



Col. William Grayson Chapter *Sons of the American Revolution* —Newsletter—



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COL. WILLIAM GRAYSON CHAPTER INDUCTS 200TH MEMBER

Leamon D. Duncan Jr. of Dale City is the 200th member of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter, Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution. His application was approved 31 July, and he was officially sworn in by Chapter President Mike Taimi at the 14 October chapter meeting.

Mr. Duncan is a descendant of Patriot Gerard Green who served as a Private in the Virginia Militia. Patriot Green served on the Western Frontier protecting the colonists from the British and Indians and was at the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown.

Mr. Duncan is a retired U.S. Army Master Sergeant who now works as a Senior Operations Officer at Headquarters Army Staff in the Pentagon. He is married to his high school sweetheart, has three adult children and six grandchildren, four girls and two boys. Mr. Duncan says the highlight of his Army career was serving with his son, Jeremy, in Iraq.



President's Message

On October 14, Colonel William Grayson chapter compatriots joined a strong contingent of SAR, DAR and C.A.R. compatriots to help celebrate the 236th anniversary of our ancestors' victory at Yorktown. The morning began with the presentation of wreaths at the tomb of General Thomas Nelson, Jr. followed by a parade including military units, high school bands, re-enactors and patriotic organizations that marched with pomp and circumstance down Yorktown's Main Street lined with spectators.

In the afternoon, I visited the newly opened American Revolution Museum at Yorktown. The state-of-the-art exhibits demonstrate how and why, in 1781, British forces in Yorktown under General Charles Cornwallis requested a cease-fire and then surrendered more than 8,000 soldiers and sailors to the combined American and French armies commanded by General George Washington. The surrender, the last significant military action of the American Revolution effectively secured independence for the American colonies. Shortly after that, the King of England signed the Treaty of Paris where he acknowledged the United States, to be free, sovereign and independent states.

For me, this was the highlight of my summer. I had not previously participated in the Yorktown Victory celebration but now know the importance of this event and intend to be back again and again.

For additional details on Yorktown Day, please see the write-up later in this newsletter.



The American Revolution Museum at Yorktown.

T. Michael Taimi

Vice President's Report

Since our last meeting on 10 June, the chapter produced Newsletters bringing us up to date through the end of July. I invite every member to read the newsletters to get a full view of a large number of events your chapter attended or led. The newsletters are at our website <http://colonelwilliamgrayson.virginia-sar.org>. My personal thanks to our members who went to the events — some in Revolutionary War uniforms, took pictures, wrote stories and reported their activity. Special thanks to Barrett Swink, our Newsletter and Media editor, for his work in organizing, proofreading and assembling the newsletters.

August saw a welcome break in the fast-paced action, but we still had several reportable events. If an activity appeared in our last Newsletter, it is not included in this report.

7 July: 127th NSSAR National Congress Knoxville, KY: CWG attendees were Mike Taimi, Bill Broadus, and Paul Chase. Mike (in Continental Sailor uniform) and Paul (in Continental Army uniform) participated in the Color Guard.

11-13 Aug.: SAR Atlantic Middle States Conference: The annual Conference of SAR Societies from Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and Washington DC, hosted by the Pennsylvania Society, met at Gettysburg. CWG Attendees were: Ken Morris, Mike Weyler, and Paul Chase. Plus dual members Mike Elston and Joe Dooley. Paul Chase participated in the Color Guard in Continental uniform.

Mid-August: Our own Paul Chase became a published author. His book is titled *The Revolutionary War: A Compendium of Terms and Topics*. To purchase a copy, contact Paul directly, or order from Amazon or Barnes & Noble. Interest throughout the SAR community is very high.

Sept.: Chapter member Sean Schwoerer had an article published in the September issue of the Willowsford (Aldie, VA) Community magazine, *Front Porch Living*, titled “Young Willowsford Community Residents Re-Enact Their Patriot Ancestry.” The article described how Sean’s son, Jacob and his niece, Arianna Schwoerer, participated in various historical and patriot events for C.A.R and SAR.

