

The Governor's Chronicle



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



Sons of the American Revolution



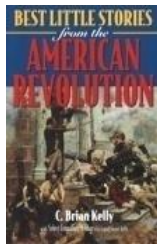
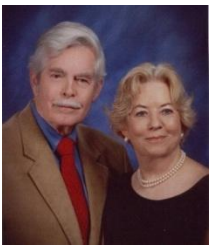
October 2009 Edition

Minutes of Our Last Meeting

September 19th, 2009

The Thomas Nelson, Jr. Chapter held a Joint Meeting with the Norfolk and Williamsburg Chapters during the VASSAR Semi-Annual Meeting Luncheon at the Virginia Beach Resort Hotel in Virginia Beach. The Norfolk Chapter opened the meeting with a rendition of "An American Anthem". After the Presentation of Colors, the Pledge of Allegiance, the National Anthem, SAR Pledge, and Invocation, VASSAR President Bill Simpson made opening remarks and introduced distinguished guests.

During the luncheon, Readings & Recollections were given by C. Brian Kelly and Ingrid Smyer-Kelly, authors of many books recounting lesser-known historical facts.



C. Brian Kelly and Ingrid Smyer-Kelly

The Keynote Speaker was Lee Webb, news-anchor for CBN and new member of the Norfolk Chapter. Compatriot Webb spoke on "Why History Matters". Twenty-three inductees were welcomed into the Virginia Society, including our own Compatriots Samuel Endicott, Michael McCarthy, and Joseph Shipes.



Compatriots Joseph Shipes, Samuel Endicott, & Michael McCarthy (VASSAR President Bill Simpson at podium)



Awards and Recognitions were given by VASSAR 3rd Vice President Phil Williams and President Bill Simpson made closing remarks. The VASSAR Color Guard performed Retiring of the Colors, followed by the SAR Recessional and Benediction. A fraternally good time was had by all!



VA OFPA Governor Mike Lyman, NSSAR President General Edward Butler & NSSAR Historian General Lindsey Brock at Warner Hall (see Page Three)

Our Next Meeting

November 10th, 2009, 7:00pm

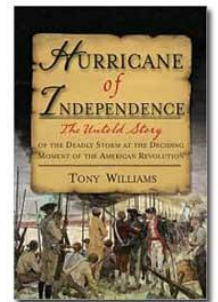
Fire Safety Commendation
Award Meeting
Induction of Compatriot
Allan Willey
Election of Chapter Officers

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

Meal Cost: \$23.00 Per Person

Guest Speaker:

Tony Williams, Historian & Author



"Hurricane of Independence: The Untold Story of the Deadly Storm at the Deciding Moment of the American Revolution"

RSVP By:

Wednesday, November 4th 2009

Rick Elofson at

fnecpa@msn.com or 757-596-6825

Compatriots' Ladies Encouraged
To Attend

The SAR Afield

Upcoming Events in Our Region
& Beyond

NOVEMBER 10th, 2009

234th Birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps

NOVEMBER 11th, 2009

Veteran's Day

DECEMBER 9th, 2009

Battle of Great Bridge

Times and Details TBA

★ DECEMBER 1st, 2009 ★

2010 Chapter Dues Deadline

DECEMBER 14th, 2009

Wreaths Across America - National

Cemeteries - 12:00 noon

DECEMBER 15th, 2009

VASSAR Eagle Scout Scholarship

Deadline

JANUARY 9th, 2010

Chapter Meeting - Induction of Officers

Times and Details TBA



Chapter Officers

President	Jim Swords
Vice-President	Gerry Runyan
2 nd Vice President	Jeff Brown
Secretary	Bob Curtin
Treasurer	Rick Elofson
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 Elofson
Public Safety	Jeff Brown
ROTC/JROTC	Tom Nelson
Veteran's Affairs	Robert Coleman

Portfire & Pen

A Recurring Column by the Chapter President



Compatriots,

Sustainment and Growth. That is the two-fold initiative for 2010 that I encourage every chapter member to consider as we look forward to our final meeting of 2009. Examples of sustainment have been plenty in this past year. Notable among them have been our ROTC/JROTC and Eagle Scout programs and our continuing service to our country's veterans through hosting regular quarterly bingo games at the VA hospital in Hampton.

Compatriot Tom Nelson, despite having an arduous military assignment, and with the able assistance of Compatriot Walter Neville, ensured that our local ROTC and JROTC units and cadets received their superbly merited recognition in 2009. Likewise, our Eagle Scout Committee, through the leadership of Compatriot Bruce Meyer, has not only recognized this year's new Eagle Scouts but has also retroactively recognized those reaching that achievement back to 2007 for a total of 433 Eagle Scouts!

