



Grayson's Dispatch



*Col. William Grayson Chapter,
Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution*

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Jim Bayne, past president Virginia Society SAR (far right), and Thad Hartman, Charter President (second from right) shown installing 2009 officers (left to right): John Epperly, Registrar; Rick Hendrix, Chaplain; Bill Collier, Treasurer; Vince Knapp, Vice President; George Ax, Secretary; Bill Broadus, President

2009 Off to a Roaring Start

The Colonel William Grayson Chapter of the Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution closed its charter period with installation of new slate of officers on 10 January 2009. Present at the meeting were fifteen charter members, one guest who was installed at the meeting, five guest who have since been approved and become members, plus other guests and family members.

Twenty-two awards or certificates were presented or announced, including an award to the winner of the Chapter sponsored Essay and Oration Contest winner Adrienne Georgia. Adrienne also presented her oration entitled "Crisis and Revolution. President Hartman presented her a certificate, a medal and a cash award for both the essay and the oration. Adrienne was accompanied by her parents.

Jim Bayne presented a short description of his patriot ancestor Vincent Vaughan, and Bill Collier presented a short description of his patriot ancestor William Winchester.



President Thad Hartman making presentation to oration contest winner Adrienne Georgia

New Members Receive Certificates

During 2009, eight new members were formally recognized at Chapter meetings, including one who had completed the application process in 2008, two that were pending approval as the year ended. Five applications were submitted and approved in 2009 and the applicants formally inducted, whereas three more have been approved but have not yet received their certificate. Finally, one application was submitted through another chapter but transferred into the Col. Grayson Chapter where his certificate was awarded. Our Registrar, John Epperly and his wife Carol have done an outstanding job in assisting applicants in the research the processing of their applications.

The first applicant to receive his certificate in 2009 was David John Adamy. Special recognition was given to the fact that David's ancestor was a Forgotten Patriot, an individual not previously recognized by either the DAR or the SAR. David immediately jumped into an active role in the Chapter and is preparing a membership handbook and expects to launch a Chapter website in the very near future.



David receiving his membership certificates from President Hartman at the January 2009 meeting. His wife Debra is standing by.

Two additional new members were recognized at the March meeting -- Gary Alan Howard and David Maxwell Mercer. Gary's son Reid has also been approved for membership but has not been available

for formal recognition. Their patriot Ebenezer Howard was recently remembered with a grave marking in Madison County, New York. (See separate story).



Bill Broadus preparing to present memberships certificates and associated SAR rosette to Gary Howard (center) and David Mercer (right).

Four new members were recognized during the October meeting -- James Edwin Collins, Richard Edward Lee, William Steven Mark, Jr., Thomas Michael Taimi.



President Bill Broadus and VASSAR President William Simpson bracket four new SAR members proudly displaying their membership certificates. Shown left to right are: Collins, Lee, Mark, and Taimi.

Ward Nickish was presented his certificate in November. He was a guest speaker in 2008 with a presentation entitled " The Search and Recovery of POW/MIAs From Prior Wars".



Ward Nickish receiving his membership certificate from President Bill Broadus with Registrar John Epperley standing by

In addition to those receiving certificates, memberships approved in 2009 but not yet receiving certificates include Reid Howard, William White, and David Allard.

At the close of the 2009 membership year, there are six supplemental applications in National and two additional in state. Three "forgotten patriots" have been identified as possible for 2010.

Our Chapter Founders

In November 2006, VASSAR President Jim Bayne requested that compatriot Thad Hartman explore the possibility of establishing a new chapter in the Gainesville/Manassas/Centerville areas of Prince William and western Fairfax, Counties. Drawing recruits who had been members of other chapters in the region, Thad soon gathered a sufficient cadre of potential members to warrant an exploratory meeting in February 2007. Enthusiasm was sufficient that within two months, the recruits had drafted a constitution and by-laws, and elected provisional officers. The organizers also voted to name the Chapter in honor of Colonel William Grayson, a Revolutionary War hero, one of Virginia's first United States Senators, and a lifelong resident of Prince William County.

