



Col. William Grayson Chapter

Sons of the American Revolution

—Newsletter—



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May-July 2019

A Father-Daughter Search for a Patriot Ancestor

By Compatriot Roy Richey

When the NSSAR sponsored a trip to Scotland in May of this year, I was anxious to sign up to find more information on my fourth generation great grandfather, Robert Richie. The only facts I had been able to discover were that he was baptized on August 4th in 1752 in Tarves, Aberdeenshire, Scotland. After immigrating to America, Robert enlisted in a Scot/Irish company of riflemen in Pennsylvania and served in 1775, which the US Army recognizes as its official start.

For my daughter Kelly and I, our trip would take us to Edinburgh for four days and Glasgow for three days. There were also many side trips to visit chapels, abbeys, and castles.

The first day in Edinburgh, I was off to the National Records of Scotland to see if they could help in my search for more information about Robert. No luck since most of their records start about 1800. I went to the local genealogical society, but again no help.

I was considering if my planned side trip to Tarves, the place where Robert was baptized, would be worth the three-hour 140-mile drive. However, I did hire a limo, and off we went.

I expected to see some houses and the church (kirk) where Robert was baptized, but not much more. However, I was pleasantly surprised. There was a warm and welcoming community center which had a post office, small hotel, café where we sampled the food and coffee. The Heritage Centre was attached to the café that was once the school. We met Liz Hamilton, a volunteer with the Center. Liz opened the church where Robert was baptized for us to visit, which was a highlight of our trip.

I am still searching for information on Robert before he emigrated to the colonies, and would welcome any help.



Kelly and Roy Richey at Tarves Parish Church.

President's Report

At the 2019 NSSAR Congress in Costa Mesa, California, on Monday evening, July 8, we found out that our chapter had won the 2018-2019 President General's Cup in competition with all NSSAR chapters with 200 or more members. Ours was the last award presented at the end of a long evening, the climax of all state, chapter and individual awards, and I was taken completely by surprise when our chapter name was called, and I was asked to go forward and accept for the chapter. Not having expected any such recognition, I was a bit in awe as the roughly 400 attendees gave the PG's Cup winners a standing ovation. It was truly a humbling experience.

There were, in fact, four PG's Cups, which depended upon chapter size. Small chapters were those with memberships between 10 and 49, medium chapters with 50-99 members, large chapters with 100-199 members, and very large chapters with 200+ members. With our 233 members at the end of 2018, we were clearly in the heavy-weight class, for which all compatriots involved in recruiting deserve great credit.

The President General's Cup is presented to the Chapter in each size category that conducted the best overall programs and activities that supported and promoted the principles and goals of the Sons of the American Revolution.

This award is the result of all the efforts by many of our compatriots dedicated to giving their best efforts in carrying out of our mission, from grave markings and flag certificates, to the youth programs and Essay and Oration contests, to the JROTC awards and Eagle Scout awards, to sharing our message through our speakers bureau and marching in parades and supplying our Color Guard, to honoring public safety and first responders, and all of the other events in which we participate. The Colonel William Grayson Chapter is a winning team, and it's always great to be a part of a winning team.

For those members who have dropped their membership or resigned at the end of 2018, I would urge you to come back to a winning team. We will help with the Reinstatement process because we want you back.

For all members, the challenge to a winning team is to continue the great effort and even to expand our efforts as we grow. I would encourage those compatriots who have been less active to jump on board one of our committees and actively seek a place where you too can contribute to our chapter's continued success. Those committees are found on our website, with the contact information for each committee chairman.

CWG website: <http://colonelwilliamgrayson.virginia-sar.org/>.

There is one vital area where our committee chairmen can use help now. We need someone willing and able to focus on contacting schools, public, private, Christian, Parochial, and Home school Associations, on behalf of our youth programs. While our youth programs from elementary to middle school to high school are all active, I am looking for someone who will be dedicated to the task of establishing and maintaining contacts with as many schools in our area as possible. Hopefully, this will allow the current committee chairmen to focus on the details of their respective contests and contestants. We need to

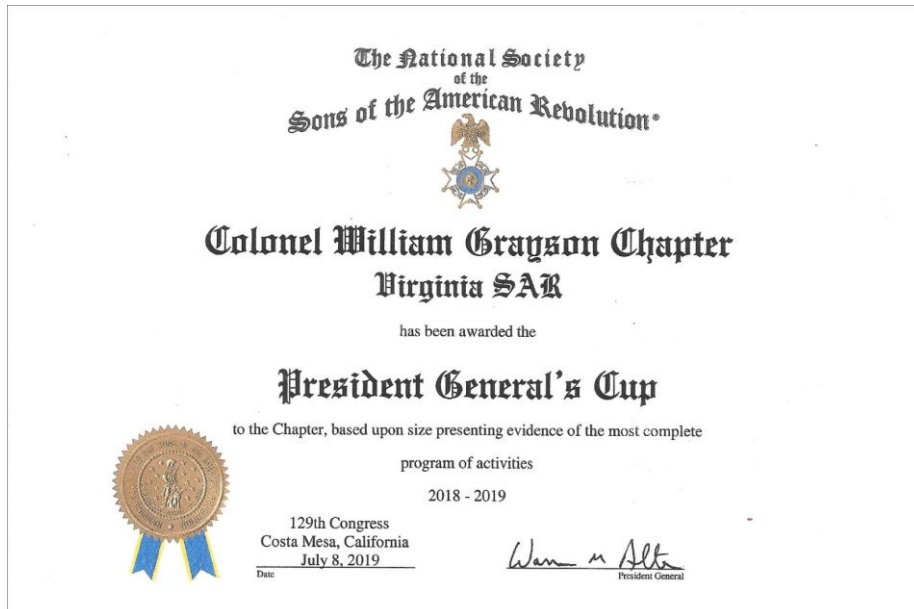
increase the number of schools willing to participate in our poster, brochure, essay, and oration contests. If you are willing to help, please get in touch with me at your earliest convenience.

