



Liberty Gazette

"Give me liberty or give me death!"

- Patrick Henry - Richmond, Virginia - March 23, 1775

December, 2020

Richmond Chapter * Virginia Society * Sons of the American Revolution

Richmond Chapter inducts new president

The Richmond Chapter SAR met on October 8 at Willow Oaks Country Club where it inducted William M. Haskins as its new president. Virginia SAR President Bill Schwetke attended the meeting and administered the oath of office.

"I'm humbled and honored to serve as the Richmond Chapter President," said Bill in his following remarks. "I'm grateful for the example set by my predecessors and I'm excited about what the future may hold."

Bill served for the past two years as the chapter's first vice president. He also assumed the herculean task of simultaneously serving as the chapter *and* state registrar.



Outgoing Richmond Chapter President Dennis Peterson officially transferred the office to Bill when he passed the chapter gavel to him and placed the presidential ribbon around Bill's neck.

"All members should be very glad Bill was willing to step up to the plate and take on the job," said Dennis. "The best years of the Richmond SAR are ahead of us under Bill's leadership."

*Member event photos courtesy of Beau Robertson

New chapter officers take oath

Shortly after administering the presidential oath of office to Bill Haskins, Virginia SAR President Bill Schwetke inducted the new slate of Richmond Chapter officers. The group will serve in their roles for the next two years.



New Richmond Chapter SAR officers (pictured above L-R) are as follows:

- Chris Yohn - Second Vice President, Board of Managers
- Dana Law - Treasurer, Board of Managers (Past President)
- Kenny Bage - Board of Managers
- James Russell - Board of Managers
- Beau Robertson - Board of Managers, Chapter Photographer
- Mark Samples - Secretary, Registrar (not pictured)

Dennis Peterson concludes presidential term



Dennis officially completed his second term as Richmond Chapter President at the October meeting.

He served a full term as president in 2017-2018. Some chapter highlights under his leadership include organizing and holding an event commemorating Patrick Henry's *Give me liberty or give me death* speech, featuring a reenactment at Historic St. John's Church. The event was overwhelmingly popular and attended by many out-of-state compatriots. Later, Dennis led the effort to recognize and honor the last resting place of Revolutionary War General Robert Lawson, also at Historic St. John's.



Dennis later agreed to serve a partial term and led the chapter through many challenges during the 2020 pandemic. He worked admirably to keep members both safe and engaged. August's outdoor Shockoe Hill Cemetery event inducting new member William M. Brown III at his patriot ancestor Peter Francisco's gravesite is just one example.



2020 Christmas Social cancelled

Just when things seemed they may have started to become manageable, a new pandemic surge altered chapter plans.

The Willow Oaks Country Club staff handled the in-person October meeting, fantastically. There was plenty of room for social distancing in the seating area and everyone wore masks when not eating or posing for pictures. The staff served the buffet meal to guests and it seemed like there was a blueprint to move forward.

But, shortly after the chapter sent invitations for the 2020 Christmas Social, pandemic numbers began to spike again. President Haskins engaged the Board of Managers which determined it was best for member safety to cancel the event.



While losing the chance to meet and celebrate the season with compatriots is certainly disappointing, we may remember our patriot ancestors also suffered Christmas hardships.

It was Christmas night, 1776, when General Washington led his troops across the Delaware to attack Trenton, New Jersey.

Of course, just one year later, the army marched into Valley Forge, on December 19, and stayed there until the following June.

Both events caused hardship and suffering. But, the will of our ancestors to persevere and their dedication to the cause of liberty led to stunning victories that would impact their lives and all of those who would follow.



Members recognized for special service

The in-person October meeting gave the chapter a chance to catch up on some recognition. Numerous members and chapter supporters received certificates of appreciation for the work they'd done in the past year to advance the cause and mission of the SAR.



