

The Governor's Chronicle



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



Sons of the American Revolution



November 2010 Edition

Minutes of Our Last Meeting

September 14th, 2010

The Thomas Nelson, Jr. Chapter held its Law Enforcement Commendation Award and Good Citizenship Award Meeting at Joint Meeting 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.



Compatriot Rick Elofson affixes the SAR rosette for Compatriot Jamie Conley

First on the agenda was the induction of Compatriot Jamie Conley. Compatriot Conley is a Major in the US Air Force and travels extensively in the course of his duties. The Chapter warmly welcomed him into our ranks.

After dinner, the Chapter was honored to have Mr. Phillip Duggins, Director of Field Service for the Colonial Council, Boy Scouts of America speak at length about the history of scouting in America and about many of the activities within the Colonial Council to encourage and expand scouting.



Chief Lorenzo Sheppard presents the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal to Master Detective William Nesbitt

Chief Lorenzo L. Sheppard of the Newport News Police Department read the outstanding citation for our Law Enforcement Commendation awardee, Newport News Master Police Detective William E. Nesbitt.



President Jim Swords presents the Bronze Good Citizenship Award to James W. Funk
Compatriot Walt Neville presented an extraordinarily long list of community involvement that merited the award of
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Our Next Meeting

November 9th, 2010

Social 6:30pm

Meeting 7:00pm

Fire Safety Commendation
Award Meeting
Election of Chapter Officers

Point Plaza Suites
950 J. Clyde Morris Blvd.
Newport News, VA 23601

Meal Cost: \$23.00 Per Person

Guest Speaker:
PHILLIP F. HAMILTON, Ph.D.
Department of History
Christopher Newport University

“Henry Knox, Artilleryman
of the Revolution”



RSVP By:

Friday, November 5th, 2010

Rick Elofson at

fnccpa@msn.com or 757-596-6825

Compatriots' Ladies Encouraged
To Attend

The SAR Afield

Upcoming Events in Our Region
& Beyond

NOVEMBER 9th, 2010

Fire Safety Commendation Meeting
Election of Officers

NOVEMBER 11th, 2010

Veteran's Day Wreath Laying
Governor's Palace – Williamsburg
11:00am

★ DECEMBER 1st, 2010 ★

2010 Chapter Dues Deadline

DECEMBER 4th – 5th, 2010

Battle of Great Bridge
Chesapeake – 10:00am to 4:00pm

DECEMBER 14th, 2010

Wreaths Across America - National
Cemeteries - 12:00 noon

DECEMBER 15th, 2010

VASSAR Eagle Scout Scholarship
Deadline



Chapter Officers

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

Committee Chairmen

Citizenship	Walter Neville
DAR/CAR	Vacant
Eagle Scout	Bruce Meyer
Flag	Robert Coleman
Graves	Vacant
Newsletter	Rick Eloffson
Public Safety	Jeff Brown
ROTC/JROTC	Tom Nelson
Veteran's Affairs	Robert Coleman

Tribute to Thomas Nelson, Jr.

October 19, 2010

Robert L. "Bob" Bowen, President

Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution

Thomas Nelson, Jr. was a planter, statesman and soldier who served as Governor of Virginia and as the Virginia representative in the Continental Congress where he signed the Declaration of Independence.

He gave half of his family's fortune to the Continental Army and served as the commanding General of the Lower Virginia Militia. He fought at the battle of Yorktown (his hometown) and legend says that he urged Washington (or, in some versions, Lafayette) to fire on his own home, the Nelson House, where Cornwallis had his headquarters, offering five guineas to the first man to hit his house. Two cannonballs can still be seen imbedded in the house today. Whether one of them earned the artilleryman five guineas is anybody's guess.

In 1963, during the early days of the Vietnam War, I was stationed on Okinawa at the Armed Forces Radio and Television Station. Our job was to keep the troops informed and entertained. In keeping with our mission, we sent a documentary film team to Vietnam to prepare a report on what the Soldiers and Marines, based on Okinawa, were doing in Vietnam. The Army's 173rd Airborne Brigade and the Third Marine Division both had troops in Vietnam serving in an advisory role. We titled our report "In Our Own Backyard". And, I've often thought of that report when studying the battle that was fought here in 1781.

Yorktown was the "backyard" for a community of about 2000 people at that time. It had between 250 and 300 buildings, nine of which still stand, including the ancestral home of the man we honor today.



VASSAR Color Guard At the Wreath-Laying Ceremony at the gravesite of Governor Thomas Nelson, Jr.

including the ancestral home of the man we honor today.

To reflect upon the life of Thomas Nelson, Jr., I quote from the tribute paid to him upon his death by a friend, Col. James Innes.

