



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



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January-March 2024

President's Comments – Michael Wilson

The Colonel William Grayson Chapter continues to be well awarded and recognized, and during the 134th VASSAR Annual Conference this year we not only won first place in the Virginia Society Youth Program competition for *Outstanding JROTC Cadet* and best *Arthur M. and Berdena King Eagle Scout*, but also took first place in the *Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historical Oration* contest and the *Dr. Tom and Betty Lawrence American History Teacher of the year!* Yes indeed, the Colonel William Grayson Chapter sponsored four extraordinary winners who are now advancing to the National Society competition and competing for 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place scholarships and awards at this year's 134th National Congress in Lancaster, PA on/about the 10th of July 2024. What better reason to attend the conference in Lancaster, PA?!

Compatriots, the success of this great chapter could not have been achieved without great devotion by our youth program chairmen and the support of our members that contributed to accomplishing our goals – *Educational, Historic and Patriotic*. I personally thank John Callaway III, Tim Cline, Gary Roseman, Dave and David Button, and all chapter members that assisted in recruiting and judging the remarkable Youth and Educational candidates for this year's contests. Three Huzzahs!

I would like to recognize Past President Ross Schwalm for his hard work during the 2022-2023 year. Because of his efforts and the support of the members of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter, our chapter was awarded the *President General's Education Outreach Streamer* and the *Partners in Patriotism Award* by Past President (NSSAR) General C. Bruce Pickette. Well done, Gentlemen!

Congratulation to Dr. Michael Weyler, Colonel William Grayson Chapter Past President (2019-2021), who has now advanced to the role of 1st Vice President of the Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution. And congratulations to Andrew Mills, Jack Mills, William "Bill" Collier, Keith Rouleau, Tim Cline, Bob Borke,

Thad Hartman, Georg Axe and Bud Wagner for their exceptional contributions to the Virginia Society and their long fast devotion to the chapter.

The great compatriots of our chapter continue to strive to honor, respect, and support what our forefathers gave us – *the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, an Independent Supreme Court, and a Nation of free men!*

In closing, allow me to thank you! You and the great compatriots of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter, for your continuous support and generous donations to the chapter and the chapter Youth programs. Your contributions go a long way in assisting our chapter's awarding of Youth contestants with financial scholarships and awards; and recognizing law enforcement officers, public safety officers, and other citizen's exemplary services to our nation's civic traditions. Any monthly donations or annual contributions can be sent to our chapter Treasurer, Jeff Winland (jkwind@aol.com).

Vice President's Report: Andrew Mills

It has been a busy 2024 thus far for the Colonel William Grayson Chapter. During the first quarter of the year, our Chapter has been part of numerous events. In January, President Wilson, 1st Vice President for VASSAR Michael Weyler and I took part in the Commemoration of Peter Muhlenberg representing our Chapter. In February, our Chapter took part in the Annual VASSAR Conference through attending all the workshops being offered online and attending in person at the Omni Hotel in Richmond. We were also well represented over President's Day weekend by taking part in the Commemoration at the Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary War Soldier in Alexandria and the George Washington Birthday parade. In March, our Chapter took part in the regional Color Guard Workshop in Leesburg and the Grave Marking at the Nixon Cemetery. As we move forward into the spring, we are looking forward to taking part in more events which will be offered by various Chapters in Virginia.

In addition to this, I have begun working on a project to honor our Chapter's patriots. As many of you may be aware, the Colonel William Grayson Chapter has a YouTube page which has several videos posted discussing numerous topics. The project which I have in mind is to post a 2-3 minute video biography of the Patriots all of us in the Chapter are descended from. Personal information about the Compatriot will not be used, only the life story of the Patriot. I am would to ask that our fellow Compatriots in the Chapter write up a two to three paragraph biography of their Patriot and email it to fedallgen@yahoo.com Be sure to put in the subject line of your email "Patriot Biography." As the project continues to grow, I will update the Chapter on the status of it and when the project will be published.

Color Guard Commander's Report: Andrew Mills

The Color Guard is looking for Compatriots who are interested in joining our ranks. The Guard is described as being the most visible part of the SAR. We attend numerous functions, including parades, grave markings, commemorations, Chapter meetings, etc.

