



The Magazine

*Williamsburg Chapter - Virginia
Society*

Sons of the American Revolution



Vol. XLVII

Number 43

November 2026

President's Message

Dear Compatriots,

As we move through the autumn season, our Williamsburg Chapter continues to demonstrate the enduring spirit of patriotism, service, and remembrance that defines the Sons of the American Revolution. October was an active and rewarding month. During our luncheon meeting, we were honored to welcome two new compatriots into our chapter, Timothy Ramsey and Robert Sweeney. Their membership strengthens our mission of preserving and promoting the legacy of our Patriot ancestors, and we look forward to their active participation in the years ahead. We also were privileged to recognize Detective Logan English of the James City County (JCC) Police Department with the SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Medal. Through his dedication, professionalism, and service to our community, Detective English exemplifies the qualities of integrity and commitment that this award is intended to honor. Chapter members were well represented at Yorktown Day activities. We participated in the wreath-laying ceremony at the grave of Brigadier General (and later Virginia Governor) Thomas Nelson, Jr., and our color guard joined fellow patriots in the Victory Day Parade. These annual observances remind us that the freedoms we enjoy today were won through sacrifice, perseverance, and devotion to a noble cause.

Looking ahead, November offers several meaningful opportunities for service and remembrance. On November 7, we will dedicate a Liberty Tree at Church on the Main, creating a lasting symbol of the ideals that inspired our Revolution and continue to guide our republic. We will join the community on Veterans Day, November 11, for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation's procession and salute honoring those who have served our nation in uniform. Later in the month, on November 21, our chapter will commemorate the JCC Committee of Observation, recognizing the local patriots whose leadership and resolve helped shape the course of American independence. During our chapter luncheon on November 14th, we'll elect new officers to lead us in 2027. We're still seeking a Newsletter Editor/Webmaster. Please see and consider the job description on page 10 in this newsletter. As we gather for these events and approach the Thanksgiving season, let us reflect with gratitude on the sacrifices of those who came before us and recommit ourselves to preserving their legacy through education, service, and civic engagement. Thank you for your continued support of our chapter and its mission. I look forward to sharing these upcoming events with you and celebrating our common heritage together.

Yours in Patriotism,

Ron Adolphi - President, Williamsburg Chapter, Virginia Society, SAR



Calendar

In Memoriam: Jim Morford

Monday Nov. 2, 2026

7:00pm BOM meeting by ZOOM



Saturday Nov. 14, 2026

Chapter Lunch Meeting

11:30 am Social

Fords Colony Country Club

Menu for November Chapter Meeting:

The main entree is Eye Round Beef Bourguignon w/Mushrooms & Pearl Onions in Beef Broth, served over Rice Pilaf. Dessert is Carrot Cake with Caramel 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
November 8.

The payment deadline is Tuesday November
10

See page 6 for additional information!

Chapter News



The George Wythe Society, N.S.C.A.R. held its 1st Annual Flag Retirement Ceremony on September 27, 2026. In addition to the George Wythe Society, there were representatives from 9 other organizations. In total 38 U.S. Flags and 7 POW/MIA Flags were retired (photo submitted by Tatton Mason).

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 (Photos courtesy of Mike Doucette and Ron Adolphi).

Registrar's Report

Submitted By Chapter Registrar, Ron Miller

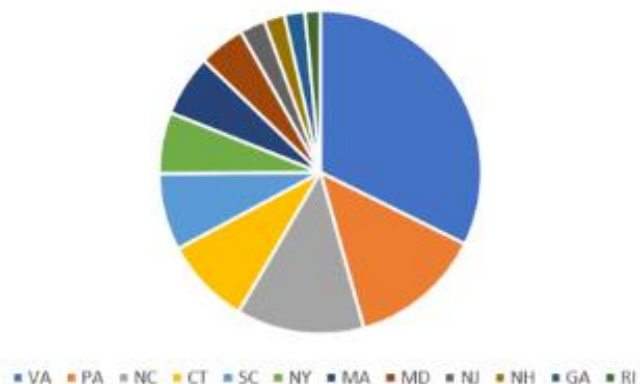
A Williamsburg Chapter Compatriot that lives in Kingsmill on the James, Williamsburg would like to attend some meetings, but, because of medical issues is unable to drive. If you are willing to assist our Compatriot, please contact me directly and I can provide the details. Thank you in advance!

Registration statistics since the last newsletter:

New requests for membership	2
Applications submitted for review	1
Total applications at National or State waiting for review	16
Applications approved	1
Supplemental Applications submitted for review	1
Supplemental applications at National or State waiting for review	21



Patriots State of Service





UPCOMING EVENTS!