Compatriot Bob Coleman's dedication, with the kind assistance of many, to the VA Hospital bingo games and the double-duty of Compatriot Rick Elofson as both chapter and VASSAR treasurer are but a few more of the many other examples of sustainment that can be recounted here. My apologies to many dedicated members not cited herein.

If these programs and activities are to be sustained, though, our chapter as a whole should and ought to be willing to bring its resources of time, talent, and treasure to bear, in the manner of our Patriot Forefathers. These are a but few of the means by which we seek to perpetuate their memories and fulfill our obligations to them and to their sacrifices for us, their descendants.



Washington at Valley Forge:

The seminal example of sustainment

As we are a lineage society composed of volunteers, I would by no means suggest that, for the sake of the chapter or society, we purposefully seek to endure the hardships of our Patriot Forefathers. Indeed, we should enjoy the blessings of their labours, and our own. However, it is right to occasionally ask ourselves what our purposes have been for joining.

My first humble challenge to all members is to consider how our individual talents and interests might be suited for the sustainment and growth of our compatriotic activities and purpose.

Our chapter has experienced growth in 2009 with new and returning Compatriot members and we are honored to have them. My second challenge to all is to show your pride in your Patriot Ancestry and the SAR by wearing your rosette, or other SAR attire, whenever possible and promoting conversation about our Patriot Ancestors and chapter among your families, neighbors, colleagues and friends. Encourage them to research their ancestry and apply for membership and direct them to the many SAR resources at our disposal.

Together, with a commitment to sustainment and growth, we can exemplify those manly virtues our Patriot forefathers wished to bequeath to us and continue to bring to our historic locale a more personal sense of connection to our Patriotic past, present, and future.

Your most Humble & Obt. Servt.

Jim Swords

Warner Hall Graveyard, Gloucester County

A Joint OFPA/SAR Ceremony



OFPA GG John Bourne speaks on the Founders and the Wounded Warriors

On Saturday, October 17th, the SAR was honored to attend a luncheon meeting of the Virginia Society of the Order of Founders and Patriots of America at the Riverwalk Restaurant in Yorktown. Among the honored attendees were OFPA Governor General John Bourne, NSSAR President General Edward Butler, VA OFPA Governor Mike Lyman, VASSAR President Bill Simpson, and many others. Keynote Speaker Tony Williams, gave an inspiring speech on "The Great Pillars of Human Happiness: Religion, Virtue, and American Liberty".

The attendees proceeded to the graveyard at Warner Hall in Gloucester County to observe a joint ceremony honoring Virginia Founders Augustine Warner I, Augustine Warner II and Revolutionary War Patriot Lt. Warner Lewis, Jr. with granite markers for each. The weather was cold, overcast, and windy but the Hand of Providence kept it dry.

A very special honor was bestowed upon the ceremony with the attendance of two 5th Special Forces Group Soldiers, who were being honored at the Wounded Warriors Weekend at Warner Hall. All at the ceremony were thankful for their kind attendance and are ever grateful for their service and sacrifices for our country.

Remarks about the Founders were given by VA OFPA Associate Cranston Williams, Jr., descendant of both men. Associate Williams spoke of the arrival of Augustine Warner I in Virginia in



Patriot Lieutenant Warner Lewis, Jr.'s SAR Patriot granite marker

about 1628 and of the many public offices his Founder ancestor held before dying in 1674 at age 62. The son, Augustine Warner II, was also spoken of, as well as the offices he held and an account of his losses of property during Bacon's Rebellion of 1676. Augustine Warner II died in 1681.



VASSAR Color Guard at the Warner Hall Graveyard, Gloucester Co.

Thomas Nelson, Jr. Chapter President Jim Swords spoke briefly on the few known facts of Patriot Lt. Warner Lewis, Jr., second great-grandson of Augustine Warner II. He was born in about 1747 and married twice, having two sons and daughters by each wife. He served as Chairman of the Gloucester County Committee of Safety in 1775 and was nominated as Lieutenant of County Militia, a force in which he served during the Battle of the Hook in Gloucester County on October 3, 1781.

Lt.Col. Lewis H. Burruss, US Army (Ret.), Gloucester resident, warrior-poet, and local historian also graciously recounted the exploits and victory of colonial regular, militia, and French forces, led by Mercer and Lauzun, over the British forces, led by Banister Tarleton, at the Battle of the Hook.

