



# Liberty Gazette

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

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

Winter, 2022

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

## Richmond Chapter inducts new president

The Richmond Chapter SAR met on December 8 at Willow Oaks Country Club where it inducted Chris Yohn as its new president. Outgoing President Bill Haskins administered the oath of office. Chris will serve as president for the next two years.



## New Chapter officers sworn-in



2023-24 Richmond Chapter SAR officers (pictured above L-R) are as follows:  
Phillip Barnard - First Vice President, Kenny Bage - Second Vice President,  
Robert Halpern - Third Vice President, Bill Haskins - Treasurer and Registrar,  
Mark Samples - Secretary

Photos courtesy of Beau Robertson

## A note of thanks and the path ahead . . .

Upon taking the oath of office, Richmond Chapter President Chris Yohn shared the following:

*“I’m incredibly humbled and honored to accept the Presidency of the Richmond Chapter SAR.*

*“As my first official act, I’d like to formally recognize and express the Chapter’s appreciation for President Bill Haskins’ leadership.*

*“Bill took the role during the height of the pandemic and led us through two very difficult years while keeping the chapter steady and strong. And, he did it all while simultaneously serving as the Virginia Society registrar, being responsible for every new member and supplemental application across the state.*

*“Bill presided over some very signature events during his tenure. Those include a Virginia Society virtual commemoration of Patrick Henry’s ‘Give me Liberty or give me death’ speech from St John’s Church. The event featured costumed interpreters reenacting and giving context to the speech.*



*“Bill also served as host for another Virginia Society event when we dedicated the new Revolutionary Veterans monument in Shockoe Hill Cemetery. The monument was originally scheduled to be dedicated during the 2020 SAR National Congress in Richmond, but was put on hold when the Congress was cancelled. The dedication instead took place in-person the following spring, and honored the more-than-20 patriot ancestors who are laid to rest at Shockoe Hill. Those include Chief Justice John Marshall and ‘The Hercules of the Revolution’ Peter Francisco.*

*“Bill was also called on for countless special duties in the past two years, like hosting the Virginia Society annual meetings, traveling to conduct a new member induction for an out-of-state society and many more. In every instance, Bill demonstrated leadership and professionalism and he ceaselessly represented the Richmond Chapter to the highest standard. He’s kept our membership growing and the chapter moving forward under difficult circumstances. His ongoing service will be as invaluable as the service he’s performed so far. We owe Bill a great debt of appreciation and I’m proud to follow such a magnificent example.*



*“Please join me in recognizing Bill with a round of applause.”*

*“Moving forward, we’re presented with some truly unique opportunities to make a mark for our organization and for our country.*

*“Locally, we’ll celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the Richmond Chapter this coming April. On a larger stage, the 250th anniversary of the Revolution gets well underway as the nation begins to mark the events of 1773, like the British Parliament passing the tea act on May 10 and the Boston Tea Party taking place the following December.*



*“These are fun and celebratory occasions. We should capitalize on that dynamic to widen our circle and share our message. What fantastic opportunities to invite a neighbor or friends from work, or church. These celebrations and observances are ideal chances to engage the broader public, demystify the SAR and appeal to freedom-loving Americans with patriot ancestors that there’s a place for them in the SAR.*

*“And, while these events WILL be fun, we shouldn’t lose sight of their greater significance. Many of us fly a flag, not just on major holidays, but also on Pearl Harbor Day, on D-Day - on 9/11. We do so because those events, whether tragic or triumphant, are all a continuation of the story begun by our forefathers. We do so out of respect for all those who gave everything for the freedom we enjoy.*

*“While this may be a particularly divisive time in our society, we have a singular opportunity to be a unifying force by sharing a message all Americans can be proud to own and hold dear.*

*“**Freedom**, as we know it in America, is unique in the history of the world. Of course, the Greeks and even Vikings had elements of democracy in their societies. The British signed the Magna Carta to establish human rights and others around the world tried to move toward basic human liberation. But, monarchs and despots and societal classes always held the last word.*

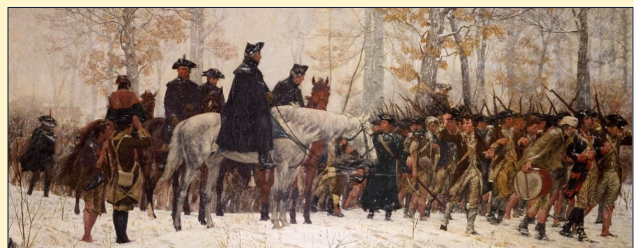
*“Then, something amazing happened. Against all odds, our forefathers stood up to that age-old monolithic oppression. They struggled, they suffered and they won. They shone a light down a new path for all humankind.*

*“**Freedom**, as the world now understands it, began in America. Here, a person’s race, sex, religion, social level, region, family name, profession or any other variable, doesn’t preclude them from success. Here, for the **FIRST** time in the history of the world, **ANYONE** can rise to any level of success based purely on talent and self-determination.*

*“**THAT** is a gift with celebrating. **THAT** is a responsibility worth protecting. And, **THAT** is a cause I’m proud to perpetuate with you.*

*“Thank you.”*

Chris Yohn  
President  
Richmond Chapter SAR



## Fall meeting events

Two Richmond Chapter members were recognized with supplemental ancestors at the October monthly meeting and a new member joined the chapter in December.