Dennis Peterson



Bill Haskins



Dana Law



Chris Yohn



Frederick Ridgeway



Brent Morgan



Robert Halpern



Sharon Morgan (DAR)



Robert Halpern works to preserve the dignity and proper use of the American Flag and to honor those in the community who do so, as well.

He recently discovered a War of 1812 design new flag amongst the worn flags he regularly collects for proper disposal.

Robert presented the rescued flag to the chapter at the October meeting.

Welcome new members

The chapter celebrated multiple new members in 2020. Congratulations compatriots and welcome to the Richmond Chapter. Those pictured were inducted at in-person events.



William M. Brown III



William Theo Drumright III and Timothy R. Fritts



Charles Purkins and Mark Slauter

Cecil Harvey Creasey, Jr.

Evan Heath Massie

Spencer McPeak

Supplementals:



Douglas Ryland Carneale

Paul Sherman Brown, Jr.

David Paul Griffith

Phil Revene

James G. Russell

Luke Cooper Wade

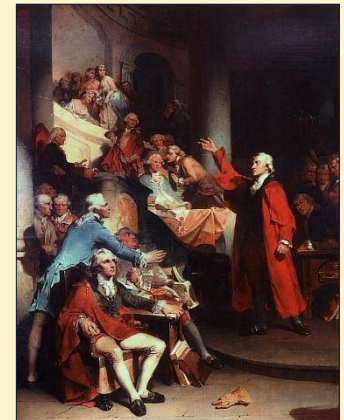
What makes an SAR member?

In this and coming issues, we'll investigate just what it means to be an SAR member by examining the various purposes and qualities described on the national SAR website. We'll begin by taking a look at:

The SAR Mission

The purposes of the sons of the American Revolution are patriotic, historical, and educational, and include those intended or designed:

- 1 - to perpetuate the memory of the men who, by their services or sacrifices during the war of the American Revolution, achieved the independence of the American people;
- 2 - to unite and promote fellowship among their descendants;
- 3 - to inspire them and the community at large with a more profound reverence for the principles of the government founded by our forefathers;
- 4 - to encourage historical research in relation to the American Revolution;
- 5 - to acquire and preserve the records of the individual services of the patriots of the war, as well as documents, relics, and landmarks;
- 6 - to mark the scenes of the American Revolution by appropriate memorials;
- 7 - to celebrate the anniversaries of the prominent events of the war and of the Revolutionary period;
- 8 - to foster true patriotism;
- 9 - to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom;
and
- 10 - to carry out the purposes expressed in the preamble to the Constitution of our country and the injunctions of Washington in his farewell address to the American people.



Patriot ancestor spotlight

Researching and learning the story of your patriot ancestor is challenging, exciting and fun. Compatriots are justifiably proud of their heritage and the role their ancestor played in winning American freedom. Take a look at this issue's patriot ancestor spotlights:

New member ancestor spotlight:

Compatriot William Drumright III joined the Richmond Chapter in July, 2020.

His patriot ancestor **William Drumright** served as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Mecklenburg County, Virginia Militia.

William also donated beef to the patriot cause.