1. November 7: Liberty Tree Dedication (Church on the Main)
2. November 11: CWF-SAR Veterans Day Commemoration
3. November 14: Williamsburg Chapter Meeting/Luncheon
4. November 21: James City County Committee of Observation

On Sunday, Oct 18, 2026, members of Scouting America troop 103 of Williamsburg assisted in the Cleanup of the William Rickman Cemetery of Kittiewan Plantation in Charles City County. The cleanup is the preparation for the Williamsburg Chapter SAR Grave marking of Dr William Rickman who was the Surgeon General of Virginia during the Revolution (photo courtesy of Bruce Laubach).





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

***Topic: Revolutionary Women:
Women's Lives During the American Revolution***

Nov. 14, 2026 Meeting Speaker: Dr. Holly White

Whether loudly protesting British taxes, quietly taking over the family business, or disguising themselves to serve as soldiers and spies, women were vital to the success of the American Revolution. Join Dr. Holly White for a fascinating exploration of some of the lesser-known histories involving women and the creation of America. Dr. Holly White specializes in the history of childhood, gender, and family in early America. She teaches in the history department at William & Mary and serves as the co-editor of the Journal of the History of Childhood and Youth. She is the author of *Constructing American Childhood: Age-Based Laws and the Illusion of Protection in the Early United States* and co-editor of *Engaging Children in Vast Early America*.

Reservation for the Saturday, November 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

Color Guard Report – By Ron Miller

October 18: Our Chapter Color Guard assisted Compatriot Ed Bonniwell in conducting a “God and Country” Sunday morning service at the Oak Grove UMC in Carrollton. Ed is the Minister of this rural church and his talk focused on the siege of Yorktown.

October 19: This was the annual Yorktown Commemoration of the Yorktown Siege including three events; Commemoration at the French Memorial, Thomas Nelson Jr Grave Service, Battle of Yorktown parade.

(Photo courtesy of Robin Doucette – larger version on page 5).



Upcoming Color Guard Events for November and December

Mark your calendars now for these Events:

November 1: We will assist the DAR sponsored annual Berkeley Plantation Thanksgiving Commemoration.

November 7: Dedication of the Liberty Tree at the Church on the Main.

November 11: Veteran's Day Celebration at Colonial Williamsburg. This year the Ceremony will take place immediately following the Veteran's Parade, in the afternoon.

November 14: 251st Anniversary of the Skirmish at Kemps Landing in Virginia Beach. This is one of the 6 events that qualifies participants for VASSAR's Road to Independence Medal.

November 21: Commemoration of the James City County, Committee of Observation at Freedom Park, Williamsburg.

December 6: Commemoration of the Battle of Great Bridge, Chesapeake, VA

December 12: The annual “Twinkle Through Time” Williamsburg Christmas Parade. The Color Guard will be leading our SAR-DAR-CAR chapters as we march in this very festive opportunity to showcase our combined organizations to the Williamsburg community

December 19: We will be assisting the Williamsburg NSDAR Chapter at the Cedar Grove Cemetery.

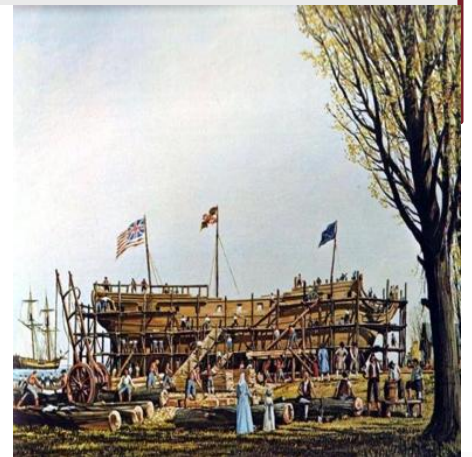
Revolutionary War History of the Month

Submitted by Stuart Butler, Chapter Historian

Most readers of this newsletter are familiar with the USS Virginia of Civil War fame, but did you know that there was a frigate Virginia during the Revolutionary War? On December 13, 1775, the Continental Congress authorized thirteen frigates to be built. Most were named for dead patriots and places, but one was to be the frigate, Virginia. Although named Virginia, the frigate was laid down at Fells Point, near Baltimore, and launched in August of 1776. It was not commissioned until the spring of 1777 with Capt.

James Nicholson (shown below), a native Marylander, as its captain. As a frigate, it was pierced for twenty-four twelve-pounder guns and six swivel guns. Nicholson came from a seafaring Maryland family.