Sept.: Additional Recognition for Colonel William Grayson. In January 2017 the CWG Chapter determined that recognition of Colonel William Grayson throughout Prince William County, VA, and all of Virginia was lacking. The first step in correcting the issue was the March celebration of Colonel Grayson’s life on the anniversary of his death at his tomb in Woodbridge, VA. An annual celebration of the life of Grayson will now occur. We were fortunate in getting newspaper coverage for the event in March and will make every effort to gain additional media coverage for events recognizing Grayson.

Coordination with the Colonel William Grayson Society of Children of the American Revolution (C.A.R.) resulted in their plan to place a C.A.R. grave marker on the graves of Spence and William Grayson late in 2017 or early 2018 depending on availability of the marker. Our Chapter will be asked to participate in the marking ceremony.

CWG Chapter met with Prince William County Supervisors Ruth Anderson, Marty Nohe, and Pete Candland (CWG Chapter member). A meeting was also held with Virginia Delegate (CWG Chapter member) Richard Anderson to discuss additional recognition. As a result of these efforts we can report progress as follows:

- Naming a fire/police/EMT station is feasible.
- The naming of a school for William Grayson will require coordination with the Prince William County School Board and will be championed by Supervisor Ruth Anderson.
- Issuance of a Proclamation declaring a selected day for all of Prince William County “William Grayson Day” will be proposed this Fall to the County Board of Supervisors. Supervisor Pete Candland was presented with a Draft Proclamation with a request that he introduces the Proclamation to the Board of Supervisors.
- Naming a Bridge, or overpass for William Grayson will be proposed once the CWG Chapter identifies suitable unnamed bridge. We ask that members keep their eyes open for bridges without names and report same to Vice President Barry Schwoerer.
- Coordination is underway to introduce a Commonwealth of Virginia Joint House/Senate Proclamation Celebrating the life of William Grayson. Drafting of the proclamation is underway. Our goal is to have the proclamation renewed annually.

15-16 Sept.: A few months before the VASSAR Semi-annual meeting in Newport News, VA the CWG Chapter proposed that VASSAR sponsor and execute an annual celebration of life and contributions of Patrick Henry at his burial location at Redhill Plantation, Brookneal, VA. Following the semi-annual meeting, the CWG Chapter accepted the job of preparing a preliminary plan for a VASSAR commemoration in 2018 and subsequent years. Although Patrick Henry appears on the VASSAR logo along with Thomas Jefferson and George Washington, an annual tribute to him had not been planned or executed. It seems that Patrick Henry will now get the yearly recognition he deserves.

Barry Schwoerer

Upcoming Events

18 Nov., 11 a.m.: CWG Chapter meeting at the Brass Cannon Restaurant at the Stonewall Golf Club, Gainesville, Virginia. Registration and meet and greet starts at 10:30 A.M. and the meeting will be called to order at 11:00 A.M. Lunch is \$20 (cash or check). Meeting details will be sent via email by Chapter Secretary Ken Morris about two weeks before the meeting.

30 November: 2018 annual dues are due to CWG Chapter Treasurer, Jeff Windland.

Chapter Activities

16 Aug.: CWG Chapter presented a SAR Medal of Appreciation to DAR Member Carolyn (Covey) Morris for her efforts bringing new members to the Chapter. Carolyn is the daughter of Robert Covey who died late last year and was buried with full military honors and a SAR Burial Ritual at Arlington National Cemetery in May 2017.

30 Aug.: Chapter Sponsors Military Service Member at Serve Our Willing Warrior Gala. The Colonel William Grayson Chapter of the Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution presented a \$350 check to Serve Our Willing Warriors (SOWW) to sponsor a Warrior and his or her date at the organization's 2nd Annual Gala fundraiser at the MGM National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Maryland, on 04 November 2017. The Chapter has supported SOWW since 2015.



Dave Button (L) Presents Check to
SOWW Executive Director Jeffrey K. Sapp

(SOWW is a privately funded 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. It provides encouragement and non-medical programs that positively affect the well-being, recuperation, and lives of military service members (Warriors) who are wounded, ill, injured, recovering, or recovered from service-related injuries.

SOWW's partners include Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Fort Belvoir Community Hospital, and Veteran Support Groups. Its programs center on honoring and helping Warriors. They include hospital visits, summer BBQs, Thanksgiving dinners, Christmas gift-giving, and annual fundraisers. SOWW's signature program is the Warrior Retreat at Bull Run.