For those who are interested in joining the Color Guard, please email the commander at fedallgen@yahoo.com.

Upcoming Events

April 6, 2024: Patriots Day Commemoration, Front Royal, VA

Event Level: National. Host Chapter: Col. James Wood II Chapter VASSAR / Dale Corey.

Location: Warren Heritage Society, 101 Chester St, Front Royal, VA. Time: (10:00 am-4:00 pm)

April 13, 2024: The 281st anniversary of the birth of Thomas Jefferson will be celebrated. The District of Columbia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, in cooperation with the National Park Service and the Military District of Washington, will sponsor a commemorative ceremony at 11:00 AM that day at the Jefferson Memorial, on the Tidal Basin in Washington.

April 13, 2024: Commemoration of Patriot Sgt. Maj John Champe. 11:00 am. Champe Home site, Middleburg, VA. Contact the Sgt. Maj John Champe Chapter for details.

April 20, 2024: James Monroe's 266th Birthday Celebration at His Birthplace, 10:30 am, 4460 James Monroe Highway (State Rt. 205) just outside of Colonial Beach.

April 27, 2024: Multi-Chapter Meeting at Graves Mountain Lodge, 11:00 am, Graves Mountain Lodge, Syria, VA.

April 28, 2024: James Monroe's 266th Birthday Commemoration at His Tomb, 11:00 am, Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond, VA.

May 10, 2024: 11:00 am - Naturalization Ceremony at Patrick Henry's Red Hill

Host: Patrick Henry Chapter, Virginia SAR. Location: Patrick Henry's Red Hill, 1250 Red Hill Road, Brookneal, VA 24528

May 11, 2024: Time 10:00 am– Commemoration of America's First Frontier (formerly Raid at Martin's Station)
Event Level: National. Host Martin's Station Chapter.

May 18, 2024: CWG Chapter Meeting, Sat., 11 am (meet & greet at 10:30) VFW Post 7589, Manassas, VA.

May 27, 2024: 1:00 pm - National Memorial Day Parade.

Event Level: National. Host/POC: George Washington Chapter. Location: National Mall, Washington, DC

June 1, 2024: 1:00 pm – Commemoration of Wayne's Crossing

Hosts: Fairfax Resolves Chapter and Sgt. Maj John Champe Chapter. Location: Spirit of Loudoun Revolutionary War Memorial, Loudoun County Courthouse, 18 E Market Street, Leesburg, VA 20176

June 6, 2024: 4:30 pm. Passage of the Prince William Resolves

The actual Anniversary of the passage and will be a SAR/DAR state level event in the county. It will take place on the private land in Dumfries that was once the site of the first county courthouse

June 8, 2024: People of the Revolution Event at Merchants Park in Dumfries.

This will be a reenactment of the debate that led to the passage of the Prince William Resolves. This is an all-day event with activities for everyone. 10am -3pm

June 8, 2024: Tavern Night at Williams Ordinary in Dumfries.

This is a fundraiser for the Prince William County Revolutionary War Memorial. 6 - 9 pm

June 8, 2024: 11:00 am - The Commemoration of the Virginia Declaration of Rights authored by George Mason. Host: George Mason Chapter. Location: Mason Family Cemetery Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton, VA.

June 15, 2024: 11:00 am – Genl. Daniel Morgan Commemoration

Host: Col James Wood II Chapter. Location: Mount Hebron Cemetery, 305 E Boscawen Street, Winchester, VA.

June 22, 2024: 10:00 am – Commemoration of the Battle of Spencer's Ordinary

Host Williamsburg Chapter. Location: Freedom Park, 5537 Centreville Road, Williamsburg, VA

July 4, 2024: Independence Day and March to the Tomb of George Washington

Event Level: National. Host: George Washington Chapter. Location: George Washington's Mount Vernon

July 10 – 17 2024: Annual NSSAR Congress in Lancaster, Pa. (login to sar.org for more details)

Registrar's Report: Mike Blythe

We have had one new member approved and registered this quarter. Dylan Cogan of Aldie is a descendant of Patriot Leonard Groninger who served as a Private in Captain Thomas Robinson's Ranging Company of the Northumberland County, Pennsylvania Militia. Ranging Companies sometimes operated as an independent command, ranging at will within their extensive assigned area of operations within Northumberland County. At other times these units functioned as an infantry company which was a subordinate command within a regiment of the Pennsylvania Line of the Continental Army.