Two brothers also served in the Revolutionary War as naval officers. Nicholson had experience in the British navy serving in the attack on Havana in 1762. Virginia's first mission came in March 1777 when it was to sail down the Chesapeake, avoid the British blockade, and seek out and destroy British shipping in the West Indies. The first attempt failed to clear the Bay due to firm British control of the Bay. Nicholson made four more attempts to elude British naval vessels in May, October, November, and December, but was unsuccessful in each. Virginia returned to Baltimore and remained inactive until January 1778, mainly because many of the Virginia's crew deserted and additional crew had to be procured. Finally, in late January 1778, Virginia was able to sail as far as the Virginia capes but was spotted by the British frigate Emerald and chased all the way back to Baltimore! Undaunted, Nicholson refitted Virginia for another attempt to escape the Bay. During the night of March 31, 1778, Virginia ran aground on the Middle Ground in Hampton Roads, the ship on its side and its rudder destroyed. To add insult to injury, Virginia's old foe, HMS Emerald, closed in for the capture of the ship and crew. Nicholson was cleared of any blame and the frigate's officers and some of the crew continued to serve in other ships. What became of the Virginia? She was sailed to New York and condemned as a prize by the British Navy and re-invented as the 32-gun frigate HMS Virginia. The ship later participated in the Penobscot Expedition and the capture of Charleston, South Carolina. The ship was later broken up at Chatham, England, and sold for scrap in 1782. Nicholson's naval career afterwards was no better than that of the hapless Virginia. He was given the command of the frigate Trumbull in the spring of 1781, but he discovered that the crew was made up of mostly British deserters, who refused to fight when he encountered the British frigate Iris, itself a formerly American frigate! Despite a spirited fight lasting ninety minutes, Nicholson surrendered the ship. Nicholson later moved to New York and after the war was appointed U.S. Commissioner of Loans. Later in 1788, he became a member of the New York Society of the Cincinnati.



2027 Slate of Williamsburg Chapter Officers

Williamsburg Chapter compatriots will be electing their 2027 Chapter officers during the 14 November 2026 Chapter meeting. Nominations from the floor will be considered. Compatriots must be present to vote.

President,	Ron Adolphi
Vice President,	Rick Batten
Secretary,	Mike Braswell
Treasurer,	Bill Dorn
Registrar,	Ron Miller
Public Relations,	Robert Davis III
Newsletter/Webmaster,	OPEN
Chaplain,	Morgan Gardner
Sergeant-at-Arms,	Mike Buckner
Historian,	Stuart Butler
Member-at-Large,	Bruce Laubach
Member-at-Large,	Sean Heuvel
Immediate Past President,	John Lynch

The Board of Managers is still accepting nominations for the position of Newsletter Editor/Website Manager. This officer oversees the production of the Williamsburg Chapter SAR newsletter (called "The Magazine") while providing routine updates and maintenance for the website. Development of the monthly newsletter involves soliciting content from various Chapter officials and incorporating it into the generalized newsletter template. The editor then uploads each newsletter issue to the website while also sharing it with the Chapter membership. This work usually involves a time commitment for about 6-8 hours per month, and it can all generally be done remotely/via email.. If interested , please contact Nominating Committee Chairman John Lynch at cslasoz@aol.com for more information.



Chaplain's Corner – By George Corbett, Chaplain

Let's Give Thanks!!

As we enter the month of November, one of my favorite holidays, Thanksgiving, looms before us. During my military career, I would often host soldiers who could not get home for the holiday with a day of food and football. Nowadays, KJ and I either have friends over or we enjoy a meal and fellowship with friends in their home.

Thanksgiving is a special time spent with friends and loved ones as we give thanks to our Creator for all the bountiful blessings bestowed upon us during the year.

Our Founding Fathers and our patriot ancestors understood this all too well and certainly gave thanks for their blessings and this great nation provided to them by their Creator. This is recorded throughout our history from the first thanksgiving at Berkeley Plantation and later up north by the Pilgrims.

As you set down at your Thanksgiving table this year, I urge you to raise glass to those who sacrificed and struggled to make this great nation possible for themselves and their prodigy. In closing, KJ and I wish everyone a most bountiful and blessed Thanksgiving. Huzzah!!

