



Col. William Grayson Chapter *Sons of the American Revolution* —Newsletter—



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Volume **13**, Issue **4**

October- December 2020

These Are The Times That Try Men's Souls

As we enter a winter season, forecast by many to be the most severe and deadly phase of the Covid-19 pandemic, we may draw strength from the example of our Patriot ancestors as we move into an uncertain New Year.

In December, 1776, following a series of disastrous defeats in New York and New Jersey, the Continental Army, under the command of General George Washington, retreated into Pennsylvania. Cold, hungry, under-supplied, and plagued by desertions, the Patriot brothers stood on the brink of ruin.

On Christmas Day, General Washington split his troops into three columns, planning a pincer attack on the Hessians encamped at Trenton. A sudden winter storm prevented two of the columns from crossing the icy river before them, but General Washington's resolve never faltered. That morning, General George Washington crossed the Delaware River, entered Trenton, New Jersey, and defeated the Hessians in what was later deemed a "Christmas Miracle". The Battle of Trenton became the turning point for the Revolutionary War, and the Patriot cause moved toward the sunlit uplands.

On December 23, 1776, these words from Thomas Paine's *The American Crisis* were read to the Continental Army as it prepared to attack the Hessians at Trenton.

"These are the times that try men's souls: The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman."

*Thomas Paine's 'The American Crisis, Number 1,' published December 19, 1776

It is now our time to face hardship and adversity. By remaining active, in service, in the communities which surround us, even during these difficult times of Covid-19, we play our part in demonstrating the broader national resolve not only to endure but to triumph.

Recently, our Color Guard took part in the “Wreaths Across America”, an annual nationwide event that remembers our fallen veterans, honors those who serve, and teaches our children the value of freedom. As our Guard laid a wreath at the grave of Patriot Henry Dogan, people came forward to express their gratitude for the presence of our Compatriots.

As our incoming President, Ross Schwalm (the 3rd Great Grandson of the Hessian Johannes Schwalm, who was captured at Trenton), said when accepting his new role, “Never turn down command and serve when called.” This theme of continued and continual service in 2021 serves as a reminder to each of us of the importance of our presence in the life of not only our local communities but also of our nation.

President's Report

The SAR at the national, state and chapter levels, here in Virginia and around the country, have created a number of work-arounds to deal with the numerous cancellations and limitations imposed by government agencies and business establishments.

The most obvious change is the replacement of many in-person events with live, virtual events. While this change has eliminated much of our fellowship with compatriots, it has resulted in the attendance at virtual meetings, mostly Zoom meetings, by folks who normally were unable or unwilling to travel to live meetings or events.

This possible increase in attendance at SAR events has apparently been more than offset by the closure of schools or the limitations placed upon visits to schools. All of our youth activities have suffered. While 2018 saw our chapter participating in 7 of the 8 Youth Programs, and 2019 saw our participation in 6 of the 8, 2020 saw us participating in only three, i.e., Essay Contest, JROTC scholarship and Eagle Scout recognition, which did not necessarily involve getting into the schools.

Getting back into the schools remains a major challenge in the coming months, and we are looking for compatriots who are willing to push back that barrier.

Let's take a look at the events, most of them live, in which we were able to participate during the last three months of 2020.

On Wednesday, October 7, in a virtual event I presented our chapter wreath at a ceremony commemorating the 240th anniversary of the Overmountain Men's victory at the Battle of Kings Mountain in South Carolina on October 7, 1780. SAR and DAR societies and chapters from around the country participated, and over 70 wreaths were presented virtually. The key speaker was Congressman Ralph Norman, a Compatriot and expert on the Battle. It was extremely well done for such a large number of participants. Story below.

On Saturday, October 17, a hybrid meeting was held from Yorktown to present wreaths at the grave of Governor Thomas Nelson. This is a ceremony normally held each year on Yorktown Victory Day, October 19, but the Yorktown Day Committee had cancelled the October 19 festivities, notably the parade down Main Street and the ceremony at the Victory Monument. While more than two dozen wreaths were presented, most

were presented in-person, some were presented via Zoom. I was able to present our chapter's wreath in person. The whole event was recorded and is available on our new VASSAR YouTube Channel. Check out the 47-minute version. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJrzGKzULSPLsSUDXvxgtuw>

On Saturday, October 24, a double Memorial Dedication ceremony was held in Culpeper, Virginia. At Yowell Meadow Park, a life size display of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights were in a setting mirroring the display of those documents at the National Archives in Washington. Within the same setting, on a large, granite boulder, were inscribed the names of Patriots from the Culpeper Minute Battalion and the actions in which they were involved. When you are in Culpeper, check it out. I presented our chapter wreath and carried our chapter flag in the Color Guard. The ceremony was recorded and is also available on the VASSAR YouTube Channel cited above.