As of 1 March 2024, our chapter has 8 new member applications pending review at VASSAR/NSSAR. This process is taking four months now on average, from submission by the chapter to approved and registered at NSSAR.

We had 14 new member applications approved in 2023.

To date, we have had three supplemental applications approved in 2024. Our Chapter President, Michael Wilson, has honored two of his ancestors: John Brickey who furnished supplies for the cause and his son, Jarrett Brickey, who paid the Supply Tax of 1783. The third was submitted by Devin Blythe, a descendant of Abner Bliss, who served as a Private in Captain Mack's Company of Colonel Ashley's Regiment of the New Hampshire Militia. Five supplements are in the works.

Please consider submitting a supplemental application. Our desire is to document as many lines to the Patriots as possible. The current application fees for supplements are \$100 (NSSAR), \$12 (VASSAR), and \$15 (CWGC).

Chapter Activities and News

January 6, 2024: Colonel William Grayson (CWG) Chapter Meeting Highlights

CWG President Michael Wilson (L) inducted new member Jesse James Inestroza into the chapter.

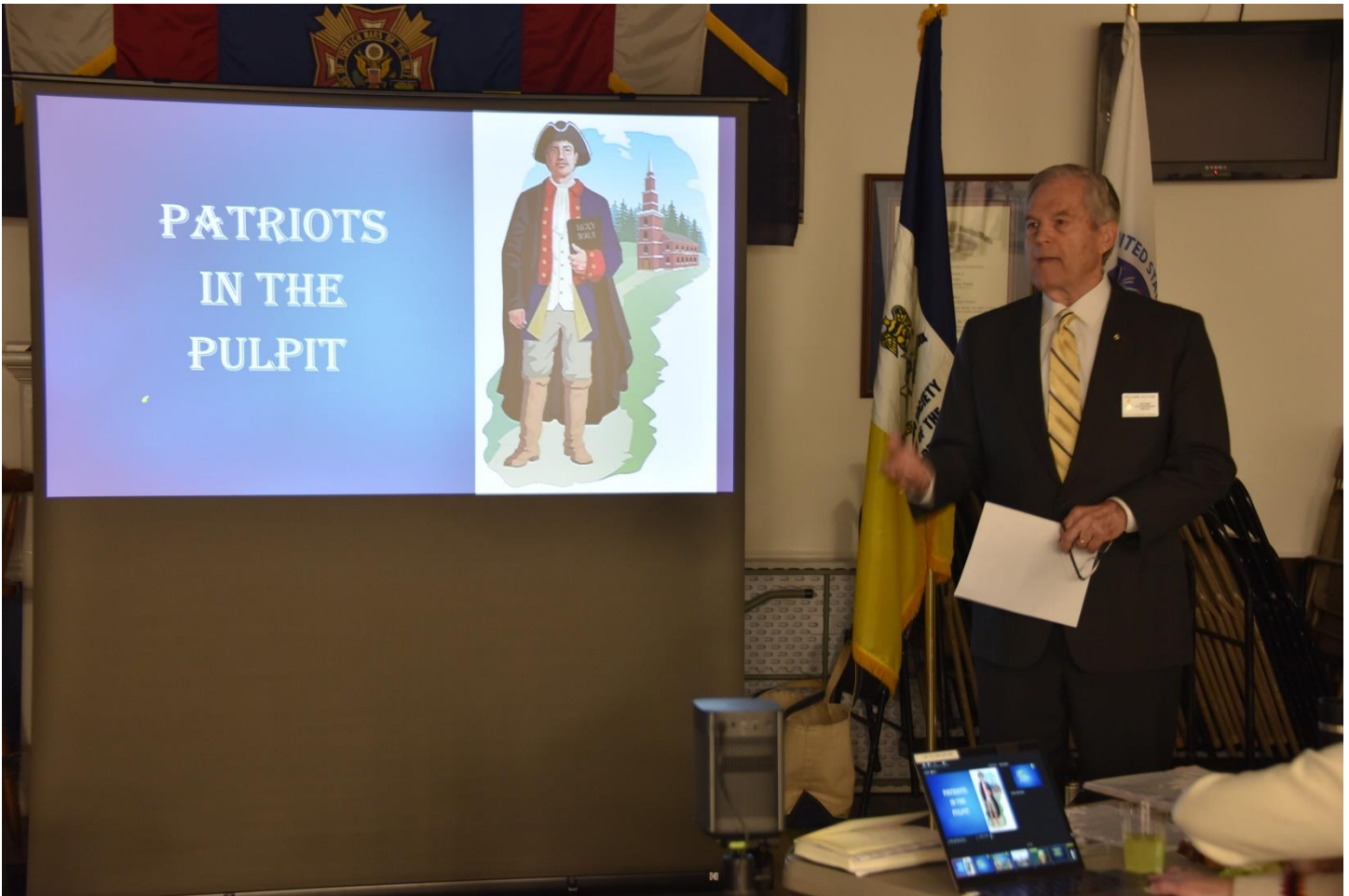


Compatriot VASSAR 1st Vice President Bill Greaf inducted the CWG officers for 2024.



- Compatriot Greaf, assisted by Compatriot Michael Weyler (2nd Vice President of VASSAR) presented state awards to both the chapter and to individuals.
 - Certificate of Appreciation – Andrew Mills
 - Certificate of Distinguished Service – Mike Weyler
 - Virginia Society Medal – Michael Wilson
 - Liberty Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters – Mike Blythe
 - Partners in Patriotism Ribbon – Colonel William Grayson Chapter
 - President General’s Education Outreach Streamer – Colonel William Grayson Chapter
 - Life Membership Certificates
 - Greg Burch – in absentia
 - William Grant – in absentia
 - Daryl Jacobs – in absentia
 - Ward Nickish – in absentia
- President Wilson presented chapter awards to the following
 - Medals and Citations
 - Compatriot Jeff Windland – Bronze Medal of Distinguished Service
