



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



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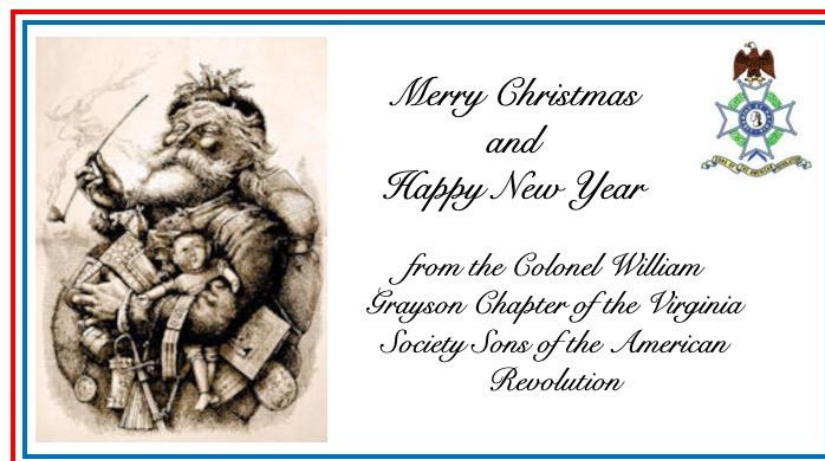
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Volume 16, Issue 4

October – December 2023

President's Comments – Michael Wilson

As the chapter officers and chairmen of the Colonel William Grayson wrap up our annual reports due to the Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, we would like to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We hope to see you at the next chapter meeting that will be held on January 6th, 2024, at the VFW Post 7589, Manassas, VA, and SAR events throughout 2024.



Vice President's Corner – Andrew Mills

As we celebrate the holiday season, I want to express my thanks for being able to serve as your Vice President for 2023 and look forward to continue serving you in this role in 2024. I hope all Compatriots have been enjoying the holiday season thus far and are looking forward to a Happy 2024. Happy Holidays and Happy New Year! I look forward to seeing you all again at our next meeting, January 6, which is also Twelfth Night.

America 250th Committee – Ross Schwalm

The Prince William County America250 committee met on October 16 at Williams Ordinary in Dumfries, VA. Superintendent of Prince William Forest Park was the senior representative to attend. DAR, SAR, Weems - Botts, Rippon Lodge, PWC Tourism Marketing Director, and staff of PWC Office of Historic Preservation all had representatives attend. We discussed plans for June 2024 250th Anniversary of the Passage of the Prince William Resolves and for other events upcoming for the 250th during 2024. The PWC Revolutionary War Memorial was discussed as well as plans for improvements of the signage for the PWC Revolutionary War Trail. I gave a brief on the progress and am making a script for tour guides to use for guided tours of the trail. The county will figure out a tour fee for the use of a tour guide. The trail is currently a self-guided tour.

Registrar's Report - Mike Blythe

Approvals have slowed drastically at the Headquarters as a result of building reconstruction and reduction in genealogical staff. It appears supplements and pended applications are not moving at all, as new member applications are the priority. We had one application approved this quarter, a memorial application for Wayne Shimp, Paul's brother. Their shared ancestor is Samuel Stubbs who served in the Massachusetts Militia. Several new member and supplemental applications are in the pipeline or in the works.

Muster Role – Color Guard Commander - Andrew Mills

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>

Upcoming Events

January 6, 2024: CWG Chapter Meeting, Sat., 11 a.m. (meet & greet at 10:30) **The meeting will be held at the VFW Post 7589 at 9304 Centreville Road, Manassas.** Installation of Officers for 2024 will take place at this meeting. Since parking is limited in the post's parking lot, arrangements have been made with the dental practice next door to use their parking lot. We have been asked to NOT use the parking lot of the Volunteer Fire Department which is next door on the "downtown" side of the post. The dental practice is on the right, past Maple Street, and just before the VFW Post, if you are coming from the intersection of Sudley Road and Centreville Road.

February 9 -10, 2024: Virginia SAR Annual Meeting, Omni Richmond Hotel, 100 S 12th St, Richmond, VA 23119

February 17, 2024: Anniversary of the Crossing of the Dan, 10:00, 700 Bruce Street, South Boston, VA.

February 19, 2024: Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the American Revolution, 11:00am, Old Presbyterian Meeting House, 323 S Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA.

February 19, 2024: George Washington Birthday Parade, Monday, 1:00pm, Alexandria, VA. Watch for details on muster location.

