

The Governor's Chronicle



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



Sons of the American Revolution



September 2011 Edition

Minutes of Our Last Meeting

June 11th, 2011

The Thomas Nelson Jr. Chapter held a Joint Meeting with the Williamsburg Chapter at the Crown Plaza at Ft. Magruder, in Williamsburg. Compatriot Ed Truslow, Williamsburg Chapter President, called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon. After the Invocation, the Pledge of Allegiance, and SAR Pledge, members introduced themselves, their guests, and remarked on their Patriot Ancestors.

The Williamsburg Chapter warmly

inducted Compatriot John Jethro Lilley III into its membership. Both Chapters also had the honor of hearing the 2011 Joseph E. Rumbaugh Oration presentation given by Eagles Scout Alan Booth. Eagle Scout Booth had delivered the same award-winning presentation at the 2011 VASSAR Annual meeting in Richmond in February.

After lunch, Guest Speaker, Dr. Corliss A. Tacosa of Old Dominion

(Continued on Page Three)



Thomas Nelson Jr. Chapter Martha Washington Medal Award Recipients
(L to R: Compatriot Ken Wood and His wife, Gwen; President Joe Shipes; Christine Swords and her husband, Compatriot Jim Swords; Karen Speirs and her husband, Compatriot John Speirs)

Our Next Meeting

September 13th, 2011, 7:00 pm

6:30 pm Social

SAR

Bronze Good

Citizenship

Medal Award

Fiorello's Restaurant

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites

943 J. Clyde Morris Blvd.

Newport News, VA 23601

(our meeting room is adjacent to the restaurant proper, which has its own external entrance)

Meal Cost: \$23.00 Per Person

RSVP By:

Friday, September 9th, 2011

Rick Elofson at

fnecpa@msn.com or

757-596-6825

**Compatriots' Ladies
Encouraged To Attend**

The SAR Afield

Upcoming Events in Our Region & Beyond

SEPTEMBER 16th – 17th, 2011

**VASSAR Semi-Annual Meeting
Fredericksburg, VA**

SEPTEMBER 24th, 2011

**Dedication of Marker for
Patriot George Booker
Langley AFB O' Club – 11:00am
Detailed information on Page Four**

SEPTEMBER 29th – OCTOBER 1st, 2011

**NSSAR Fall Leadership/Trustees
Louisville, KY**

OCTOBER 3rd, 2011

**BINGO!
VA Hospital, Hampton, VA**

OCTOBER 7th, 2011

**Battle of Kings Mountain
Blacksburg, SC**

OCTOBER 7th – 9th, 2011

**Battle Days - 2011
Point Pleasant, WV**

OCTOBER 19th, 2011

**Battle of Yorktown
Yorktown, VA
Time:: 10:30 AM (parade begins)**

Chapter Officers

President	Joe Shipes
Vice-President	Ken Wood
2 nd Vice President	Jim Swords
Secretary	Jeff Brown
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	Vacant
Graves	Sam Endicott
Newsletter	Jim Swords
Public Safety	Jeff Brown
ROTC/JROTC	Ken Wood
Veteran's Affairs	Robert Coleman

Perpetuate the Memory - The Whaleboat War

by Compatriot Sam Endicott

The Whaleboat War, a war within a war, was fought in the Long Island Sound and off the New Jersey coast. New Jersey and New York were unique in having the British so close during the war. In the summer of 1776, the British captured New York City and remained in the region right through to the war's conclusion. However, the patriots put them on the defensive practically immediately by unleashing deadly assaults on land and sea by whaleboat men.

Consider the whaleboat itself – typically it was 36 feet in length with a 6 foot beam. It was adept at raids because it was maneuverable and fast. The flexible colonials quickly added one or more swivel guns to them that gave them deadly striking power. Oared in pairs, whaleboats could carry many men and some even carried stepped masts. Their modus operandi was to work in small numbers, swoop in quickly and silently in the dark, and overwhelm the enemy



before they knew an attack was in progress.

The whaleboat men were privateers. With a profit motive, there was never a lack of men willing to fight the British. Often, their objective was to capture an enemy cargo ship that was lightly armed and manned. When victorious, they sold the cargo and their capture (called a prize) and split the proceeds. But it would be unfair to conclude they were purely motivated by profit. When General Washington's nearby army needed supplies, it was the whaleboat men who set out to capture those needed supplies for their desperate countrymen.

Another way the whaleboat men served their infant nation was by raiding coastal areas with the objective of taking

prisoners. Prisoners of War in the Revolution weren't held in POW camps for the duration of the war. Instead, the Americans and British held them until a prisoner exchange could be arranged (often it was only a matter of days). Using similar methods of roving in small groups, they would swoop down on Tory estates on Long Island shore to detain valuable persons the British would be willing to exchange for our POWs. Their raids typically were so swift in conduct that an alarm was rarely raised nor opposition met. They achieved this extraordinary success because their small boats fairly flew across the sound in 75 minutes ... a phenomenal time.

(Continued on Page Three)

Perpetuate the Memory - The Whaleboat War

(Continued from Page Two)

Their success prompted local Tories to fight fire with fire. Soon the Tories had whaleboats armed with deadly swivel guns patrolling the area. One such Tory was the famous Robert Rogers of Ranger fame. The whaleboat men faced no greater challenge than he. As the war progressed the whaleboat men fought engagements against Tory whaleboats and the Tory Rogers had some effect on their success. One can only imagine the horrific site of a swivel gun's effect on

such a small craft.

