



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



Visit us online at <<http://colonelwilliamgrayson.virginia-sar.org>>

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cwgcsar/>

Follow us on Twitter: https://twitter.com/VA_SAR_CWG

Volume 14, Issue 4

October-December 2021

We Want YOU for the Color Guard!

The Colonel William Grayson Chapter continues to perpetuate both knowledge of America's founding documents and an appreciation for the stories of patriotism, courage, sacrifice, tragedy, and triumph of the patriots who achieved the independence of the American people. These stories are universal examples of man's eternal struggle against tyranny, relevant to all time, and will continue to inspire and strengthen each succeeding generation as it too is called upon to defend our freedoms on the battlefield or in our public institutions.



What we do:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R7GxkJmXHAS>

President's Comments: Ross H. Schwalm

On Oct 19, I traveled to Cambridge OH and gave a talk to the Southeastern Ohio Civil War Round Table. There were several veterans in attendance and my talk was on my two Civil War Great Great Uncles Samuel Schwalm and Robert Bruce Thompson who both fought near each other during the Knoxville Campaign. My talk was from on site research I did on this campaign in 2013. Round trip was 700 miles and I took photos of the Civil War monument in the town square. Massive piece of art in the center of town in front of city hall.

On Oct 25, Arron Bills, Tim Cline and I presented 11 Eagle Scout certificates to Boy Scout Troop 1547, a new troop for our SAR chapter which we had not previously supported. All three of us offered comments to the Scouts and parents concerning the SAR programs and I made a particular reference to my lineage of American veterans. Mileage was 50 round trip for me in the middle of a massive thunderstorm. Grand fun and the boys were glad to get a chance to talk with us afterwards.

On Oct 31, I was a panelist for Emerging American Revolution during a Zoom discussion related to Hessians in myth and reality during the war. It was done from my front porch as I handed out candy on Halloween night. Approximately 80 folks tuned in and I answered the moderator's questions along with another expert who focused on the Legend of Sleepy Hollow as it relates to the Headless Horseman, considered by many to have been a Hessian. I was able to weave in extensive information regarding how the Declaration of Independence was wrong concerning the characterization of Hessians as mercenaries which was my talk topic to the Fairfax Resolve Chapter in September. We ran an hour as planned and it was recorded for reviewing.

On Nov 4, I bought lunch for US Marine Corps Disabled Veteran Sgt Shannon Webb as we were not sure we could be together for the Marine Corps Birthday. We work together as he is a government civil servant and I often cover for him at meetings because of his extensive medical absences. He is a Covid long hauler and additionally has several shoulder and hearing issues related to his time in the Corps as a communications Marine. Covid is causing all sorts of nerve issues in his hands and the VA is planning repair surgery to put his carpal nerve bundle back in place. Besides our government business relationships, we have become close confidants on many issues of a personal nature. He covers for me when I have to escape for my many non-profit duties. He even volunteered to take me for my own medical procedure today if my wife could not do it. He and I worked closely with a veteran colleague who committed suicide. Neither of us saw it coming. This January will be 2 years since this loss. We talk about it often.

On Nov 7, I attended a Testimonial Dinner for Michael Paquette, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War National Commander in Chief. I am serving as one of his Aides-de-Camp for 2021 – 2022. He is a retired Marine Corps Staff Non Commissioned Officer and was in the Pentagon when it was attacked on 9/11. I bought him and his wife all of their drinks at the dinner approximately \$30 and drove 54 miles to the Fredericksburg restaurant for the event. I offered comments to the attendees about our relationship with him as he was the one who recruited me into the Sons in 2014. I gave him a National Geographic poster of the path of two regiments, one Confederate and one Union, that fought at Chancellorsville and then made the trek to Gettysburg and back to Virginia in 1863. It was this post hung near my office cube that prompted him to ask me about my Civil War ancestors.

On December 12, Compatriots Mark Day and Ross H. Schwalm attended a wreath laying ceremony at City Dock Park in Fredericksburg, VA. The famed Union Army Irish Brigade is remembered at this event for its actions during the Battle of Fredericksburg where the brigade suffered 45% casualties. Wreaths were presented at the Irish Brigade Monument by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War National Commander in Chief Michael Paquette, by SUVCW Irish Brigade Camp #4 Camp Commander Timothy Willging and Senior Vice Camp Commander Ross H. Schwalm and by 28th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment Reenactors. Taps was sounded at the conclusion of the ceremony which was attended by 35 people.