On May 5, 2007, VASSAR President (and Chapter member) Joe Dooley presided at a banquet during which he recognized our 22 charter members, presented our charter, and installed Thad Hartman as our first President. During the ensuing year, our membership, led by Thad, wasted no time in making their mark within the local community. Their

initiatives included efforts to publicize and protect Colonel Grayson's gravesite in eastern Prince William County, ceremonies to mark the grave of two local Revolutionary War militia officers, and recognition of the achievements and patriotism of local students, Junior ROTC Cadets, businessmen, and a flag-displaying resident.



Charter President Thad Hartman (left) and former VASSAR President Jim Bayne (right)

During their tenure, Thad and his officers planned and organized a series of truly memorable meetings, which combined business, comradeship and a series of truly outstanding speakers. Their topics included genealogical research, the exploitation of DNA in tracing familial relationships, and the history of the Sullivan and Yorktown Campaigns.. Our meeting at the Evergreen Country Club, followed by a lecture concerning the history of the antebellum plantation at that location and a tour of the original plantation house was particularly memorable.

Since our initial meeting – and largely through Thad's efforts – our Chapter's membership grew to 35 compatriots at the time of the charter closing in December 2008. At the time, several additional applications were in process. The energy and enthusiasm that our new members have brought will ensure that our Chapter will continue to play a crucial role within the community in promoting patriotism and good citizenship and advance the worthy objectives of the SAR.

John F. De Pue

Captain Robert Howison Hooe and Son Honored with Grave Marking



Commemoration scene at gravesites of Capt. Robert Hooe and son Pvt. John Hooe in Manassas, VA. Shown here in addition to family members are members of the Col. William Grayson Chapter, SAR; Culpepper Minute Men Chapter, Virginia General Society of the War of 1812; and Virginia Order of Founders and Patriots. Capt. Hooe's grave is marked by the half buried stone to the right. The stone to the left marks his wife's grave and the one next to that marks Pvt. John Hooe's grave.

On Saturday May 9, 2009 members of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter, VSSAR, and the Society of the War of 1812 gathered at the Hooe family cemetery in Manassas, VA to dedicate grave markers commemorating the military service of Captain Robert Howison Hooe during the Revolutionary War and his son, Private John Hooe during the War of 1812. Past Chapter President Thad Hartman served as master of ceremonies, recounted the military and public services of the honored veterans, and introduced several special guests, including Ms. Roberta Plaster, a direct descendant of Captain Hooe. Ms. Plaster provided the attendees a genealogical sketch of her family and identified her relatives interred in the family plot. Following the unveiling of the markers and a wreath laying by appropriately uniformed members of both organizations, bugler Nate Calonder played taps after Larry Alexander and Lon Lacy fired a musket salute. In making closing remarks, VASSAR President elect Bob Bowen noted the irony of the burials of these patriots just a stone's throw from the site of Mayfield Fort, a Civil War earthworks that played a role in a subsequent conflict to preserve the Union, and the principles for which the honorees had fought.

Robert Howison Hooe was born in Prince William County in 1748 but spent most of his life in Stafford County. Prior to the Revolution, he married Mary Waugh, the daughter of Richard and Matilda Waugh of King George County. Serving in both the Continental Army and the Virginia Militia during the Revolutionary

War, Robert Howison Hooe rose to the rank of Captain. Following the war, he continued his military service, as a lieutenant and captain in the Stafford County militia. His penchant for public service also prompted him to serve as Deputy Sheriff and Sheriff of Stafford County, Justice of the Peace, and Presiding Judge of the Stafford County Court. He died in 1834.

John Hooe, Robert's son, was born in 1793 and followed his father's example of military service by serving in the Prince William County Militia during the War of 1812.

His unit, Captain John Brawners' Company of the 89th Regiment of Militia, was assigned to duty at Mattox Bridge in Westmoreland County, as well as King George County and the vicinity of Fredericksburg.

John was twice married; first to his cousin, Susan C. Hooe and, after her death, to Virginia Hansborough. Following his military service, John served for one term in the Virginia Senate (1816-1817). He died in 1873.

