



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



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January – March 2025

President's Comments – Andrew Mills

With Spring having arrived and the advent of the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution directly in front of us, it has never been a greater time to be a Son of the American Revolution and a history aficionado than it is right now. Almost every week going forward will have an SAR event or a historical moment to be remembered. This leads to a natural question which many people in our organization may be thinking about: what can I do to honor my patriotic past?

During our Commemoration of the Life of Colonel William Grayson, it was noted that the reason why many people do not know about our Chapter's namesake is due to his early passing in 1790. While other Revolutionary leaders continued to have careers which made larger impacts on our Nation's history, Grayson's early efforts in helping to establish the United States became greatly overshadowed.

As such, we have a unique opportunity over the course of the next eight years to ensure our own Patriot ancestor's legacies come out of the shadows and into the light. Beginning April 19, the Colonel William Grayson YouTube page will begin posting a brief weekly video biography of our chapter's Patriot ancestors, discussing their lives and contributions to the American Revolution. The videos will be approximately two to four minutes in length.

All Chapter compatriots are encouraged to write a two-paragraph biography of your Patriot ancestor (s) and email the write-up(s) to the Chapter President (fedallgen@yahoo.com) so that these biographies can be posted online. With the number of Compatriots in our Chapter, along with the number of Patriots who have been honored, we have more than enough names to publish one video biography weekly on YouTube from April 19, 2025 to September 3, 2033, the 250th Anniversaries of the start and end of the American Revolution.

Let us work together to make this project a great success and inspire others to learn more about their family histories. Together, we can show the Nation why not only today, but every day is a good day to be a Son of the American Revolution!

Vice President's Corner – Jeff Sterling

I attended the Virginia Society State Conference at the Virginia Crossings Hotel in Glen Allen Virginia the weekend of February 7th through 9th. Our very own Mike Weyler was installed as the new President of the Virginia State Society. An estimated 200 members and spouses were in attendance. There were many discussions held regarding new initiatives and plans for the Virginia State Society. Training was provided for interested individuals in utilizing the Member Clicks website. There were numerous opportunities to discuss issues with SAR officials from the state and national levels during hallway discussions between sessions and during breaks. The membership voted on several proposals including the establishment of "Provisional" membership.

Provisional membership is an identification for new members who are waiting for final approval for full membership from National. In recent months, concern has arisen regarding the fact that National is delayed in providing final approval for new members stretching more than four months. This causes the new member to begin losing the initial enthusiasm in becoming a member of the SAR. The State Society has recognized this as a significant problem and voted in favor of this initiative in an effort to resolve the issue.

As a result, the Colonial William Grayson Chapter is implementing a "Mentoring Program" that will be offered to new members falling into this category. In an effort to "onboard" them quickly as possible, involve them in Chapter activities, and provide a pathway to achieve their personal objectives in the Society we will begin to look for volunteers to fulfil the role of "Mentor." If you are interested in assisting a new member(s) in getting started in the SAR, please contact Jeff Sterling for details.

Chapter ROTC/JROTC/Sea Cadet Activities

The Colonel William Grayson Chapter, Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution (VASSAR), Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC), Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) and Sea Cadet Programs Received no acceptable nominations for the Enhanced JROTC Cadet competition for 2025.

Reminders for the SAR JROTC Bronze Medal which is presented to an Outstanding Cadet nominated by the Senior Military Instructor each year have been sent to each of our supported schools. Two award packages have been prepared as we await the other schools to respond. Presentations are made during each school's annual awards ceremony April through June 2025.

Goals 2025: Involvement of more members in the program. Reengage Schools who were inactive during the last year.

Registrar's Report - Mike Blythe

Our chapter has had five applications approved so far this year, but eleven more are in the queue waiting for review. All but two of them are at the National Headquarters where it's now taking five months until one of the genealogists performs an evaluation. Four of the applications in their pile were received at Louisville in November, so my hope is they'll see light soon. Nine supplemental applications are waiting review – that wait is now sixty-three weeks.

If you have friends or relatives who might consider joining the SAR, remind them that there is a discount on the application fee during April – the SAR is commemorating the semi- quincentennial or 250th anniversary of the battles at Lexington and Concord, and an applicant can save \$75.

As of 1 September 2024, the cost of applying to the SAR increased to \$257: \$150 NSSAR new member application fee, \$50 first year's dues, \$12 VASSAR, and \$45 Col William Grayson Chapter. Junior Member applications increased to \$107: \$75 NSSAR application fee, \$5 first year's dues, \$12 VASSAR, and \$15 Col William Grayson Chapter.

