

The Defender

Fairfax Resolves Chapter Sons of the American Revolution

President, Tom Speelman

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September-October 2008

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Important Dates/SAR Events

Dates to Remember Sep-Oct-Nov 2008

Local/Chapter & State Activities

1. Sep 11th, 2008 Fairfax Resolves Chapter Meeting
7 p.m. Vinson Hall, McLean, VA
Guest Speaker, Mike Cecere

"In this Time of Extreme Danger: Northern Virginia on the Eve of War", Given on Patriot Day

2. September 19th-20th, 2008, Semi-Annual VASSAR
Staunton/Harrisonburg, VA
agenda & hotel resv. www.sar.org/VASSAR/

3. October 11th, 2008 Chapter Meeting
Saturday evening Fire Safety Award Banquet
see web-site for particulars www.fairfaxresolvessar.org

4. November 13th, 2008 Chapter Meeting
Speaker, TBD

5. November 29th, 2008 Chapter Sponsored Grave Marking
Congressional Cemetery, Washington D.C.

Historic Celebrations and National Activities

1. September 17th; 11 a.m. Constitution Day Celebration &
Restoration Celebration
Montpelier, VA (Home of James Madison)

2. September 25th-28th, Fall Leadership/Trustees Meeting
Louisville, KY; details on www.sar.org

3. October 3rd-5th, Battle Days, Pt. Pleasant WV
Tu-ENDIE-Wei State Park, 5 October 2 p.m.; details found
www.sar.org/committee/history/celebrations.html

4. October 7th, 11 a.m. Battle of Kings Mountain, SC
Invitation and places to stay, times of events etc. found
NCSSAR.com under events and also at
www.sar.org/committee/history/celebrations.html

5. October 18th & 19th, Yorktown Day 2008
please use information found on

www.sar.org/committee/history/celebrations.html

No banquet at Ft. Eustis this year on the 18th but there are other activities you need to review for times

6. November 2nd, 11:30 a.m. Valley Forge Service
Service at Washington Memorial Chapel
Valley Forge, PA

The Virginia Society attends this service in conjunction with Virginia Daughters of the American Revolution

The Legislative Petitions Project: an Update

by John Sinks

We are making excellent progress on our goal to transcribe the legislative petitions of Fairfax County and the Town of Alexandria and make the transcriptions available to the public. We had previously reported that the **first and second tasks**, securing the support and approval of the Virginia State Library and Archives and obtaining photocopies of the petitions from microfilm, were **complete**.

The **third task**, making an initial transcription of each petition, is now complete. The following members participated in this phase of the project and deserve our thanks:

Tom Cranmer, Rob Engle, David Hall, Bob Hampton, Larry Lamborn, Andrew Monahan, Paul Peak, Phil Ray, Ron Rice, and our President Tom Speelman.

Special thanks are due to **Phil Ray and Bob Hampton** who took on additional work after they completed the work they had agreed to do transcribing the petitions. Chapter members have now completed initial transcriptions of over half of the fifteen petitions and over half of the total number of pages thanks to the efforts of many members. **The fourth task** is to review the initial transcriptions against the copies. **John Sinks and Jack Sweeney**, two members with experience in reading 18th century documents, completed this task for all but the last petition transcribed. **The fifth task**, examining the original documents to resolve additional words, has started. **Bob Hampton, John Sinks, and Jack Sweeney** started this task on August 21st. They completed half the petitions and were each working on another petition when the reading room closed for the day. The task is continuing as we go to press. **A sixth task** is to examine other Fairfax County and Alexandria records where names are not clear. This has also started. The 1782 tax list has already been used to resolve a number of names.

The Fairfax Resolves Chapter, with this project, is making some local history more widely accessible to the public. We may even provide some men the proof they need for membership in the SAR.

Annual Congress, Sacramento, California July 3-9, 2008



Members and Dual members with spouses of the Virginia Society attending Congress in Sacramento, CA.
Detail about picture and Virginians receiving awards at Congress can be found at:

www.sar.org/vassar/2008-congress.htm

Photo by Penny Rogo Bailes

Each summer while the Fairfax Resolves Chapter is in summer recess from meetings, our members are very active and the purpose of this segment of the newsletter is to highlight what value some of these summer activities may bring to our Chapter Members. In addition, we suggest all members try getting involved in State Regional and National activities.