February 29, 2024: NSSAR Spring Trustees and Leadership Meeting, Brown Hotel, Louisville, KY.

March 2, 2024: History Day Competition will be held on March 2 at West Springfield High School.

March 9, 2024: CWG Chapter Meeting, Sat., 11 a.m. (meet & greet at 10:30). **The meeting will be held at the VFW Post 7589 at 9304 Centreville Road, Manassas.**

March 9, 2024: Vigil at the Tomb of Colonel William Grayson, Woodbridge, Virginia. Time TBD.

July 11 – 17, 2023: SAR Congress, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Chapter Activities and News

October 14, 2023: CWG Chapter Meeting



Chapter President Michael Wilson (R) inducted Compatriot Robert Borka into the Chapter.



Chapter President Michael Wilson unveiled the new Colonel William Grayson Challenge Coin.



Chapter President Michael Wilson (L) congratulated Compatriot Dave Button for this outstanding work on the flag recognition program.



The guest speaker, Michael C. Harris spoke on the Battle of Brandywine.

October 19, 2023: 242nd Anniversary of the Battle of Yorktown

Chapter president Michael Wilson represented the Colonel William Grayson Chapter at VSSAR activities commemorating the 242nd anniversary of the battle of Yorktown, including a wreath laying at the grave of Gov. Thomas Nelson Jr. at Grace Episcopal Church and also including the Yorktown Victory parade. This was a NSSAR designated “National Event”.



November 4, 2023: Veteran's Day Parade in Manassas, Virginia

The Colonel William Grayson Chapter had a good turn-out for the 2023 Northern Virginia Veterans Day Parade held in Manassas. Chapter President Michael Wilson and Compatriot Jay Hawkins carried the Chapter banner, while our color guard: Andrew Mills, Jon Huddleston, Jocelynn Wilson (VSCAR) presented colors and Compatriots John Callaway and Dave Button, located in the rear of the formation greeted the onlookers with smiles and waves.



November 4, 2023: Revolutionary War Days at Rippon Lodge, Woodbridge, Virginia

Compatriots (left to right) Ross Schwalm, Andrew Mills, and Chuck Mills represented the Chapter at the Prince William County Revolutionary War Days at Rippon Lodge, at the invitation of the Prince William Historic Preservation Office.



November 7, 2023: Flag Presentation Certificate awarded to Osbourn High School

Compatriot Dave Button presented the SAR flag certificate to Osbourn High School's Principal Mike Pflugrath (L), in recognition of the school's flying the lighted flag 24/7.



November 11, 2023: Great Falls Freedom Memorial Veterans Day Ceremony



Compatriot George Ax, Sr. attended the Great Falls Freedom Memorial Veterans Day Ceremony in the center of Great Falls. It is an annual event conducted by the Friends of the Great Falls Freedom Memorial, a site dedicated to the memory of local residents who have given their lives for our freedom.

November 11, 2023: “Veterans Day Wreath Laying” at General George Washington’s Tomb



From left to right: Compatriots Charles “Chuck” Mills, Michael Wilson and Jon Huddleston. Picture provided by JoDell Wilson.

November 11, 2023: “In God We Trust - Honoring America’s Heroes” Leesburg, Virginia

The “In God We Trust - Honoring America’s Heroes” was held at the Church of Our Saviour, Oatlands in Leesburg, Virginia. LtCol. Oliver North, USMC (Ret.) gave a great presentation on Veterans through America’s history.

Paul Christensen, Vice President of the Col. James Wood II chapter had put out a call-to-arms about a month ago, requesting VASSAR Color Guard members participation and assisting him in this lovely event. Colonel William Grayson Chapter Compatriot Jon Huddleston and Chapter President Michael Wilson accepted and assisted in presenting our Nations flag at the event in true VASSAR Honor Guard fashion.



L-R : LT. Bill Stanbridge, US Navy-Crypto, Lt. Col. Steve Hess-USAF-Navigator, B-52, John Huddleston-US Army (Col. William Grayson Chapter), Lt. Col. Oliver North, USMC RET., CAPT Chris McCalla-USAF-F-15 Pilot, Mark Sink-USMC (SGMGR John Champe Chapter), Mike Wilson-US Army, (Col. William Grayson Chapter), Paul Christensen-Col. James Wood II Chapter, **Not Pictured**-Jack Curtis-US Army-(SGMGR John Champe Chapter), Hon. Dean Worchester, (Col. James Wood II Chapter).

