



The Magazine

Williamsburg Chapter - Virginia
Society
Sons of the American Revolution



Vol. XLIV

Number 41

August 2026

President's Message

Compatriots,

July has been a month of profound meaning for our chapter and for our nation. As I shared in my opening remarks at our July 11th luncheon, we have been privileged to stand at the heart of the Semiquincentennial—250 years since the birth of American independence—through commemorations that were both joyful and deeply reflective.

On July 4th, our chapter gathered at Bruton Parish Church for a Service of Thanksgiving and Praise, offering prayers of gratitude for the blessings of liberty and for the patriots whose courage secured it. Later that day, many of our members traveled to Berkeley Plantation to join the DAR for their commemorative program, continuing a tradition of partnership and shared devotion to the nation's founding ideals.

On Monday, July 6th, we assembled at Church on the Main for our annual commemoration of the Battle of Green Spring. This solemn observance—held on the very ground where patriot forces fought in 1781—remains one of our chapter's most meaningful contributions to the region's Revolutionary remembrance. Later that same week, on July 9th, ten members of our chapter participated in commemorating the Battle of Cricket Hill in Mathews County, standing with local partners to honor another important moment in Virginia's Revolutionary story. I extend heartfelt thanks to our Color Guard and to all who assisted in planning, logistics, and program leadership. Your dedication ensured that each of these July events was conducted with dignity, historical fidelity, and patriotic spirit.

Elsewhere in this issue of *The Magazine*, you'll see a copy of the letter of thanks from the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation acknowledging our chapter's donation to send a local teacher to the Bob and Marion Wilson Teacher Institute this summer. This program equips educators with the tools to bring early American history to life for their students, and our support helps extend the legacy of the Revolution to the next generation. My sincere thanks to every compatriot who contributed to this very special cause. Your generosity reflects the best of our mission.

As we move forward into August and beyond, the Semiquincentennial continues to unfold with opportunities for remembrance, service, and fellowship. I encourage all members to stay engaged, participate as they are able, and take pride in the role our chapter plays in preserving the story of the American Revolution for our community.

In patriotism,
Ronald Adolphi, President – Williamsburg Chapter



Calendar

Happy August!

Monday August 3, 2026
7:00pm BOM meeting by ZOOM



Saturday August 8, 2026
Chapter Lunch Meeting
11:30 am Social
Fords Colony Country Club

Menu for August Chapter Meeting:

The main entree is a chimichurri flank steak, cilantro lime rice pilaf, sauteed peppers and roasted corn. Dessert is an éclair, vanilla ice cream, and chocolate 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
August 2

The payment deadline is Tuesday August 4

See page 7 for additional information

Chapter News



At the recent SAR National Congress, the Williamsburg Chapter won first place in the President General's Cup for large chapters. This is the most prestigious chapter award presented at Congress. Huzzah!!!

Gary Dunaway accepted the award on behalf of the chapter. He is shown above with President General Mike Elston (right) and Virginia SAR President Darrin Schmidt (left). The chapter also won third place in the competition for the Liberty Bell Americanism Award (photo courtesy of Gary Dunaway).

Williamsburg Chapter July Happenings



On July 11, 2026, President Ron Adolphi and Color Guard Commander Ron Miller displayed streamers awarded to the Williamsburg Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. Ron Adolphi is holding the streamer awarded for the chapter's participation in the 250th commemoration of the Battle at Cricket Hill in Mathews County on July 9th and Ron Miller is holding a ribbon awarded for the Chapter's participation in the SAR National Society's commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of American Independence in Philadelphia, PA (photo courtesy of Bruce Laubach).

Color Guard Report - By Ron Miller, Color Guard Commander

The Williamsburg Chapter should be very proud of the hard work and dedication of their Color Guard. They presented the colors and fired musket salutes to honor and remember our Patriots at ceremonies throughout the area, even in the most difficult heat and humidity!. Here are the five events since our last Newsletter:

June 27; Commemoration of the Battle of Spencer's Ordinary - Freedom Park, Williamsburg.

June 27; Commemoration of the James City Couty Resolves - Freedom Park, Williamsburg – The Musket Squad fired a three-volley salute.

July 4: Wreath Laying Ceremony in recognition of July 4, 1776, at Berkeley Plantation in support of the Williamsburg Chapter of the NSDAR.

July 6: Commemoration of the Battle of Green Spring at Church on the Main, Williamsburg.

July 9: 250th Anniversary of the Battle of Cricket Hill/ Gwynns Island Hudgins, VA – This was one of the series of six 250th ceremonies where attendance qualified for the Virginia Road to Independence Medal.

July 25: Commemoration honoring the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence's arrival in Gloucester.