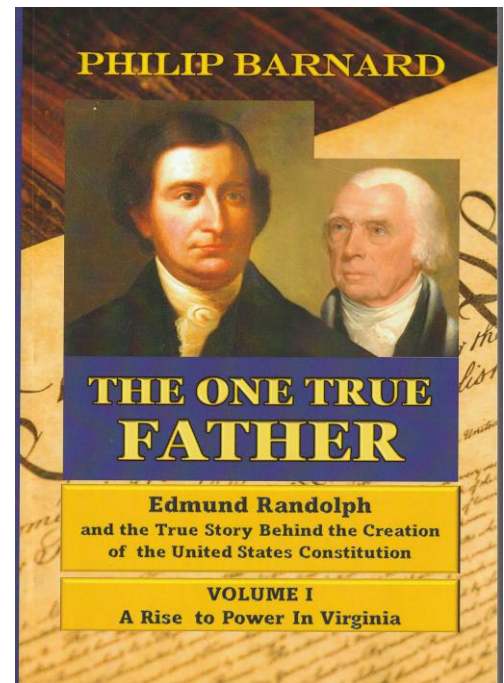
Almighty God, we thank You for all the blessings of this life, especially for those that are in ours in this free land, for the fruits of the soil, the untold resources of the earth, the opportunities of work and play, for liberty in speech and written word, for public education and regard for the welfare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

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

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



The One True Father: Edmund Randolph and the True Story Behind the Creation of the United States Constitution. Volume I
by Philip Barnard
Published by Dorrance Publishing Co.
Soft Cover, 262 pages, First Edition, Date: 2026

Philip Barnard's book "The One True Father" argues that Edmund Randolph, not James Madison, should be recognized as the principal architect of the U.S. Constitution. This book is the first volume in a four-part series, which challenges the traditional narrative that James Madison is the "Father of the Constitution" and instead highlights Edmund Randolph's pivotal role in crafting the Virginia Plan and his primary authorship of the Constitution.

Volume I, "A Rise to Power in Virginia" details:

Randolph's Early Life, his privileged upbringing in Virginia, his patriotic sacrifices during the Revolutionary War, and his initial legal career.

The Roots of Jealousy : Explores the origins of James Madison's intense professional and personal jealousy toward Randolph.

Political Ascent: Follows his tenure alongside Madison as Virginia representatives in the Continental Congress and the Annapolis Convention.

The 1786 Climax: Details his dual rise to immense power in Virginia as both the state's Governor and the Grand Master of Masons, setting the stage for his leadership at the upcoming Constitutional Convention.

A very interesting beginning of Volume I is Chapter 1 which explains the influence of Freemasonry in 18th Century America up to the year 1785, and its influence on Edmund Randolph. Philip Barnard is a historian who has spent over four decades studying the American founding era, with a specific focus on historical preservation, restoration, and uncovering forgotten or overshadowed Revolutionary patriots.

PRINCETON ELM LIBERTY TREE *Dedication*

HONORING OUR PAST ★ AND COMMEMORATE
AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY



DATE:

NOVEMBER 7TH



TIME:

10:00 AM



LOCATION:

CHURCH ON THE MAIN

4687 Sir Gilbert Loop
Williamsburg, VA. 23185

*Join us as we
plant a Liberty Tree
in honor of our
founding heritage,
our shared values,
and a brighter
future.*

LIBERTY TREE
★
FREEDOM
COMMUNITY
TOMORROW
★ ★ ★



Williamsburg Chapter



Virginia Society

Sons of the American Revolution



Calling all Veterans

of the United States Armed Forces

On Wednesday, 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 Palace Green.

A Commemoration Ceremony

Immediately following, hear from those who founded the nation and honor the valiant men & women who defended it.

We're offering FREE admission during Veterans Day Week, Friday-Wednesday November 6-11, to all Military Members and their immediate dependents. Made possible by a generous grant from The Home Depot Foundation as part of their ongoing commitment to improve the lives of U.S. Veterans and their families.

For details and additional Veterans Day 2026 information, visit colonialwilliamsburg.org.
Please let us know you're coming! Email communityevents@cwf.org

Colonial Williamsburg

Williamsburg Chapter

Sons of the American Revolution

Commemoration of the

James City County Committee of Observation

Saturday, November 21st • 2:00 PM

Freedom Park • 5537 Centerville Road • Williamsburg, VA 23188

Honoring the Guardians of Liberty in James City County

Join the Williamsburg Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, as we gather at historic Freedom Park to commemorate the *James City County Committee of Observation*—citizen leaders who sofiguraded the rights of the people during the birth of American resistance.

Program Highlights

- Presentation of Wreaths by SAR Chapters and Partner Organizations
- VSSAR Color Guard in Period Dress
- Historical Reflections on the Committee's Role and Legacy
- Community Gathering in Honor of Our Patriot Ancestors

Registration & Information

To register to present a wreath or to confirm attendance, please contact:

Ron Adolphi • Email: ronald.adolphi@cox.net • Phone: (757) 645-3430



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>