Getting involved with National Committees is the easiest way to influence and/or change the direction and leadership of e.g. an outreach education program, a community public service program, or youth programs. All these Chapter programs are lead and directed at the National Level and State Level and our Committee Chairman are found on the last page of this document and on our Chapter website;

fairfaxresolvessar.org

An example of a committee that Fairfax Resolves is directly involved in is the Joseph S. Rumbaugh Orations Contest. One of the highlights of our Annual Congress each year is the orations contest and Fairfax Resolves Secretary, **Larry McKinley**, is the National Chairman. **Gabriel Barrientos**, our Chapter winner and eventual State of Virginia winner, represented us all in Sacramento.

Though **Gabriel** did not win he was a quality representative and most of all benefitted from the experience by conducting Revolutionary War historical research. He along with the other contestants (approximately 50-60 across the nation) then created a speech to communicate the results of his research on an event, battle, person, or document from the Revolutionary War Period. Other states participating were Arkansas, Florida, North Carolina, Delaware, Kansas, Louisiana, Illinois, Maryland, Texas, Ohio, Mississippi, Washington D.C. and Indiana.

We look forward to having another great contest this coming year (held January 22, 2009 at Vinson Hall, McLean, VA, 7 p.m.) And we look forward to having this competition in Atlanta, GA next year for all State winners.

The following photo gives you an example of our youth across the nation that participated July 5th in the National contest. We are proud of them.



State winners in the National Contest, Sacramento, CA, bracketed by Larry McKinley chairman on the left and Bruce Wilcox on the right, the President General 2007-2008. Gabriel Barrientos is standing two men to the left of the President General. Among our participants, this year made of sophomores, juniors and seniors in high school are those admitted to Stanford, Yale and Harvard Universities. The winner received \$3,000.

photo by Penny Rogo Bailes

Another item picked up at Congress which is meaningful to our Chapter members is a **Member Services Program (discount program)**, created by the Americanism Committee. All SAR members can take advantage of the discounts offered by the various vendors. NSSAR will receive a benefit if you purchase from the vendors shown below with an *. Go to www.sar.org/committee/MembServ.html where you will see the icons to click on and they will provide you access to the desired vendor. In addition each has their own method on how to validate and obtain discounts if you are an SAR member.

- Brooks Brothers (15%) ID #91201; Pin Code #74658
- T-Mobile* (10%)
- Office Depot* (5%)
- Footnote.com (\$10 off) www.footnote.com/sar
- YTB Travel*
- Keepsakes Family Trees*
- Hawk Vision Moving and Storage*
- **Rental Cars:** Alamo (10%) #706768; Avis* (5%) #AWD:G719300; Budget*(5%) #BCD:Z655700; Enterprise (5%) #58b2325; National (15%) #5282865

Congress information continued:

At Congress each year the new President General and other General Officers are elected by the general Body and this year we had **Bruce Wilcox's** (George Mason -Chapter) term as President General end and **David Appleby's** term begin as President General. **PG Appleby** is a municipal court judge in Missouri and has served as a general officer for 6 years before ascending to the position of President General. Some of his major emphasis are: Center for Advancing America's Heritage (our Library); all youth programs & outreach education.



President General David Appleby
2008-2009



President General Bruce Wilcox & Teresa
2007-2008

Awards and appointments are made at the Congress as well. **John Sinks** received an oak leaf cluster for the Liberty Medal (for recruiting an additional 10 members) and **Larry McKinley** was appointed to the Executive Committee of the National Society while **Joe Dooley** (George Mason Chapter) was elected Genealogist General.

Ceremonies at Congressional Cemetery, Washington, DC, July 4th

Vern and Connie Eubanks and John Sinks attended two ceremonies on July 4th at Congressional Cemetery. The first was the District of Columbia Society, SAR's 56th Annual Commemoration of **Elbridge Gerry**, signer of the Declaration of Independence. After the Revolution Gerry attended the Constitutional Convention, but refused to sign because there was no bill of rights and slavery was not abolished. Gerry died in Washington, DC in 23 Nov. 1814 while serving as Vice President under James Madison. The ceremony is the oldest continual event at the Cemetery. Two families of direct descendents of **Elbridge Gerry** were in attendance. As the last part of the tribute, every veteran present was invited to place a flower in an urn by Gerry's monument. **Vern Eubanks** was one of the veterans participating. After the ceremony Vernon, Connie Eubanks and John Sinks attended the luncheon held by the D.C. Society in honor of those who participated.



