Court by becoming the Probate Clerk. In 2022, she assumed the duties of Chief Deputy Clerk. O'Conner was elected Clerk of the Circuit Court in November 2023.

Reservation for the Saturday, October 11, 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

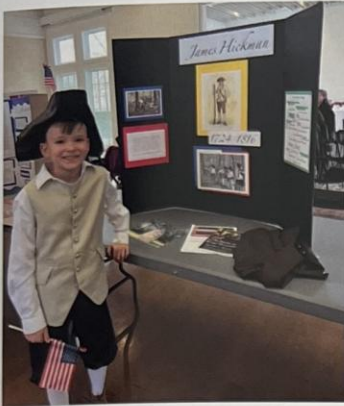
wrdorn48@gmail.com

Registrar's Corner – By Hunt Berryman, Registrar

YOUNG PATRIOT: The following is the winning essay for the “Best Pee Wee Story” about why they love CAR state registrar contest, 2024-2025, as awarded by the Virginia Society Children of the American Revolution. The winner is Revell Miller the son of Williamsburg Chapter applicant Jacob Miller and DAR member Amanda Miller. Revell’s words tell us that our country’s future is in good hands and is a great confirmation of our mission. Congratulations Revell! (*Shared with permission from parents*).

Why I Love the C.A.R.

Revell M., George Wythe Society



I love the C.A.R. because it is a way to connect with other people and the community. I love learning about everyone’s interesting relatives. I love doing Wreaths Across America because it is a way to honor those who served. My family has served in the Army since the American Revolution, and I hope to serve too.

I love learning about my relatives, distant and close. I find amazing people I am related to who fought in the American Revolution and more. I never got to meet them, but the C.A.R. brings the stories of them to life.

My name, Revell, is a family name. My relative James Revell Carr and his brother Benjamin Skinner Carr fought in World War I. Recently, I found out that the Carr brothers were related to John Stuart Skinner. John Stuart Skinner was a friend of the Marquis de Lafayette. John Stuart Skinner was on the mission with Francis Scott Key that inspired Key’s writing of our national anthem.

John Stuart Skinner’s great-grandson, Frederick Stuart Greene, wrote: “My great-grandfather expressed the hope that our flag was still flying, whereupon Key took a small piece of paper from his pocket and dashed off the words of ‘The Star-Spangled Banner.’”

Reading this made me even more proud that our flag is “still there” as we celebrate America’s 250th birthday!

I love the C.A.R. because it is a place where I can remember and honor our patriots and keep their patriotism alive for America!

**A Sporting Family of the Old South: The Story of Five Generations of Sportsmen by Harry Worcester Smith*

Revolutionary War History of the Month

Submitted by Stuart Butler, Chapter Historian

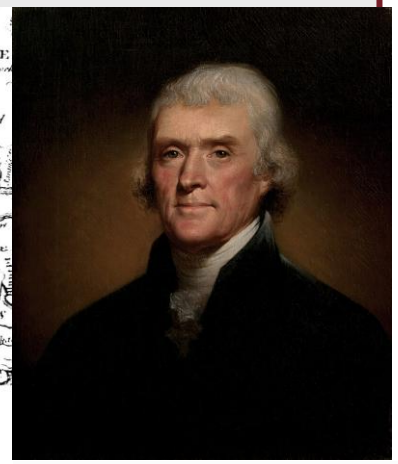
As a result of the British raid in Virginia in 1779, Governor Jefferson in November of that year recommended that heavy cannon be mounted at Hood's Point to thwart any British incursion up the river to Richmond. Hood's Point was located at the place where the James narrowed to just 800 yards between Richmond and Jamestown. In his report to the General Assembly in November 1780, Jefferson stated that fortification at Hood's was "considered as very capable of opposing the passage of Vessels." Baron Von Steuben had been sent by Washington to take charge of defensive measures in Virginia as the British appeared to be focusing on Virginia by 1780. Although no direct measures were taken as a result of von Steuben's appointment, three 18 pounders, one 24 pounder were placed there. Although parapets for additional guns and embankments were being constructed, the pace was a leisurely one due to lack of laborers and money.

When Benedict Arnold sailed into the Chesapeake, passing Hampton Roads and on his way up the James, Jefferson was caught by surprise. By January 2, 1780, Arnold's ships were just below Jamestown carrying onboard twelve hundred veteran British troops. Arnold's force anchored just below Hood's, sending one ship ahead to reconnoitre in the dense fog. An 18 pounder fired from Hood's splashed near the ship, but the ship escaped and moved northward. After the fog cleared, the Prince George militia of 75 men could plainly see the rest of Arnold's armada and fired off what rounds they had remaining. When militiamen reported that several hundred British soldiers were seen boating up Ward's Creek just east of the point and attempting to cut off the battery, the Virginia militia quickly evacuated leaving the British in possession. Freed from the possible bombardment of his fleet, Arnold proceeded onto Richmond where he sacked the town and destroyed all munitions and armament that von Steuben had collected for General Green's army.

On January 10, 1781, after leaving Richmond, Arnold anchored just north of Hood's Point and sent an armed force to retake the battery but was attacked by a Virginia force under the command of Col. George Rogers Clark, who had recently returned from Illinois. The British managed to scatter most of Clark's inferior force and reoccupied Hood's Point destroying what cannon still remained there. Arnold once again sailed up the James in April 1781 and despite plans for increased fortifications at Hood's, they were not sufficiently advanced to deter Arnold from occupying Petersburg. Had Virginia forces acted quickly and decisively enough with cannon and manpower, Arnold's subsequent sack of Richmond and Petersburg may not have occurred.