I'm looking for a compatriot with an interest in genealogy willing to take on the role of “assistant chapter registrar” during the remainder of this year. My hope is that this compatriot will volunteer to assume the role of Registrar / Genealogist in the coming year. New members are the life blood of our organization, so getting the application process right and onboarding the new member is paramount. We'll need a registrar who can hit the ground running during the anniversary year.

Upcoming Events

Note: All events are subject to change or cancellation; monitor e-mails and vssar.memberclicks.net calendar for changes

April 18-19th, 2025, Friday-Saturday: 250th Celebration of the Battle of Lexington and Concord, MA Event Level: National

Details: Estimated 150K participants and spectators attending these events. Information flyer, including lodging, schedule and transportation: https://www.sar.org/wp-content/uploads/Lexington-n-Concord_250th_Celebration_Info_Flyer_r4.pdf and website for SAR information on the Battle of Lexington and Concord 250th can be found: <https://massar.org/250th/>

April 19th, 2025, Saturday (11:00 am): Commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the Battle of Lexington and Concord (Patriots Day) & Commemoration of John Champe, Aldie, VA

Level: Chapter

Host/POC: SGT Major John Champe Chapter, VASSAR, POC Secretary Chris Vaughan, (703) 431-8838
Location: Champe Farm, off Champe Ford Road across from Cana Winery off U.S. 50 west of old town Aldie, VA

Details: Follow signs to event. Short commemoration of John Champe followed by commemoration of the Battle of Lexington & Concord. Bell will be rung remembering the 1st eight patriots killed on Lexington Green.

April 19th, 2025, Saturday, (11:00am): 250th of Lexington-Concord and the Virginia Gunpowder Event Commemoration, Culpeper, VA

Event Level: Chapter

Host/POC: Culpeper Minutemen Chapter, VASSAR, POC Bill Schwetke, schwetrke.sar@gmail.com, (540) 270-2722

Location: Culpeper Masonic Cemetery, 1000 North Main Street, Culpeper, VA

Details: Historical Commemoration – 250th event, this is a continuation of a many years-old event celebrating the impact of Lexington and Concord on Virginia and the reaction to the Williamsburg Gunpowder event held at the graves of two major participants in the response to the Williamsburg Gunpowder event.

April 26th, 2025, Saturday, (11:00 am-2:00 pm): Annual Graves Mountain Multi-Chapter Meeting, Syria, VA

Event Level: Chapter

Host/POC: Culpeper Minutemen Chapter VASSAR, POC: Bill Schwetke, schwetke.sar@gmail.com

Location: Graves Mountain Farm & Lodges, 205 Graves Mountain Lane, Old Blue Ridge Turnpike, Syria, VA 22743

Details: This will also include the Blessing of Virginia Soil for Waxhaws from 10:45-11:00 am.

April 28, 2025: James Monroe's 267th Birthday Commemoration at His Tomb, 11:00 am, Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond, VA.

May 3, 2025: Saturday, (TBD) - 250th Powder Incident, Patrick Henry arrival in Williamsburg, VA
Event Level: State

May 29, 2025: 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. This year's Naturalization ceremony coincides with Patrick Henry's birthday and a separate celebration conducted at his graveside later in the day.

May 10, 2025: Time 10:00 am– Commemoration of America's First Frontier (formerly Raid at Martin's Station)
Event Level: National. Host Martin's Station Chapter. **Location:** Wilderness State Park, 8051 Wilderness Road Trail, Ewing, VA

May 17, 2025: CWG Chapter Meeting, Sat., 11 am (meet & greet at 10:30) VFW Post 7589, Manassas, VA.

May 26, 2025: 2:00 pm - National Memorial Day Parade.
Event Level: National. Host/POC: George Washington Chapter. Location: National Mall, Washington, DC
The Parade route is approximately 7th Street to 16th Street.

June 1, 2025: 2:00 pm – Commemoration of Wayne's Crossing
Host: Sgt. Maj John Champe Chapter. Location: Spirit of Loudoun Revolutionary War Memorial, Loudoun County Courthouse, 18 E Market Street, Leesburg, VA 20176

June 22, 2025: 2:00 pm – Commemoration of the Battle of Spencer's Ordinary
Level: State. Host Williamsburg Chapter.
Location: Freedom Park, 5537 Centreville Road, Williamsburg, VA

July 4, 2025: Independence Day and March to the Tomb of George Washington
Event Level: National. Host: George Washington Chapter. Location: George Washington's Mount Vernon
Time 9:00 am

July 12 – 18, 2025: Annual NSSAR Congress in Uncasville, CT (login to sar.org for more details)

For information on statewide events, go to the VASSAR website virginia-sar.org/vassarpress22/ and click on calendar. (You may have to set up an account, your login is your national SAR membership number.) As events are posted by various chapters, they will appear.