Sinks shown in front of Elbridge Gerry Monument



The second ceremony was sponsored by the District of Columbia Society C.A.R., honoring **John W. Hunter**. (Vern and Connie Eubanks shown left center in picture at left) Hunter, born November 22, 1767, enlisted in late 1780 or early 1781 in the South Carolina State Troops under **Capt. William McKenzie and Col. Hill**. He served as the brigade trumpeter with the rank of sergeant major. Hunter transferred to **Lt. Col. Henry Hampton's** Light Dragoons. He was in a number of skirmishes and the battles of Orangeburg and Eutaw Springs, where he was wounded. When the

South Carolina troops returned home to be discharged in 1782 Hunter enlisted under Col. James Jackson of Georgia. About 1831 he moved to Washington, DC and was Assistant Doorkeeper of the House of Representatives. He died in March of 1844.

Veterans Common Celebration, July 4th, 2008

Fairfax Resolves SAR members **Paul and Roger Peak, John Sinks, and Bill Youngs** joined American Legion and VFW members **Len Rinaldi and Len Michalowski** at **Veterans Common** in Falls Church to honor veterans on the 4th of July. The ceremony was held at 7:30 AM. The Fairfax Resolves Chapter also placed US flags at the graves of eleven Revolutionary War veterans on July 4th.



Veteran's Common site in Falls Church & Arlington where Fairfax Resolves and Veteran Organiz. honor their ancestors and all Veterans going before them.

All branches of the Service are represented and honored at this location—next ceremony is Constitution Day, September 17.

We will list all ceremonies at Veteran’s Common on the web-site under upcoming events. The web-site again is www.fairfaxresolvessar.org

We are in need of speakers for the various celebrations, a short **5 to 7 minute speech** honoring Memorial Day, VJ Day, VE Day, Veterans Day, George Washington’s Birthday, etc. These are a few of the available topics we can use to support our Veterans’ Organizations and reach out to the community and inspire them about the Revolutionary War Period.



Veteran’s Common bridge: L to R; William Youngs, Len Michalowski (instrumental in founding Veteran’s Common-VC) Roger Peak and Paul Peak.....July 4th, 2008. William Youngs has for years been the guest speaker at VC events.

John Sinks lead the effort to place flags at Graves of eleven Revolutionary Soldiers as part of a July 4th celebration. The soldiers and their final resting place:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Capt. John Westcott | Old Presbyterian Cemetery, Alexandria |
| Major Samuel Cooper | Christ Church Cemetary, Alexandria |
| Lt. James Lawrason | Christ Church Cemetary, Alexandria |
| Pvt. William Herbert | Christ Church Cemetary, Alexandria |
| Surgeon George Hunter | Pohick Espiscopal Church, Lorton |
| Surgeon General of Hospital | |
| William Brown | Pohick Episcopal Church, Lorton |
| Lt. Col. George West | Pohick Espiscopal Church, Lorton |
| Col. Peter Wagener | Pohick Espiscopal Church, Lorton |
| Lt. Daniel McCarty | Pohick Espiscopal Church, Lorton |
| Lt. Col. Samuel Shreve | Oakwood Cemetery, Falls Church |
| Capt. Simon Summers | The Falls Church, Falls Church |

These activities will go along way in a couple of areas as we remember not only our ancestors with community programs, but we remember veterans and their families which is a big part of our Veteran's Program.

Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting, August 8-9, 2008

Gareth H. Bond (left), Regional Vice President Mid-Atlantic Region presents the District Meritorious Service Medal to John Sinks.



John Sinks and Larry McKinley participated in the Mid-Atlantic Regional meeting where workshops are held on permanent programs or functions of the SAR and those who seek National Office announce their candidacy. Among the highlights at the Regional meeting were:

John Sinks was presented a District Level Meritorious Service Medal and participated in a genealogy workshop panel discussion made up of former Genealogists Generals. Though **John** has never held this post at the National level his vast experience and results were a great addition to the panel.