 - Compatriot Ross Schwalm – Bronze Meritorious Service Medal

- Compatriot Mike Blythe – Bronze Roger Sherman Medal
 - Compatriot Charles Mills – Bronze Roger Sherman Medal
 - Mrs. JoDell Wilson – Lydia Darrah Medal
- Chaplain Richard Potter delivered the final presentation in his series Patriots in the Pulpit. This series, which he began before the COVID pandemic, discusses various members of the clergy who served during the American War for Independence.



January 13, 2024: Battle of Cowpens Commemoration, Winchester, Va.

Compatriots Michael Wilson and Mike Weyler attended the Battle of Cowpens Commemoration hosted by Colonel James Wood II Chapter, at Mt. Hebron Cemetery, Winchester, VA, where the CWG chapter flag flew on a howling and bitterly cold beautiful day.

During the ceremony, CWG President Michael Wilson led the VASSAR Color Guard, presented the chapter wreath and participated in the rifleman squad firing salute. At the end of the ceremony, the Colonel James Wood II presented Compatriot Wilson with Virginia Society Chapter Service Medal and Certificate in recognition of outstanding and dedicated support to the Colonel James Wood II Chapter during 2023.



Compatriots Michael Wilson (L) and Michael Weyler (R)

January 27, 2024: Peter Muhlenberg Commemoration - Woodstock, Virginia

CWG Compatriots Michael Weyler, Michael Wilson and Andrew Mills supported other chapters of the Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution in commemorating the life and deeds of Reverend and General Peter Muhlenberg.



Andrew Mills (L), Michael Weyler 2nd Vice President of VASSAR, Michael Wilson (R)

February 9-10, 2024: 134th VASSAR Annual Conference, Richmond, Va.

The Colonel William Grayson Chapter won first place in the state Youth Program competition for Outstanding JROTC Cadet and best Arthur M. and Berdena King Eagle Scout. CWG candidates also took first place in the Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historical Oration contest and the Dr. Tom and Betty Lawrence American History Teacher of the year contest!

