



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



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Volume **15**, Issue **4**

October- December 2022

President's Comments: Ross H. Schwalm

Virginia 250

Virginia has launched a commission called Virginia 250. I am on the email list and the intent is to coordinate 250th anniversary events across the state. Prince William County is launching its 250 Committee and I was invited to the kick off meeting on Nov 14.

In support of the 250th and our monument project, PWC Office of Historic Preservation provided me a list of all PWC Rev War units and combat actions these units supported. This list is the first step in conducting research and crafting stories for use during the 250 cycle. The chapter members are welcome to join in helping to research and write along with the county historians. If your patriot served in a VA or County unit, this would be a great focus we can provide the county.

Chapter Initiatives

Under the leadership of Compatriot Callaway, our chapter is engaging each JROTC unit for competitors for the enhanced program. I personally visited Quantico HS and met with the principal and senior instructor to aid in execution of this program. I am planning to deliver history/ leadership talks at Quantico, Potomac and Woodbridge.

Compatriot Cline has multiple Eagle Scout candidates from many troops that we will award this school year. I plan on attending the boy and girl Scout Troops at my church to see if there is a need for God and Country courses. I have taught these several times and it is always a learning experience for me and the Scouts.

Americanism Initiatives

On October 28, I conducted a presentation called "I am an American. Yes, I am." This was given at Jubilation in Fredericksburg, VA to a veterans breakfast group. Eighteen Veterans were treated to a view of my family ancestors in service to our country starting with myself and going back in time to my brother drafted in 1968, my father and uncle in WW2, my three Great Grandfathers in the Civil War, my 3rd GGF in 1814, and my Patriot Adam Lebo along with my Hessian 3rd GGF who became an American. I closed with a reminder to remember their service along with their veteran ancestors service during the upcoming holidays.

On October 29, I was reelected to another 2 year term as President of Johannes Schwalm Historical Association. The election was held at the Reading, PA Liederkrantz, a German Singing and Sports club founded in 1885. The club complex is located on the site of a Hessian Prisoner Camp that was in operation from 1781-1783. This site is on a rocky hill and children often talk of playing with a soldier near the rocks. A local historian visited with us and we agreed to help him revive interest in this Rev War site.

On Nov 10, 2022, I attended the Woodbridge Senior High School "Salute to Veterans" event at 0745. The event was organized by the US Army JROTC Battalion. I interacted with half a dozen Marine Corp, Navy and Army veterans before the start of the event. The program started with the JROTC Color Guard advancing the Colors and the Woodbridge SHS Choir singing the National Anthem. A prayer was offered to all veterans by the Battalion Adjutant. The singing group Navy Cruisers then conducted a concert of modern tunes that had the audience singing and dancing along with the Navy Chiefs and Petty Officers of the band. They closed with "God Bless the USA". An award was given to the nonprofit Veterans Foundation which does work in Prince William, Fairfax and Arlington counties. The choir returned to sing the Armed Forces Medley with veterans rising when their service song was sung. It was grand fun and ended at 0830. Senior Enlisted Instructor gave me a warning order for the Army music group coming in April. He is working on SAR award candidates.

At 1100 on Nov 10, 2022, I attended the X Corp Solutions Marine Corps Cake Cutting Ceremony in Stafford, VA. X Corp Solutions is a veteran owned small business and is my current employer. Over 30 employees attended this event which included an opening prayer, Star Spangled Banner, a reading of the 1921 General John A. Lejeune Birthday message, a display and reading of the POW/MIA Remembrance Table and a viewing of the 2022 Official Marine Corps Birthday Message. The Oldest Marine employee present was born in 1945 and is a Vietnam Veteran. Youngest Marine Employee was born in 2000 and served four years as an Admin Marine at Quantico. The ceremony closed with Anchors Away and the Marine Corps Hymn as well as a closing prayer. I socialized with multiple veterans while enjoying birthday cake.

At 1400 on Nov 10, 2022, I attended the National Museum of the Marine Corps Cake Cutting Ceremony. Maj Gen James Lukeman, USMC (Ret.) was the Guest of Honor. An opening prayer was conducted and honors sounded for General Lukeman. The oldest Marine present was born in 1933 and served in combat during Korea. He retired as a SSgt. Youngest Marine present was born in 2002 and is currently assigned to the Museum Staff. Approximately 100 people attended this ceremony which closed with Anchors Away and the Marines Hymn. A loud "OOORAH" as the hymn completed. The echo of the OOORAH in the Museum atrium was very cool. I interacted with several museum docents and also met retired Lt Col Scott Yost who is the Museum Operations Officer. He gave me a personal tour of the Post -Vietnam Gallery under development which is the first major expansion since the Museum opened in 2006. Plan is to have this new galley open by Nov 2025 in honor of the 250th Anniversary of the USMC.

I traveled to Oyster Bay on Long Island, NY on December 9, 2022 to participate in Revolutionary War events on December 10.

A visit to Teddy Roosevelt's home and gravesite was done on Saturday morning. The cemetery is along a road and near amp home where George Washington visited.

