



The Magazine

*Williamsburg Chapter - Virginia
Society*

Sons of the American Revolution



Vol. XLVI

Number 43

October 2026

President's Message

Compatriots,

September has been a month of proud service and meaningful remembrance for the Williamsburg Chapter. We were honored to participate in the 245th Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of the Capes at Fort Story, joining with compatriots from across Virginia to mark the naval victory that made Yorktown possible. Our chapter also took part in a Compatriot Grave Marking in Norfolk, ensuring that the legacy of a patriot ancestor is preserved with dignity for future generations. And at the Virginia Society's semi-annual meeting in Roanoke, Williamsburg SAR was well represented as we continue to contribute actively to the work and mission of the VASSAR statewide.

As we turn to October, our focus centers on the Battle of Yorktown, the decisive triumph that secured American independence. On October 19th, our chapter will support three commemorative events in Yorktown, each offering an opportunity to honor the courage, sacrifice, and resolve of the patriots who stood firm in 1781. I encourage all members to participate as they are able and to take pride in the role our chapter plays in keeping this history alive during this Semi quincentennial year and beyond.

We are also seeking 2-3 additional Compatriots to assist with our ad hoc initiative to update and strengthen the Chapter's website. If you have interest or experience in this area—and a willingness to help—please contact me directly.

Finally, Past President John Lynch, chair of the Nominating Committee, is now receiving names of Compatriots interested in serving on the Chapter's Board of Managers in 2027. If you feel called to contribute your leadership and talents to the Chapter's future, please reach out to him soon.

In Patriotism,
Ron Adolphi
President, Williamsburg Chapter Sons of the American Revolution



Calendar

Happy October – heading into the Fall!

Monday Oct. 5, 2026
7:00pm BOM meeting by ZOOM



Saturday Oct. 10, 2026
Chapter Lunch Meeting
11:30 am Social
Fords Colony Country Club

Menu for October Chapter Meeting:

The main entree is fish & chips (breaded cod with pub fries, tartar sauce, and baby greens). Dessert is lemon cream cake with raspberry sauce and whipped 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 Oct. 4

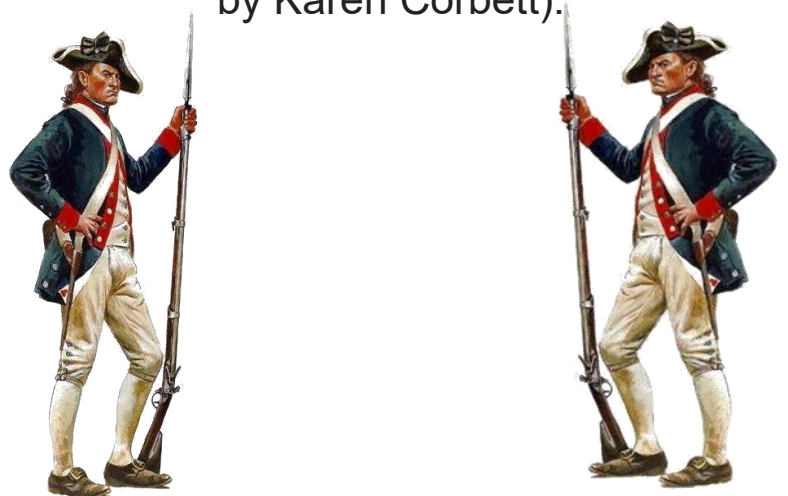
The payment deadline is Tuesday Oct. 6

See page 7 for additional information

Chapter News



The Williamsburg Chapter, VASSAR, presented a flag retirement certificate to Rob and Jacquie Bobbitt on 4 September 2026. Pictured (L to R) is Rob Bobbitt, Jacquie Bobbitt and George Corbett, Chapter Flag Recognition Chair (Photo by Karen Corbett).



Williamsburg Chapter September Happenings



On September 5, 2026, members of the Williamsburg Chapter attended the 245th anniversary of the of the Battle of the Capes. Pictured from left to right are Chapter President Ron Adolphi, Gary Dunaway, Joe Segar, Ron Miller, Virginia State President SAR Darrin Schmidt, Virginia State Past President SAR Bill Greaf, Bruce Laubach, Kevin Weldon, Chapter Past President John Lynch, and Ray Duncombe (submitted by Bob Davis).

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. In September is participated in the Commemoration of the Battle of the Capes, hosted a musket handling, commands, and firing practice at Freedom Park, and participated in the NAS Oceana Air Show. As usual, it has a busy schedule in the weeks ahead.

Here's a look at some of its upcoming events:

October 18: Our Chapter Color Guard will assist 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 he will focus on the Siege of Yorktown.

October 19: This is the annual Commemoration of the Siege of Yorktown that includes three events; Commemoration at the French Memorial, Thomas Nelson Jr Graveside Service, and the Siege of Yorktown parade.

