



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



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July - September 2022

President's Comments: Ross H. Schwalm

Westminster Hessians in Dumfries Presentation at Lake Ridge, Virginia on July 21, 2022 – I presented a lecture on this Revolutionary War topic to 35 residents. Many long time Prince William County residents indicated they had no idea about the Hessian prisoners of war during the American Revolution.

Amphibious Assault on Long Island August 1776 presentation at the Col James Wood II Chapter on July 23, 2022, at Middletown, Virginia – Attended the breakfast meeting of the chapter and gave the subject presentation. Several questions remained unanswered which I followed up on via additional research and email to the chapter. I was awarded a certificate of appreciation.

Visitation for Compatriot John Ward at Fairfax, Virginia on July 27, 2022 – I represented the chapter at this event. Compatriot Ward was a long-time officer in the American Legion and several posts combined to provide honors and conduct the funeral service. I did talk to John's widow and offered to conduct a Compatriot Grave Marking when she is ready in the future.

Dispelling the Myth that Hessians were Mercenaries presentation at Lovettsville Historical Association in Lovettsville, Virginia on Sep 11, 2022 – I traveled per the invitation of Compatriot Ed Spannaus to deliver this talk. Several Hessians deserted from Frederick, Maryland and settled in Loudon County concentrated around Lovettsville which was founded by German immigrants prior to the American Revolution. The one-hour talk lasted two hours as the 30 in person and virtual attendees had many questions. Ed is current chapter president of a Maryland SAR chapter and is working on having me speak to them. Ed is a dual member of the Fairfax Resolves.

Prince William County (PWC) American Revolution Memorial: September 2-17, 2022

The PWC Office of Historic Preservation allowed me to provide input to a budget request to convert Williams Ordinary to a Museum and improve the county land that is currently an undeveloped community park into a Revolutionary War Memorial Park where the memorial will be the centerpiece. On Sep 2, I briefed Potomac Supervisor Bailey and her staff on the project. Staff is in support. Rob Orrison had a separate meeting with Supervisor Bailey and she will support the overall plan of park and monument. On Sep 7, I briefed the VASSAR Board of Managers on the progress of the memorial monument progress to date and President Meyer is still in support to have this as the first fundraising project on Member Clicks. The Historic Commission approved a resolution of support on Sep 13. During Chapter President's Time at the VASSAR Semi-Annual Meeting on Sep 17, I used my two minutes to discuss the PWC Memorial Project.

VASSAR Semi-Annual Meeting at Williamsburg, Virginia on Sep 16 and 17, 2022 – Compatriot Hartman and I participated in the workshops, awards dinner, tour of Yorktown Battlefield and SAR/DAR/CAR attendees photo at the Victory Monument. The chapter was awarded two national certificates/streamers for Education Outreach and Activities as well as one for 100% state participation in Flag Recognition and Flag Retirement. We also participated in VASSAR Flag Retirement which included 20 of the 30 state chapters. We voted to approve a State due increase from \$25 to \$30 per year starting in 2023. We also voted to approve application postage increase from \$9 to \$12 to go into effect Jan 1, 2023. These increases are to cover the cost of Member Clicks enterprise membership management application and the anticipated rise in postage fees coming in the next few years.

Upcoming Events

October 7, 2022: Anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain, Friday, 7 Oct, 11:00am, King's Mountain National Military Park, 2625 Park Road, Blacksburg, SC

October 15, 2022: Patriot John Hunter Grave Marking, Saturday, 15 Oct, 11:00am, Flint Hill Cemetery, 2845 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna, VA

October 19, 2022: 241th Anniversary of the Battle of Yorktown, Wednesday, 9:00 am. Yorktown, VA. **National event.** Hosted by the Virginia SAR including a wreath laying at the grave of Gov. Thomas Nelson Jr and followed by the Yorktown Victory parade. Rev War uniforms preferred, Standard SAR civilian attire ok.

