



# The Magazine

Williamsburg Chapter Virginia Society  
Sons of the American Revolution



*By signing the Declaration of Independence,  
the fifty-six Americans pledged their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor. Nine died of wounds during the  
Revolutionary War. Five were captured or imprisoned. Wives and children were jailed, mistreated, or left penniless.  
Twelve signers' houses were burned to the ground. No signer defected. Their honor, like their nation remained intact.*

Vol. XXVII

Number 1

JANUARY 2022

## President's Message

As my term as Chapter President ends, I would like to thank you for your support and encouragement over the last two years. It has been an honor to serve the Williamsburg Chapter. In particular, I want to thank the retiring Board members, Bill Greaf, Harley Stewart, Steve McGuffin, Milt Holt, Duncan McIver and Jim Hess (again) for their hard work in support of this chapter and the SAR goals.

Some highlights from 2021 include another excellent response to our Brochure Contest with 75 Walsingham middle school students participating. Thanks go to retiring chapter Youth Programs chairman Paul Huchko. Our chapter winner, Gabriella M. Digges, won the VASSAR Brochure Contest; our second state winner in the last 3 years. We continue to recognize Eagle Scouts (19) and, for the first time, we have an applicant from the chapter for the Eagle Scout Scholarship as discussed later in this newsletter. Opportunities exist to expand the Youth Programs to include participation in the Poster Contest and Patriot Chest sub programs.

We have an excellent Flag Recognition and Retirement program, chaired by George Corbett. We expect to move from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> in the VASSAR rankings with 20+ flag recognitions this year.

We continued our commemorations (in-person again) of Memorial Day, the Battle of Spencer's Ordinary, July 4 (36<sup>th</sup> annual), the Battle of Green Spring and Veterans Day. In fact, our Veterans Day program, in conjunction with Colonial Williamsburg, was attended by 250-300 people. We recognized Patrick Henry's election as the 1<sup>st</sup> Governor of Virginia with a ceremony supported by VASSAR and many SAR chapters. Bill Greaf (VASSAR 3<sup>rd</sup> VP, soon to be 2<sup>nd</sup> VP) organized the Benjamin Harrison V Grave Marking, our first in many years. Finally, we were even able to hold 7 in-person luncheon meetings with excellent speakers in support of chapter fellowship and education.

I look forward to working with our new Chapter President Bruce Laubach and new Board members John Lynch II, Gerry Ward, Gary Dunaway, Robert Davis III, and Eric Ely. Finally, I wish you a happy and healthy New Year and am looking forward to my new role as past president in 2022.

Roger W Cross, III



# Calendar

**Monday Jan 3, 2022**

10:00 am BOM meeting  
by ZOOM

**Saturday January 8, 2022**

5:30 pm Social

6:00 pm Joint Dinner meeting  
with Thomas Nelson, Jr Chapter  
and VASSAR

Installation of Officers  
Fords Colony Country Club  
240 Fords Colony Dr. Williamsburg

**Sunday January 16, 2022**

Battle of Cowpens Commemoration  
1-5 pm Cowpens National Battlefield  
4001 Chesnee Highway  
Gaffney SC

(Check link if attending)

<https://gasocietysar.org/event/241st-battle-of-cowpens-commemoration-national-society-sar-event/>

**Saturday January 22, 2022**

Peter Muhlenberg Commemoration  
5 pm Woodstock VA  
North Main Street (U.S. 11) and East  
Court Street

**February 11 - 12**

VASSAR Annual Meeting  
Richmond, VA

## Chapter News



Our chapter participants at Great Bridge on Dec 4, 2021.



SONS OF THE AMERICAN  
REVOLUTION FOUNDATION

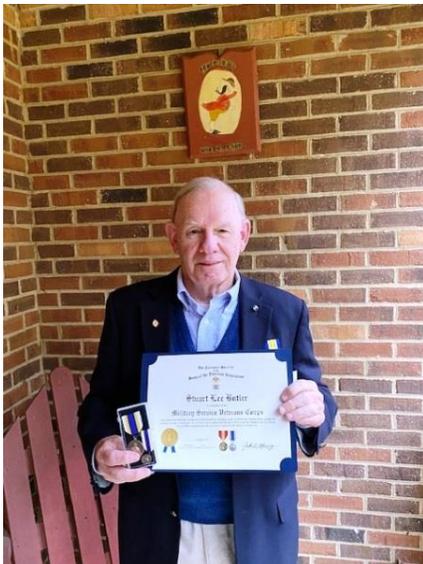
Patriotic. Historical. Educational.