It was a privilege to represent you at the 2019 Congress, and I look forward to continued service on your behalf in the days ahead.

In Patriotic Service, Michael E. Weyler



President General Warren Alter & Michael Weyler.



Upcoming Events

12 Oct: CWG Chapter Meeting, Sat., 11 a.m. (meet & greet at 10:30) in the Mountain View Card Room at Heritage Hunt Golf and Country Club, 6901 Arthur Hills Drive, Gainesville, Va. 20155. The price of lunch is \$35 per person.

9 & 10 Aug: Atlantic Middle States Association Annual Meeting, Newark, DE.

24 Aug: A Night at the Ball Park - Potomac Nationals; Sat., 5:50 p.m. at G. Richard Pfitzner Stadium, Woodbridge, VA.

13 & 14 Sep: VASSAR Semi-Annual Meeting, hosted by the George Mason Chapter, VASSAR, will be held at the Fairfax Marriott at Fair Oaks, Fairfax, VA, on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 13-14, 2019.

5 Oct: Battle of Kings Mountain Commemoration; Sat., 10 a.m. at Kings Mountain, NC.

19 Oct: Yorktown Victory Celebration; Sat., 10 a.m. at the Yorktown Monument, Yorktown, VA.

16 Nov: CWG Chapter Meeting, Sat., 11 a.m. (meet & greet at 10:30) in the Mountain View Card Room at Heritage Hunt Golf and Country Club, 6901 Arthur Hills Drive, Gainesville, Va. 20155. The price of lunch is \$35 per person.

7 Dec: Commemoration of the Battle of Great Bridge; Sat., 10 a.m. at Great Bridge Battlefield & Waterways History Foundation, Chesapeake, VA.

Notice

Leamon Duncan wishes to transfer the Quartermaster duties to another compatriot. Interested members may contact Leamon at ldduncan@outlook.com or at (571) 447-0866.

Chapter Activities

4 May: Patriot Richard Spurr Grave Marking. The Fairfax Resolves Chapter, Virginia SAR, hosted a grave marking ceremony at for Patriot Richard Spurr. CWG Compatriot Paul Chase, Virginia SAR Color Guard Commander, led the color guard.



Paul Chase; second from left.

19 May: Compatriot Dave Button presented the SAR JROTC Certificate & Medal to Cadet Nicole Saracay at Freedom High School, Woodbridge, Virginia. Cadet Saracay is a member of the Freedom High School AFJROTC. Well done Cadet!



Cadet Saracay and Dave Button.

13 June: All Saints Catholic School Manassas, Va. The Colonel William Grayson Chapter participated in the end-of-year Awards and Student Recognition program at All Saints Catholic School in Manassas, Virginia. Specifically, President Michael Weyler and Poster/Brochure Chairman Barry Schwoerer presented awards to two students. President Weyler dressed in Regimental uniform, and Barry dressed in a militia uniform.

Ivana Alakroush, of seventh grade, won the Chapter level competition of the Sergeant Moses Adams Memorial Middle School Brochure Contest. The contest required participating students construct a tri-fold brochure using a single sheet of 8½ x 11-inch paper. The brochure must be on a Patriotic Subject. For her submission, Ivana was awarded a \$50 Money Order, Certificate of Accomplishment, Good Citizenship Pin, and 1st Place Ribbon.

The NSSAR Bronze Good Citizenship Medal is awarded to a student who gives back to his community and fellow students while maintaining excellent grades.

This year, eighth-grade student Kevin Balagtas was selected by staff, teachers, and students as the 2019 winner. Kevin is involved in many areas at All Saints. He is a regular lector at the weekend mass and an alter server. He is Vice President of NJHS, a band member, member of the Robotics Club, he is on the yearbook team, and he is a member of Improv. He was the class ambassador in 5th and 7th grades. He plays tennis and swims. He attends youth events through Youth Ministry and aspires to be a youth minister in High School. He is a friend to all and highly regarded by the All Saints community of teachers, peers, and staff. On top of all, he maintains outstanding grades.



Michael Weyler with Ivana Alakroush and Kevin Balagtas.

14 June: Flag Day was a great opportunity to present our own CWG Compatriot and Grave Marking Committee Chairman, Curtis Robb, with an NSSAR Certificate of Commendation for properly displaying the American Flag, 24/7, and lighted at night. The certificate was presented by our Flag Committee Chairman, George Raymond, who was accompanied by CWG Secretary (and photographer) Dave Button.