An 11,000-square foot ADA accessible home on 37-acres, the Retreat offers Warriors six-day respite stays during which they, their families, and their caregivers can temporarily escape hospital settings and day-to-day demands to relax, rejuvenate, and reconnect with each other and support networks. It hosts only one family at a time and Warriors incur no cost.

The Chapter's Veterans Affairs Coordinator, David Button, presented the check to SOWW's Executive Director, Jeffrey Kendall Sapp. Also present were Barry Schwoerer, Chapter Vice President, and Mark Almquist, who serves as the Chapter's Coordinator for SOWW and also volunteers as a handyman at the Retreat.

9 Sept: CWGC President Mike Taimi, in Continental Sailor uniform, and Paul Chase, in Continental Army uniform, participated in the presentation of a wreath by NSSAR President Guzy at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. For full story and photographs go to <http://www.virginiasar.org/latest-news/archives/09-2017>.

11 Sept: Paul Chase participated in Continental Uniform with the Culpeper Minutemen Chapter in a commemoration of American's lost in the 9/11 attacks. Ceremonies took place at the Culpeper WWII/Korean Memorial, Culpeper Court House, Culpeper Fire Department and Main Street Culpeper. An article, with pictures, can be found at Virginia Dispatch <http://www.virginiasar.org/latest-news/archives/09-2017>.

24 Sept.: CWG Chapter presents Flag to the Elizabeth McIntosh Hammill Chapter of DAR. The Chapter and the Elizabeth McIntosh Hammill (EMH) Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) have partnered to participate in Patriotic events throughout Virginia this year. To allow the EMH Chapter to participate without borrowing a DAR flag, the CWG Chapter of SAR purchased a new DAR flag and presented it to the EMH Chapter at their September Chapter meeting.

So far this year the CWG and EMH Chapters have joined forces to recognize many patriots and events. These include Patrick Henry at his tomb at Redhill Plantation, Brookneal, VA; the placement of a Patriot of the American Revolution Marker on the grave of Patriot James Campbell in Alexandria, VA; and the celebration of the 243rd anniversary of the Fairfax Resolves at the Historic Fairfax Court House. Both Chapters will participate in the Yorktown Victory day celebration at Yorktown 19 October. The CWG Chapter will support DAR for the Commemoration of WW 1 at the Historic Prince William County Courthouse in Manassas on Veterans Day 2017, and the EMH Chapter will march with CWG Chapter in the Greater Manassas Veterans Day Parade on 4 November.



EMH Regent Melyssa Stratton-Webb receives flag from CWGC V.P. Barry Schwoerer.

6 Oct.: Chapter Presented Flag Certificate to Manassas Museum. The Colonel William Grayson Chapter presented a SAR United States Flag Certificate to representatives from the City of Manassas and the Manassas Museum. The Certificate recognized the Manassas Museum for properly displaying the Flag of the United States. To receive the certificate one must light the flag at night and meet other criteria.

CWG Chapter presented the Certificate following the opening ceremony of an Exhibition titled “The Forgotten World War.” A joint effort between the Manassas Museum and the Prince William County Historic Preservation Division, the exhibit commemorates the 100th anniversary of World War I, the “War to End all Wars” and commemorates 29 young men from the Manassas area who died in service to their country on the battlefields of Europe.

Presenting the certificate was CWG Chapter Flag Certificate Chairman David Button. Accepting the award were: Liz Via-Grossman, Manassas City Development Office, Mary Helen Dellinger Curator of the Manassas Museum, and Kisha Wilson-Sogunro Manager Manassas Parks, Recreation and Culture.



L-R: Mary Helen Dellinger, Liz Via-Grossman, Kisha Wilson-Sogunro, and David Button.

14 Oct.: Aldie Resident awarded Flag Certificate. Chad Brockway of The Grove in the Willowsford Community in Aldie, VA was awarded the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) Flag Certificate for proper display of the Flag of the United States. Mr. Brockway displays his flag 24 hours a day, seven days a week and ensures that the flag is lighted at night. Dave Button of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter presented the Certificate.