Picture provided by Paul Christensen

November 11, 2023: Veterans Day Events in Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia

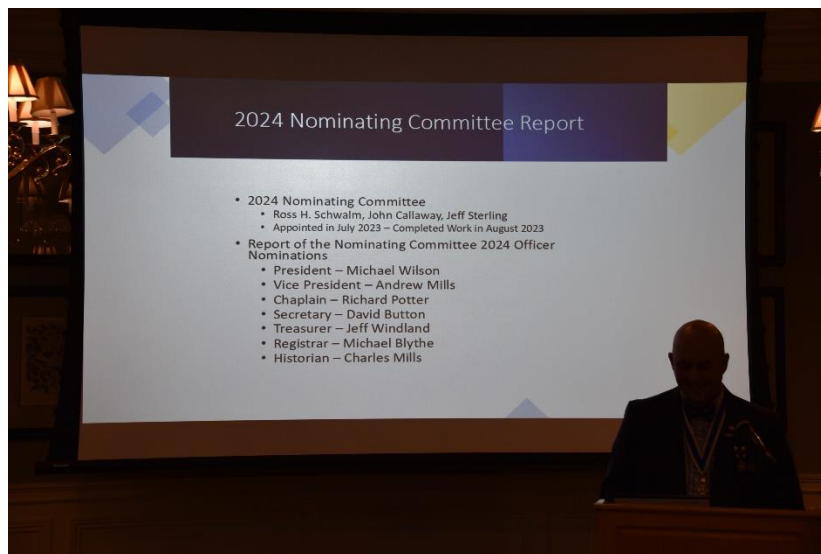
Compatriots Andrew (R) and Jack Mills (L) took part in Veterans Day events held at Colonial Williamsburg. First, they were part of a Commemoration of Veterans in front of the Governor's Palace, then were members of the Color Guard in an afternoon parade honoring veterans.



November 18, 2023: CWG Chapter Meeting



Chapter President Michael Wilson inducted Compatriot Richard Carey (L) into the Chapter.



The election of the 2024 Chapter officers was conducted.



Guest speaker William Griffith spoke on the Battle of Monmouth

November 21, 2023: Law Enforcement Commendation and Medal Presentation, Springfield, Va.

Compatriot Gary A. Howard, past Colonel William Grayson Chapter president, presented the SAR Law Enforcement Certificate and Medal to Virginia State Trooper Sesaly M. Barden on November 21, 2023 at Virginia State Police Headquarters Division 7, Area 48, 7001 Loisdale Road, Springfield, VA 22150.

The citation narrative reads: Trooper Sesaly M. Barden went above and beyond the normal duty requirements of a Virginia State Trooper on March 18, 2023, and as a result, saved the life of an individual who was suffering severe blood loss after being involved in a motor vehicle crash. On that evening, at approximately 1526 hours, Trooper Sesaly Barden was dispatched to a single vehicle crash in which the driver was partially ejected and trapped on the ramp to Telegraph Road from westbound Interstate 495. Trooper Barden arrived on scene to find a female driver trapped in the driver's area of her vehicle. The driver sustained a severe, deep laceration extending a significant length on her forearm. There was significant blood loss, and blood was visible on the jersey wall and inside the vehicle. Due to the positioning of the vehicle and where the driver was trapped, Trooper Barden rendered aid through the passenger door, working on the driver inside of her car. Trooper Barden applied the department issued combat tourniquet to prevent further blood loss. Alexandria City Fire and Rescue arrived on scene, continued care, and ultimately transported the driver to George Washington Hospital Center in Washington, DC, for further evaluation and treatment. Trooper Barden received praise from the Alexandria Fire and Rescue Captain for her excellent application of the combat tourniquet. Trooper Barden's swift and decisive actions were instrumental in saving a life. In this singular event, Trooper Barden represented the best of law enforcement and epitomized the highest quality of character as a member of the Department of State Police.



From left to right: Virginia State Police Captain J-P. N. Koushel, Trooper Sesaly M. Barden, and Compatriot Gary A. Howard

December 2, 2023: Anniversary of the Battle of Great Bridge. Chesapeake, Virginia

The Colonel William Grayson wreath was placed amongst all other SAR, DAR and CAR wreaths in a semi-horseshoe in front of the announcer podium and was recognized and announced during the 2023 Battle of Great Bridge Wreath laying ceremony. I participated in the SAR Color Guard Musket Salute to the newly chartered Great Bridge Chapter (VASSAR). Our flag was carried in and posted during the opening of and throughout the Commemoration program.