It is noteworthy that Captain Robert Hooe is the nephew of Captain Bernard Hooe, who is buried in another Hooe family plot on the Manassas battlefield. In March 2008, our Chapter dedicated a headstone and grave marker in his honor at that location.

John F. De Pue

Pvt. Ebenezer Howard Honored with Grave Marking in New York



On 1 August 2009, shots were heard among the peaceful cornfields when Fort Stanwix and Oneida Nation First Allies Revolutionary War re-enactors raised their muskets in honor of Pvt. Ebenezer Howard

On 1 August, 2009, the Col. William Grayson Chapter and the Oriskany Battle Chapter (Empire State Society) co-sponsored a grave marking at Indian Opening Cemetery in Madison County, New York to honor the service of Pvt. Ebenezer Howard, the fourth great grandfather of our own Gary Howard. Present and participating were also color guards from the Munsville American Legion Post 54 and Fort Stanwix, including a representative of the Oneida Indian Nation (America's First Allies), along with a musket salute. The flag of the Ft. Stanwix Color Guard was a reproduction of the American flag that flew at Ft. Stanwix during the Battle of Oriskany. Also present were members of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Daughters of Union Veterans and members of the Madison County Historical Society. Also present were John and Carol Epperly of the Chapter.

Pvt. Howard was born in 1752 in Plymouth Co. Massachusetts and served the Patriot cause as a private in Captain Seth Pratt's Company, Colonel James Williams Regiment of the Massachusetts Militia. Private Howard also participated in the Tiverton Rhode Island Alarm and served in the 17th Albany County Militia at Cherry Valley, N.Y.

After the War, Ebenezer and his wife and their ten children moved to Madison County, New York. One of his sons, Albert (my Great, Great, Great Grandfather) was a Private serving in the 129th Regiment of the NY State Militia during the War of 1812. Ebenezer's older brother, Jesse, was an officer in the Mass Militia during the Revolutionary War, and his Great, Great Nephew, Major General Oliver Otis Howard, was Commander of the 11th Corps of the

Army of the Potomac in the Civil War, and recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor

Gary started search for his ancestor a little over a year ago and processed his SAR application through our Chapter. He promptly contacted the SAR chapter nearest the gravesite to arrange for the joint marking. "I am so impressed that so many folks, who do not know me or have any connection to my ancestors, would give of their time to assist in this event," said Gary. "A little over a year ago I knew nothing of my ancestral line."



Chapter member Gary Howard with wife Amy at gravesite of Pvt. Ebenezer Howard and his wife Silence. Also shown are Gary's son and daughter, Reid and Regan. Reid is one of the newest members of the Chapter.

Hurricane of Independence

On 14 March 2009, Tony Williams, historian and author from Williamsburg, VA, provided an overview of his book, *Hurricane of Independence, The Untold Story of a Deadly at the Deciding Moment of the American Revolution*. This interesting presentation was followed at the conclusion of the meeting by a book signing.

"*Hurricane of Independence* is the untold story of a violent storm and the violent birth of a nation. On September 2, 1775, the 8th deadliest Atlantic hurricane of all times landed on American shores. Over the coming days, it would race up the East Coast, striking all of the important colonial capitals and eventually killing more than four thousand people. In an era where hurricanes were viewed as omens from God, what this storm meant to the colonists about the justness of their cause would yield unexpected results."

"*Hurricane of Independence* is the story of individual people in the eye of the storm and how they saved the American Revolution. From well-known founders like George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin to ordinary individuals such as sailors, escaped slaves, farmers, and fishermen, Tony Williams paints a stunning picture of what it meant to live at the opening of the American Revolution and the incredible weight of the choice of people were facing at that deciding moment."



Tony Williams

William Grayson and the Constitution - 1788

Lucy Baker has recently authored a book "lovingly dedicated to the memory of William Grayson and to the people of The Old Dominion whose persistence & dedication gave us liberty and a nation with sound Government." The book describes and provides text of "debates in the Commonwealth of Virginia on the adoption of the Constitution in the words of the patriots."