*Merry Christmas! Happy  
Hanukkah! And may all SAR  
Compatriots and their families  
have a prosperous and Happy  
New Year!*

# CHAPTER AWARDS



A NSSAR Bronze Good Citizenship Medal was awarded to Robert Currie on December 10 in a ceremony at the Capital in Colonial Williamsburg. Currie is the director of entertainment, special events, and evening programs for CW. The award was made in thanks for, and recognition of, his support for Williamsburg Chapter events at CW over the years. After reading the citation, President Roger Cross presented the medal and certificate to Currie. Pictured, L to R, are Vice President Steve McGuffin, Robert Currie, Roger Cross, and Past President Tom Campbell, who was in charge of Chapter events at CW over many years.



Pres. Roger Cross III presented Compatriot Stuart Butler the Military Service Veterans Corps Medal and Certificate.



The SAR Military Service Medal, authorized in 2006, is for members who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States

NSSAR Certificates of Recognition and SAR Scholarship Applications were presented by Chairman Harley Stewart to four Eagle Scouts of Troop 20 at an Eagle Court of Honor at Life Church on Dec. 4.



L to R are Harley Stewart, Alli King, Grace McGonagle, Kirsten Smith, and Skyler Smith.

Troop 20 is an all-girl BSA troop of 32 scouts and is sponsored by King of Glory Lutheran Church. It seems well staffed with Asst. SM's and supported by volunteers. The girl scouts were very enthusiastic and high-spirited with long, vigorous applause with sound after each scout's statements. Scout Master Eric Smith claimed he can tell his twins apart and I detected a very slight difference in their hair color – can you? Smith is also scoutmaster of all-boy Troop 300 – also sponsored by King of Glory Lutheran Church.

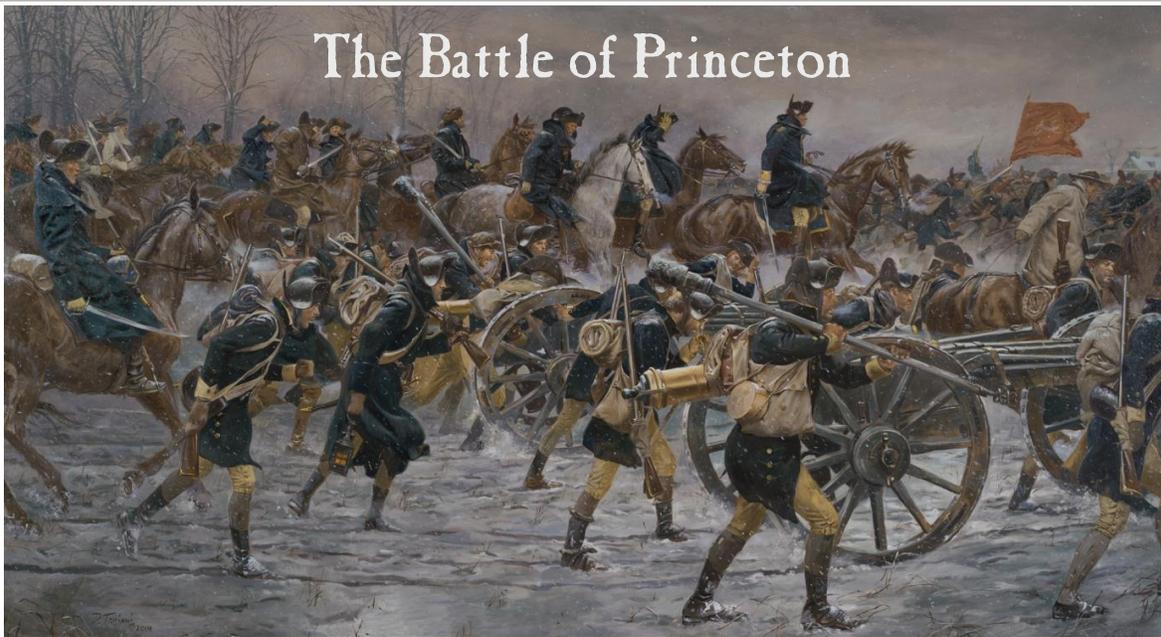
An application for an SAR Scholarship has been submitted to the Eagle Chairman of the Virginia Society. It is very probably the first such submission by our chapter and puts us in a select group of state chapters. In the year 2020 only eight of the 28 Virginia chapters made submissions.