November 5, 2022: Annual Northern Virginia Veterans Day Parade; Sat., 11 a.m. in Old Town Manassas, Va.

November 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. Officer elections for next year will take place at this meeting.

November 12, 2022: Patriot Peter Helphenstine Grave Marking, 11:00am, Mt. Hebron Cemetery, Winchester, VA.

November 12, 2022: 247th Anniversary of the Battle of Kemp's Landing 11:00am, Virginia Beach, VA.

December 3, 2022: Anniversary of the Battle of Great Bridge. Great Bridge Battlefield & Waterways Historical Foundation, 1775 Historic Way, Chesapeake, VA. **National event.**

December, 2022: Date & Time TBD. Wreaths Across America

Registrar's Report: Mike Blythe

New Members Approved in Jul - Sep 2022:

Applicant	Date Approved	Patriot
Jon B. Davis	1 Jul 2022	John Nelson , a Captain and Major in the 4th Regiment, North Carolina Line, 1777-1783 under Colonel Thomas Polk; Prisoner of War.
William (Bill) J. Krouse	29 Jul 2022	Ludwig Huyett , a Private in the 6 th Battalion, Berks County Militia.
James (Jay) Little III	19 Aug 2022	Solomon Lovell , Brigadier General and Commander-in-Chief of the Massachusetts Militia and leader of the Penobscot Expedition
Joshua M. Nelson	24 Jun 2022	Ebenezer Andrews , Sergeant in the Bristol County, Massachusetts Militia.
Robert Krebs (Memorial Application)	15 Jul 2022	Thomas Morse , signed the New Hampshire Revolutionary War Test in the town of Dublin
Lucas Young	13 Jul 2022	Gerard Green served as a Private in the Virginia Militia.

We have twelve new member applications in the pipeline as of 26 Sep 2022. At present, those applications are taking four months for review.

Supplemental Applications approved Jul - Sep 2022:

Applicant	Date Approved	Patriot
James G. (Greg) Burch	22 Jun 2022	Nathaniel Gardner , soldier in the Virginia Militia, Pittsylvania County and Signer of the Oath of Allegiance, 1777.
James David Button II	16 Aug 2022	Samuel Phetteplace , Private in the Rhode Island Militia
Christopher J. Blythe	27 September 2022	Adam Boyer who served as a Private / Blacksmith for the 5 th Company, 7 th Virginia Regiment. He also paid the supply tax in 1783.

We have four supplemental applications at the National Headquarters pending review.

Chapter Activities and News

July 5, 2022: March to the Tomb of George Washington



Members of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter participated in the March to the Tomb of George Washington at Mount Vernon.

Pictured: (L to R) Quartermaster Jack Mills, Color Guard Commander Andrew Mills, previous Chapter President Mike Weyler, Compatriot Jon Huddleston, Secretary Dave Button

July 22, 2022: Funeral Service for Compatriot Curtis Robb at Manassas, Virginia

With sadness we report the passing of Compatriot Curtis Robb. At the request of the family, the SAR Funeral Ceremony was provided for our chapter compatriot. Support was provided from members of the state color guard under the command of Chapter Color Guard Commander Andrew Mills. Compatriots Hartman, Button, Callaway, Weyler, and Jack Mills also supported the ceremony. Compatriot Hartman offered comments on his friend Curtis and used the theme of “grateful” to have known and worked with Curtis. Per our Chapter Constitution, several other members of the chapter attended the funeral. All DAR, CAR and SAR members attending were called forward to pay final respects.

Curtis Watson Robb was born May 24, 1944 in Lawrence, Kansas, the 4th child of Martha L. and Ronald R. Robb. He entered rest on July 17, 2022 in Gainesville, Virginia. Curtis grew up on the family dairy farm and graduated with honors from Emporia (KS) State University. He joined the Air Force and reached the grade of Captain, participating in support activities for the NASA lunar landing missions.