Chapter Activities and News

January 11, 2025: Colonel William Grayson (CWG) Chapter Meeting Highlights



Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution (VSSAR) 1st Vice President Michael Weyler administered the oath of office to the incoming officers (L-R) Andrew Mills-President, Jeff Sterling-Vice President, Dave Button-Secretary, Jeff Windland-Treasurer, Richard Potter-Chaplain, Mike Blythe-Registrar. Historian Charles Mills was sworn in in-absentia.



(VSSAR) 1st Vice President Michael Weyler congratulates incoming CWG President Andrew Mills

The following awards were presented:

The Bronze Distinguished Service Medal w/certificate was presented to Compatriot Ross Schwalm.

The Bronze Roger Sherman Medal w/certificate was presented to Compatriot Andrew Mills and to Compatriots Tim Cline and Gary Roseman *in absentia*

The Bronze Roger Sherman Oak Leaf Cluster was presented to Compatriots George Ax, Dave Button, John Callaway, Bill Collier, Richard Potter and Jeff Windland

A Certificate of Distinguished Service was presented to Compatriots Keith Rouleau

A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Compatriots Michael Blythe, Aaron Carpenter, Greg Carpenter, and Keith Rouleau for committee work; Dave Haradon & Artistry Catering and Diego Mesa for the catering work; the Manassas VFW Post 7589 for their facility; and Nelson Dental Practice for the use of their parking lot; and to compatriots Dave Button, Ray Hawkins, Mel Hurley, Jon Huddleston, Andrew Mills, Jack Mills, Jeff Sterling, Michael Weyler, Jocelyn Wilson, and JoDell Wilson for participation in the Northern Virginia Veterans Parade.

January 19, 2025: Battle of Cowpens Commemoration, Winchester, Va.

Compatriots Michael Wilson (4th from L) attended the Battle of Cowpens Commemoration hosted by Colonel James Wood II Chapter. The snows were still deep.



January 25, 2025: Peter Muhlenberg Commemoration - Woodstock, Virginia

CWG Compatriots 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.



(L-R) Compatriot Greg Hall, CWG President Andrew Mills, Lt. Col. Oliver North (USMC-Ret.), Compatriot Michael Wilson, CWG Color Guard Commander Jon Huddleston



February 7-8, 2025: 135th VASSAR Annual Conference, Glen Allen, Virginia



(L-R) Compatriots George Ax Sr., Bill Collier, Jeff Strickland, and Andrew Mills enjoy fellowship



(L-R) Compatriots Andrew Mills, Bill Collier, Jeff Sterling, Chuck Mills, Mike Weyler and George Ax Sr. hold aloft award streamers presented to the Colonel William Grayson Chapter.



(L-R) CWG Past President Michael Wilson, CWG Vice President Jeff Sterling and CWG President Andrew Mills with the Chapter's candidate, in the Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historical Oration contest, Twisha Sinha. Twisha took second prize.



CWG President Andrew Mills congratulates the Chapter candidate for the Eagle Scout Scholarship Competition, Anthony Haas for achievements in scouting and his third place win.



On February 8, Michael E. Weyler, was installed as the 105th President of the Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (VSSAR) at the Society's annual conference in Glen Allen, Virginia. National Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) President General Darryl Addington administered the oath of office.

Mike Weyler is a past president of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter of the SAR. Congratulations Mike, we are proud of you!

February 15, 2025: Wreath Laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary War Soldier



(L-R) Compatriots Michael Wilson, Chuck Mills, Greg Hall, Mike Weyler, Andrew Mills and Jack Mills participate in a multi-chapter event in Alexandria, Virginia honoring the Unknown Revolutionary War Soldier

February 15, 2025: George Washington Birthday Parade, Alexandria, Virginia

Three members of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter's Color Guard (Jack Mills, Greg Hall, and Andrew Mills) participated in the annual George Washington Birthday Parade multi-chapter salute to George Washington.



February 22, 2025: Wreath Laying at George Washington's Tomb, Mount Vernon Estate

(L-R) Compatriots Chuck Mills, Greg Hall and CWG President Andrew Mills join VASSAR President Michael Weyler at a Wreath Laying in honor of George Washington's Birthday



March 8, 2025: Colonel William Grayson (CWG) Chapter Meeting Highlights

Chapter President Andrew Mills inducted Compatriot William Marm into the Chapter and presented Compatriot Marm with the War Service Medal.



Compatriot “Buddy” Wagner gave a rousing rendition of the poem “A Toast to the Flag.”



CWG President Andrew Mills presented Compatriot William Groth a Certificate of Appreciation for his participation in the Veterans Day Parade.