Additionally, due to the efforts of CWG Past President, Ross Schwalm, the chapter was awarded the President General's Education Outreach Streamer and the Partners in Patriotism Award.



CWG Past President, Michael Weyler (L) was inducted as VASSAR 1st Vice President



CWG President Michael Wilson (R) was presented a Certificate of Distinguished Service at the VASSAR Conference for outstanding participation as the Northern region Color Guardsman for year 2023.

February 19, 2024: Ceremony Honoring the Unknown Revolutionary War Soldier - Alexandria, Va.

Compatriots Michael Wilson, Bud Wagner, Michael Weyler, Andrew Mills, Chuck Mills, and Jack Mills from the Colonel William Grayson Chapter (CWG) joined forces with other Chapters from the VASSAR, DAR, and CAR to support the ceremony honoring the Unknown Revolutionary War Soldier held at his tomb on the grounds of the Old Presbyterian Meeting House in Alexandria, VA.



CWG President Michael Wilson at the Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary War Soldier



February 19, 2024: George Washington Birthday Parade - Alexandria, Virginia

Compatriots Andrew Mills, Mike Weyler, Michael Wilson, Jack Mills and Chuck Mills of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter (CWG) participated in the annual George Washington Birthday parade in Alexandria, VA. The event was supported by Chapters of the VASSAR, DAR and CAR. An enthusiastic crowd greeted the SAR unit!



CWG Color Guard Commander Andrew Mills (L) carries the American Flag



Compatriot Michael Weyler (R) aboard the SAR Float

February 23, 2024: SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Certificate and Medal Presented

The Colonel William Grayson Chapter, Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution awarded the SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Certificate and medal to Police Officer First Class David Moore, Fairfax County Police Department. His citation was for:

Police Officer First Class David Moore is a veteran of 34 years of Law Enforcement service. His professionalism and dedication is an example to his fellow law enforcement colleagues. He arrives to work early and stays late to ensure the operational needs of the Department are met. Officer Moore consistently works traffic enforcement and is one of the top producers in the Sully Station. PFC Moore also participates in the department's community cruiser initiative, which means he frequently performs traffic stops or lends aid to community members before and after his work shift. Officer Moore is the epitome of a team player and is highly respected by his fellow officers. Police Officer First Class David Moore sustained performance of duty reflects great credit to himself, the Fairfax County Police Department and the entire Law Enforcement profession.



Compatriot Bill Collier presents Certificate and Medal to Officer Moore at Sully Police Station in Chantilly, Virginia

March 2, 2024: History Day Competition – West Springfield High School, VA.

On Saturday, March 2, 2024, the VA History Day (District V) held their annual competition at West Springfield High School. As has been the case for many years now, this local school history themed competition approached the local SAR chapters for their members to act as volunteer judges in the various categories and age groups. SAR members from both the Fairfax Resolves and Colonel William Grayson chapters answered the call.

Four Compatriots from the Colonel William Grayson Chapter: Dave Button, John Callaway, Ross Schwalm, and Keith Rouleau served as judges.

This year the following four elementary school students were awarded the new VASSAR/VA History Day medal for their entries in the *Group Exhibit* category:

2024 Virginia Sons of the American Revolution - VA History Day Award

1st Place:

Amiya Woolcock
Avery Moran

George Washington, Benjamin Franklin,
and the French Working Together to
Win the Revolutionary War

Groveton Elementary

2nd Place:

Layla DeCorlaSouza
Maya Ramos

George Washington's Military Experience

Groveton Elementary



March 9, 2024: Colonel William Grayson Chapter Meeting Highlights

CWG President Michael Wilson (L) inducted new member Dylan Cogan into the chapter.

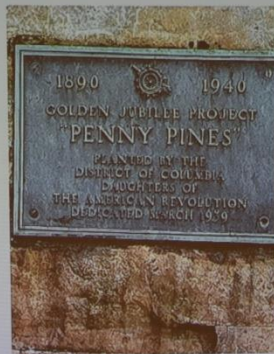


CWG President Michael Wilson (L) inducted new member John Patterson into the chapter.