Here is the panel of experts addressing the genealogy questions of the group for the regional gathering covering PA, MD, VA, D.C., NJ, with some members coming from NY, NH. John emphasized the opportunities often overlooked with petitions, etc. (non-traditional definitions of service). We were fortunate in Fairfax Resolves to receive the benefit of his genealogical research. Members of the panel left to right: Jon Sinks, Judge Ed Butler, current Secretary General Former Genealogist General; Chuck Bragg, current Treasurer General, former Genealogist General; and Joe Dooley, current Genealogist General.

Photo by Bob Bowen



Part of the Group from the Mid-Atlantic District who toured Washington's Crossing—they had a great time!

The Registrar's Corner—also belongs to the Genealogist



A small vignette a day helps a man's brain and his sense of humor (so sayeth the Secretary of this Organization)

“August 1781

At the close of a sultry day, the general [Philip Schuyler] and his family were sitting in the front hall. The servants were dispersed about the premises. The three guards relieved for the night were asleep in the basement room, and the three on duty, oppressed by the heat, were lying upon the cool grass in the garden. A servant announced to the general that a stranger

desired to speak with him at the back gate. The stranger's errand was at once comprehended. The doors of the house were immediately shut and close barred. The family were hastily collected in an upper room, and the general ran to his bed-chamber for his arms.

From the window he saw the house surrounded by armed men. For the purpose of arousing the sentinels upon the grass, and perchance to alarm the town, he fired a pistol from the window. The assailants burst open the doors, and at that moment Mrs. Schuyler perceived that, in the confusion and alarm of the retreat from the hall, her infant child, a few months old, had been left in the cradle in the nursery below. Parental love subdued all fear, and she was flying to the rescue of her child, when the general interposed and prevented her. But her third daughter instantly rushed down the two flights of stairs, snatched the still sleeping infant from the cradle, and bore it off safely.

One of the miscreants hurled a sharp tomahawk at her as she left the room, but it effected no other harm than a slight injury to her dress, within a few inches of the infant's head. As she ascended a private stair-case she met [the Tory leader, John] Waltermeyer, who supposing her to be a servant, exclaimed, “**Wench, wench, where is your master?**” With great presence of mind, she replied, “**Gone to alarm the town.**” The Tory's followers were then in the dining-room, plundering it of plate and other valuables, and he called them together for consultation.

At that moment the general threw up a window and, as if speaking to numbers, called out in a loud voice, “Come on my brave fellows, surround the house and secure the villains, who are plundering.” The assailants made a precipitate retreat, carrying with them the three guards that were in the house, and a large quantity of silver plate. They made their way to Ballstown by daybreak, where they took General Gordon prisoner from his bed, and with their booty returned to Canada. The bursting open of the doors of General Schuyler's house aroused the sleeping guards in the cellar, who rushed up to the back hall, where they had left their arms, but they were gone. Mrs. Church, another daughter of General Schuyler, who was there at the time, without the slightest suspicion that they might be wanted, caused the arms to be removed a short time before the attack, on account of the apprehended injury to her little son, whom she found playing with them. The guards had no other weapon but their brawny fists, and these they used manfully until they were overpowered. They were taken to Canada, and when exchanged, the general gave each of them a farm, in Saratoga County. Their names were John Tubbs, John Corlies, and John Ward.”
from Benson J. Lossing's *The Pictorial Field-Book of the Revolution, Vol. 1*, Harper & Brothers, 1859, pp. 222-223.

John Ward is the ancestor of new member Irving Constanzo. Roll of the 1st New York Regiment show that Ward was detailed to Gen. Schuyler's guard by October 1777, where he served until 1783.

Registrar's Report and Comments

Application Status

Since the last issue of the Defender we have the following changes in application status.

New Members	Ancestor	Date Accepted
Joe Dorris	Samuel Dorris, VA & MD	7-14-2008
Robert Schumann	Samuel Dorris, VA & MD	7-14-2008

Supplementals approved	Date approved
John Sweeney Pvt. Elijah Stevens CT	8-5-2008

The Acceptability DAR and SAR Applications in Lieu of Evidence

Many applicants, whether new or supplemental, like to rely on previously approved SAR, DAR, and C.A.R. applications in lieu of evidence. The National Society does not always accept such applications. What is acceptable and what is not?

