



# Liberty Gazette

*"Give me liberty or give me death!"*

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

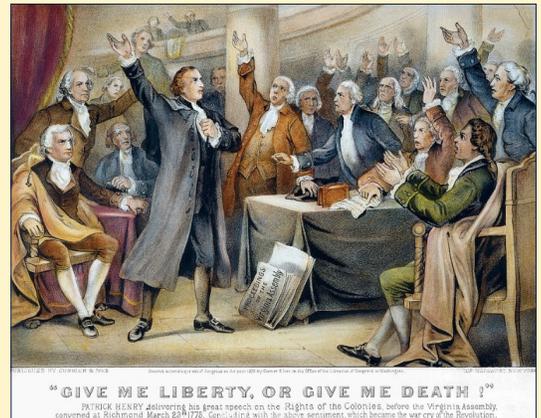
March, 2021

Richmond Chapter \* Virginia Society \* Sons of the American Revolution

## Richmond Chapter to host virtual commemoration of Patrick Henry's *Give me liberty or give me death* speech

The Richmond Chapter, in concert with the Virginia SAR, will hold the virtual event on Saturday, March 20, at 10 a.m.

The ceremony will feature the presentation of the colors, pre-recorded on-site at Historic St. John's Church, especially for this event. Attending SAR chapters and guest organizations will participate in virtual wreath presentations. And, attendees will be treated to a reenactor program highlighting Patrick Henry's life, his famous speech, and the spirit of the times.



Don't miss the chance to participate in a great event celebrating a catalyst and rallying cry of the American Revolution.

### Save the date

**Mark your calendar for Saturday, March 20 at 10 a.m.**

#### How to join in two simple steps:

1. Download the Zoom app to your smartphone or computer.



2. The chapter will send an email before the event containing the Zoom link. Click that link just before 10 a.m. on March 20 and you'll automatically join the event.

## Richmond Chapter stays active

It may be an odd twist to life during a pandemic, but opening commemorative SAR events to virtual participants has made distant ceremonies easy to join. Attendance has boomed. With the Zoom app simply downloaded to a smartphone and the click of a link in an email, attendees can join from anywhere. The Richmond Chapter has been participating in these events.



The chapter virtually attended and presented a wreath at the January 16 event honoring General Daniel Morgan and his victory at the battle of Cowpens. Morgan won the battle despite being outnumbered by a force led by British Colonel Banastre Tarleton.

The event was sponsored by the Colonel James Wood Chapter who honored their hometown hero at Morgan's gravesite, in Winchester, VA.

The Richmond Chapter also attended and presented a wreath at the February 20 commemoration of the Crossing of the Dan. The event, hosted by the Dan River Chapter, observed General Greene's successful withdrawal through the Carolinas and into Virginia to preserve his beleaguered troops. Cornwallis' pursuing forces were superior in numbers, supplies and training.

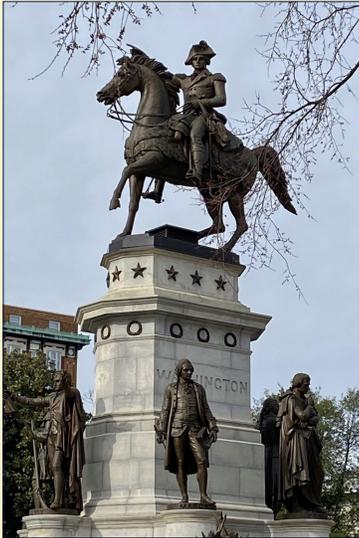


Photo courtesy of Beau Robertson

The tactic worked. After just a week's encampment, in Virginia, the American army was reinforced and resupplied. General Greene quickly headed back south to engage the British, who were now the ones with stretched supply lines. The armies battled at Guilford Courthouse, less than a month later. Though Cornwallis held the field at the end of the battle, he'd also lost up to 27% of his forces. This prompted Cornwallis to abandon the Carolinas, entirely, and to focus on taking Virginia. He surrendered his army at Yorktown, the next autumn.

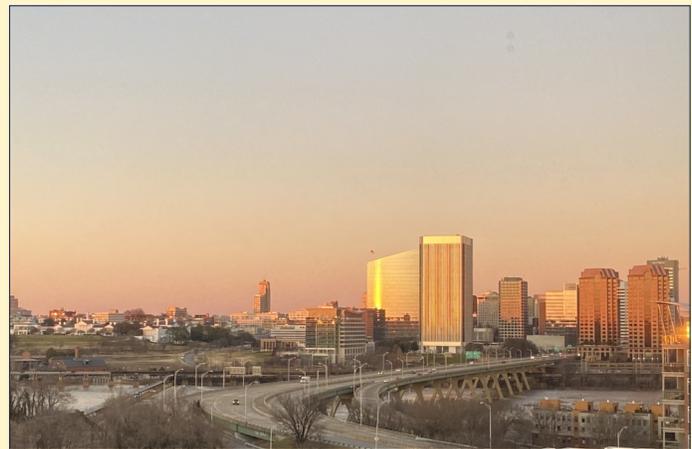


The commemoration, which featured an engaging video, the Crossing of the Dan exhibit ribbon cutting at the South Boston – Halifax County Museum and an excellent historic presentation, was widely attended. National and state SAR, DAR and CAR representatives participated from Virginia, North Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, Michigan and Texas.



