



Liberty Gazette

"Give me liberty or give me death!"

Patrick Henry - Richmond, Virginia
March 23, 1775



Winter 2025

Richmond ★ Virginia ★ Sons of the American Revolution

Richmond SAR Signature Event

The Richmond SAR led the way in planning and organizing a September 28 joint SAR/DAR rededication and grave marking at the private Randolph Family graveyard on the campus of Virginia State University in Petersburg, Virginia. The small graveyard holds the graves of John Randolph and his wife, Frances Bland Randolph. This one square acre was reserved when the State of Virginia purchased the Randolph Farm in the 1940's as the site for Virginia State University.



Richmond SAR President Barnard

John Randolph, a wealthy landowner and member of the Virginia militia, died on October 28, 1775. By then, he had already established his firm resolve to use the resources from his large plantations to assist the Virginia militia and the Continental Army. In June of 1775, he joined with his father-in-law, Theodorick Bland, Sr., and his son to sell his own property to restore the gunpowder in Williamsburg that had been illegally taken by Governor Dunmore. The grave marking took place one month from the 250th anniversary of his death.

At great personal risk to herself and their children, his wife, Frances Bland Randolph, dedicated herself to preserving his wish to provide continuing support to the Continental Army by offering supplies from their farms for the remainder of the Revolutionary War. Francis died in 1786 after her second marriage to St. George Tucker. She, however, requested to be buried next to her first husband, John Randolph.

The joint ceremony was extremely well attended. It featured the Virginia SAR Color Guard, an address by Virginia SAR President Dr. Michael Weyler and leaders of the Francis Bland Randolph DAR and Virginia State University.



In June of 2024, the graves were in terrible disrepair. Frances Bland Randolph's large stone tablet was in six pieces. The small upright stone for John Randolph was illegible and needed cleaning. Richmond SAR President Philip Barnard organized a careful restoration of the two graves and the iron fence surrounding the graveyard. The National Society DAR DAR/SAR/SR Relations Committee presented Philip the Hannah White Arnett Bronze Medal of Distinction for his outstanding cooperation and service to NSDAR for his efforts in the restorations and in coordinating the event. The Virginia SAR Knight-Patty Fund supported obtaining the new Patriot grave marker and plaque.



Virginia SAR President
Dr. Michael Weyler



Joint plaque unveiling with DAR
and VSU officials



Newly dedicated plaque



Richmond SAR Members
Dana Law, Philip Barnard,
Jim Russell and Chris Ackiss



Richmond SAR Color Guard
Member Jay Whay -
Inset: New SAR Patriot Marker



Philip Barnard receives the NSDAR
Hannah White Arnett Medal of Distinction

October meeting

The Richmond SAR monthly meeting took place on October 5. Highlights included Past President Mark Brennan's Patriot talk about his ancestor Hendrick de Hart, recognition of First V.P. Chris Ackiss' DAR Award and welcoming new member Benjamin Forest Mahone.



Philip Barnard and Benjamin Forest Mahone



Mark Brennan

Richmond SAR at James Monroe Birthplace Annual Event

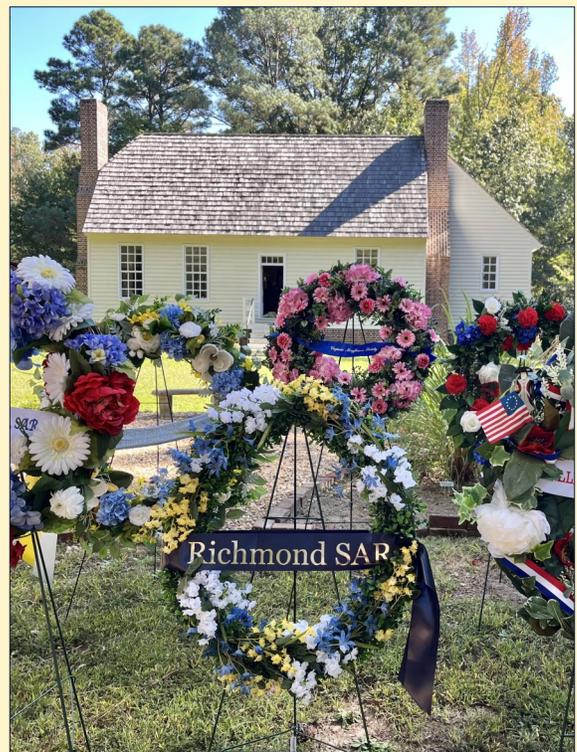
The James Monroe Memorial Foundation (JMMF) held its annual commemoration event celebrating the life and service of James Monroe on October 5. JMMF Vice President and Richmond SAR Member Peter Broadbent once again emceed the event. Virginia SAR Recording Secretary and Richmond SAR Past President Chris Yohn represented Virginia SAR President Dr. Michael Weyler at the event and presented the Virginia SAR and Richmond SAR wreaths.