At the end of the Battle of Great Bridge Commemoration program, Dr. Michael Weyler, 2nd VICE VASSAR and Colonel William Grayson Past President, presented and awarded the Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Hon. Jason Miyares with one of our newly minted Colonial William Grayson Chapter coins.



December 16, 2023: Wreaths Across America, Stonewall Memory Gardens in Gainesville, VA

Colonel William Grayson Chapter compatriots: Michael Wilson, Andrew Mills, Jack Mills, Ward Nickisch, Bill Groth, Tim Cline, and Ken Morris participated in a Wreaths Across America ceremony and Stonewall Memory Garden.

The Colonel William Grayson Chapter Color Guard (Michael Wilson, Andrew Mills, Jack Mills, Bill Groth and Ken Morris) alongside the Boy Scout Troop 670 presented the American flag, as well as the Virginia State flag, Colonel William Grayson chapter flag and the 250th Americanism flag, as the Alive Church choir sang the National Anthem. This year the American Heritage Girls Troop VA1148 conducted the Pledge of Allegiance, while Mark Grapin, American Legion District 16th District Chaplain gave the opening prayer for the Veterans. The Nam Knights of Old Dominion Chapter lay seven (7) ceremonial wreaths as MSG Erik J. Ramos played Taps. COL Carlos M. Collat was the keynote speaker for today's event. The Alive Church choir sang "God Bless America."



December 16, 2023: Wreaths Across America, Culpeper National Cemetery, Culpeper, VA



In keeping with the President General’s Proclamation, Compatriot John Callaway (L), joined by his wife, daughter and granddaughter participated in laying wreaths at Culpeper National Cemetery.

December 16, 2023: 250th Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party, Warrenton, Va.

Chapter President Michael Wilson joined Compatriots of the Culpeper Minutemen, Colonel James Wood II Chapter and the Sgt. Maj John Champe Chapter at the steps of the Warrenton Courthouse to commemorate the Boston Tea Party of 1773. President of the Culpeper Minutemen Chapter, Tom Hamill, read “What did this Mean” as the passing citizens of Warrenton were invited to participate in rebelling against the Tea Act of May 10, 1773.

December 16, 2023: 250th Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party, Fredericksburg, Va.