Announcements

All Things in the Thomas Nelson, Jr. Chapter



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.



"Philip Vickers Fithian: The American Revolution Through the Eyes of 18th Century Diarists," Dr. John Fea.

Richmond American Revolution Roundtable

Wednesday, November 18, 5:30 pm

Heilman Dining Center

University of Richmond, Richmond, VA

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

804-755-1809 or 804-323-1759

An Account...

Dr. James Thacher's Military Journal

"At about twelve o'clock, the combined army was arranged and drawn up in two lines extending more than a mile in length. The Americans were drawn up in a line on the right side of the road, and the French occupied the left. At the head of the former, the great American commander mounted on his noble courser, took his station, attended by his aides. At the head of the latter was posted the excellent Count Rochambeau and his suite. The French troops, in complete uniform, displayed a martial and noble appearance; their bands of music, of which the timbrel formed a part, is a delightful novelty, and produced while marching to the ground a most enchanting effect. The Americans, though not all in uniform, nor their dress so neat, yet exhibited an erect, soldierly air, and every countenance beamed with satisfaction and joy. The concourse of spectators from the country was prodigious, in point of numbers was probably equal to the military, but universal silence and order prevailed.

It was about two o'clock when the captive army advanced through the line formed for their reception. Every eye was prepared to gaze on Lord Cornwallis, the object of peculiar interest and solicitude; but he disappointed our anxious expectations; pretending indisposition, he made General O'Hara his substitute as the leader of his army. This officer was followed by the conquered troops in a slow and solemn step, with shouldered arms, colors cased and drums beating a British march. Having arrived at the head of the line, General O'Hara, elegantly mounted, advanced to his excellency the commander-in-chief, taking off his hat, and apologized for the non-appearance of Earl Cornwallis. With his usual dignity and politeness, his excellency pointed to Major-General Lincoln for directions, by whom the British army was conducted into a spacious field, where it was intended they should ground their arms."

Yorktown Day! October 19th, 2009



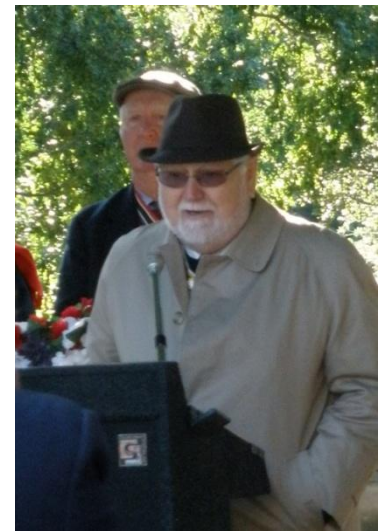
A contingent of the Yorktown Fifes and Drums Corps plays at the wreath laying ceremony at Grace Church, Yorktown.



The VASSAR Color Guard leads Sons of American Revolution Compatriots in the parade down Main Street in Yorktown.



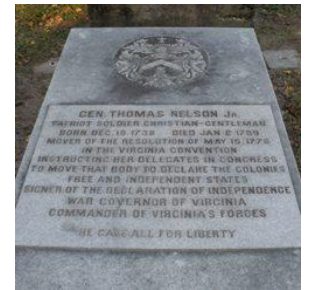
Compatriot Thomas Page Nelson II renders honors to his Patriot Ancestor, Governor Thomas Nelson, Jr.



NSSAR President General Edward Butler addresses attendees along with OFPA GG John Bourne.



VASSAR Chaplain Compatriot Rev. Henry Minich (left) leads the Benediction at the conclusion of the wreath laying ceremony.



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





2010 Dues Notice Form



The Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution

To: **Thomas Nelson, Jr. Chapter, SAR**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone/e-mail: _____ / _____

National Number/State Number: _____ / _____

Dues:

National Society	\$30.00
Virginia Society	\$20.00
Chapter Dues	\$25.00

Total Dues Paid

\$75.00

Voluntary Contributions:

Knight -Patty Fund (Dividends go to SAR Causes) \$ _____

Hamilton Fund (Dividends support VASSAR Ops) \$ _____

Flathers/May Fund (Dividends publish the VA Bulletin) \$ _____

Chapter \$ _____

Total Voluntary Contributions

\$ _____

Total Remittance

\$ _____

Please make all checks payable to:

Thomas Nelson, Jr. Chapter, SAR

and return check with this form no later than December 1st, 2009

to Rick Elofson, Treasurer, at:

21 Paula Maria Drive

Newport News, VA 23606

Reminder, last year there were over 105 reinstatements, which causes much unneeded and extra paper work.