Peter Broadbent

Chris Yohn

Photo courtesy of Ilse Yohn



The James Monroe Birthplace

Richmond SAR at North Carolina Event

Richmond SAR Vice President Chris Ackiss continued his efforts in expanding the reach and visibility of the chapter when he attended the October 11 North Carolina SAR grave marking of Patriot William McConkey Townsend and presented the Richmond SAR wreath.



Chris Ackiss

Yorktown Victory Day

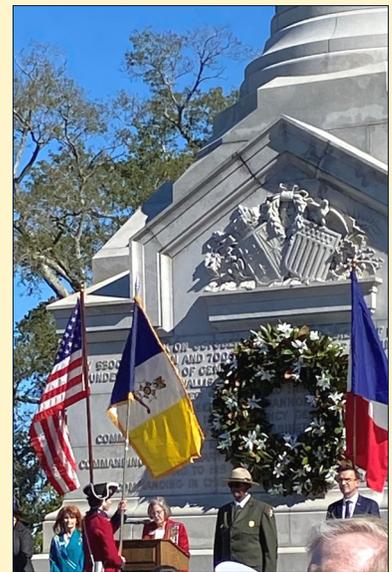
The Richmond SAR continued its many-year streak of participating in the October 19 festivities and observances of Yorktown Victory Day. Richmond SAR members attending included: James Sayers, Jay Whay, Philip Barnard, Dade Grimes (not pictured) and Drew Wajciechowski who played with the Fifes and Drums of Yorktown and carried the SAR flag at the 2 p.m. Patriot Exercises.



James Sayers, Jay Whay and Philip Barnard



Drew Wajciechowski
Photo courtesy of
Stacey Wajciechowski



Richmond SAR at Battle of Hampton 250th

Past President Chris Yohn attended the October 26 250th anniversary of the Battle of Hampton and presented the Richmond SAR wreath.



Berkeley Plantation First Thanksgiving Event

Richmond SAR Compatriot Jay Whay carried the Virginia State Flag as part of the Virginia SAR Color Guard participating at the November 2 Berkeley Plantation First Thanksgiving commemoration.

November Meeting

The Richmond SAR conducted its last Willow Oaks Country Club meeting on November 9. Future meetings will be held at the Richmond Country Club.

Meeting highlights included a fantastic presentation by Virginia SAR Compatriot Pat Hannum covering the full scope of Lord Dunmore's ejection from Virginia. The Chapter also welcomed six new members: Greg, Robert and Field Mann Hite, Jr., Aaron and Ethan Mullinix and Harrison Speer.



Philip Barnard and Pat Hannum



Greg Hite, Aaron Mullinix, Bret Mullinix with Ethan's Photo



Harrison Speer

November meeting (continued)

President Barnard also issued customized certificates of appreciation for those in attendance who participated in the March 16 Patrick Henry *Liberty or Death* speech 250th reenactment and he awarded Chris Yohn the Chapter Distinguished Service Medal for past and present contributions to the Richmond SAR.



Philip Barnard, Stephen Wilson, Bill Nash, Chris Yohn



Philip Barnard and Chris Yohn

Supplemental Patriot Ancestors

Three members added supplemental Patriot Ancestors.



Philip Barnard - Samuel Walker, Sr.:
 ♦ Lexington Alarm
 ♦ Bunker Hill



Philip Barnard - Samuel Walker, Jr.:
 ♦ Signer - Association Test, Chesterfield, NH
 ♦ Ticonderoga



Philip Barnard - James Dickinson:
 ♦ Lexington Alarm
 ♦ Bunker Hill



Philip Barnard - Simon Page, Jr.:
 ♦ Lexington Alarm
 ♦ Bunker Hill



Philip Barnard - Timothy Moore:
 ♦ Bridge Inspector
 ♦ Surveyor (1776, 1777, 1780)



Philip Barnard - Francis Harris:
 ♦ Delegate - First and Second Provincial Congress in Massachusetts



Philip Barnard - Peter Wheeler:
 ♦ Signer - Association Test, Chesterfield, NH



Philip Barnard - John Guliker:
 ♦ Commander - Massachusetts Privateers



Philip Barnard - Simon Davis:
 ♦ Signer - Association Test, Chesterfield, NH



Kenneth Bage - Joseph Seawell:
 ♦ Provided food and supplies to militia



Chris Yohn - Ludwig Tobias:
 ♦ Private - Berks County, PA Militia

Virginia Mayflower Society

Richmond SAR Members Philip Barnard, Peter Broadbent and Bill Nash attended the November 22 event.