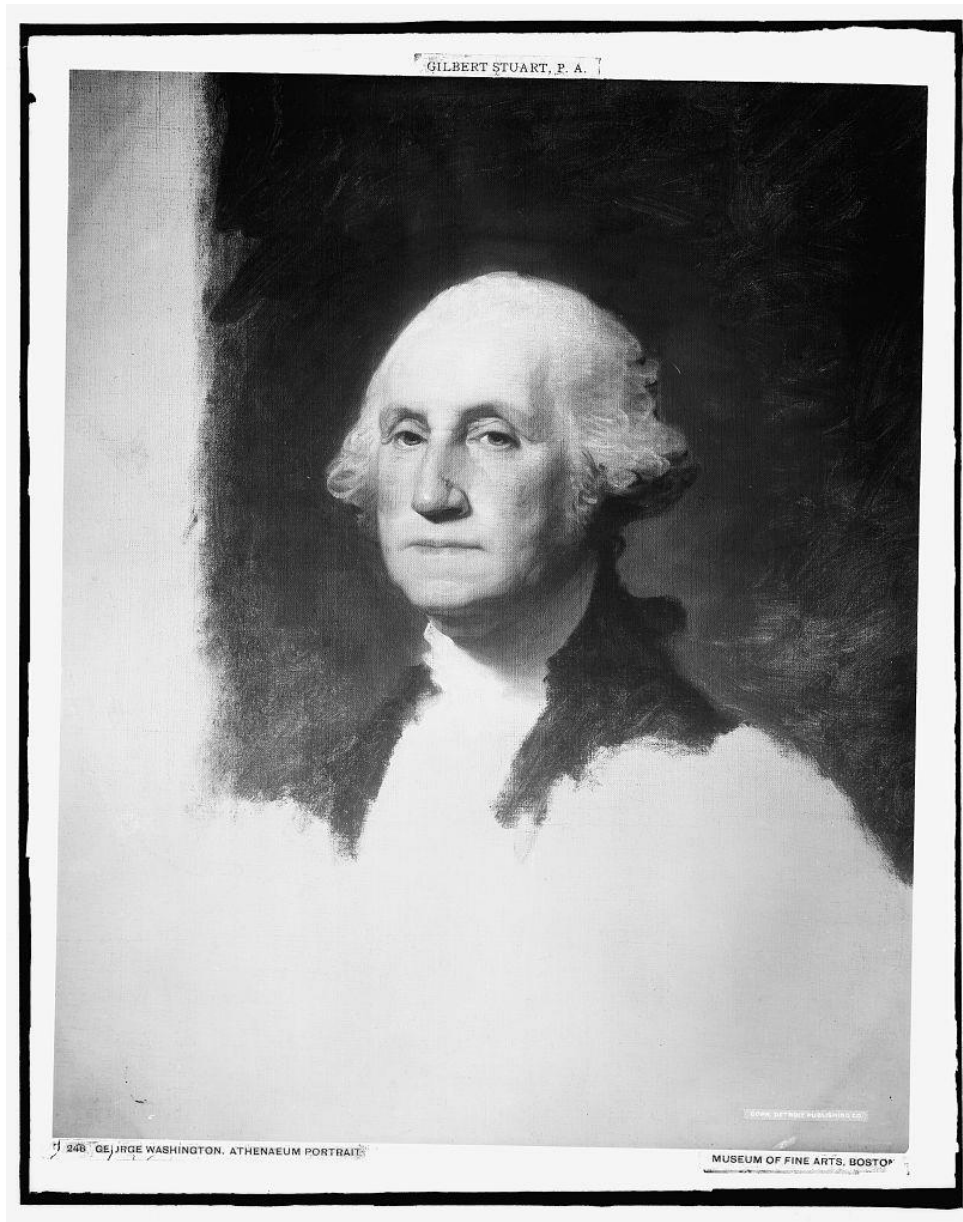
Members of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter supported the Compatriots of the Colonel Fielding Lewis Chapter in their Commemoration of the Boston Tea Party. Representing the Chapter were Vice President Andrew Mills and Quartermaster Jack Mills. The event was well attended. Compatriots heard an account of the original Boston Tea Party and then proceeded to throw tea into the Rappahannock River shouting "Down with Parliament" as they did so.



(L-R) Chapter Vice President Andrew Mills and Quartermaster Jack Mills

Historical Notes:

A Unique Letter From George Washington



A unique letter written by George Washington in which he says that God and Heaven supported American independence has gone on sale, after historians thought it lost.

Written in October 1777, shortly after Washington heard about the first victory over British troops during the Revolutionary War, went on sale in Philadelphia yesterday.

The auction house, Raab Collection, acquired it from descendants of its recipient Brigadier General James Potter.

It had been in the possession of Potter's descendants for nearly 250 years and is valued at \$275,000. Potter was a colonial and revolutionary-era politician from Pennsylvania, that assumed important commands during the Revolutionary War.

This letter is unique as it is the only one in which Washington is known to have mentioned 'Heaven' during the war.

Washington put pen-to-paper shortly after hearing about the outcome of the Battle of Saratoga, in October 1777, the first victory of revolutionary troops over the British.

Jubilant, Washington wrote that 'this singular favour of Providence is to be received with thankfulness and the happy moment which Heaven has pointed out for the firm establishment of American Liberty.'

While the contents of the letter had been known to scholars, the original document was thought lost.

Washington urged his fellow Americans to support independence in the letter, which was sent from near Philadelphia on October 18, 1777.

The letter in full:

Sir, I congratulate you upon the glorious successes of our Arms in the north, an account of which is inclosed - This singular favour of Providence is to be received with thankfulness and the happy moment which Heaven has pointed out for the firm establishment of American Liberty ought to be embraced with becoming spirit - it is incumbent upon every man of influence in his Country to prevail upon the Militia to take the field with that energy which the present crisis evidently demands.

I have no doubt of your exerting yourself in this way - In the Post which you now occupy you may render the most important Services by cutting off the Enemies Convoys and Communications with their Fleet, for this purpose you should strain every nerve.

There is another thing which I would suggest and leave you to judge of the practicability of it - I think that you might harass the parties of the Enemy on Province Island in such a manner as to produce a great Diversion in favour of Fort Mifflin - Let me again entreat you and through your means every one of any influence among the Militia, to exert it to the utmost in exciting them to the Field where by seasonable Reinforcements the glorious work we have in hand will be completed - I am Your most h'ble Servt., G. Washington.