This is the result of a five-year effort to expand our Eagle Scout activities. It began with widening Eagle recognitions from only Troop 103 to all of the eight troops in the Colonial District. A chairmanship was created and Heath Richardson, an assistant scoutmaster, was appointed. Beginning his first term as president, Roger Cross wished to expand activities further by offering scholarship applications as part of Eagle recognitions. Shortly thereafter, the Covid-19 pandemic curtailed the program. Scouts continued to attain Eagle rank, but few, if any, were being recognized. Richardson resigned his position and Harley Stewart was appointed Chair of Eagle Scout Recognitions and Scholarships. Stewart and Cross prepared a scholarship-application packet, which has been sent to the troops and presented at Eagle Recognition ceremonies.

During the year 2021, ten presentations were made to Troop 103 and four to Troop 20. One of the Troop 20 Eagles elected to try for an SAR scholarship – filling out an application form, writing an essay, and constructing a four-generation family tree. Adding to this achievement is the fact that Troop 20 is an all-girl BSA troop. The chapter will make a cash award, VASSAR will make cash awards to the top three chapter entries and submit its winner to NSSAR, who will make cash awards to the top three state entries.

You may support our efforts in this important part of our chapter Youth Program by encouraging any aspiring or newly-ranked Eagle Scout descendants of relatives, neighbors, or friends in our locale to participate in the SAR scholarship program. That participation can be secured by you by informing chairman Stewart or any chapter officer.

## The Battle of Princeton



The Battle of Princeton was a battle of the American Revolutionary War, fought near Princeton, New Jersey on January 3, 1777, and ending in a small victory for the Colonials. General Lord Cornwallis had left 1,400 British troops under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Charles Mawhood in Princeton. Following a surprise attack at Trenton early in the morning of December 26, 1776, General George Washington of the Continental Army decided to attack the British in New Jersey before entering the winter quarters. On December 30, he crossed the Delaware River back into New Jersey. His troops followed on January 3, 1777. Washington advanced to Princeton by a back road, where he pushed back a smaller British force but had to retreat before Cornwallis arrived with reinforcements. The battles of Trenton and Princeton were a boost to the morale of the patriot cause, leading many recruits to join the Continental Army in the spring.

**A good source of research for those interested in gathering more “items of interest” about your ancestors.**

***"Remember when you were researching your ancestry to identify a patriot in your line? If you have some spare time and an interest in genealogy, you can help ease that process for future compatriots. Does that interest you? Volunteer to assist in transcribing membership applications into the SAR Patriot Research System (PRS) database!***

***You can spend as much or little time on it as you want but, if you serve 40 hours, you will earn the Lafayette Volunteer Service Award. I started volunteering in July, and have entered 100% of the applications for our chapter. I'm currently working on adding/updating records for Yorktown siege participants.***

***Feel free to contact me if you have any questions."***

**Gary Dunaway**

**[ormazd72@gmail.com](mailto:ormazd72@gmail.com)**

# Registrar's Corner

2021 was a good year for new members, as we had 11 applications approved. Also, three supplemental and one memorial application were approved. Thanks go out to Ron Losee for his initial work on applications and to those who recommended prospects for membership. We currently have seven new member and five supplemental applications in progress and 14 new member prospects. There is one new member and five supplemental applications in Louisville waiting approval. If you know of a new member prospect please give me his contact information.

**Hunt Berryman Registrar**

**Email:**

**[huntberryman@aol.com](mailto:huntberryman@aol.com)**



## Williamsburg Chapter 2022 Elected Board of Managers

President	Bruce Laubach
Vice-President	John Lynch II
Secretary	Gerry Ward
Treasurer	Gary Dunaway
Registrar	Hunt Berryman
Public Relations	Robert Davis III
Newsletter Editor & Webmaster	David Westenberger
Chaplain	Jim Morford
Sergeant-At-Arms	Steve Holm
Historian	Steve Perger
Member-At-Large	Gerald Sailors
Member-At-Large	Eric Ely
Immediate Past President	Roger Cross



# Flag recognition



In the fall of 1775, as the first ships of the Continental Navy readied in the Delaware River, Commodore Esek Hopkins issued a set of fleet signals. Among these signals was an instruction directing his vessels to fly a striped Jack and Ensign at their proper places. The custom of the jack-type flag had originated with the Royal Navy in the 15th century or earlier; such was the likely source of Hopkins' inspiration. This first U.S. Navy Jack has traditionally been shown as consisting of 13 horizontal alternating red and white stripes with a superimposed rattlesnake and the motto "Don't Tread on Me."