Upcoming Events

January 8, 2022: 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. Installation of Officers for 2022 will take place at this meeting.

January 15, 2022: 241st Anniversary of the Battle of Cowpens time TBD, Cowpens National Battlefield, 4001 Chesnee Hwy, Gaffney, SC.

January 22, 2022: Peter Muhlenburg's "Time for War" Sermon, 1:00pm, Woodstock, VA. A State Level Event.

February 5, 2022: Memorial Service for Billy Lee, Gen'l Washington's Valet, 3:30pm, Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon, VA.

February 11-12, 2022: Virginia SAR Annual Meeting, Omni Hotel, Richmond, VA.

February 18, 2022: 241st Anniversary of the Crossing of the Banister River at King's Bridge, 5:00pm, 1092 Bethel Rd, Halifax, VA.

February 19, 2022: 241st Anniversary of the Crossing of the Dan, South Boston, VA.

February 21, 2022: Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the American Revolution, 11:00am, Old Presbyterian Meeting House, 323 S Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA.

February 21, 2022: George Washington Birthday Parade, Monday, 1:00pm, Alexandria, VA. Watch for details on muster location.

February 26, 2022: 256th Commemoration of the 1766 Leedstown Resolutions, 11:00am, Ingleside Vineyards, 5872 Leedstown Rd, Oak Grove, VA

March 4-5, 2022: NSSAR Spring Trustees and Leadership Meeting, Brown Hotel, Louisville, KY.

March 5, 2022: 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.

March 12, 2022: 240th Commemoration of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, Time TBD, Guilford Courthouse National Military Park, 2332 New Garden Road, Greensboro, NC.

Registrar's Report

New Members Approved in October – December 2021:

Applicant	Date Approved	Patriot
George Melvin "Mel" Hurley	3 Dec 2021	Amos Hurley , a soldier of the North Carolina Line.
Jeffrey E. "Jeff" Kleinsmith	8 Oct 2021	Jean Baptiste Romain de Soncrainte , a Lieutenant serving under Colonel George Rogers Clark in the Kaskaskia expedition.
John E. Kleinsmith	8 Oct 2021	Jean Baptiste Romain de Soncrainte , a Lieutenant serving under Colonel George Rogers Clark in the Kaskaskia expedition.
Grant J. Kleinsmith	8 Oct 2021	Jean Baptiste Romain de Soncrainte , a Lieutenant serving under Colonel George Rogers Clark in the Kaskaskia expedition.
Terry R. Krebs	8 Oct 2021	Thomas Morse , a signer of the New Hampshire Revolutionary War Association Test in the town of Dublin.

We have nine new member applications in the pipeline – as of 21 December 2021, seven new member applications are pending review at the National Headquarters; and two more are waiting review with the State Registrar.

Supplemental Applications approved October – December 2021

Applicant	Date Approved	Patriot
Michael James "Mike" Blythe	8 Oct 2021	James Hatcher, a Quaker who paid personal property taxes in Virginia in 1782 and the Supply Tax in 1783.

Five supplemental applications are pending review at the National Headquarters.

For 2021, we had fifteen new member applications approved and one supplemental. This compares to sixteen new member and fourteen supplementals in 2020. At the annual conference in July, SAR leadership announced an increase in application fees of \$20 for both new member applications and supplementals. Current application costs for new members are \$135, including \$35 in annual dues, for National; \$9 for VASSAR, and \$45 for CWGC. Supplemental applications are now \$100 NASSAR, \$9 VASSAR, and \$15 for CWGC.

Sea Cadet Programs Chairman Report

Each year The Woodbridge Senior High School (WSHS) Army JROTC Cadets, Purple Viking Students, and the WSHS Singers Sponsor an appreciation to Veterans. An invitation was extended to our JROTC program for the support provided the school. John Callaway was in self quarantine, but Dave Button attended as an honored veteran and represented the Colonel William Grayson Chapter. Veterans were formally recognized for their service to our nation on Tuesday 9 November, 0900hrs in the school auditorium. Performing along with the WSHS Singers was the Army's Down Range Band. Thank you to all our compatriot veterans, and armed forces personnel for your service. Freedom is not Free.