On Saturday, October 31, our chapter was represented at the Commemorative Marking of the graves of Charles & Elizabeth Lewis Carter in Berryville, Virginia. The event was sponsored by the Ketocin Chapter of the DAR. Leamon Duncan presented our chapter wreath and I carried our flag in the Color Guard.

On Sunday, November 8, I presented our chapter wreath at a virtual Veterans Day Commemoration ceremony sponsored by the Colonel William Preston Chapter of the DAR

On Wednesday, November 11, Veterans Day, a joint SAR/DAR wreath laying ceremony was conducted at the Tomb of George Washington at Mount Vernon. This annual event was sponsored by the Kate Waller Barrett Chapter, Virginia Society DAR, and the George Washington Chapter, Virginia Society SAR. General George Washington was being honored on this Veterans Day as our nation's First Veteran with a wreath at his tomb. I participated as a sentinel at the tomb during the ceremony. Story below.

On Saturday, November 21, two monuments, one for Revolutionary War Patriots and one for War of 1812 Veterans, buried in the Ketocin Baptist Church graveyard in Purcellville, Virginia, were dedicated. The ceremony was sponsored jointly by the Colonel William Grayson Chapter of VASSAR, the Fairfax Resolves Chapter of VASSAR and the Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia.

The event, with Curtis Robb as the Master of Ceremonies, was many months in planning and was the culmination of our year's grave marking effort. It was a live event, limited to 25 attendees, but was masterfully documented in a video by Jeff Thomas, our 2021 VASSAR President. The video is also available on the VASSAR YouTube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJrzGKzULSPLsSUDXvxgtuw>. Story below.

On Wednesday, December 2, our chapter Compatriot, Ralph Frederick DeWalt, Captain, United State Navy, Retired, was interred at Arlington National Cemetery. We were honored when his family asked our chapter to present the SAR Burial Ritual following the official military graveside ceremony.

Following the ceremonies, Barry Schwoerer, a shipmate and long-time friend of Ralph, presented a plaque to his widow Mrs. Charlotte DeWalt and the DeWalt family. The plaque commemorated the link from Captain DeWalt to his Patriot Ancestor, Private Christian DeWalt, who served in the Northampton County, Pennsylvania Militia.

Captain DeWalt was given full military honors, fitting for a veteran with Vietnam War combat experience. He was a highly respected Naval Aviator who flew multiple type aircraft from several different aircraft carriers. Fuller story below.

On Saturday, December 5, we participated in a virtual celebration of the 245th Anniversary of the Battle of Great Bridge. Over 150 members of the SAR, DAR and CAR participated in the virtual ceremony, with 65 wreaths presented by folks in numerous states, including one in California who was a descendant of a patriot who fought in the battle. I presented our chapter wreath. Story below.

On Wednesday, December 9, the actual date of the Battle of Great Bridge, I was part of a small group of Color Guard who gathered in Culpeper at the Culpeper Minutemen Monument at 7:00 am, which was the date and time when the Battle at Great Bridge took place down in Chesapeake. We were there in 27-degree weather early in the morning to honor those Culpeper Minutemen who contributed so much to the victory at Great Bridge in 1775 by enduring the same feeling of darkness and cold they experienced.

On Saturday, December 19, we formed a Colonel William Grayson Chapter Color Guard for the annual Wreaths Across America Ceremony at the Stonewall Memory Gardens in Manassas. Some 1,200 wreaths were placed on veteran's graves. Story below.

On a sadder note, December saw the passing of two who have been a part of our chapter's fellowship for many years.

December 14 saw the passing of a compatriot, David Allard, Colonel, United States Air Force, Retired. Dave, a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, was a B-52 pilot with 30 years of service, including service in Vietnam. He will be interred in Arlington National Cemetery at a later date. Story below.

December 18 saw the passing of Terri Harris, wife of Frank Harris, Colonel, United States Marine Corps, Retired. Terri always accompanied Frank to chapter meetings and was always a welcome guest. Both Frank and Terri were in the hospital for COVID-19 when Terri passed away. Frank, still recovering, is now at home.

Finally, I would again remind all members that you should report any participation you may have had in any event involving the SAR to George Ax, gax@cox.net, for inclusion in our chapter's Americanism Report, both live, in-person events or virtual events. Also, remember to advise Bill Collier, wcol72@aol.com, of any veteran-related events in which you may have been involved, either in-person or virtual, for credit in our chapter's USS Stark Memorial Report.

When I assumed the presidency of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter two years ago, I asked for your prayers for me and the other officers that we would be able to faithfully fulfill the duties of our offices. Since this is the last chapter Newsletter for which I will write the President's Report, I want to express my gratitude to those who have upheld me and the other officers for it is only by God's Grace that we have arrived here at the turnover to another group of officers. May God continue to bless the SAR and the Colonel William Grayson Chapter because our message to our nation, in particular to the youth of our nation, is that we have a great country, a Constitutional Republic and a nation of free men for which our Patriot Ancestors fought and have now entrusted to us.