Congratulations to Jim Russell, who added Patriot ancestor Job Handy and to Doug Cumins, who added Patriot ancestor Nathaniel Wilson. New member Brett Martin joined the Chapter in honor of his Patriot ancestor Littleberry Patterson.



Bill Haskins and Jim Russell



Bill Haskins and Doug Cumins



Bill Haskins and Brett Martin

Photos courtesy of Beau Robertson

## Richmond Chapter participates at Yorktown Day celebration

The Yorktown Day celebration took place on October 19. The day began with the Virginia Society SAR wreath laying ceremony at the grave of Thomas Nelson, Jr. who served our country as a member of: the Virginia House of Burgesses, the Second Continental Congress, signer of the Declaration of Independence, Commander of the Virginia Militia during the Yorktown campaign and the third Governor of Virginia.

SAR Compatriots continued from the ceremony to march in the Yorktown Day parade and attended the patriotic exercises at the *Monument to Alliance and Victory*.

Chris Yohn participated and represented the Richmond Chapter.



# What makes an SAR member?

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

## SAR Brand Promise

Empowering you to make a difference today and for future generations through patriotic service, historical preservation and education.

### Communication elements:

#### Educational

America's independence and freedom are surrounded with stories of patriotism, courage, determination, sacrifice, tragedy and triumph. SAR allows you to learn and understand the importance of these stories to help inspire yourself, your children and future generations.

#### Service

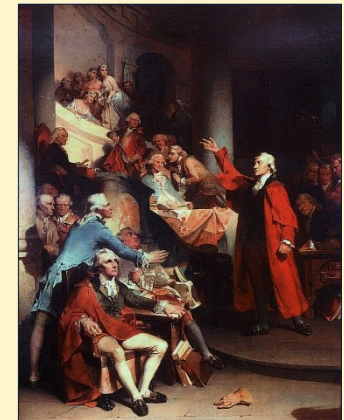
Service to others is the cornerstone of SAR membership. SAR provides you with opportunities to serve veterans, military and public service personnel (police, fire, EMTs, etc.) children and teachers in your community, your state and our nation.

#### Tradition

SAR helps you develop a reverence for America's symbols and traditions that represent the spirit, principles and values upon which our Patriot ancestors founded this nation.

#### Brotherhood

SAR creates a bond among men dedicated to love of country, God and family. SAR members have included United States Presidents, Senators, Congressman, Military Generals and officers, Ambassadors and members of the U.S. Supreme Court.



## 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.**

**Jack Akers** - John Lester  
**Will Akers** - John Lester  
**Kenneth L. Bage** - John Hinton, John Hinton, Sr.  
**Phillip Barnard, Jr.** - Joel Barnard  
**Howard E. Bartholf** - Cpt. James Varian, Jacobus Bartholf, Guilliam Bertholf  
**Mark S. Brennan, Sr.** - Hendrick de Hart  
**Robert S. Bridges, Jr.** - William Jordan  
**Peter E. Broadbent, Jr.** - Lt. Richard Talbott, Cpt. Alexander Wells, Lt. James Marshall  
**William M. Brown II** - Peter Francisco  
**Douglas R. Carneale** - William Cheatwood  
**Richard A. Clark II** - Herman Munson  
**A. Brian Cowardin** - John Cowardin  
**L. Taylor Cowardin** - John Cowardin  
**L. Turner Cowardin II** - John Cowardin  
**James E. Creech, Jr.** - William Ragland  
**Doug Cumins** - George Keister  
**Wyatt F. Davis** - Alexander Guthrie  
**Ronald J. DePue, Sr.** - Benjamin DePue  
**Charles Lewis Grant** - William Russell  
**Robert Halpern** - Ens. James Sproul  
**William M. Haskins, Jr.** - William Gannon, Moses Preston, Gilbert Stevens, Thomas Prather  
**Steven James Hughs** - John Lester  
**Dana K. Law** - Henry Law  
**Robert Lusk, Jr.** - Reese Bowen, Lillie McIlhane Bowen  
**Brian K. Miller** - Theophilus Avery, Abel Sholes  
**Brent Morgan** - Fauntly Muse  
**John Ortiz** - Robert Sheffield  
**Hal Raddin, Jr.** - Benjamin Raddin  
**Philip M. Revene** - William Withers, William Slack  
**Mark Samples** - Jane Porter Green  
**Christopher Small** - Hugh Hayes  
**Arthur H. Taylor III** - Silas Call  
**Cullen Walker** - Paul Carrington  
**Alfred Whitt** - Thomas Harrison  
**Timothy B. Whitt** - Thomas Harrison  
**William Wilderman** - Jacob Wilderman, George Wilderman  
**Chris Yohn** - Henry Vanderslice

## Next meeting

Please join us at our next regular monthly meeting on Thursday, January 12 at noon. Hear compatriot Jim Russell share the fascinating history of his patriot ancestor Benjamin Russell and his role in the Boston Tea Party and more.

In the mean-time, stay close to the many state-wide SAR events through the [virginia-sar.org](http://virginia-sar.org) calendar.



## In memoriam

We honor and remember our Richmond Chapter compatriots who have departed this life.

**Brent Morgan**  
**Past President**  
**Richmond Chapter SAR**



## 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.*

*Here's to a bright and happy new year . . .*