Lucy is a fourth great granddaughter of William Grayson who she describes as a patriot, a founding father, a member of the House of Burgess, an aid to Gen. Washington, a Colonel in the Revolution, a delegate to the Continental Congress, and as the first U.S. Senator from Virginia. In the biographical sections of the book she states that "William Grayson (1736-1790) was born in an era of America's greatest historic accomplishments, and not surprisingly found himself in the center of eighteenth century's most stupendous events ... Grayson rendered himself completely to the quest of freedom and the founding of a new nation and used all the talent and strength he possessed in that quest. ... William was a national figure in American politics, yet today, the name William Grayson is scarcely mentioned in the history of the revolution, and he remains unknown to most Americans. ... William Grayson died before the history of the Revolutionary era was written."

Although she currently lives in Florida, she is active in the local scene advocating the restoration and preservation of the tomb of her grandfather and dedicating the area as a historic park. In September, she made presentations to the Prince William County Board of Supervisors and did book signings at several local libraries and the Manassas Museum where Bill Broadus presented her with a Certificate of Appreciation.



Bill Broadus presenting Certificate of Appreciation to Lucy Baker, fourth great granddaughter of William Grayson

Awards Announced for 2008 Service

Each year, awards are presented for various categories of service. Some represent National Society recognition, some represent Virginia Society recognition, some are granted by the Col. William Grayson Chapter. On 10 January 2009, some 22 awards were announced. Those present at the meeting received their award at that time. The awards announced include the following:

A SAR National Society Medal was presented to incoming president Bill Broadus, Jr. Although presented as a society meeting, this medal and accompanying certificate was an award by the National Society for his contributions at the national level.



Bill Broadus receiving National Society Medal and Certificate

For service at the State level both chapter President Thad Hartman and Former VASSAR president Jim Bayne earned the Virginia Society Medal. Since both had previously received that medal, each received an Oak Leaf Cluster.



Jim Bayne receiving a Chapter Service Award

A Past President's Pin was presented to Richard B. Potter for his service as President of the now defunct William Grayson Chapter from several years ago. Richard also received a Virginia Service Medal and a Military Service Medal.



Richard Potter after receiving his awards

Virginia Society Chapter Service Medals were awarded to: James M. Bayne, W. A. Broadus, Jr., Robert G. McKeever II', William Charles Collier, Richard E. Hendrix, John F. DePue, Jimmie J. Logan, Christopher A. Bennett, and Thomas O. Jacobs.

Forgotten Patriots Award Certificates were presented to William Charles Collier and David J. Adamy II.

Certificates to Accompany the SAR Military Service Medal (which were not available when the actual medals were presented last year) were presented to Thadeus Hartman, Vincent E. Knapp, Jr., William Charles Collier, Roger H. Boyce, W. A. Broadus, Jr.

Twenty-Five Years of Service

When the Rockbridge Volunteers chartered a chapter of the VASSAR in 1978, Chapter Secretary George Ax was there to be counted, and was still being counted twenty five years later. In recognitions of his continued service, that chapter provided a certificate that was presented at the October meeting. The certificate was a Twenty Five Year Membership Award as a Charter Member of the Rockbridge Volunteers Chapter from 1978-2003



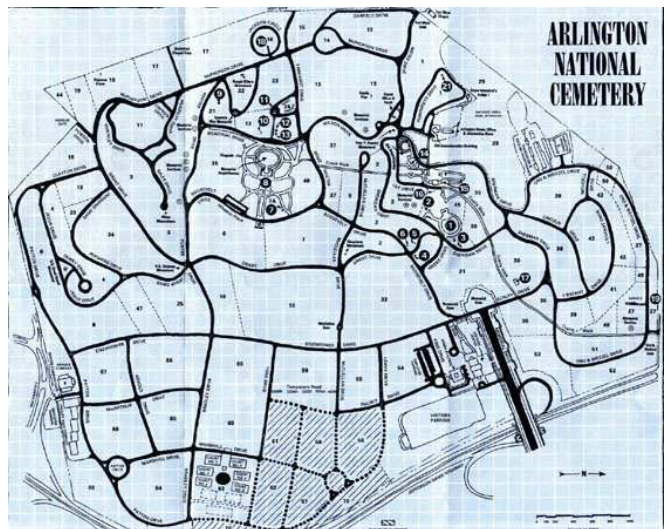
Thad Hartman presenting Secretary George Ax with a Twenty-Five Year Membership award from the Rockbridge Volunteers Chapter