On March 9, 2024, three Colonel William Grayson Chapter, Virginia Society, Compatriots, William Collier, John Patterson, and Ross Schwalm received the DAR Hannah White Arnett Bronze Medal presented by the Santa Margarita Chapter, California Daughters of The American Revolution for their efforts in cleaning up the District of Columbia DAR Penny Pines Memorial Plaza located in the Conway Robinson State Park, Gainesville, Virginia. The Hannah White Arnett Bronze Medal, a new DAR medal, is presented to members of the SAR or Sons of the Revolution acknowledging support and assistance in areas of community-centered events. These presentations were the first Hannah White Arnett Bronze Medals presented by the California DAR. The Penny Pines cleanup effort was organized and lead by John Patterson.

HANNAH WHITE ARNETT MEDAL CEREMONY



DAR Penny Pines Memorial Cleanup Santa Margarita Chapter Husband of DAR (HODAR), William Collier, with Ross Schwalm and John Patterson, all compatriots of the Col. William Grayson Chapter of the SAR, conducted mid-summer (Aug 2023) cleanup at the DAR Penny Pines Memorial site along US 29 near Gainesville, Virginia in the Conway Robinson State Forest. The land is a part of the larger Conway-Robinson Memorial State Forest, located south of the Manassas Battleground. This portion of the Forest has been designated as a long-term growth pine forest for educating college level forestry students. There is a bronze marker with a slate path and patio surrounding the marker. The marker was dedicated by the District of Columbia DAR in 1939.



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Pictured left to right: William Collier, Colonel William Grayson Chapter; Pamela C. Collier, Santa Margarita Chapter, California DAR; John Patterson, Colonel William Grayson Chapter; and Ross Schwalm, Colonel William Grayson Chapter.

CWG President Michael Wilson (L) congratulates Compatriot Bill Collier on receiving the Sliver Roger Sherman Medal for his contributions to the Virginia Society and the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR).



CWG President Michael Wilson congratulates Compatriot Keith Rouleau on being awarded the Virginia Society State Service Medal



CWG President Michael Wilson congratulates Peter Muhlenberg Findler on being awarded U.S. History Teacher of the Year by both the CWG Chapter and VASSAR. He will now advance to the NSSAR competition.



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



March 10, 2024: Vigil at the Tomb of Colonel William Grayson - Woodbridge, Virginia

The Colonel William Grayson Chapter, Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution hosted Grayson Remembrance Day at the Grayson Family Tomb in Woodbridge on Sunday, March 10, 2024.

Prince William County, Woodbridge District Supervisor Margaret Franklin updated the public on future events in 2024 related to the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution including the Prince William County American Revolution Memorial Park and Monument project.

John McDonald, of the Prince William County Office of Historic Preservation, spoke on the history of the Revolution from March 1773 – February 1774.



The Color Guard was composed of members from several Virginia SAR Chapters and was commanded by CWG Vice President Andrew Mills.



CWG President Michael Wilson spoke on the “Contributions of the Grayson Family.”



Wreath presentations were made by Michael J. Elston, Treasurer General of NSSAR, Dr. Michael Weyler, 1st Vice President of VASSAR, Paul Christensen, President of Col. James Wood II Chapter, Barry Schwoerer, President of Sgt. Major John Champe Chapter, Jeremy Ut, President of Col. Fielding Lewis Chapter, Anita Bonner, Regent, Lane's Mills Chapter of NSDAR, Dr. JoDell Wilson, Providence Chapter of NSDAR, Jocelynn Wilson Providence Chapter CAR Historian.



Norm Weaver of the Saint Andrews Society of Washington, DC Pipe Band provided bagpipe renditions of *Scotland the Brave* and *Amazing Grace* in honor of the Grayson family's Scottish origins.