Resupply of medals and certificates will be ordered in November,

We will be judging applicants at the end of the year for our Chapter's 2022 Outstanding Cadet. The requirements, forms and schedule have been sent to our sponsored units. Reminders are sent periodically.

Anyone wishing to serve in these programs should email Compatriot Callaway at: jcallawa@gmail.com

Chapter Activities and News

October 2, 2021: CWG Chapter Meeting



CWG President Ross H. Schwalm (L) with Rob Orrison

On October 2, 2021, Rob Orrison, the Division Manager for the Prince William County Office of Historic Preservation, which operates 12 historic sites, museums, and parks in Prince William County, gave a talk to the Colonel William Grayson Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution on his new book *“In a Single Blow”*. Orrison told about the facts of April 19, 1775, uncovering the amazing history that this pivotal spring day ushered in for the fate of Massachusetts and thirteen of Great Britain’s North American colonies. The history of the Battles of Lexington and Concord were the culmination of years of unrest between those loyal to the British monarchy and those advocating for more autonomy and dreaming of independence from Great Britain in the future. On the morning of April 19th, British General Thomas Gage sent out a force of British soldiers under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Francis Smith to confiscate, recapture, and destroy the military supplies gathered by the colonists and believed to be stored in the town of Concord.

Due to the alacrity of men such as Dr. James Warren, Paul Revere, and William Dawes, utilizing a network of signals and outriders, the countryside was well-aware of the approaching British, setting the stage for the day’s events. When the column reached the green of Lexington, Massachusetts, militiamen awaited their approach. The first shots of April 19th would be fired there. This was the so called, “Shot heard around the world”. The rest of the day unfolded accordingly, culminating in American Independence.

November 6, 2021: Colonel William Grayson Chapter, SAR proudly marching in the City of Manassas Veterans Day Parade.



November 11, 2021: Veterans Day Ceremony at George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate

Members of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter, Virginia SAR, participated in the Veterans Day Ceremony hosted by the George Washington Chapter, Virginia SAR. Members of the CWGC Color Guard participating in the event were Compatriots Andrew Mills, Jack Mills, and Leamon Duncan. The Color Guard was led by the Virginia SAR Color Guard Commander, Compatriot Ken Bonner. Members of the DAR and CAR also participated in the event.



November 13, 2021: CWG Chapter Meeting



CWG President Ross H. Schwalm (L) with Christian McBurney

On November 13, 2021, Christian McBurney, gave a presentation on his new book, *“George Washington’s Nemesis: The Outrageous Treason and Unfair Court-Martial of Major General Charles Lee during the Revolutionary War”*.

Christian McBurney has written five books on the American Revolutionary War, including *“Kidnapping the Enemy: The Special Operations to Capture Generals Charles Lee & Richard Prescott”*. His published articles include one in *MHQ: The Journal of Military History*, on the British attempt to abduct George Washington, which was nominated by the U.S. Army Historical Foundation as best magazine article for 2017. He also publishes Rhode Island’s leading history blog (www.smallstatebighistory.com). He is an attorney in Washington, D.C.

Revolutionary War Historians and biographers of Charles Lee have treated him as either an inveterate enemy of George Washington, or a great defender of American liberty. Neither approach is accurate. According to author Christian McBurney, absolute objectivity is required to fully understand the war’s most complicated general. McBurney’s new book, relies on original documents (some newly discovered) to combine two dramatic stories involving the military law of treason and court-martials, creating a balanced view of one of the Revolution’s most fascinating personalities.

General Lee, second in command in the Continental Army led by George Washington, was captured by the British in December 1776. While a prisoner, he prepared and submitted to his captors a military plan on how to defeat Washington’s army as quickly as possible. This extraordinary act of treason, arguably on a par with Benedict Arnold’s heinous treachery, was not discovered during his lifetime. Many historians shrug off this ignoble act, but it should not be ignored. Less well known is that throughout his sixteen months of captivity and even after his release, Lee continued communicating with the enemy, offering to help negotiate an end to the rebellion.

After Lee rejoined the Continental Army, he was given command of many of its best troops together with orders from Washington to attack the rear of British general Henry Clinton’s column near Monmouth, New Jersey. Lee intended to attack on June 28, 1778, but retreated in the face of Clinton’s bold move to reverse his march. Two of Lee’s subordinate generals—without orders and without informing Lee—moved more than half of his command off the field. Faced with the possible destruction of the balance, Lee ordered a general retreat while conducting a skillful delaying action.