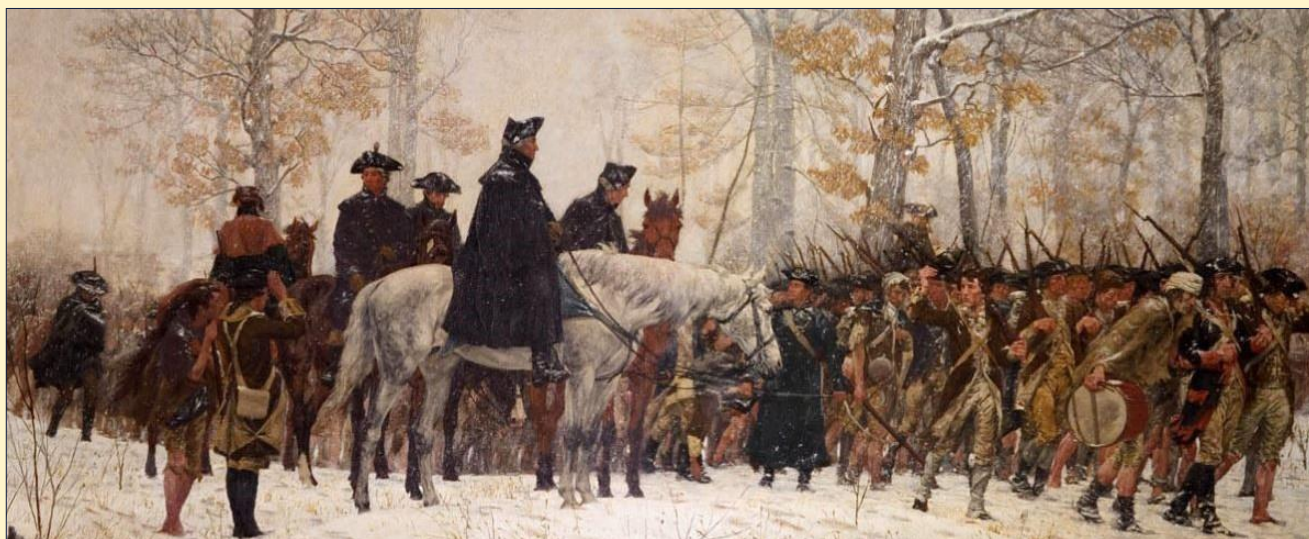


Supplemental ancestor spotlight:

Compatriot James G. Russell qualified a supplemental ancestor in March, 2020.

His patriot ancestor **Perrin Ross** served as a Lieutenant in the 4th Connecticut Regiment.

Perrin made the ultimate sacrifice and lost his life at the Battle of Wyoming on July 3, 1778, when British Colonel John Butler led Iroquois and Loyalist guerrillas on a raid of Pennsylvania frontier settlements.



The Richmond Chapter Memorial Fund



Your \$10 donation to this special fund honors your patriot ancestors and supports the programs and work of the Richmond Chapter SAR.

Howard Bartholf - James Varian, Gilliam Bertholf, Jacobus Bartholf

Mark S. Brennan, Sr. - Hendrick deHart

Peter Broadbent - Lt. Richard Talbott

Roderick D. Brown - Judge Benjamin Waller

Richard Spencer Burke - Hendricus Deyo

A. Brian Cowardin - John Cowardin

Lewis Taylor Cowardin - John Cowardin

Douglas Cumins - George Philip Keister

Ronald James DePue, Sr. - Benjamin DePue

Lowell K. Flickinger - Pvt. Ralph Cherry

David Paul Griffith - James Griffith

Robert E. Halpern - Ens. James Sproul

John A. Harler - William Sommerville

Vincent Warrick Kern - Lewis Hott, Michael Hott

Dana K. Law - Pvt. Henry Law

Robert E. Lusk, Jr. - Lt. Reese Bowen, Lily McIlhaney

Brian K. Miller - Abel Sholes, Theophilus Avery

Brent Dean Morgan - Fauntley Muse

Dennis C. Peterson - Capt. John Wyatt

Lester N. Oberg III - James Monroe

Irvin Owings III - Richard Owings

Harry A. "Hal" Raddin, Jr. - Benjamin Bullard Raddin

James G. Ralls, Jr. - Samuel Huckstep

Daniel Renfro - Victor Renfro

Mack T. Ruffin, III - Benjamin Denson

Donald M. Schwartz - Joseph Walkup

Art H. Taylor III - Silas Call

Cullen C. Walker, Jr. - Paul Carrington

Alfred B. Whitt - Thomas Harrison

Season's Greetings

May the warmth of the holidays find you and your family happy, healthy and safe. Have a wonderful Christmas, a happy Hanukkah and the best of all holidays you may celebrate. And, here's to a bright and happy new year . . .



Onward!