## Virginia SAR holds annual meeting

The Virginia SAR conducted its 131<sup>st</sup> annual meeting, in early February, as scheduled. Executive committee members employed social distancing to meet in person at Richmond’s Omni Hotel. Other participants engaged virtually as they attended meetings and workshops.



Virginia SAR President Bill Schwetke worked to make sure the meeting had as much of an in-person experience for attendees, as possible.

The week-long meeting included a full slate of informative workshops. Richmond Chapter President Bill Haskins led the registrar’s genealogy and registration session.

### 2021 Virginia SAR Annual Meeting Workshops

| Workshop | Topics                       | Facilitator(s)                              | Host                   | Time     |                     |
|----------|------------------------------|---|------------------------|----------|---------------------|
| 1        | Americanism                  | Americanism                                 | Weyer                  | Hamill   | 1900-2100 Monday    |
| 2        | Registrar                    | Genealogy/Registration                      | Haskins                | Schwetke | 1400-1600 Tuesday   |
| 3        | Patriot Records              | Patriot Records                             | Callender              | Schwetke | 1900-2100 Tuesday   |
| 4        | Patriot Graves               | Graves Publications                         | Lyman                  | Schwetke | 1300-1500 Wednesday |
|          |                              | Markings & Medals                           | Corey                  |          |                     |
|          |                              | Graves Preservation                         | Hartman                |          |                     |
| 5        | Admin/Awards                 | Administraton Awards                        | Rouse/Elofson<br>Rouse | Schwetke | 1900-2100 Wednesday |
| 6        | Veterans Affairs - Flag Cert | Veterans Affairs and Partners in Patriotism | Corey                  | Schwetke | 2100-2200 Wednesday |
|          |                              | Flag Certificates                           | Morris                 |          |                     |
| 7        | History Day                  | History Day                                 | Meyer                  | Meyer    | 1600-1700 Thursday  |
| 8        | Color Guard                  | Color Guard                                 | Bonner                 | Schwetke | 1900-2100 Thursday  |
| 9        | Eagle Scout - J/ROTC         | Eagle Scout J/ROTC                          | Hawkins<br>Keith       | Hamill   | 2000-2200 Friday    |

The Virginia SAR installed a new slate of officers for the 2021-2022 term, at the end of the meeting. They were sworn in via Zoom by SAR National President Jack Manning. Jeff Thomas of the Fairfax Resolves Chapter is the Virginia SAR President for the next two years.

In thanks for his service, the executive committee presented Past President Bill Schwetke with a statue of Washington in prayer at Valley Forge.

## Members recognized for special service

The following members have been recognized for volunteerism, service and advancing the cause and mission of the SAR, since our last in-person meeting.

- **Mark Brennan** - Chairman 2020 Congress Planning Committee
- **John Ortiz** - 2020 Virginia annual meeting support
- **Richard Clark** - 2020 Virginia annual meeting support
- **DeWitt Casler** - 2020 Virginia annual meeting support
- **Howard Bartholf** - 2020 Virginia annual meeting support  
- Also recognized with the Bronze Congress Appreciation Medal



## Welcome new members

Congratulations compatriots.  
Welcome to the Richmond Chapter.

- **Richard Harris Schofield**  
Patriot ancestor - Benjamin Pierce, Sr.
- **William Mallory Brockenbrough**  
Patriot ancestor - William Brockenbrough



## Supplementals:

- **James G. Russell**  
Patriot ancestor - Benjamin Stearns
- **Walter Lefew Smith**  
Patriot ancestor - Sylvanus Smith

## 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. In the last issue, we investigated the SAR Mission. This time we'll look at:

### The SAR Brand Purpose

The Sons of the American Revolution is a brotherhood of patriotic men brought together by heritage and forged into an organization dedicated to the preservation of American ideals and to our Constitutional freedoms.

The SAR offers you the opportunity to take an active role in assuring your children the same freedoms you have enjoyed.

SAR unites you with members who share common interests and a sense of responsibility in furthering patriotic education as well as preserving, understanding and appreciating the principles of government established by our forefathers.

**We speak of our founding principles, ideals and values. But, what are they? Here are a few we learned in grammar school:**

- **Generosity** -  
Help your neighbor when in need
- **Service** -  
Serve God, family and country
- **Courage** -  
Be brave . . . stand up for what you believe
- **Resilience** -  
Be strong . . . endure
- **Individual liberty** -  
To possess the right and power to act, believe and express ourselves in a manner of our own choosing . . . in other words, be yourself
- **Personal responsibility** -  
Take care of yourself . . . importance of protecting our constitutionally limited government and the responsibility to defend the rule of law upon which our founding fathers built our nation



## 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:

New Richmond Chapter member Richard Harris Schofield's patriot ancestor **Benjamin Pierce, Sr.** served as a private in the Massachusetts militia.

Benjamin was involved at the Lexington Alarm.