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

Mark your calendars for the December 6th 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.





UPCOMING EVENTS!

1. October 1-3: NASSAR Fall Leadership (Louisville, KY)
2. October 5: Board of Managers Meeting
3. October 10: Williamsburg Chapter Luncheon Meeting
4. October 19: Yorktown Day Commemoration

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS!

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY: The next Liberty or Death reenactment at Historic St. John's Church in Richmond will be on Sunday, November 8 at 1:30 p.m., in honor of Veterans Day. Tickets are \$15. Here is the link to the Historic St. John's events calendar for further information:

<https://www.historicstjohnschurch.org/events>

NOTICE: The Williamsburg Chapter SAR plans to march in the upcoming Williamsburg Christmas Parade on December 6th. For more information, please contact:

Mike Doucette
mike.doucette@rivhs.com

Yorktown



www.williamsburgsar.org



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

Topic: *“The Power of One: The Ability of One Individual to Change History – For Better or Worse.”*

Oct. 10, 2026 Meeting Speaker: Suzanne Munson

Following a career in corporate and nonprofit communications, Suzanne began devoting her time to research and writing. She’s the author of six books, four published and two in progress. Three of her books are about Thomas Jefferson and his significant mentor, George Wythe. It was during her research about George Wythe’s life and accomplishments that she discovered a significant theme: “The Power of One.” She says that although this Founding Father’s legacy has been overlooked in recent generations, he was among the major forces in getting our new nation off to the right start. Before retiring, Suzanne served as statewide Director of Historic Garden Week in Virginia. She holds a master’s degree in marketing from Virginia Commonwealth University. Suzanne has brought the two books that she wrote which formed the basis for her talk today. If you would like to purchase a signed copy, she will remain after the meeting.

Reservation for the Saturday, October 10, 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

Here are some interesting facts and figures about our Williamsburg Chapter Members and Patriots:

Total chapter members 190

Total Supplemental Patriots 117

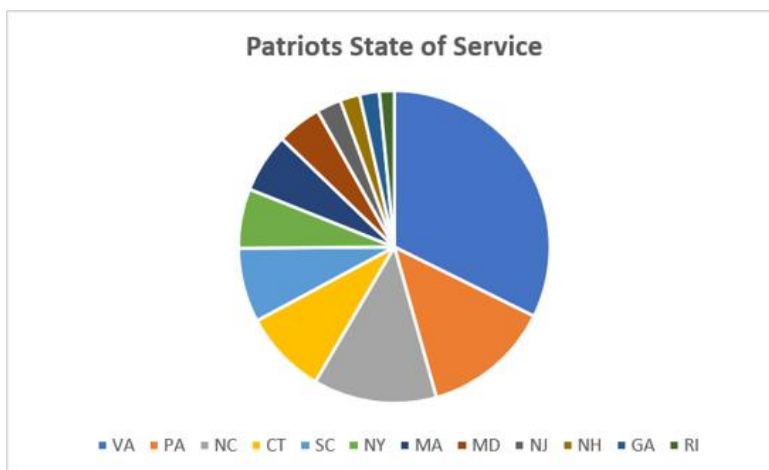
Highest number of Supplemental Patriots by a single member;

19 (2 additional waiting for review) - Ray Duncombe

Chapter members who share the last name of their primary Patriot ancestor 39 (20%)

State of Service of our members primary Patriot (What original colony/state is missing?):

VA	63
PA	26
NC	25
CT	17
SC	15
NY	12
MA	12
MD	9
NJ	5
NH	4
GA	4
RI	3



While ALL our Patriots are notable, a few well recognized Patriots include:

Benjamin Harrison

Thomas Nelson

John Parke Custis

Patrick Henry

One female (and two more submitted for approval)

Registration statistics since the last newsletter:

New requests for membership 3

Applications submitted for review 13

Total applications at National
or State waiting for review 17

Applications approved 4

Supplemental Applications
submitted for review 4

Supplemental applications at
National or State waiting for review 22



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

Virginia Signers of the Declaration

How many signers of the Declaration of Independence were from Virginia? If you said seven, you are incorrect. If you said nine, you are factually correct. While the signed Declaration shows seven individuals representing Virginia, there are two other individuals who were born in Virginia, but who signed as representatives from another state. So, who were these other “Virginia” signers? John Penn (shown at center) was born on May 17, 1741, near Port Royal in Caroline County, Virginia. He was the only son of Moses and Catherine Taylor Penn. Following his father’s early death, Penn studied law under his famous uncle, Edmund Pendelton, and became a lawyer in 1762. A year later, he married Susannah Lyne and had several children. In 1774, Penn left Virginia and moved to present-day Stovall, North Carolina. Penn was elected to the North Carolina Provincial Congress in 1775, and later to the Second Continental Congress, and served in that body until 1779. During this time, he not only signed the Declaration, but also the Articles of Confederation. After serving on the North Carolina Board of War during the Revolution, he retired from state service and practiced law until his death on September 14, 1788. The USS John Penn was named in his honor. George Walton (shown on right) was born sometime in 1749 in Cumberland County, Virginia, although his birth date is reported to be as early as 1741. He was adopted by an uncle who wanted him to be a carpenter, but Walton wanted a career as a lawyer and moved to Savannah, Georgia, in 1769 to study law. Walton made rapid advancement and accepted the patriot cause, becoming in rapid succession, secretary of the Georgia Provincial Congress and president of the Council of Safety. By 1776, he represented Georgia in the Second Continental Congress and signed the Declaration of Independence. During the war, Walton was an officer in the First Georgia Regiment and was wounded and captured by the British at the siege of Savannah in 1778. Walton would serve two terms as governor and was a judge of the Superior Court. He is thought by some historians to have been the youngest signer of the Declaration.



Chaplain's Corner – By George Corbett, Chaplain

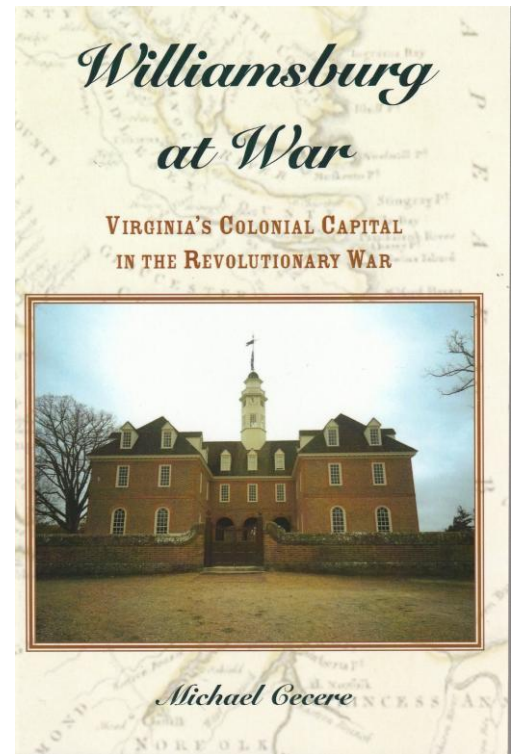
The First Full Month of Fall

October is our first full month of the Fall season. As the leaves begin to change color and the smell of crisp Autumn air teases our senses, we see the majesty of His hand everywhere. The bountiful harvest, the coolness in the air and the crackle of a fireplace are all part of the season. The other day, I saw pumpkins and acorn squash, one of my favorites, on display in the grocery store. One of my favorite sports, college football, is in full swing and I try to set aside some time on Saturdays to catch a game. I am truly thankful for this time of year and all the things that go with it. I think back to my youth and our family farm, the harvest being brought in and the smells from my mother's kitchen. We didn't know it then, but we were rich beyond measure. We all need to take time to reflect on our blessings and be truly thankful to our Heavenly Father.



Gracious and merciful Father, we are truly thankful for your bounty to us and our nation. Your blessings upon us are beyond measure. May we never take them for granted but always be mindful of the things that You have provided in our lives. In Your Holy Name, Amen.

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



Williamsburg at War - Virginia's Colonial Capital in The Revolutionary War By Michael Cecere

Printed by Heritage Books, and available on-line at: <https://heritagebooks.com/>.

When one thinks of places most associated with the American Revolution, Boston and Philadelphia naturally come to mind. Both cities witnessed crucial events, from the Boston Tea Party and British occupation to the Continental Congress and Declaration of Independence. After the Revolution, both cities continued to play an important role in the development of the United States.

One other city deserves recognition alongside Boston and Philadelphia for its significance in the American Revolution and War for Independence: Williamsburg, Virginia. The capital of Virginia for most of the 18th century, Williamsburg witnessed many crucial events during the Revolution and war. From the Stamp Tax Resolves of 1765, meetings at the Raleigh Tavern in 1769 and 1774, the gunpowder incident and formation of troops in 1775, the unanimous decision of the 5th Virginia Convention to support American independence in May 1776, the steady support of the continental army throughout the war, two brief enemy occupations in 1781, and finally, as a staging area for the Siege of Yorktown in 1781, Williamsburg played a significant role in the Revolution and Revolutionary War.

Although the inhabitants of Williamsburg experienced the same challenges and hardships as those in Boston and Philadelphia, the impact of the war on Williamsburg was much different than the other cities. What happened to Williamsburg and its inhabitants during the Revolutionary War is the focus of this book. Readers will discover how Virginia's capital responded and adjusted to the war and how the city was forever changed by it. They will also discover how a wartime decision that seemingly doomed Williamsburg to obscurity and decline, planted the seeds for its future restoration and development into one of the premier historic sites in America.

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>