"The illustrious General Thomas Nelson is no more! He paid the last great debt to nature on Sunday, the fourth of the present month, at his son's estate in Hanover. He, who undertakes barely to recite the exalted virtues which adorned the life of this great and good man, will unavoidably pronounce a panegyric on human nature. As a man, a citizen, a legislator, and a patriot, he exhibited a conduct untarnished and un-debased by sordid or selfish interest, and strongly marked with genuine characteristics of true religion and sound benevolence. Entertaining the most ardent love for civil and religious liberty, he was among the first of that glorious band of patriots whose exertions dashed and defeated the machinations of British tyranny, and gave United America freedom and independent empire. At a most important crisis, during the late struggle for American

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Minutes of Our Last Meeting

September 14th, 2010

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our Bronze Good Citizenship Medal to Mr. James W. Funk of Yorktown.



Compatriot Walt Neville and the VASSAR History Day 2009 Streamer

Our Chapter was pleased to receive a number of awards from VASSAR, including streamers for History Day 2009, Center for Advancing America's Heritage Chapter Donation Campaign for 2010, Chapter Excellence 2009, and a



Compatriots Bruce Meyer and Joe Shipes affix the Chapter Excellence 2009 streamer Support of the Center 2009-2010 streamer from the National Society.

Reports were given, with updates to various Chapter programs and upcoming events. The meeting closed with the SAR Recessional and Benediction.

Announcements

All Things in the Thomas Nelson, Jr. Chapter



VA Hospital, Hampton, Building 148

Monday, January 3rd, 2011, 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.



"Battle of Guilford Court House"

Josh Howard

Richmond American Revolution Roundtable

Wednesday, November 17th, 5:30 pm

Heilman Dining Center

University of Richmond

Richmond, VA

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

804-755-1809 or 804-323-1759

Flag Certificate



Mr. & Mrs. David Van Wagoner of Yorktown proudly display the National Colors and the Gadsden flag while the family pet looks on.

Election Day! November 2nd

"Let each citizen remember at the moment he is offering his vote that he is not making a present or a compliment to please an individual - or at least that he ought not so to do; but that he is executing one of the most solemn trusts in human society for which he is accountable to God and his country."

- Samuel Adams

"The elective franchise, if guarded as the ark of our safety, will peaceably dissipate all combinations to subvert a Constitution, dictated by the wisdom, and resting on the will of" the people."

- Thomas Jefferson

"Democracy is two wolves and a lamb voting on what to have for lunch. Liberty is a well-armed lamb contesting the vote!"

- Benjamin Franklin

Tribute to Thomas Nelson, Jr.
October 19th, 2010
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liberty, when this state appeared to be designated as the theatre of action for the contending armies, he was selected by the unanimous suffrage of the legislature to command the virtuous yeomanry of his country; in this honorable employment he remained until the end of the war; as a soldier, he was indefatigably active and coolly intrepid; resolute and un-dejected in misfortunes, he towered above distress, and struggled with the manifold difficulties to which his situation exposed him, with constancy and courage.

In the memorable year 1781, when the whole force of the southern British army was directed to the immediate subjugation of this state, he was called to the helm of government. He did not avail himself of this opportunity to retire to the rear because of danger; but on the contrary, took the field at the head of his countrymen; and at the hazard of his life, his fame, and individual fortune, by his decision and magnanimity, he saved not only his country, but all America, from disgrace, if not from total ruin. If, after contemplating the splendid and heroic parts of his character, we shall inquire for the milder virtues of humanity, and seek for the man, we shall find the refined, beneficent, and social qualities of private life, through all its forms and combination, so happily modified and united in him, that in the words of the darling poet of nature, it may be said: "His life was gentle: and the elements so mixed up in him, that nature might stand up and say to all the world – this was a man."

The words of Col. James Innes at the funeral of Governor, General Thomas Nelson, Jr..... the man we honor this day... IN HIS OWN BACKYARD.

- Bob Bowen, President, VASSAR

Yorktown Day! October 19th, 2010



Historic interpreter Mark Schneider portrays the Marquis de Lafayette at the Yorktown Victory Monument.



Distinguished Visitors and Guests of the Armed Forces of the United States and France on the reviewing stand.



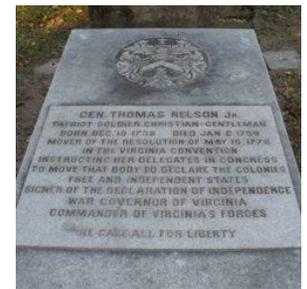
Compatriot Thomas Page Nelson II, descendant of Governor Thomas Nelson, Jr., at the Victory Monument.



VASSAR President Bob Bowen leads the VASSAR Color Guard and Compatriots down Main Street.



Williamsburg Chapter President Ben Fegan applauds while preparing to present his Chapter's wreath at the ceremony at Grace Church.



The grave of Thomas Nelson, Jr., Governor of Virginia, Commander of Virginia Forces, Signer of the Declaration of Independence.