The whaleboat men of New Jersey and Long Island Sound served their country well, taking the war to the British, capturing vitally needed prisoners and war materiel. The Whaleboat War, as was the Revolutionary War, was fought with intensity and sometime dire bitterness. Braving the hazards of the sea, the whaleboat men did their share to win our independence.



Compatriot Sam Endicott is the recent double-winner of the 2011 Global eBook Awards. Sam's first novel, [The Molly Lake Chronicles, Book 1: The Triangles of Quebec](#), won First Place in the Historical Literature — Fiction — Modern History genre and his second novel, [The Molly Lake Chronicles, Book 2: Barely Afloat](#), won Second Place in the same category. Congrats, Sam!

Minutes of Our Last Meeting

(Continued from Page One)

University gave a very detailed and intriguing presentation into General George Washington's activities as Spymaster. She also touched upon how the spying methods of the Revolutionary War have influenced the methods of our time.

The Thomas Nelson Jr. Chapter was very honored to award the Martha Washington Medal and Certificate to Gwen Wood, Karen Speirs, and Christine Swords for their dedicated service to the

SAR and to the Chapter.

After other comments by the Chapter Presidents and the SAR Recessional and Benediction, the meeting was adjourned.



Announcements

All Things in the
Thomas Nelson Jr. Chapter



VA Hospital, Hampton, Building 148

October 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.



“Prelude to Yorktown:
The Battle of Green Spring”
Chris Bryce

**Richmond American Revolution
Roundtable**

Wednesday, September 21st, 5:30 pm
Heilman Dining Center
University of Richmond, Richmond, VA
<http://arrrt-richmond.org/>
804-755-1809 or 804-323-1759

SAR Scrapbook



Corliss A. Tacosa, Ph.D.
Dept. of Political Science & Geography,
Old Dominion University,
looks on her visual presentation of
"George Washington: Spymaster"
at our Joint Meeting with the
Williamsburg Chapter



President Joe Shipes (l.) and Compatriot
Jim Norton prepare to march in the
Independence Day Parade at Yorktown



Norfolk Chapter President Matt
Hogendobler laughs at the raindrops and
lightning before the 4th of July Parade

The George Booker Grave Marking Ceremony

Saturday, September 24th, 2011, 11:00am

The Thomas Nelson Jr. Chapter, strongly encourages its Compatriot members to attend a graveside ceremony honoring Revolutionary War Patriot George Booker, who was a member of the Virginia Committee of Correspondence and, later, a provider of goods and services to the Revolutionary Army. He is buried in an unmarked grave in Sherwood Plantation Cemetery, located on Langley Air Force Base in Hampton, VA (see maps on Page Five).

The honors will take place in the old Sherwood Plantation Cemetery, now located in the Langley Club (formerly the Langley Air Force Base Officers Club) parking lot in Hampton Virginia. The ceremony will be conducted on September 24, 2011, beginning at 11 a.m. and will include placing of wreaths, a history of service, unveiling a commemorative stone, and honors by the Langley Air Force Base Honor Guard. The ceremony is expected to last about 25 minutes. Numerous Booker family members will attend. Ms. Jean Von Schilling of Richmond, VA will be the guest speaker representing the family.

A no-host luncheon at Anna's Italian Restaurant, 2845 N. Armistead Ave, in Hampton, will follow the ceremony.

Participants and visitors must enter Langley AFB through the North LaSalle Street gate. From interstate 64 take exit 263 onto east Mercury Boulevard (the Coliseum option). Travel 1.7 miles east on Mercury Boulevard to the LaSalle Street exit. After exiting Mercury Boulevard, travel 1.5 miles on LaSalle to the Langley Gate. After entering Langley, continue 1.1 miles (past three stop lights) until reaching intersection with jet aircraft on right. Turn right and travel .2 miles to traffic circle. The club is visible across the traffic circle. For the GPS enabled, the address is 128 Benedict Ave. Langley AFB, VA 23665.

There will be a limited amount of seats available at the ceremony. Chairs will be reserved for those who would not be able to stand for the duration.

We are working to facilitate ease of entry to Langley AFB but since Bin Laden's death, **ANY** attendees without a military ID (active or retired) must appear on an alphabetized list of attendees that includes full name and birth date. This list must be submitted to Base Security personnel well in advance of the ceremony. Please provide information for all who **THINK** they might attend. This is less complicated than attempting to add undocumented arrivals at the gate.

If you, members of your family, or other guests plan to attend please send names and dates-of-birth to Jim Swords at james.swords@cox.net no later than **September 17th, 2011**. If you wish to participate in the no-host luncheon, please indicate the number in your party that will attend. If you determine later that you will not attend the luncheon, please inform as we are responsible for the cost of no-show meals.

Take all efforts to make the widest distribution of this announcement.

We in the Thomas Nelson Jr. Chapter, Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution, are proud to recognize George Booker and sincerely hope you will be able to attend our Presentation of Honors for this Patriot.

- **Editor's note:**

Compatriots, with greatest esteem and respect, honoring all of our Patriot forebears is the prime mission of our organization and our Chapter. As such, let us make every effort to attend this very important event.

The George Booker Grave Marking Ceremony – September 24th 11:00am