March 13, 2024: Presentation of SAR Life Saving Commendation Certificate and Medal

The Colonel William Grayson Chapter (CWG) of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) presented the SAR Life Saving Commendation Certificate and Medal to Fairfax County Police Officer First Class Michael Rininger at the Sully Police Station. His citation reads:

On December 16th, 2023, Police Officer First Class Michael Rininger responded to an emergency call for a community member in cardiac arrest at their home. PFC Rininger arrived swiftly at the residence, went upstairs to the bedroom where he found the husband in distress and his wife unresponsive in the bed. PFC Rininger promptly took charge, relocating the wife to an open area for optimal treatment and assessing her vital signs. Recognizing the absence of a pulse, he initiated chest compressions, instructing the husband to provide rescue breaths during specific intervals. This lifesaving intervention continued until medical personnel arrived and assumed patient care. The individual was then transported to Prince William County Hospital, where their condition improved to critical but stable. PFC Rininger's decisive actions and skilled intervention during this critical moment are highly commendable, contributing to the patient's positive outcome.



The Colonel William Grayson Chapter, Virginia Society, presented the SAR Life Saving Commendation Certificate and Medal to Fairfax County Police Officer First Class Michael Rininger at the Sully Police Station, Chantilly Virginia From left to right: Lieutenant Low, Deputy Station Commander; Police Officer First Class Michael Rininger, Compatriot William Collier; and Captain Susan Russell, Station Commander.

March 16, 2024: Color Guard Workshop – Leesburg, Virginia

Members of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter took part in the regional Color Guard Workshop in Leesburg, hosted by the Sergeant Major John Champe Chapter. In attendance were CWG President Michael Wilson, CWG Color Guard Commander Andrew Mills and CWG Quartermaster Jack Mills. State Commander Brett Osborn awarded our Quartermaster a bayonet frog belt to recognize him as the youngest guardsman to attend the Workshop and complete all activities. Compatriot Andrew Mills was awarded the Virginia SAR Color Guard medal (Billy Flora Medal) at the March 16th VASSAR Color Guard Workshop, and is now recognized as a VASSAR Color Guard Safety Observer, while Compatriot Michael Wilson is now recognized as a VASSAR Color Guard Instructor and Safety Observer.



March 16, 2024: Honoring President James Madison - Montpelier Station, Virginia

Colonel William Grayson Chapter Secretary Dave Button presented the CWG wreath at a ceremony honoring the anniversary of President James Madison's birth (March 16, 1751)



Historical Notes:

Lord Fairfax and the Strange Odyssey of the Lost American Peers



Thomas 6th Lord Fairfax

Thomas Fairfax was created Lord Fairfax of Cameron in the Peerage of Scotland on 4 May 1627. Another Thomas, the 6th Lord Fairfax succeeded to the title in 1709, at which time he came into the family estates in Virginia, some 5 million acres. The 6th Lord Fairfax moved to Virginia to oversee the source of his wealth. Fairfax was the only British peer to take up permanent residence in North America.

In 1748 Lord Fairfax employed the sixteen year old George Washington, a distant relative, to survey his lands in western Virginia. During the American Revolution, Lord Fairfax remained loyal to the crown, but did not leave America. His lands were confiscated, and the eighty eight year old peer died less than two months after Washington's victory at Yorktown in 1781.

Lord Fairfax's title descended to his only surviving brother, Robert, who received cash compensation from the British Parliament for the loss of property during the Revolution. The settlement was a small fraction of the value of the confiscated land.

Robert died in 1793. An American cousin, Bryan Fairfax, a friend of George Washington, claimed and was granted the title. Bryan Fairfax became the first American-born holder of a British peerage, although he did not actually use the title, choosing to become an Episcopal priest.

In 1802 Thomas Fairfax inherited the title 9th Lord Fairfax of Cameron after his father's death. He lived the life of a country squire overseeing his 40,000 acres. His grandson Charles succeeded to the title. Charles' brother, John, succeeded his childless brother, becoming the 11th Lord Fairfax of Cameron.

By the late 19th century the family had largely forgotten about the title. This all soon changed. In 1900, Albert Kirby Fairfax succeeded his father. In 1901, he was summoned to attend the funeral of Victoria, the Queen-Empress of the British Empire. The Committee of Privileges of the House of Lords confirmed Albert Fairfax as the rightful 12th Lord Fairfax of Cameron. The newly recognized Lord Fairfax became a naturalized British subject on 17 November, 1908. The family resettled in Britain after an interlude of some 150 years.

Nicholas John Albert Fairfax, is now the 14th Lord Fairfax of Cameron.