At 4 PM, five different organizations (Cedar Swamp Historical Society, Socrates Masonic Lodge (Home Lodge of Teddy Roosevelt), East Hillside Cemetery Association (oldest incorporated cemetery in the country), Reformed Church of Locust Valley, Underhill Society of America, Johannes Schwalm Historical Association) gathered at East Hillside Cemetery to recognize the many patriots, local veterans, public servants and Hessians buried on the grounds. Over 40 attended this event and gathered for hot cider before being marched by a bag piper to the Hessian grave site which is marked by a 12 ft Douglas fir. Comments were delivered by organizer Steve Russell Boerner (President CSHS, a Mason, archivist USoA, and JSHA Director) indicating the 7th year of this event. He indicated plans to confirm the grave site and to emplace a marker in advance of America 250. The cemetery superintendent offered comments about how this original family cemetery was donated to become incorporated. He indicated a Hessian camp was nearby and the family allowed those who died of disease to be buried on the Hillside Cemetery. I offered comments about how the Hessians first arrived on Long Island in August 1776 and how they and the British did not leave until after the Peace Treaty was signed in 1783.

Research during the Bicentennial resulted in the discovery of the Hessian graves and the first event to remember them was in 1979. A woman in the crowd said she was an 11 year old girl at that event and was proud to bring her own children in 2022.

The attendees were led in the Christmas Carrol O Tannenbaum sung in German and the tree was lit to the delight of the crowd. The Piper led us out as a conclusion to the event.

Several of the attendees then traveled to the Reformed Church for more caroling and a tree lighting. A buffet dinner of German food and libations including George Washington's egg nog with Virginia produced Issac Bowman bourbon.

After dinner, I was the key note speaker providing greetings from Virginia SAR and the legend around Hessians bringing the Christmas tree tradition to America during the American Revolution. There is evidence that Hessians on occupation duty worshipped with a Dutch Reformed church during the Christmas season.

A local artifact hunter also gave a brief presentation on his greatest find in Queens which has been identified as an 8 lb. solid shot Hessian cannon ball. It was found along an old Revolution era road that is now a horse riding path and likely fired during the battle of Long Island or during a skirmish between Continental cavalry raiders and Hessian garrison forces. Attendees were able to hold the 246 year old cannonball.

Upcoming Events

January 7, 2023: 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 2023 will take place at this meeting.

January 21, 2023: Peter Muhlenburg's "Time for War" Sermon, 1:00pm, 103 N. Main Street, Woodstock, VA.

February 9 -11, 2023: Virginia SAR Annual Meeting, Berry Hill Resort, South Boston, Virginia.

February 11, 2023: Anniversary of the Crossing of the Dan, 10:00, 700 Bruce Street, South Boston, VA.

February 20, 2023: Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the American Revolution, 11:00am, Old Presbyterian Meeting House, 323 S Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA.

February 20, 2023: George Washington Birthday Parade, Monday, 1:00pm, Alexandria, VA. Watch for details on muster location.

March 2-3, 2023: NSSAR Spring Trustees and Leadership Meeting, Brown Hotel, Louisville, KY.

March 11, 2023: 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, 2023: Vigil at the Tomb of Colonel William Grayson, Woodbridge, Virginia

July 13 – 20, 2023: SAR Congress, Orlando, Florida

Registrar's Report: Mike Blythe

New Members Approved in Jul - Sep 2022:

Applicant	Date Approved	Patriot
Bradfield, Frank Leslie III	14 Oct 2022	Jonathan Cone , Sergeant in the New Hampshire Militia.
Bradfield, Benjamin	14 Oct 2022	Jonathan Cone , Sergeant in the New Hampshire Militia.
Bradfield, Timothy	14 Oct 2022	Jonathan Cone , Sergeant in the New Hampshire Militia.
Butzer, Donald T.	8 Dec 2022	John Jacob Dundore , Private in the Berks County, Pennsylvania Militia and Paid Supply Taxes in Berks Co., PA in 1780, 1781, and 1783.

We have nine new member applications at various stages in the pipeline as of 18 Dec 2022. At present, those applications are taking four months for review.

Supplemental Applications approved Oct - Dec 2022:

Applicant	Date Approved	Patriot
Blythe, Christopher James	21 Oct 2022	Isaac Nichols , who paid the supply tax in Virginia in 1783.

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

Chapter Activities and News

October 1, 2022: CWG Chapter Meeting

Five new members were welcomed to the chapter. Welcome Compatriots Jonathan Bradley Davis, William Joseph Krouse, Jr., James Lovell Little III, Ralph Edward Elosser, Jr., and Joshua Michael Nelson (pictured L to R)



Congratulations Compatriots Jonathan Bradley Davis and James Lovell Little III on receiving the War Service Medal. We salute and thank you for your service to our country.



Congratulations to Compatriot Ralph Edward Elosser Jr. (R) for receiving the Military Service Medal. We salute and thank you for your service to our country.