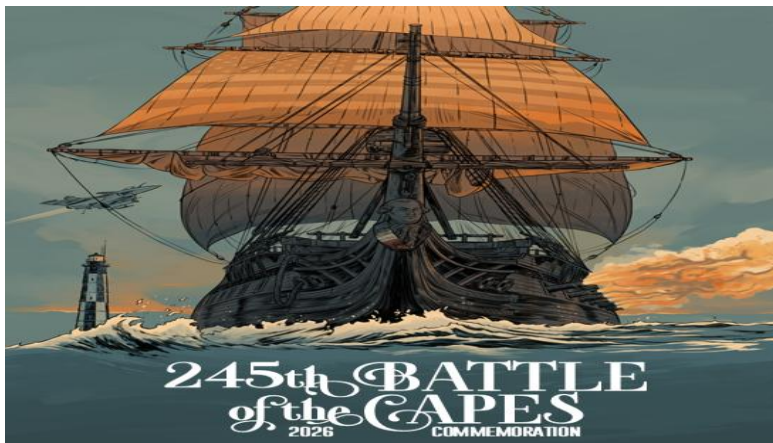




UPCOMING EVENTS!

1. August 3: Board of Managers Meeting
2. August 7-8: Middle Atlantic States Conference (Newark, DE)
3. August 8: Williamsburg Chapter Meeting

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS!



SAVE THE DATE



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



NOTICE: Please be advised that Williamsburg Chapter SAR polo shirts (which are available in several colors and sizes) can be ordered directly at:

A Logo for You
Regina Kenerley, General Manager
(757) 220-9259





Colonial Williamsburg

June 26, 2026

Williamsburg Chapter Sons of the American Revolution
349 Capeside Ct
Williamsburg, VA 23188-1150

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your contribution to The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Your gift will help a teacher from the Williamsburg – James City County School system attend the Bob and Marion Wilson Teacher Institute this summer. Please accept our heartfelt gratitude for your generosity. We are especially grateful to have the support of our friends here in Williamsburg. A receipt is attached for your records.

Colonial Williamsburg is leading the way as an educational institution that operates the largest U.S. history museum. From providing professional development opportunities to U.S. history teachers and inspiring the next generation to making primary-source documents accessible to all and connecting with school-aged guests in special youth programming, your support strengthens our efforts to reach more students, teachers and history lovers than ever before.

With such historic milestones being met in 2026, I hope you are able to join us in the Historic Area this spring as we celebrate exciting events like the opening of the Colin G. and Nancy N. Campbell Archaeology Center.

Thank you again for everything you have done and continue to do for the Foundation. With best wishes from all of us here.

Sincerely,

Sani Silvennoinen
Chief Development Officer/Senior Vice President

“THAT THE FUTURE MAY LEARN FROM THE PAST”



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

Topic: The One True Father

August 8, 2026 Meeting Speaker: Phillip Bernard

For more than four decades, historian Philip Barnard, has immersed himself in the study of America's founding era. He is well known for his unwavering commitment to uncovering the truth through meticulous research, and for his staunch support of historic restoration, preservation, and education; efforts that help ensure the essential understanding of this formative period remains accessible to all Americans.

A native of Richmond, Virginia, he frequently donates his time and expertise as a writer, speaker, and organizer for historical events and societies throughout the state. He currently serves the historical community in Virginia as both Governor of the prestigious Virginia Society Order of the Founders and Patriots of America, and President of the Richmond, Virginia Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Reservation for the Saturday, August 8, 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

Volunteer NEEDED: I am looking for volunteer(s) to assist me in preparing new member and supplemental applications. The duties would include organizing documents, typing in applications and performing genealogical research. This is an “assist where you can” and “no experience necessary” type of volunteer opportunity but does require accuracy with data. I will work with you to show you how, plus there are several training videos available depending on your level of involvement. New members are our life blood. We welcome new applications, but it is important to complete and submit them promptly since it takes about 3-4 months to be approved. Please feel free to call me to discuss what your level of involvement can be.

Registration Statistics since last newsletter

New Member Applications:

New requests for membership:	14
Requests waiting for additional information from potential member:	10
Applications in work:	12
Applications submitted for review:	1
Total applications at National or State waiting for review:	8
Applications approved:	5

Supplemental applications:

Currently in work:	10
Total at National or State waiting for review:	13



Revolutionary War History of the Month

Submitted by Stuart Butler, Chapter Historian

Captain John Paul Jones

In the decade before the Revolutionary War, John Paul Jones made numerous visits to the Virginia colony. Why was the great naval hero visiting Virginia in these years and what reasons would he have to do so ? To answer this question, one needs to look at Paul's early life back in Scotland. Jones was the fourth child of eight born on July 6, 1747, to John Paul and his wife Jean of Galloway, Scotland. His father was the gardener to William Craig, a wealthy landowner. Jones had an elder brother, William, who was about thirteen years older. William learned the tailoring trade and by 1760 managed to get himself transported to Virginia where shortly afterwards he had set up shop in the growing town of Fredericksburg, Virginia. By all accounts, he had a thriving business located on the corner of Princess and Prussia (now Caroline) streets.