A true Patriot, Mr. Brockway served in the United States Marine Corps assigned to Marine One Helicopter Squadron and the White House Liaison Office supporting the President of the United States. In his civilian career, Mr. Brockway is a Counterintelligence, intelligence, counter-terrorism, and cyber operations expert who works for a private Cyber Operations firm in Northern Virginia.



Chad Brockway (L) receives Flag Certificate from Dave Button.

19 Oct.: Victory at Yorktown, 236th Anniversary. CWG Chapter members participated in the annual commemoration of Victory at Yorktown. President Mike Taimi, in Continental Navy Uniform, participated in Color Guard and parade. He placed a wreath at the tomb of a General Thomas Nelson; a signer of the Declaration of Independence and wartime Virginia Governor. Vice President Barry Schwoerer, in militia uniform, carried the Chapter Flag in the Color Guard and the parade. Registrar Mike Weyler and Secretary Ken Morris attended the wreath-laying ceremony at the tomb and also marched in the parade.

Virginia SAR compatriots representing 13 chapters participated in the celebration, led by President Mike Elston and seven other state officers. SAR President General Larry Guzy represented the NSSAR. Representatives of multiple DAR and C.A.R. Chapters from Virginia and other states also participated in the celebration. The variety and number of Revolutionary War uniforms and ladies period dress were colorful and educational.



28 Oct.: New Jersey SAR. Paul Chase gave a talk about his book "The American Revolution: A Compendium of Terms and Topics" to the annual meeting of New Jersey SAR. SAR members from Delaware and Maryland, as well as some DAR members, attended the meeting.

Registrar's Report

NEW MEMBERS APPROVED

APPLICANT	DATE	PATRIOT
Leamon D. Duncan Jr., Dale City, Va.	7/31/2017	Gerard Green; Private in Virginia Militia
Aiden and Eric Tamke, Gainesville, Va.	8/3/2017	Jonathan Stratton; Private in Mass. Militia
Ken Myers, Manassas, Va.	8/3/2017	Samuel Vail; Private & POW in Conn.
John & Joshua Y. Harvey, Haymarket, Va.	8/14/2017	Isaac Harvey; Patriotic Service in N.C.
Bruce Downs, Dumfries, Va.	8/25/2017	Charles Russell; Private in Maryland Militia
Aaron & Greg Carpenter, Manassas, Va.	9/15/2017	Reuben Libby; Private in N.H. Militia
Charles Blackmore, Gainesville, Va.	9/19/2017	Levi Houston; Private in Maryland Militia
Christian & Erik Powers, Leesburg, Va.	10/10/2017	Cornelius Groot; Private in N.Y. Militia
Henry & Otto Powers	10/10/2017	Cornelius Groot; Private in N.Y. Militia

NEW SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATIONS APPROVED

Paul Chase, Haymarket, Va.	9/21/2017	Thomas Hill; Sergeant in Mass. Militia
Walter DeLacy Layton, Columbia, Md.	9/28/2017	George Adam Bowersox; Sgt. in Pa. Militia
Kristopher & Robert Proctor, Sonora, Calif.	10/13/2017	Nicholas Proctor, Sr.; Soldier in Ky. Militia
Iain & Nolan Proctor, Sonora, Calif.	10/16/2017	Nicholas Proctor, Sr.; Soldier in Ky. Militia
Tyler Newman, Sonora Calif.	10/16/2017	Nicholas Proctor, Sr.; Soldier in Ky. Militia

Historical Highlight(s)

16 Sept. 1777: After Gen. Washington's defeat at Brandywine, he and the Americans needed to regroup and evaluate the situation. First, Washington moved his army away from the British and placed his troops in such a way that they could protect both Philadelphia and Reading — a vital supply city.

British General Howe, instead of following up on his victory remained encamped on the Brandywine Battlefield. Four days after the battle, Howe learned that the Americans were just 10 miles to his north and sent his army to confront them.

Washington learned of Howe's plans and readied his troops. On 16 Sept., the two armies stood on opposite sides of a valley, ready to reprise the Battle of Brandywine. Suddenly a torrential downpour burst upon them. The battle was called off due to rain and became known as the Battle of the Clouds.