A section of the Fry-Jefferson map of 1751, showing the James River from Hampton to Westham. Hood's appears on the south side of the river, opposite Point Weyanoke and between "Flower de Hundred" Creek and Ward's Creek.



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

Victory at Yorktown

“Oh God! It is all over,” exclaimed Lord Frederick North, the British Prime Minister, when informed that General Lord Cornwallis had surrendered to George Washington following the siege of Yorktown in October 1781. After six years of war, both the British and Continental armies were exhausted. The British, in hostile territory, held only a few coastal areas in America. On the other side of the Atlantic, Britain was also waging a global war with France and Spain and had not fully recovered from the exhausting and expensive Seven Years War. In the spring of 1781, Washington had a decision to make. He could strike a blow to the British in New York City or aim for the South, in Yorktown, Virginia, where Cornwallis’ troops were garrisoned.

Cornwallis was in Yorktown because he had been ordered by Clinton to provide a protected harbor for the British fleet in the lower Chesapeake Bay planning to use the port as a base for resupply to support a Virginia campaign. Washington and his French ally, Lt. Gen. Comte de Rochambeau, looked to the South, where they were assured critical naval support from a French fleet commanded by Adm. Comte de Grasse. The Allied armies marched hundreds of miles from their headquarters North of New York City to Yorktown. With the timely arrival of the French fleet cutting off escape by water, British forces, outnumbered and outfought during a three-week siege in which they sustained great losses, surrendered. This last major land battle of the American Revolution led to negotiations for peace with the British and the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1783. Throughout the Revolution there were many occasions in which only the intervention of Divine Providence - the Hand of God - enabled the rag tag American army to live to fight another day. In his first inaugural address on April 30, 1789, George Washington 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. Every step which they have at distinguished by some token of providential agency...” A prayer for God’s continued blessing: All mighty God, we are thankful for Your guiding hand that has protected our country from its birth.

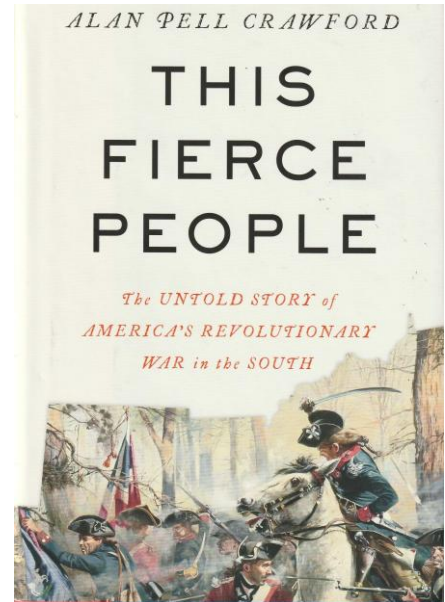
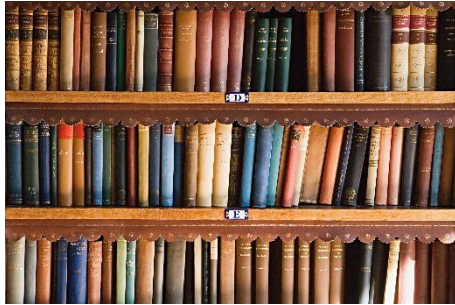
Almighty God, we give eternal thanks for your providence in the affairs that enabled our patriot ancestors to break free and British rule. Your Divine Providence continues to shape the destiny of our nation. We endeavor to keep the flame of liberty lit for future generations. By doing this, we give glory to Thy 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



This Fierce People – The untold story of America's Revolutionary War in the South.

By Alan Pell Crawford

Copyright 2024, Published by Alfred A. Knopf, Hard Back, 382 pages.

In this groundbreaking work, Alan Pell Crawford upends an enduring American myth: that the War of Independence was fought primarily in the North. The famous battles that form the backbone of the story of the American Revolution -- at Lexington and Concord, Brandywine, Germantown, Saratoga, and Monmouth -- while crucial, did not lead to the surrender at Yorktown. It was in the three-plus years between Monmouth and Yorktown that the war was won. The fierce battles fought in the South during these three crucial years, long ignored by historians, made up the central theater of military operations in the latter part of the Revolutionary War. When the British surrendered at Yorktown, Crawford argues, it was a direct result of the southern campaign: the battles that emerged south of the Mason-Dixon Line between loyalists to the Crown and patriots who fought for independence were, in fact, America's first civil war. Weaving throughout the stories of the men and women on both sides of the conflict -- African Americans and whites, militiamen and irregulars, patriots and Tories, the French, the British, and the Hessians--Crawford reveals the misperceptions and contradictions of our accepted understanding of how our nation came to be, as well as the national narrative that America's victory over the British lay solely with General George Washington and his troops. Alan Pell Crawford's book "This Fierce People" is a riveting and important historical work telling the untold story of America's Revolutionary War in the South. Crawford is the author of a number of important works of history. His writing has appeared in *American History*, *The Washington Post*, and the *New York Times*. He has been a resident scholar at the International Center for Jefferson Studies at Monticello and at George Washington's Mount Vernon. He lives in Richmond, Virginia

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>