In patriotic service,

Michael E. Weyler

Color Guard Commander's Report



Ketocin Church Grave Marking November 2020

Since the last Chapter meeting in November, our Color Guard has participated in several events to include providing the SAR Burial Ritual at Compatriot Ralph DeWalt's interment at Arlington National Cemetery.

Also visit the Virginia Society, SAR's Color Guard website for news and information about upcoming statewide events, www.virginiasar.org/color-guard.htm.

Please contact Compatriot Duncan if you are interested in joining the Color Guard.

Contact information below.

We invite you to "Come stand by the Colors with us!"

Quartermaster Report

Effective 19 Dec 20, transferred QM responsibilities to Compatriot Andrew Mills. Thanks Andrew for stepping up to take the lead! Please contact Andrew if you need equipment for an event, fedallgen@yahoo.com.

Social Media Update

Effective 24 Nov 20, transferred primary Facebook page responsibility to Compatriot Chuck Mills. Please add Chuck to your email submissions for Facebook updates. Chuck's email is timetravel21@yahoo.com. Thanks Chuck for stepping up to take the lead!

Submitted by: Compatriot Leamon Duncan, ldduncan@outlook.com, 571-447-0866 Color Guard Commander

Upcoming Events

Note: All events subject to change or cancellation due to the coronavirus situation.

9 January: Colonel William Grayson Chapter Meeting. This meeting will be virtual and will begin at 10:30. Chapter Secretary Dave Button has previously provided information on registration and log on procedures. The 2021 officers will be sworn in at this meeting.

January 17: 240th Anniversary of the Battle of Cowpens. 1:00pm. Online only. This virtual event can be watched on the Cowpens National Battlefield Facebook page or the National Park Service Cowpens website.

January 24: 244th Anniversary of Rev/Col Peter Muhlenberg's Sermon. Sunday, 24 Jan, 2pm, online - watch for details.

February 5-6: 2021 Annual Meeting of the Virginia SAR, Friday & Saturday, 05-06 Feb 2021. Online event. Watch for details.

February 5-6: NSSAR Spring Trustees & Leadership Meeting, Friday & Saturday, 05-06 Feb, Brown Hotel, Louisville, KY. CANCELLED. Watch for notice of an online meeting.

March 13: Colonel William Grayson Chapter Meeting. This meeting will be virtual and will begin at 10:30.

April 17: Multi-Chapter Meeting at Graves Mountain Lodge, Saturday, 17 Apr, 11:00am, Graves Mountain Lodge, Syria, VA.

May 15: Colonel William Grayson Chapter Meeting. This meeting will be virtual and will begin at 10:30.

Registrar's Report

New Members Approved in October – December 2020

Jon Huddleston	2 Oct 2020	John Hargrave who was a Private under Captains Hankins, Hemphill, and Backins in SC
Richard Braun	23 Oct 2020	Lemuel Ethridge who furnished supplies in Virginia.
Jonathan Braun	23 Oct 2020	Lemuel Ethridge who furnished supplies in Virginia.
William Braun	23 Oct 2020	Lemuel Ethridge who furnished supplies in Virginia.

Supplemental Applications Approved in October – December 2020

None

Chapter Activities and News

October 4, 2020: Eagle Scout Recognition for Ean Helmlinger, Troop 1882

Ean Helmlinger of Scout Troop 1882, was presented his Eagle Scout medal at a Court of Honor in Catharpin, Virginia. Colonel William Grayson Chapter President, Michael E. Weyler, presented Ean with his Certificate of Recognition and SAR-BSA Partners for Good Citizenship Patch.

Ean, winner of 32 merit badges, is a leader in his Troop and in his community. As a competitive swimmer, Ean completed a major Eagle Scout project that brought three local competitive swim teams together to collect swim equipment to support a new swim program for children with Down Syndrome.