Arlington Cemetery Presented



At the June Chapter meeting, our own William Collier presented a PowerPoint presentation on the “History and Facts of Arlington National Cemetery.” Arlington Cemetery began as an estate of George Washington Parke Custis, George Washington’s Step-Grandson, and was passed down to his daughter Mary who was the wife of Robert E. Lee. As a result of the Civil War the property was seized by the Federal Government and became a federal cemetery. Today it is the second largest national cemetery and its occupants represent every period of American history. Collier’s presentation walked us through this fascinating history and presented a sample of those who rest there.

If you would like to see this presentation again please contact William Collier.



JROTC Students Recognized

On 20 May 2009, Richard Potter participated in an award service as the Osbourn High School recognized Navy JROTC Cadet Eric Ray.

In a similar service on 22 May, George Ax recognized Daisha Wasembeck, a Cadet Master Sergeant (C/MSG) at Hylton HS. She was in the 10th grade at that time.

W. A. Broadus presented the JROTC Award to Stonewall Jackson Air Force JROTC Cadet Richard Bowman on May 28, 2009.

The SAR awards the ROTC Medal to foster the principle of the "citizen-soldier", exemplified by the Minutemen of Revolutionary War days. The Bronze JROTC Medal was authorized in 1965 and is presented by a Chapter, a State Society, or the National Society to JROTC cadets who are selected for having a high degree of merit with respect to leadership qualities, military bearing and general excellence. The recipients are selected by the Commanding Officer of the ROTC or JROTC unit. No recipient may receive it more than once.



George Ax shown with the JROTC Bronze Medal Award recipient, C/MSG Daisha Wasembeck

Chapter Supports Veterans Day

An Inaugural Greater Manassas Veterans Day Parade was held in Old Town Manassas on November 7, 2009. This parade sponsored by The American Legion Post 10 of Manassas was in honor of local WWII veterans but also honored all veterans. President Broadus served on the Planning Committee and arranged for the Virginia Society SAR Color Guard to march in the parade. The Col. William Grayson Chapter contributed \$500 to the cause.



The VASSAR Color Guard marching in the First Greater Manassas Veterans Day

The Penobscot Expedition 1779

Donald Doliber, a DAR Outstanding History Teacher of the US, was guest speaker on 14 November. He described how the British, wishing to block American incursions into Eastern Nova Scotia, undertook to establish a fort in Penobscot Bay in what is now Maine but was then part of Massachusetts. Learning of this expedition, the Massachusetts colony organized a expedition of their own to destroy it. By the time they reached Penobscot Bay, the ill-fated fleet consisted of 37 vessels, including three war ships from the Massachusetts Navy, 13 privateers, and 21 transports containing land troops. Direct assault on the fort ultimately failed with substantial loss by the Americans. Upon arrival by British naval reinforcements, most of the American fleet moved up the Penobscot River. All vessels of the fleet were ultimately grounded and burned or scuttled. Surviving Americans ultimately walked back to Boston.

This battle is considered the largest defeat of any American fleet up to Pearl Harbor. Despite this disaster, Doliber considers it a success in that it showed the British that they would have to continually defend their holding there and this required forces that were then not able to be used at Boston and other points of interest.

Doliber also described an archaeological study and some of the artifacts associated with the expedition. Donald Doliber is the "younger" twin brother of David Doliber of the Chapter and currently lives in Massachusetts.

President's Message

First let me wish each member and their family, a wonderful holiday and a happy new year for 2010. Let me also express my thanks and appreciation for the many excellent activities and programs that the Chapter was involved in this year. This is clearly evident as demonstrated in this edition of the *Grayson's Dispatch*.

I call upon each of us to continue and expand our activities and programs for the coming year.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the President for this year.

Best to You

Bill Broadus
Chapter President