## First Navy Jack

The rattlesnake had long been a symbol of resistance to British repressive acts in Colonial America; its display on the new jack of the fledging Continental Navy fit naturally with the fervor of the times. Although the date of introduction of the Union Jack is not precisely known, a 1785 engraving of the frigate USS Philadelphia clearly depicts the Union Jack flying from her Jackstaff. Additionally it is flown to indicate a court martial is in progress, and as the President's and Secretary of the Navy's personal flag.

**On May 22, 2002, the U.S. Navy ordered all ships to display the First Navy Jack during the War on Terrorism.**



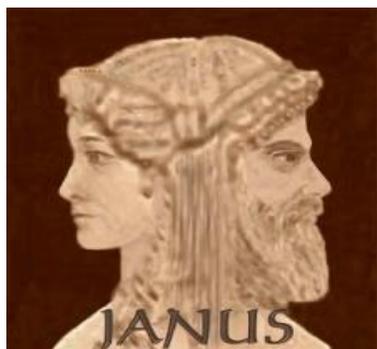
The Williamsburg chapter, VASSAR, presented a NSSAR Flag Recognition Certificate to Eastern State Hospital on 15 July 2021. The hospital proudly displays the flag of our nation and maintains it. Pictured (L to R) is George Corbett, chapter flag recognition committee chairman, Mr. David Pratt (In the background), Director of the hospital Building and Grounds Department and Dr. Dewey Jennings, Assistant Director of Administration for Eastern State Hospital.



Photo by Karen Corbett

## From the Chaplain

Jim Morford



Somewhere along the way during our school years we learned of the Roman God Janus who represented beginnings and transitions. He was usually depicted as a two-faced god (*Janus Bifrons*) since he looks to the future and the past. For the Romans he presided over entries and departures, indeed all transitions. He inaugurated the seasons. The first day of each month was considered sacred to him, and, of course, the first month of the year was especially so.

As December draws to a close, we reflect on things done and things left undone. When we turn the calendar page to January, we tend to away from the past. We do so at our peril for as Patrick Henry said, "I have but one lamp by which my feet are guided, and that is the lamp of experience." As SAR it is our obligation to protect and preserve the precious cause of liberty and pass that tradition on to future generations. In a sense Janus represents what we stand for as SAR members serving to honor our past and to forward its values to the next generation.

We greet the New Year with hope, with expectation, and with a sense of responsibility. Every New Year brings with it the opportunity to right old wrongs and win new victories. May 2022 be a year of success and fulfillment for each of us.

### *A prayer on entering a new year:*

Our Heavenly Father, thank you for helping us to make it through a difficult year. Thank you that you have carried us through the uncertainty of deep waters, through the flames of trials, and through the pain of losses. We are constantly aware of how much we need you, your grace, your strength, and your power to sustain us through even the toughest of days.

O Eternal God, through whose mighty power our fathers won their liberties of old: We thank thee for all thy servants who have laid down their lives to defend thy gift of freedom. Grant, we beseech thee, that we, and all the people of this land may be ready to follow their examples of courage and loyalty. Grant us the strength to maintain our liberties in righteousness and peace.

Lord, we ask for your wisdom, for your strength and power to be constantly present within us. We pray you would make us strong and courageous for the road ahead. Give us ability beyond what we feel able. Let your gifts flow freely through us.

Thank you for new beginnings. What an incredible moment this is with a fresh year's potential stretched out before us. May we be found faithful this year in every opportunity you bring to us. AMEN





# *In Memoriam*

*Chapter Compatriots we have recently lost*



**RICHLAND**—Lt. Col. Frederick M. “Rob” Robinson, 77, of Richland Center WI, died at his home in Richland Center, on Tuesday November 16, 2021. Fred was born February 2, 1944, in Philadelphia, PA to Joseph Robinson and Marion Robinson (nee Morrell). He was raised in Staten Island, NY. Fred graduated with a BA in History from Wagner College in 1965, where he was a member of the Theta Chi Fraternity and completed his MBA at the University of Wyoming in 1976.

