



The Magazine

*Williamsburg Chapter - Virginia
Society*

Sons of the American Revolution



Vol. XLV

Number 42

Sept. 2026

President's Message

Compatriots,

As we move steadily through this remarkable 250th Anniversary year of America's Independence, I continue to be inspired by the dedication, enthusiasm, and patriotism shown by our Williamsburg Chapter. Each month brings new opportunities for service, outreach, and meaningful engagement with our community, and I am grateful for all who contribute to our mission. I'm proud to share that we have reinvigorated our Public Service Awards program, an important part of the SAR's commitment to recognizing excellence in local police, fire, and emergency services. In the coming weeks, we hope to honor a few outstanding public servants nominated by their respective chiefs. These recognitions strengthen our ties with those who safeguard our community and reflect the SAR's longstanding respect for duty, courage, and sacrifice. I'm also pleased to announce that our chapter has been approved to march in the Williamsburg Christmas Parade on the evening of December 6th. This will be a wonderful opportunity to showcase the SAR during a beloved community tradition. We'll be marching alongside members of the DAR and C.A.R., and I encourage all interested compatriots to participate. Please let Mike Doucette know if you'd like to walk with us.

Looking ahead, I'm seeking three or four volunteers to form a small ad hoc team to review our chapter website and suggest updates that will help modernize its appearance, improve usability, and evaluate whether professional website assistance may be beneficial. If you have experience in communications, design, or technology—or simply an interest in helping—please let me know. This is an important opportunity to strengthen how we present ourselves to prospective members and the broader public.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the Williamsburg Chapter and to the ideals of the Sons of the American Revolution. Your participation, leadership, and patriotism ensure that our chapter remains vibrant, visible, and firmly rooted in the legacy of the American Revolution.

In patriotism,
Ronald Adolphi, President – Williamsburg Chapter



Calendar

Happy September!

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



Saturday Sept. 19, 2026
Chapter Lunch Meeting
11:30 am Social
Fords Colony Country Club

Menu for August Chapter Meeting:

The main entree is chicken parmesan served with linguini and garlic bread. Dessert is chocolate layer cake w/ 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
September 13

The payment deadline is Tuesday
September 15

See page 7 for additional information

Chapter News



On August 8, 2026, Williamsburg Chapter President Ron Adolphi Presented an award for taking 1st place and the best overall winner of the Sons of the American Revolution's 6th and 7th grade Youth Brochure contest. Each contestant in the contest could choose from a list of topics on the Revolution and then create a brochure explaining the topic. Sloan's subject was the Bill of Rights (submitted by Bruce Laubach).

Williamsburg Chapter August Happenings



The Williamsburg Chapter SAR recognized a new Eagle Scout, Connor Shannon, of Scouting America Troop 1607 at a Court of Honor held at VFW Post 4639 in Williamsburg, VA on August 16, 2026. President Ron Adolphi and Chairman Harley Stewart presented a Certificate of Recognition and Scholarship application package of the National Society Sons of the American Revolution. Pictured, left to right, are Stewart, Shannon, and Adolphi (submitted by Harley Stewart).

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. As usual, it has a busy schedule in the weeks ahead. Here's a look at some of its upcoming events:

August 29: Color Guard Training and flintlock firing certification at Freedom Park. This 2-hour training will include flag etiquette, marching commands, uniforms, and firing practice and certification.

September 5: The 245th Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of the Capes, Virginia Beach, VA. This is a National Level event. The event starts at 11:00 am and The US Navy Band will provide musical support for the event. The US Navy will also provide a 15-gun 40mm naval gun salute. As this ceremony will be held on a military base, a DOD or government-issued identification is required for access. If you plan to attend and do not have one of the above-mentioned items, you must complete and return SECNAV 5512 to the POC.

September 6: Grave Marking for Compatriot Jean Baron de Lustrac, Norfolk, VA. This event starts at 2:00 pm. Jean Baron de Lustrac was a decorated World War I French Army officer (recipient of the Croix de Guerre and a chevalier of the Légion d'honneur), who is buried in Norfolk's Elmwood Cemetery. He was also a member of the Sons of the American Revolution (VASSAR, Norfolk Chapter)—two of his ancestors fought at Yorktown in 1781.

September 18, 19, 20: NAS Oceana Air Show. The SAR has been requested to present the Colors during the opening session each day for the three days of the air show. Among the attractions, the Blue Angels will perform.





UPCOMING EVENTS!