First, a "Record Copy" that is obtained from the respective national society is generally required. Recently the DAR has been sending a photocopy back to states with genealogist's check marks. The National Society SAR will accept those. What will not be accepted is a copy from an individual or a chapter that does not show the National Society approvals.

Second, the application must meet current genealogical standards. The hallmark of such applications are the checkmarks and handwritten corrections by the reviewing genealogist.

Third, if the line has been closed, the closure must be cleared up with the National Society SAR. Sometimes this is easy. For example, DAR has closed a number of lines because it now requires that petitions previously acceptable "demonstrate loyalty to the cause of independence from England." Most petitions, including those addressing big issues that the relationship between church and state, are silent on the subject of independence. DAR also now excludes the care for wounded soldiers who were members of the immediate family. SAR does not have these restrictions. In other cases a line is closed for good reason. A number of ladies joined DAR on one of my ancestors, citing 1781 militia records. That line is now closed because probate records, not cited by those applicants, prove that the man died in 1779. The service was performed by a son of the same name. (I have failed to find any service performed by that ancestor before this death.)

Older applications that were submitted before current genealogical standards were in place may none the less be of value.

First, some applicants exceeded old standards and met current standards before they were established. The application itself may not have the requisite check marks, but the sources cited may be clear and acceptable. For DAR, the documentation is often available on-line at DAR headquarters. For C.A.R., documentation is often available in C.A.R. files and can be copied at 75 cents per page. I do not know a good way to check SAR documentation without going to Louisville. For one of my supplementals, I discovered from correspondence at DAR that the applicant had copied the names and dates of birth of the children of a soldier from a copy of a family Bible that now is lost. National Society SAR accepted the evidence. A third instance in which older applications can be accepted is for proof of lineage of which the applicant would have had personal knowledge. Several recent members of the Fairfax Resolves Chapter have had applications approved relying on this argument.

Finally, even if an application does not meet current standards and goes beyond what the applicant knew personally, it may well provide a road map of where to look for evidence. Several recent members of the Fairfax Resolves Chapter have had applications approved using old DAR applications as a road map.

Criteria for the War Service Medal:

I am certain our Chapter has many members who qualify for the War Service medals so I thought I would include it so we can be ready for our **November** meeting which is close to Veteran’s Day. The Criteria for receiving these beautiful medals from the SAR National Handbook:

“...May be presented to members who served in the armed forces of the United States, or a country that was an ally of the United States, or in a United States Peace Keeping Force, and fought against a common enemy of the United States in a war or action that has been recognized by a branch of the Armed Forces of the United States and for which a campaign medal and ribbon are authorized.” Where do you find all these campaigns medal/ribbons and dates of service? The web-site is the Military Awards Branch: www.tioh.hqda.pentagon.mil/awards.

Proof of such service, in the form of a member’s discharge, DD-214, (or other U.S. Government proof in the case of a member, in active service), must be presented to his chapter before the medal can be purchased or worn. (ref. SAR Handbook).

Specific bronze bars are available indicating service in WW I, WW II, Korea, Vietnam, or Southeast Asia, and Kuwait, or Southwest Asia. Please let me know if you qualify. **David Cook, I still have your information.** And everyone else, if you desire a medal, tell me you have a DD214 awarding the service medal/ribbon—I don’t need to see it—Keep it in a safe place and just tell me. (**Larry McKinley** Address is on front of document).



The Front side of the War Service Medal has the years 1776-1783 & Libertas Et Patria in the inner Circle. The service bar, WW II, Korea, Southeast, Southwest Asia e.g. is worn above the ribbon



The backside of the medal reads: Presented to Compatriot _____ by the Sons of the American Revolution for War Service



New Military Service Medal worn by members who have served in the Military who otherwise do not qualify for the SAR WAR Service Medal. Typically, if you have a National Defense Ribbon, no other campaign medal then you qualify. Not worn at same time as War Service Medal.



As the new activity year approaches, there are a couple of things worth briefly discussing...committee chairmen and the fall's activity schedule.