He became quite active in the Sons of the American Revolution and earned awards for his activities in patriot grave-marking. Compatriot Curtis Robb received the SAR Distinguished Service Medal In January 2021



Former President of the Col. William Grayson Chapter, Mike Weyler (Right), presented Compatriot Curtis Robb the SAR Distinguished Service Medal in January 2021.

July 23, 2022: Commemoration of the Signing of the Fairfax Resolves, Lorton, Virginia.

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, on September 6, 1774. The Fairfax Resolves were revised and approved as the Continental Association on October 20th, 1774.



Members of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter joined other SAR, DAR, CAR, and Order of Founders and Patriots as they commemorated the signing of the Fairfax Resolves. This event also had plaque dedications for four of the Signers buried at Pohick Church. Chapter members who attended were Michael Weyler (former Chapter President), Charles Mills (Chapter Historian), Andrew Mills (Color Guard Commander), Jack Mills (Quartermaster).

August 5- 6, 2022: Atlantic Middle States Association (AMSA) Conference, Princeton, New Jersey

Previous Chapter President Michael Weyler took part in the Mid Atlantic Conference and had the privilege of carrying the Virginia flag as part of the Color Guard for the conference.



August 6, 2022: CWG at Patriot High School in Bristow, VA.

Color Guard Commander Andrew Mills and Quartermaster Jack Mills helped to support two events being held at Patriot High School in Bristow, VA.

First: They were part of the Color Guard alongside members of the Air Force JROTC from Battlefield High School to open the Shootout for Soldiers 24 hour Lacrosse fundraiser.



Second: They stayed to support Colonel Michael Sullivan as he retired from the Air Force. We congratulate Colonel Sullivan on his retirement and salute his service to our nation.



Pictured (L-R) Jack Mills, Colonel Sullivan, General Hinote, and Andrew Mills

August 20, 2022: Color Guard Workshop

Members of the CWG Color Guard took part in the Color Guard Workshop hosted by the Colonel James Woods II Chapter. The workshop consisted of reviewing etiquette for Guardsmen at events, musket safety, and firing drills.



Historical Notes:

George Washington: Freemason



George Washington in Masonic regalia

Freemasonry became very popular in colonial America. The earliest of American lodges were the First Lodge of Boston, established in 1733, and one in Philadelphia, established about the same time. Benjamin Franklin served as the head of the fraternity in Pennsylvania, as did Paul Revere and Joseph Warren in Massachusetts. Other well-known Masons involved with the founding of America included John Hancock, John Sullivan, Lafayette, Baron Fredrick von Steuben, Nathaniel Greene, and John Paul Jones.

George Washington joined the Masonic Lodge in Fredericksburg, Virginia at the age of 20 in 1752. His Masonic membership, like the others public titles and duties he performed, was expected from a young man of his social status in colonial Virginia. Not much is known of Washington's Masonic life during the quarter century following his induction into the fraternity. Tradition puts him in various military lodges during the time, but because of their traveling nature, there remains no record of his attendance.

Washington returned to Mount Vernon in 1783 after the Revolutionary War. He was invited to join Lodge No. 39 and later became the first Worshipful Master of the newly established Grand Lodge of Virginia (Lodge No. 22). He served some twenty months in this post. During his tenure as Worshipful Master of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, Washington was inaugurated President of the United States, becoming the first and only Mason to be President of the United States and Master of his lodge at the same time.

President Washington took his oath of office on a Bible from St. John's Lodge in New York, at his first inauguration in 1791. During his two Presidential terms, he visited Masons in North and South Carolina and presided over the cornerstone ceremony for the U.S. Capitol in 1793, laying the cornerstone of the United States Capitol in Masonic garb, as chronicled by the *Alexandria Gazette* of September 25, 1793. In retirement, Washington sat for a portrait in his Masonic regalia, and in death, was buried with Masonic honors.