Lauren Malloy from the Prince William County Office of Historic Preservation gave a presentation about the “Prince William County Revolutionary War Roster”, a project initiated this past summer. The roster includes the names of veterans and their personal connections to Prince William County, including those who either were born or enlisted in the county. In addition, the roster is accompanied by GIS map displaying the burial locations of about 1/3 of the veterans on the roster.



March 15, 2025: 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 Saturday, March 15, 2025. Compatriots from a wide range of Chapters made up the Color Guard for the annual event.



Six VSSAR Chapters and one DAR Chapter presented wreaths

Charles Moler of the Good Shepherd Housing Foundation, the owners of the land upon which the tomb is located, offered words of welcome to numerous SAR (Sons of the American Revolution) and DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) Chapters from all over Northern Virginia which presented wreaths at the event. Good Shepherd Housing has been at the forefront of tackling housing challenges in Northern Virginia by transforming properties into affordable housing solutions.



CWG President Andrew Mills thanks Charles Moler of the Good Shepherd Housing Foundation for steadfast support of the event.

Prince William County, Woodbridge District Supervisor Margaret Franklin updated the public on future events in 2025 related to the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution and emphasized the importance of knowing local history and active participation in the life of the community.



March 15, 2025: Color Guard Workshop – Rippon Lodge, Woodbridge, Virginia

The Colonel William Grayson Chapter hosted the first Color Guard Workshop of the year at Rippon Lodge. Twenty-seven members of the Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard were in attendance. Assisting in teaching sword drills at the workshop was CWG Chapter President Andrew Mills. Also attending the workshop from the CWG Color Guard were Color Guard Commander Jon Huddleston, and Compatriots Mel Hurley, Ray Hawkins, Greg Hall, and Bill Groth.



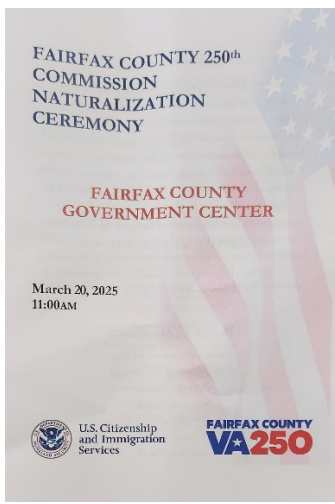
March 16, 2025: Honoring President James Madison - Montpelier Station, Virginia

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)



March 20, 2025: Naturalization Ceremony in Fairfax, Virginia

Colonel William Grayson Chapter President Andrew Mills (last on R) joined Compatriots from the Fairfax Resolves Chapter, Sergeant Major John Champe Chapter, Colonel James Wood II Chapter, and Colonel Fielding Lewis Chapter in the Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard supporting the Fairfax County 250th Commission Naturalization Ceremony held at the Fairfax County Government Center. Congratulations to the 75 new citizens of our nation who were naturalized and huzzah!



March 21, 2025: Revolution Education Day - Rippon Lodge, Woodbridge, Virginia

Compatriot Ross Schwalm participated in this daylong event, presenting a twelve minute show and tell demonstration to five different groups of elementary grade children, inspiring them to learn more about their American heritage.



Compatriot Ross Schwalm at Rippon Lodge



March 22, 2025: Grave Marking of Jeremiah Smith – Gore, Virginia

CWG Compatriot Ray Hawkins participated in the Grave Marking of Captain Jeremiah Smith in Gore, Virginia, hosted by the Colonel James Wood II Chapter. Huzzah to Guardsman Ray Hawkins!



Standing with Compatriot Hawkins (L) is Patrick DeHaven, a direct descendant of Captain Jeremiah Smith

Historical Notes:

“The Story of Yankee Doodle”



One foppish high fashion style of dress that made its way from England to Virginia was the so called “Macaroni”. One contemporary observer wrote:

“They indeed make a ridiculous figure, with hats an inch in the brim, that do not cover, but lie upon the head, with about two pounds of fictitious hair, formed into what is called a club, hanging down their shoulders.... Their legs are at times covered with all colours of the rainbow; even flesh-coloured and green silk stockings are not excluded....Such a figure, essenced and perfumed, with a bunch of lace sticking out under (the) chin, puzzles the common passenger....”

In 1774, Virginian James Mercer claimed that items had been stolen from him by a “profound knave” named William Foster Crosby, whom he described as “(dressed) like a Macaroni”

During the Revolution British soldiers sang the ditty “Yankee Doodle” mocking Americans as simpletons who thought if you stuck a feather in your cap you were the embodiment of high fashion. Americans adopted the song as a song of defiance. By 1781, “Yankee Doodle” had become a song of national pride.

Yankee Doodle went to town
A-riding on a pony
Stuck a feather in his cap
And called it macaroni.

Yankee Doodle keep it up
Yankee Doodle dandy,
Mind the music and the step,
And with the girls be handy.