Congratulations to our Registrar Michael Blythe (R) on receiving the Liberty Medal. Compatriot Blythe was recognized for his outstanding work for genealogy work done for the SAR.



Congratulations to our Quartermaster Compatriot Jack Mills (R) for receiving the 250th Silver Color Guard medal. Compatriot Mills has been an active member of the Color Guard for three years and enthusiastically enjoys going out and representing our Chapter at as many events as possible.



October 15, 2022: John Chapman Hunter Grave marking, Oakton, Virginia

Compatriots Dave Button (L) and Thad Hartman (R) at the Grave Marking Ceremony in the Flint Hill Cemetery in Oakton, Va. The grave was of a Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Patriot, John Chapman Hunter.



November 5, 2022: CWG Chapter Meeting

Francis Les Bradfield III (R) was welcomed as a new member of the Chapter.

Congratulations Compatriot Bradfield on receiving the War Service Medal. We salute your bravery and patriotism and thank you for your service.



Congratulations to Compatriot Michael Weyler (L) on receiving the Bronze Color Guard medal.



November 11, 2022: Wreath at Tomb of George Washington on Veterans Day

On Friday, November 11, members of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter, joined the George Washington Chapter and others to lay a wreath at the Tomb of General George Washington in honoring our veterans on Veterans Day. Participating in this event were our Color Guard Commander Andrew Mills and Quartermaster Jack Mills.



December 11, 2022 : Wreath laying event at the Trenton Victory Monument in Trenton, NJ.

Compatriot Ross H. Schwalm participated in New Jersey SAR wreath laying event at the Trenton Victory Monument in Trenton, NJ. Pennsylvania and New Jersey SAR, DAR, and NJ Sons of the Revolution, as well as two members of NJ Society of the Cincinnati were also in attendance. Compatriot Schwalm was given the opportunity to offer greetings from Virginia SAR.



December 17, 2022: Wreaths across America

Members of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter participated in [#wreathscrossamerica](#) at the Stonewall Memory Gardens in Manassas. While there, they placed a wreath at the grave of Private Henry Doogan, a Patriot buried there. Attending this event were Chapter President Ross Schwalm, Mike Weyler, John Callaway, George Ax, Ken Morris, Thad Hartman, Forrest Hartman, Jon Huddleston, Quartermaster Jack Mills, Color Guard Commander Andrew Mills. Pictures taken by Grace Mills.



Historical Notes:

Christmas at Valley Forge - 1777



World War II Army Conservation Poster

Valley Forge, 1777-1778. Diary of Surgeon Albigeno Waldo, of the Connecticut Line.

December 14. - Prisoners & Deserters are continually coming in. The Army which has been surprisingly healthy hitherto, now begins to grow sickly from the continued fatigues they have suffered this Campaign. Yet they still show a spirit of Alacrity & Contentment not to be expected from so young Troops.

I am Sick – discontented -and out of humour. Poor food - hard lodging - Cold Weather – fatigue - Nasty Cloaths - nasty Cookery - Vomit half my time - smok'd out of my senses - the Devil's in't - I can't Endure it - Why are we sent here to starve and Freeze - What sweet Felicities have I left at home; A charming Wife - pretty Children - Good Beds - good food – good Cookery - all agreeable – all harmonious. Here all Confusion - smoke & Cold - hunger & filthiness - A pox on my bad luck. There comes a bowl of beef soup - full of burnt leaves and dirt, sickish enough to make a Hector spue - away with it Boys - I'll live like the Chameleon upon Air. Poh ! Poh ! crys Patience within me - you talk like a fool. Your being sick Covers your mind with a Melanchollic Gloom, which makes every thing about you appear gloomy.

See the poor Soldier, when in health - with what cheerfulness he meets his foes and encounters every hardship – if barefoot, he labours thro' the Mud & Cold with a Song in his mouth extolling War & Washington - if his food be bad, he eats it notwithstanding with seeming content - blesses God for a good Stomach and Whistles it into digestion. But harkee Patience, a moment - There comes a Soldier, his bare feet are seen thro' his worn out Shoes, his legs nearly naked from the tatter'd remains of an only pair of stockings, his Breeches not sufficient to cover his nakedness, his Shirt hanging in Strings, his hair dishevell'd, his face meagre; his whole appearance pictures a person forsaken & discouraged. He comes, and crys with an air of wretchedness & despair, I am Sick, my feet lame, my legs are sore, my body cover'd with this tormenting Itch - my Cloaths are worn out, my Constitution is broken, my former Activity is exhausted by fatigue, hunger & Cold, I fail fast I shall soon be no more! and all the reward I shall get will be - "Poor Will is dead."

People who live at home in Luxury and Ease, quietly possessing their habitations, Enjoying their Wives & families in peace, have but a very faint Idea of the displeasing sensations, and continual Anxiety the Man endures who is in a Camp, and is the husband and parent of an agreeable family. These same People are willing we should suffer every thing for their Benefit & advantage, and yet are the first to Condemn us for not doing more ! !