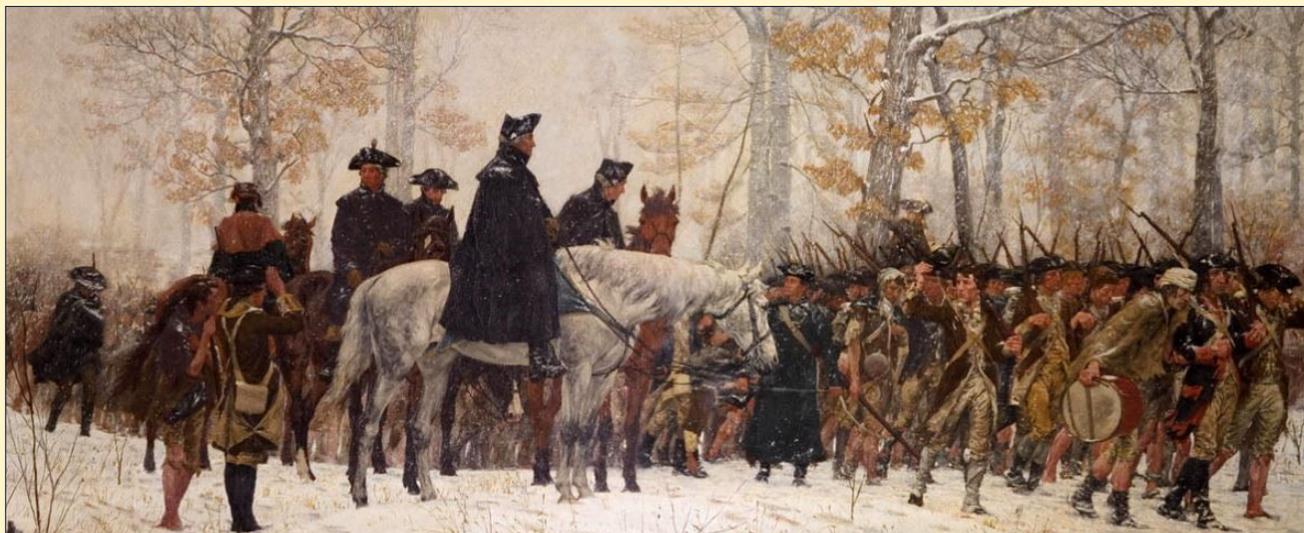
He also served as a member of the Committee of Correspondence.



### Supplemental ancestor spotlight:

Walter Lefew Smith's new supplemental patriot ancestor **Sylvanus Smith** served as a captain in the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment of the Massachusetts Line.

Sylvanus was promoted to the rank of major, in 1783.



## 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.

**William M. Brown II** - Peter Francisco  
**Kenneth L. Bage** - John Hinton, John Hinton, Sr.  
**Howard E. Bartholf** - Cpt. James Varian, Guiliam Bertholf, Jacobus Bartholf  
**Robert S. Bridges, Jr.** - William Jordan  
**Mark S. Brennan, Sr.** - John Oliver  
**Peter E. Broadbent, Jr.** - Lt. Richard Talbot, Cpt. Alexander Wells, Lt. James Marshall  
**Richard S. Burke** - Hendricus Deyo, Sr.  
**Richard A. Clark II** - Herman Munson  
**A. Brian Cowardin** - John Cowardin  
**Lewis Taylor Cowardin** - John Cowardin  
**Lewis Taylor Cowardin, Jr.** - John Cowardin  
**James E. Creech, Jr.** - William Ragland  
**Doug Cumins** - George Keister  
**Wyatt F. Davis** - Alexander Guthrie  
**Ronald J. DePue, Sr.** - Benjamin DePue  
**Barry Goodwin** - Moses Bennett  
**Charles Lewis Grant** - William Russell  
**Robert Halpern** - Ens. James Sproul  
**William M. Haskins, Jr.** - William Gannin, Moses Preston, Gilbert Stevens, Thomas Prather  
**Dana K. Law** - Henry Law  
**Robert Lusk, Jr.** - Reese Bowen, Lillie McIlhaney Bowen  
**Brian K. Miller** - Abel Sholes, Theophilus Avery  
**Lester Oberg III** - James Fielder  
**Charlie Purkins** - Alexander Douglass  
**Hal Raddin, Jr.** - Benjamin Raddin  
**Philip M. Revene** - William Withers, William Slack  
**James G. Russell** - Benjamin Russell, Perrin Ross, Seth Nickerson, Benjamin Stearns  
**Donald Schwartz** - Joseph Walkup  
**Christopher Small** - Hugh Hayes  
**Arthur H. Taylor III** - Silas Call  
**Cullen Walker** - Paul Carrington  
**Alfred Whitt** - Thomas Harrison

## Stay tuned

We'll keep you informed as opportunities arise for continued virtual events and as possible future in-person activities become available.



### 240<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration of The Crossing of the Dan



Saturday, February 20, 2021  
10:00 AM

South Boston – Halifax County Museum  
South Boston, Virginia

1540 Wilborn Avenue  
South Boston, Virginia

A Virtual Commemoration  
Sign in will Begin at 9:00 AM