Fred married Jane Robinson on June 28, 1969, in Bristol, CT. After Jane passed in 2010, Fred was fortunate and blessed again to find love, companionship, and joy in his second marriage to Sandra Clark on December 28, 2013.

He was a Vietnam veteran who won a Distinguished Flying Cross, a Bronze Star, two Purple Hearts, an Air Medal, and numerous other accolades for his valor and humanitarian relief efforts. Fred was an Air Force officer from 1966 to 1992 (active and reserve) and Civil Service member in support of the Air Force Reserve for over 30 years in multiple cities in Panama and across the United States while serving in Special Operations, Strategic Air Command, Tactical Airlift Command, Search & Rescue, Disaster Readiness, and Emergency Management.

He enjoyed history, especially military history, model railroading, and held a love for the outdoors. Fred was an Eagle Scout and a proud lifelong supporter of Scouting. He also enjoyed reading and traveling. Fred was a member of the Freemasons, becoming Master three times within his Lodge, and the High Priest of Sheboygan Lodge RAM. He was active also in the Shriners, and a former President of the Milwaukee Chapter of the National Sojourners.

He was also a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, Brotherhood of St. Andrew, the American Legion, and was very active in his church, St. Barnabas Episcopal filling many leadership roles within the parish.

Fred is survived by his wife Sandra; his two sons: Christopher (Kelly) of Cross Plains, Frederick (Britt) of Portland, OR, five grandchildren: Elizabeth, Jacob, Bria, Hazel and Anders, his sister Rosemary (Richard) Hough, and many nieces and nephews.

*Those we lose continue on in our hearts and memories.*

# Williamsburg 2022 Chapter Officers



<b>President</b>	Bruce Laubach
<b>Vice-President</b>	John Lynch II
<b>Secretary</b>	Gerry Ward
<b>Treasurer</b>	Gary Dunaway
<b>Registrar</b>	Hunt Berryman
<b>Public Relations</b>	Robert Davis III
<b>Newsletter &amp; WEB</b>	Dave Westenberger
<b>Chaplain</b>	Jim Morford
<b>Sergeant-at-Arms</b>	Steve Holm
<b>Historian</b>	Steve Perger Jr.
<b>At-Large</b>	Gerald Sailors
<b>At-Large</b>	Eric Ely
<b>Past President</b>	Roger Cross
<b>Color Guard</b>	Bill Greaif

[vabellring@msn.com](mailto:vabellring@msn.com)  
[cslasoz@aol.com](mailto:cslasoz@aol.com)  
[Gerry-Ward@outlook.com](mailto:Gerry-Ward@outlook.com)  
[ormazd72@gmail.com](mailto:ormazd72@gmail.com)  
[huntberryman@aol.com](mailto:huntberryman@aol.com)  
[macnider@cox.net](mailto:macnider@cox.net)  
[pal744@cox.net](mailto:pal744@cox.net)  
[Morfordjc@gmail.com](mailto:Morfordjc@gmail.com)



The annual Williamsburg and Thomas Nelson, Jr. Chapters SAR joint dinner meeting will be held on Saturday, January 8, 2022 at 6 PM. The social time starts at 5:30 PM. Note that the location is the Banquet Room of the Fords Colony Country Club, 240 Fords Colony Dr., Williamsburg, VA, 23188. The program includes the induction of officers for both chapters and remarks by the Virginia Society SAR President Jeff Thomas.

The cost of the meal is \$30/person.

With all the holiday activities and increased demand on the postal system, **please RSVP and send in your check soon, but no later than Friday, December 30, 2021.**

## Reservation for the Saturday, January 8<sup>TH</sup> 2022 Joint Dinner & Officer Induction Meeting

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ regular meals at \$30.00

Special need \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to  
"Williamsburg Chapter SAR"

Mail to:

**James Hess – Chapter Treasurer**  
**2509 Nathaniell Powell Road**  
**Williamsburg, VA 23185**  
**(757) 870-2569**  
**jimhess42@gmail.com**