Curtis Robb (L) and George Raymond.

29 June: Compatriot Leamon Duncan, Historian, Colonel William Grayson Chapter, Virginia Sons of the American Revolution, presented the Chapter wreath in Virginia Militia uniform, at the grave marking ceremony of Colonel James Wren, Fairfax County, Virginia, Militia; John S. Wren; and Robert Darne, War of 1812. The Fairfax Resolves Chapter, Virginia Sons of the American Revolution hosted the ceremony. Ken Morris (dual member), President of the George Mason Chapter, VASSAR also represented the Colonel William Grayson Chapter.

Col. James Wren was born in King George County, Va., in 1728. After moving to Fairfax County in 1755, he became an architect and builder. He designed The Falls Church and Pohick Church in Fairfax County, and Christ Church in Alexandria, Va. He also designed the Fairfax County Courthouse and the Haymarket, Va. Courthouse (now St. Paul's Episcopal Church).



Leamon Duncan at the Grave of James Wren.

4 July: Mount Vernon, Va.: Six CWG Compatriots attended and supported the 58th annual *March to the Tomb* at George Washington's Mount Vernon. The George Washington Chapter, VASSAR was the host chapter. It was a great day to honor George and Martha Washington.



L-R: Back row: Tim Clark, Dave Button, Don Sheehan
Front Row: David Adamy, Jacob Duncan, Leamon Duncan.

20 July: Fairfax, Va. On Saturday, July 20, 2019, the Colonel William Grayson Chapter joined with other VASSAR, DAR, and C.A.R. Chapters in the Historic Fairfax County Courthouse to celebrate the 245th anniversary of the signing of the Fairfax Resolves.

Many of the principles spelled out in the Fairfax Resolves appear in the Declaration of Independence written by Thomas Jefferson in 1776, almost two years after the signing of the Fairfax Resolves.

Citizens of Fairfax County met in Alexandria's courthouse on July 18, 1774, where they approved George Mason's Fairfax Resolves identifying American rights and resolving to defend them. George Washington was the delegate chosen to carry the Fairfax Resolves to the First Virginia Convention in Williamsburg, August 1, 1774.

A most vital portion of the Fairfax Resolves stated: Resolved that the most important part of the British Constitution is the fundamental Principle of the People's being governed by no Laws, to which they have not given their Consent. For if this Part of the Constitution was taken away, the Government must degenerate into an absolute and despotic Monarchy and the freedom of the people be annihilated.

The Virginia Convention sent their Resolves with delegates Peyton Randolph, Patrick Henry and George Washington to the First Continental Congress, which began meeting in Carpenters' Hall, Philadelphia, September 6, 1774. The Fairfax Resolves were revised and approved as the Continental Association of October 20th, 1774.

The celebration of the 245th anniversary consisted of recitations from the text of the Resolves by twelve members of the Fairfax Resolves Chapter, each representing a signer or the Resolves. If you missed this year's celebration of the signing, plan on coming to this annual event next year.



L-R: Wreath presenters: Justin Thomas, President, CWG Society, C.A.R.; Peter Davenport, VASSAR President, and George Mason Chapter member; Jay Henn, 1st Vice President, George Washington Chapter; Tim Dioquino, President, Fairfax Resolves Chapter; Michael Weyler, CWG Chapter President.; Ken Morris, President, George Mason Chapter; Madeline Herring, President, Virginia C.A.R.; Krystal Apelquist, Chaplain, Cameron Parish Chapter DAR; and Megan Iverson, Corresponding Secretary, Providence Chapter, DAR.

27 July: At a Court of Honor held at the Haymarket Gainesville Community Library, Haymarket, Va., CWG Chapter president, Michael Weyler, presented Eagle Scout Matthew J. Lorzing, Troop 1882, with a Certificate of Recognition, a SAR-Eagle Scout Partnership Patch, and an Eagle Scout Scholarship package.

Also present was the Registrar of the Elizabeth McIntosh Hammill Chapter of the DAR.



Michael Weyler and Eagle Scout Lorzing.

Registrar's Report

NEW MEMBERS APPROVED

APPLICANT	DATE	PATRIOT
Robert Beardsley, Ashburn, Va.	14 June 2019	Gideon Beardsley, ENS/LT, Captain
Christopher Blythe, Provo, Utah	14 June 2019	Abijah Savage, Cont. Line, Conn.
Devin Blythe, Fairfax, Va.	14 June 2019	Abijah Savage, Cont. Line, Conn.
Michael Blythe, Haymarket, Va.	14 June 2019	Abijah Savage, Cont. Line, Conn.
Jacobi Henderson, Woodbridge, Va.	10 May 2019	John Kisner, Private, Pa. Militia
Daniel Raymond; Memorial Member	3 May 2019	Moses Gee, Private, N.Y. Militia
Preston Wines, Stafford, Va.	14 June 2019	Matthew Cox, Soldier, Va,
Harry Whitt, California	19 July 2019	Richard Witt, Private, took Oath of Allegiance