

Merry Christmas!

The Governor's Chronicle



A Newsletter Offering of the *Tho Nelson Jr.* Chapter, Virginia Society,

Sons of the American Revolution

December 2009 Edition



Minutes of Our Last Meeting

November 10th, 2009

The Thomas Nelson, Jr. Chapter held its Fire Safety Commendation Award Meeting at the Point Plaza Suites in Newport News. After the Call to Order, Invocation, the Pledge of Allegiance, and SAR Pledge, President Jim Swords made opening remarks and introduced distinguished guests.

The Chapter was pleased to welcome Compatriot Allan Willey into its membership. Mrs. Willey performed the honors of pinning Compatriot Willey's SAR Badge after President Swords described its meaning and significance of its design.

Newport News Master Firefighter John "Jimmy" Chellis was awarded the Chapter's Fire Safety Commendation Medal for 2009. Newport News Fire Chief Kenneth Jones cited Firefighter Chellis' long and exemplary service in the department.

Compatriot Walter Neville read the long and exceptional citation for the Chapter's Good Citizenship Medal, which was presented to Mr. Michael J. Walsh, IV. The ceremony also had the honor of being attended by Mr. Walsh's family.

The guest Speaker was Mr. Tony Williams, Historian, Author, and Williamsburg resident.



President Jim Swords congratulates Compatriot Allan Willey as he accepts his SAR Membership Certificate while Mrs. Willey looks on.

Mr. Williams provided a startling and amazing account of the details as portrayed in his book, "Hurricane of Independence: The Untold Story of the Deadly Storm at the Moment of the American Revolution".

Officer and Committee Reports were given, including updates on the Chapter's Eagle Scout Recognition Program from Compatriot Joe Shipes. Chapter Officers for 2010 were nominated and elected and the meeting closed with the SAR Recessional and Benediction.

Our Next Meeting

January 9th, 2010, 6:00pm

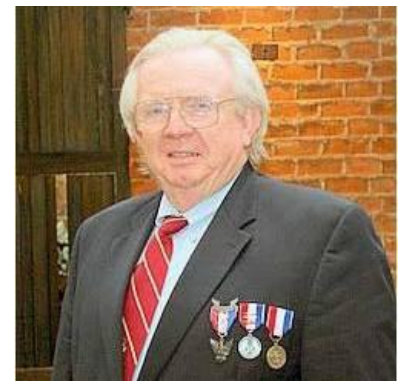
Induction of Williamsburg
& Thomas Nelson, Jr.
Chapter Officers for 2010

Crown Plaza at Ft. Magruder
6945 Pocahontas Trail
Williamsburg, VA 23185

Meal Cost: \$17.00 Per Person

Guest Speaker:

Art Batten, National Trustee &
Immediate Past President VASSAR



RSVP By:

Monday, January 4th, 2010

Jim Swords at

james.swords@cox.net

or 757-870-7850

Compatriots' Ladies Encouraged
To Attend

The SAR Afield

Upcoming Events in Our Region & Beyond

JANUARY, 2010

Chapter Board of Managers Meeting
Time and Details TBA

JANUARY 9th, 2010

Joint Meeting with Williamsburg
Chapter – Williamsburg, VA

JANUARY 16-17th, 2010

Battle of Cowpens – Chesnee, SC

JANUARY 30th, 2010

229th Anniversary of the Battle of
Cowan's Ford – Charlotte, NC

FEBRUARY 12-13th, 2010

 VASSAR Annual Meeting –
Richmond, VA

FEBRUARY 20th, 2010

Crossing of the DAN –
South Boston, VA



2010 Chapter Officers

President	Jim Swords
Vice-President	Gerry Runyan
2 nd Vice President	Jeff Brown
Secretary	Michael McCarthy
Treasurer	Rick Elofson
Registrar	Jim Sample
Chaplain	Dr. Dan Warren
Surgeon	Dr. Tom Sale

Committee Chairmen

Citizenship	Vacant
Eagle Scout	Bruce Meyer/ Joe Shipes
Flag	Robert Coleman
Graves	Vacant
Newsletter	Rick Elofson
Public Safety	Jeff Brown
ROTC/JROTC	Tom Nelson
Veteran's Affairs	Robert Coleman

An Account...

The Diary of Col. John Fitzgerald

"Christmas, 6 P.M....It is fearfully cold and raw and a snow-storm setting in. The wind is northeast and beats in the faces of the men. It will be a terrible night for the soldiers who have no shoes. Some of them have tied old rags around their feet, but I have not heard a man complain....I have never seen Washington so determined as he is now....He stands on the bank of the stream, wrapped in his cloak, superintending the landing of his troops. He is calm and collected, but very determined. The storm is changing to sleet and cuts like a knife....

[3 A.M.] I am writing in the ferry house. The troops are all over, and the boats have gone back for the artillery. We are three hours behind the set time...[the fishermen directing the boats] have had a hard time to force the boats through the floating ice with the snow drifting in their faces...

...it was broad daylight when we came to a house where a man was chopping wood. He was very much surprised when he saw us. 'Can you tell me where the Hessian picket is?' Washington asked. The man hesitated, but I said, 'You need not be frightened, it is General Washington who asks the question.' His face brightened, and he pointed toward the house of Mr. Howell.

It was just eight o'clock. Looking down the road I saw a Hessian running out from the house. He yelled in Dutch and swung his arms. Three or four others came out with their guns. Two of them fired at us, but the bullets whistled over our heads. Some of General Stephen's men rushed forward and captured two. The others took to their heels, running toward Mr. Calhoun's house, where the picket guard was stationed, about twenty men under Captain Altenbrockum. They came running out of the house. The captain flourished his sword and tried to form his men. Some of them fired at us, others ran toward the village.

The next moment we heard drums beat and a bugle sound, and then from the west came the boom of a cannon. General Washington's face lighted up instantly, for he knew that it was one of [General John] Sullivan's guns.

Announcements

All Things in the Thomas Nelson, Jr. Chapter



BINGO!

VA Hospital, Hampton, Building 148

January 4th, 2010, 7:00pm

Still Need Help

Meet at the Domiciliary at 6:30pm to set up for the games and refreshments. Bingo starts at 7:00pm and plays for one hour or until our money (\$50) is gone, whichever comes first. We clean up and leave by 8:15pm. To do a respectable job takes a minimum crew of four, but the more volunteers, the higher our Stark score. If you can arrive earlier and/or stay later to visit with the long-term patients in Bldg. 146, that's even better!



If those receiving a copy of this newsletter by USPS have an email account, please reply via email to:

Jim Swords (james.swords@cox.net)

or by phone at **(757-870-7850)**



There are a number of vacant Committee Chairmanships. If interested, please let a Chapter Officer know and they can provide details.



"Rich Bellamy:
Battle of Monmouth"
Richmond
American Revolution
Roundtable

Wednesday, January 20th, 5:30 pm

Heilman Dining Center

University of Richmond, Richmond, VA

<http://arrrt-richmond.org/>

804-755-1809 or 804-323-1759