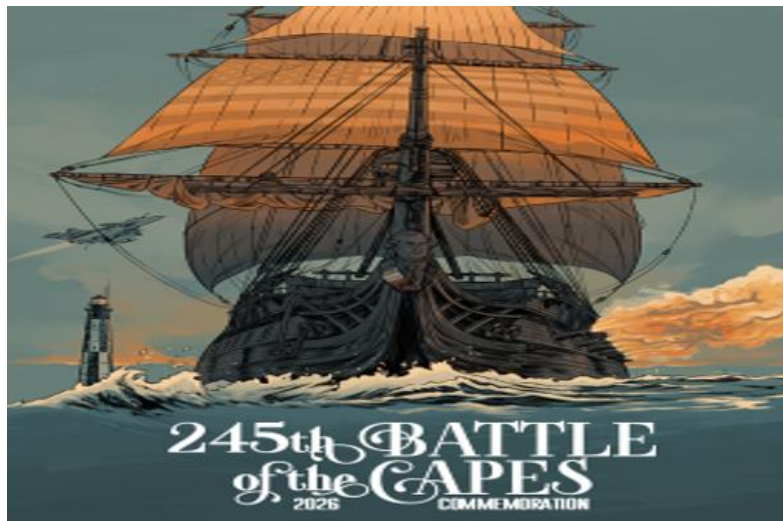
1. September 5: Battle of the Capes (Fort Story – Virginia Beach)
2. September 7: Board of Managers Meeting
3. September 11-12: VASSAR Semi-Annual Meeting (Roanoke)
4. September 19: Williamsburg Chapter Meeting

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS!



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



SAVE THE DATE



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



245th Anniversary of the Battle of the Capes
Saturday, September 5, 2026, at 11:00 AM
Fort Story – Virginia Beach, Virginia

The 245th Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of the Capes, Virginia Beach, VA. This is a National Level event. The event starts at 11:00 am and The US Navy Band will provide musical support for the event. The US Navy will also provide a 15-gun 40mm naval gun salute. As this ceremony will be held on a military base, a DOD or government-issued identification is required for access. If you plan to attend and do not have one of the above-mentioned items, you must complete and return SECNAV 5512 to the POC.





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

***Topic: History of St. John's Church –
Richmond, the Second Virginia
Convention, and a Reenactment of Patrick
Henry's Speech***

Sept. 19, 2026 Meeting Speaker: Stephen Wilson

Stephen Wilson is Executive Director at the St. John's Church Foundation, a 501©(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to preserve the legacy of Patrick Henry's "Give me liberty or give me death!" speech, and to repair and preserve the historic site, St. John's Church in Richmond, VA, where the speech was delivered in 1775.

In 2025 he was appointed by Governor Glenn Youngkin to serve on the Board of Trustees at the Frontier Culture Museum in Staunton, VA. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Richard Bland College Foundation, and the Richmond Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution (SAR). He has earned degrees from the University of Mary Washington and Richard Bland College of William and Mary, and he holds a certificate in Sustainable Urban Agriculture from Virginia State University.

Reservation for the Saturday, September 19, 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

HUZZAH! To Robert Watson; Bob has volunteered to assist with research and processing applications. Thanks Bob.

Application Fee and National Dues Waived for Eligible C.A.R. Members

Effective August 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, the NSSAR Application Fee and National Annual Dues will be waived for eligible male members of the Children of the American Revolution (C.A.R.) who apply for membership in the Sons of the American Revolution. Please let me know how I can assist you with a CAR to SAR application.

To qualify, an applicant must:

- Be an approved male member of the Children of the American Revolution

- Be 22 years of age or younger

- Be in good standing with the C.A.R. at the time his SAR application is submitted

Supplemental Applications:

Members in good standing may establish links to additional patriot ancestors by submitting supplemental applications. If you would like to submit a supplemental application, it is helpful to discuss your supporting lineage documents prior to gathering and researching them to ensure they meet current acceptable guidelines. I can also provide guidance on how to organize your documents and assist with preparing your application for review prior to submitting to the state registrar. The non-refundable cost to submit a supplemental application is \$150.00 to the National Society and \$10.00 to the chapter.

Registration Statistics since last newsletter

New Member Applications:

New requests for membership:	2
Requests waiting for additional information from potential member:	14
Applications submitted for review:	12
Total applications at National or State waiting for review:	15
Applications approved:	9

Supplemental applications:

Currently in work:	2
Total at National or State waiting for review:	13



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

A Hanging in New York City

On June 28, 1776, a public hanging took place in the Bowery, New York City, before a throng of 20,000 onlookers. Who was being hanged, and why did the event cause 20,000 citizens to turn out and witness the event? To answer this question, it is necessary to go back to March of that year. On March 11, 1776, the Continental Congress authorized the creation of the Commander-in-Chief's Guard. The Guard was created to not only protect the general himself, but also to secure the army's records and money on the battlefield. Four men from each regiment at the time were to be selected by the regimental colonels. The men were to be selected for their sobriety, honesty, and good behavior. In time, the Guard would grow to some 180 men. The Guard included one Irish-born Sergeant Thomas Hickey. Hickey had deserted from the British army and later enlisted in the Continental Army. Shortly after Washington's forces arrived in New York in anticipation of the British arrival there, rumors circulated that a British plot existed to spark an uprising among the large loyalist faction in the city. Once victorious, they were to co-ordinate with the advancing British army. The plot even included possibly kidnapping or assassinating General Washington. Sergeant Hickey, meanwhile, was imprisoned along with another soldier and charged with passing counterfeit money. During his detention, however, he revealed to a fellow prisoner that he, along with forty other citizens, including eight members of the Guard, were involved in the plot. While the implicated Guard members were interrogated and eventually court-martialed and dismissed from the army, only Hickey was charged with the greater conspiracy to commit rebellion and sedition. It was Hickey's hanging on June 28, 1776, that drew such wide attendance. It is somewhat ironic that the first American soldier to be executed in the war was a member of the Commander-in-Chief's guard.



Chaplain's Corner – By George Corbett, Chaplain

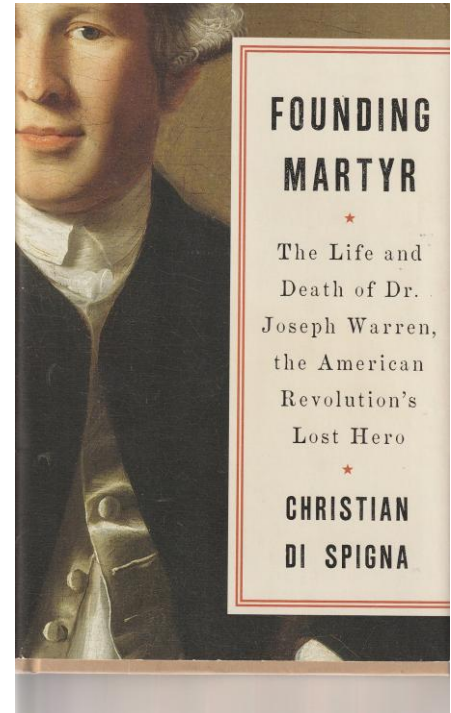
God's Palette

As we are now in the last third of this Summer and the heat lessens a bit, I see the colors start to change all around me. We go from the green grass and the various colors of the plants in full bloom to the tawny gold and brown colors of Autumn. Having grown up on a farm in South Carolina in my youth, I was always amazed at the many colors throughout the year. They would go from the buds blooming into beautiful flowers to the green leafing of the trees in Spring. The vegetable plants in the garden would take on many colors based on each plant. The yellow squash, the red tomatoes, the green stripes of the watermelons and the brown of the cantaloupes to name a few. Then there were the beautiful flowers my mother planted along the driveway to the farmhouse, that welcomed visitors. And Summer brought its own colors with the white cotton in the fields, the green leaves of tobacco plants and the green husk of corn with their whitish tassels. We humans have tried to capture this in paintings but truly the greatest painter is our Living God. He is the Master of His palette. Take a moment during your busy day to enjoy His works.



Dear God, thank you for this great nation and the liberties you have bestowed on its people. Thank you for the beautiful world around us and all that you have provided for this land. May we be ever grateful for Your blessings upon us and this nation. In Your Holy Name, Amen.

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



Founding Martyr: The Life and Death of Dr. Joseph Warren, the American Revolution's Lost Hero

by Christian Di Spigna

Date of book. Aug. 14 2018, 322 pages

A rich and illuminating biography of America's forgotten Founding Father, the patriot physician and major general who fomented rebellion and died heroically at the battle of Bunker Hill on the brink of revolution. Little has been known of one of the most important figures in early American history, Dr. Joseph Warren, an architect of the colonial rebellion, and a man who might have led the country as Washington or Jefferson did, had he not been martyred at Bunker Hill in 1775. Warren was involved in almost every major insurrectionary act in the Boston area for a decade, from the Stamp Act protests to the Boston Massacre to the Boston Tea Party, and his incendiary writings included the famous Suffolk Resolves, which helped unite the colonies against Britain and inspired the Declaration of Independence. Yet after his death, his life and legend faded, leaving his contemporaries to rise to fame in his place and obscuring his essential role in bringing America to independence.

Christian Di Spigna's definitive new biography of Warren is a loving work of historical excavation, the product of two decades of research and scores of newly unearthed primary-source documents that have given us this forgotten Founding Father anew. Following Warren from his farming childhood and years at Harvard through his professional success and political radicalization to his role in sparking the rebellion, Di Spigna's thoughtful, judicious retelling not only restores Warren to his rightful place in the pantheon of Revolutionary greats, it deepens our understanding of the nation's dramatic beginnings. Christian Di Spigna is a writer based in New York City and Williamsburg, Virginia. A regular speaker at our chapter luncheons and volunteer at Colonial Williamsburg. Di Spigna is an expert on the history of the era and educates a wide array of audiences.

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>