Many historians have been quick to malign Lee’s performance at Monmouth, for which he was convicted by court-martial for not attacking and for retreating in the face of the enemy. This was a miscarriage of justice, stresses McBurney, for the evidence clearly shows Lee was unfairly convicted and had, in fact, by retreating, performed an important service to the Patriot cause. The guilty verdict was more the result of Lee’s having insulted Washington, which made the matter a political contest between the army’s two top generals—only one of whom could prevail.



National Society
of the
Sons of the American Revolution
PROCLAMATION

Compatriot Participation in Wreaths Across America 2021

WHEREAS, the organization Wreaths Across America was formed in 2007 as an extension of the Arlington Wreath Project of 1992, where wreaths were laid at the graves of fallen soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, the mission of Wreaths Across America is to REMEMBER fallen U.S. Veterans from the Revolutionary War through present day conflicts, to HONOR those that serve and their families, and to TEACH the next generation about the value of freedom; and

WHEREAS, each year, this mission is carried out by the coordination of wreath laying ceremonies on a specified Saturday in December at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as at veterans' cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Wreaths Across America has chosen "LIVE UP TO THEIR LEGACY" as its 2021 theme to help supporters focus their messaging and outreach in their own communities; and

WHEREAS, one of the patriotic, historical, and educational purposes of the Sons of the American Revolution is "to perpetuate the memory" of those individuals "who, by their services or sacrifices during the war of the American Revolution, achieved the independence of the American people;" and

WHEREAS, the Sons of the American Revolution will commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution between April 19, 2025 and November 25, 2033, thereby honoring all of those individuals—including the United States' first veterans—who struggled and sacrificed to turn the Declaration of Independence's ideals into reality; and

WHEREAS, the Sons of the American Revolution seeks to foster cooperative arrangements with patriotic organizations such as Wreaths Across America in pursuit of our common goals to honor, respect, and support veterans, and to inspire our communities to "a more profound reverence for the principles of the government founded by our forefathers;" and

WHEREAS, Wreaths Across America has designated Saturday, December 18, 2021, as the date on which volunteers will place wreaths on veterans' graves and conduct related ceremonies and commemorations.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Davis Lee Wright, President General of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, do hereby encourage all Compatriots to join with Wreaths Across America and other patriotic, community, and veterans' organizations, on Saturday, December 18, 2021, to participate in wreath-laying ceremonies and activities in their communities to LIVE UP TO THEIR LEGACY and the legacy of our great nation.



Davis Lee Wright

Davis Lee Wright
President General, 2021-2022

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, in Louisville, Kentucky, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution this eighth day of December, in the year two thousand twenty-one and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-sixth.

December 18, 2021: The Colonel William Grayson Chapter participates in Wreaths Across America

The Colonel William Grayson Chapter participated in Wreaths Across America at the Stonewall Memorial Gardens in Manassas, Virginia. Color Guard Commander Andrew Mills, Vice President Leamon Duncan, former Chapter President Michael Weyler, and Compatriots Jon Huddleston, Jack Mills, Ward Nickish were in attendance.



Pictured (L to R): Leamon Duncan, Michael Weyler, Jon Huddleston, Ken Morris, Jack Mills

Historical Notes: Washington Crossing the Delaware



Washington Crossing the Delaware

In 1851, German American painter Emanuel Gottlieb Leutze painted the iconic picture *Washington Crossing the Delaware*, which portrayed the events of the night of December 25-26, 1776. The river was icy and the weather severe. Two detachments of soldiers were unable to cross the river, leaving Washington with only 2,400 men under his command to launch a surprise attack on the Hessian garrison at Trenton, New Jersey. The Hessian garrison was caught off guard early on the morning of December 26. After a short, sharp battle, most of the Hessians surrendered. The victory at Trenton came at a critical moment. Badly battered over the course of several months, the morale of Washington's army was collapsing. This much needed victory boosted the Continental Army's flagging morale, and inspired re-enlistments.

Leutze painted three versions of Washington's crossing. One version, hanging in Germany, was destroyed in a bombing raid during World War II. The other two versions are now in the possession of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Minnesota Marine Art Museum.