As you know, the real key to the success of the Fairfax Resolves in winning Best Large Chapter in Virginia last year are our strong committee chairs. The chapter's Board of Managers held a planning meeting

earlier this month and finalized most of the committee chairs for the upcoming year. However, one that we still need to find a volunteer for is the chairman for Teacher of the Year. Essentially, the primary duty of this chairman is to find a teacher who is deserving of recognition as the chapter's teacher of the year and ensure that the nomination package is completed in time to submit the teacher for state competition. If you are interested in serving as the chairman of this important area, please contact me or any of the chapter officers.

As part of the board of managers planning meeting, we finalized the chapter's meeting/activity schedule for the year. This fall promises to be an interesting and enjoyable time for the chapter. We have chapter meetings with guest speakers on September 11 and November 13. The annual Fire Safety/EMS awards banquet will be on October 11, and the chapter's Christmas Social will be held on December 6. **Larry Lamborn** has our speaker for the September meeting, **Mr. Mike Cecere**, whose topic will be *"In This Time of Extreme Danger: Northern Virginia on the Eve of War."* For more details, go to the chapter's website www.fairfaxresolvessar.org and look under *current activities*, then *chapter events*. Details are continuously updated as they are finalized, so check the website often for the latest on chapter activities. The chapter meetings in September and November will both start at 7:00 pm with our guest speaker, followed by a business meeting. All meetings are at Vinson Hall.

One final event that I want to bring to your attention – the Fairfax Resolves will be doing a chapter sponsored grave marking at the Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C. on November 29. Please plan on supporting this event to honor a patriot from the Revolutionary War.

If you've not been to a meeting recently, I encourage you to come out and join the most dynamic chapter in the state.

Committee Assignments

Fairfax Resolves is an outstanding Chapter of the Virginia Society because of the work of its Committees and members in the community.

Those who are Committee Chairmen and members are listed below. We need volunteers to man some of these committees and serve as chairman...one of our first order of business September 13th is assignment and asking for volunteers to participate in the programs.

Committees:

- A. Law Enforcement.....Chair, Larry McKinley
Vice-Chair, Vernon Eubanks
- B. Fire Safety.....Chair, William Youngs
Vice-Chair, Lauris Eek
- C. Rev. War Graves.....Chair, John Sinks
Vice-Chair, Jack Sweeney
- D. Youth Programs
(C.A.R.=Children of the American Revolution)
Oration/Essay.....Chair, Larry McKinley
Vice-Chair Larry Lamborn
- C.A.R.....Chair, Larry McKinley
Vice-Chair – Bob Hampton
- J.R.O.T.C.....Chair, Bob Hampton
Vice-Chair, (need volunteer)
- Eagle Scholarship..... Chair Robert Engle
Vice-Chair, Larry McKinley
- National Hist. DayChair Jack Sweeney
Vice-Chair, John Sinks
- School Poster Contest.....Chair , Daniel Rolph
- E. Flag Committee.....Chair, William Youngs
- F. Veterans Comm.....Chair, Dennis Hickey, IV
Vice-Chair, William W. Shugarts, III
- G. Teacher of the Year.....Chair (need volunteer)
Volunteer Chair, Larry McKinley
- H.Citizen of the Year.....Chair (need volunteer)
Volunteer Chair, Tom Speelman
- I. History Education awards.....Chair, John Sinks
Vice-Chair (need volunteer)
- J. New Member Comm.Chair, Larry McKinley
Member, Darrin Schmidt
Member, Tom Speelman
Member, John Sinks
- K. Web-Site Manager.....Chair, Darrin Schmidt
New Member Committee is assisting Chair
- L. Public Relations.....Chair, Robert Engle

The Fairfax Resolves Officers for 2008-2009

- President.....Thomas K. Speelman, Jr.**
- 1st Vice President.....George Lamborn**
- 2nd Vice-President.....John Sweeney**
- Third Vice-President.....Robert Hampton**
- Secretary.....Lawrence E. McKinley**
- Treasurer.....Daniel Rolph**
- Regstr/Gnlgst.....John D. Sinks, PhD**
- Chaplain.....William E. Youngs**
- Historian.....Robert Engle**
- Parliamentarian.....John D. Sinks, PhD**