Philip Barnard and Peter Broadbent

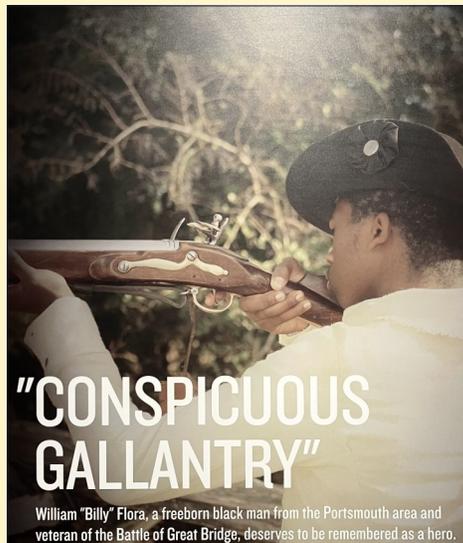


Philip Barnard and Bill Nash

Battle of Great Bridge 250th

The 250th anniversary commemoration of the Battle of Great Bridge took place on December 6. The National SAR event featured greetings by National SAR President General Michael Elston, National DAR President General Ginnie Sebastian Storage, Virginia SAR President Dr. Michael Weyler and Virginia DAR Regent Kathleen Mayer Rugh.

The day also included special guest appearances by the descendants of the battle's hero William Flora and by Nikki Bass, descendant of James Bass, to whom a monument was dedicated honoring his and other Nansemond Indian Nation warriors who fought in the battle.



Great Bridge monument

James Bass monument

Now Available - New Richmond SAR Logo Challenge Coin

The new Richmond SAR logo challenge coin, featuring the Houdin George Washington statue housed in the Virginia State Capitol (and on the Richmond SAR logo) is now available.

The coin was manufactured using a newly available technique to achieve an incredibly detailed rendering and the unique coloring of this Richmond landmark honoring our Patriot Ancestors' Commanding General and the *Father of our Country*.

These premium coins are available at a special Richmond Chapter Member price of \$20 per coin. They are available for purchase at all Richmond SAR meetings



Richmond SAR Centennial Celebration Coin

Designed and purchased before the announced disuse of the SAR/minute-man design, these challenge coins became instant collectors' items. A few remain available for purchase. This design will not be reordered.



The Washington Monument Coin

This coin features an equestrian image of General Washington as featured the on the Richmond landmark Virginia Washington Monument.



Centennial and Washington Monument coins are \$15 per piece.

All challenge coin purchases support Richmond SAR historic commemoration events and activities.

The Richmond SAR Memorial Fund



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

Philip Barnard

Joel Barnard ~ John Guliker ~ Simon Page, Jr. ~ Timothy Moors ~
James Dickinson IV ~ Francis Harris ~ Samuel Walker, Sr. ~ Samuel Walker, Jr. ~
Peter Wheeler ~ Simon Davis

Peter Broadbent

Lt. Richard Talbott ~ Lt. James Marshall

Taylor Cowardin

John Cowardin

Turner Cowardin

John Cowardin

Robert Halpern

James Sproul

Matthew Haskins,

William Gannon ~ Moses Preston ~ Gilbert Stevens ~ Thomas Prather

William M. Haskins, Jr.

William Gannon ~ Moses Preston ~ Gilbert Stevens ~ Thomas Prather

Brian K. Miller

Theophilus Avery ~ Abel Sholes

Dr. Jeffery Sellers

John Laws

Arthur H. Taylor III

Silas Call

Chris Yohn

John Yohn ~ James Marshall

2026 Meetings

Our next meeting will take place on Sunday, January 11 at 1 p.m. and will mark our first meeting at the Richmond Country Club. All future Chapter meetings will take place there unless otherwise noted.



Richmond SAR upcoming meetings
All meetings take place at Richmond Country Club

Sunday, January 11 - 1 p.m.
Sunday, February 8 - 1 p.m.

*Note the location change to:
Richmond Country Club
12950 Patterson Avenue
Richmond, VA 23238



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 . . .