As we all know, John Paul chose another career, that of the sea. He would add the name of Jones much later in his career. Beginning in 1761, Jones served on a number of ships trading between Scotland, the Caribbean, and Virginia. Most of the ships carried guns as well as goods as war with France was still raging. By coincidence, Fredericksburg was the final destination of his many voyages. During these voyages, Jones would stay at his brother's as often as possible. William had married by 1770, but the marriage was not a happy one. The marriage ended with no children. In 1772, William became ill and wrote his will, which left all his debts, goods, and money to his sister, Mary Ann Young, back in Scotland. He left nothing to his younger brother. William died in 1773 and John Paul was able to visit his brother's shop for the last time at or shortly after William's death. William was buried in St. George's Episcopal graveyard in Fredericksburg. His tombstone is still visible today. His shop and home above are still standing, but are now privately owned and not open for visitation. John Paul Jones never married and there are no known descendants.



Chaplain's Corner – By George Corbett, Chaplain

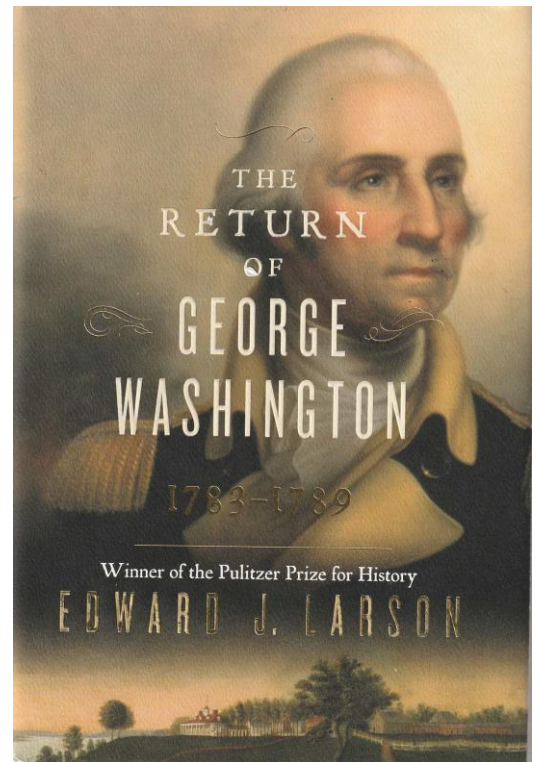
The Faith of Our Fathers

With the recent brutally hot days seemingly melting everything and everyone, I was thinking about many of our chapters outside activities; particularly, our color guard. They perform their duties expertly and on the hottest of days. Of course, their duties are ceremonial as we pay homage to our patriot ancestors. On the other side of the coin were our patriot ancestors who dealt with the same heat issues, all the while fighting a war and being shot at and bombarded by a determined enemy. To me, this clearly speaks of their faith in the cause of liberty and their belief in a Divine Creator for protection. Their faith in Almighty God is seen in the writing from that era, particularly, General George Washington. He sought and asked for Divine Guidance throughout the war. I firmly believe it is this faith that sustained him and our patriot ancestors. It is our duty to, in turn, maintain this faith as it has been done for over 250 years and pass it on to our prodigy. We can do no more and should never wish to do less. August blessings to all.



Almighty God of our fathers, we thank you for this great land they bequeathed to us. We thank you for the freedom that has transcended the years. We honor their sacrifice and selfless service and their faith in Your Divine Guidance. We pray for your continued blessings upon this land. In Your Holy name, Amen.

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



The Return of George Washington 1783-1789

by Edward J. Larson

Published by HarperCollins

Hard Cover, First Edition, Date: 2014

A Pulitzer Prize–winning history showing how George Washington’s leadership after the Revolutionary War saved the United States by presiding over the Constitutional Convention and becoming its first president.

The Return of George Washington (also titled *Uniting the States, 1783–1789*) is a New York Times bestseller praised for its elegant narrative and deep research. Pulitzer Prize–winning historian Edward J. Larson recovers a pivotal but often overlooked chapter in American history: Washington’s postwar years and his decisive role in shaping the nation’s future.

After leading the Continental Army to victory in the Revolutionary War, Washington shocked the world by retiring in December 1783. He returned to Mount Vernon, enjoying private life, while the fledgling United States under the Articles of Confederation struggled with weak central authority, inability to raise revenue, and interstate disputes.

When a Constitutional Convention was called in 1787 to address these crises, its prospects were slim. Jefferson, Madison, and other Founding Fathers realized only Washington’s stature and moral authority could unite the fractious states. Reluctant but duty-bound, Washington presided over the Convention, guiding debates and ensuring consensus. Larson’s account highlights Washington’s mediating influence, his ability to inspire unity, and his willingness to serve as the first president under the new Constitution. His leadership was instrumental in securing ratification, thereby saving the young republic from collapse.

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>