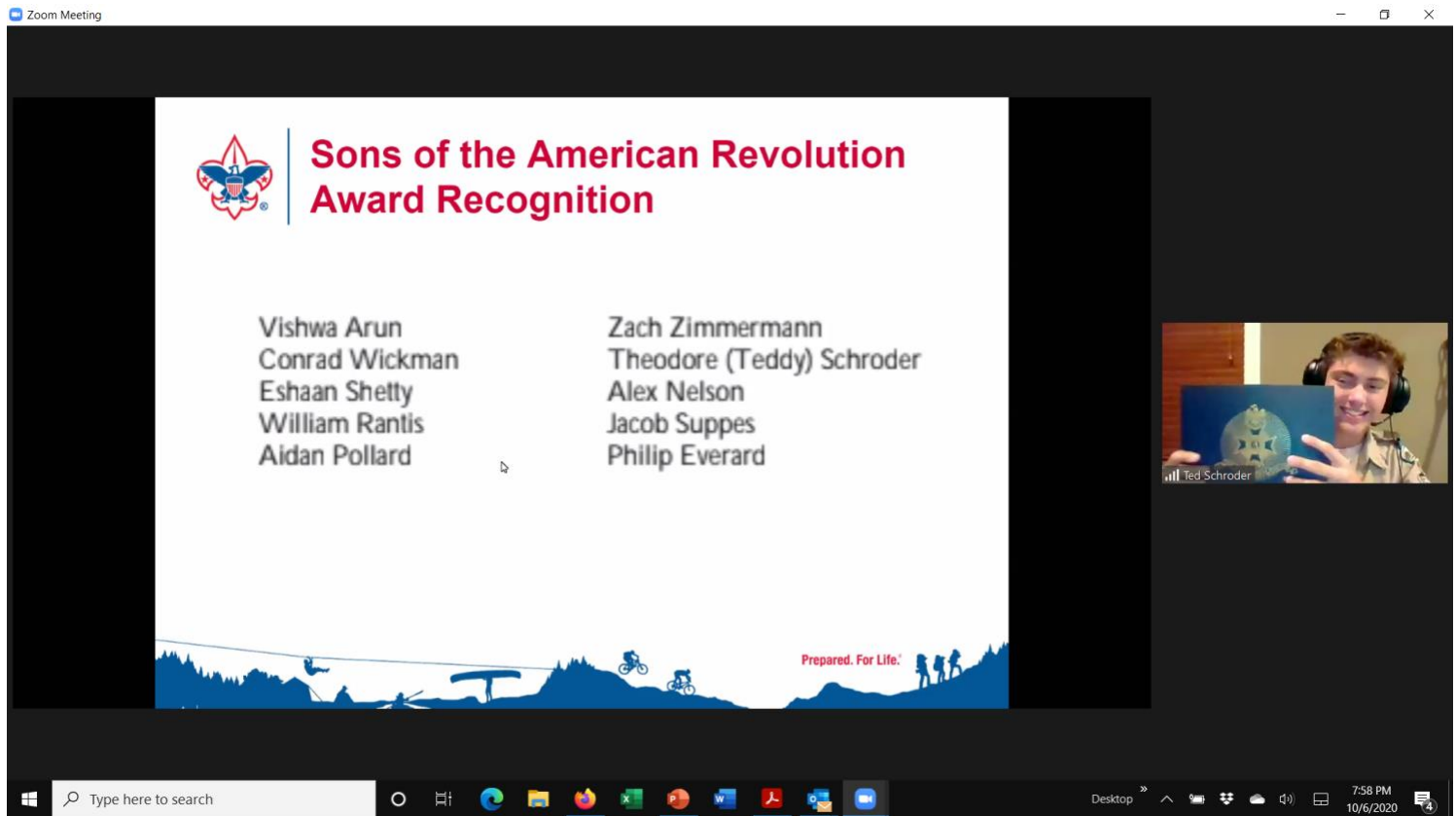
Ean is currently a senior at Battlefield High School in the IT Program and plans to pursue a degree in Mechanical Engineering and patent law. He has earned varsity letters in academics and swimming in each of the last three years. As a varsity athlete, Ean hopes to continue his swim career competing on a college team. The Scout Oath includes, “On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country..” With young men like Ean and other Eagle Scouts, proven leaders committed to God and country, we can have confidence in America’s future.



President Weyler presenting Certificate and Patch to Eagle Scout Ean Helmlinger.

October 6, 2020: Eagle Scout Recognition, Troop 577

At a unit Court of Honor conducted on October 6, 2020 the SAR Award of Recognition was presented to ten Scouts from Troop 577 who earned their Eagle rank. The event was held virtually via Zoom owing to COVID protocols and limited outdoor meeting options.



October 7, 2020: 240th Anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain

On Wednesday, October 7, 2020, the North Carolina and South Carolina Societies of the SAR jointly sponsored a virtual ceremony to mark the 240th anniversary of the Patriot Militia's victory over the Loyalist Militia under British Major Patrick Ferguson at the Battle of Kings Mountain in South Carolina on October 7, 1780.

The virtual event was attended by participants and attendees from ten states and involved over seventy wreath presentations. The Virginia delegation was led by VASSAR President Bill Schwetke and included six VASSAR chapters. Chapter President Michael E. Weyler presented the Colonel William Grayson Chapter wreath. President General Jack Manning's presence made it a national event.

The guest speaker was South Carolina Congressman Ralph Norman. Kings Mountain is located in his district, and he is an expert on the history of the battle. His description of the battle was detailed and most instructive, including quotations from those who fought there as well as from those in the British hierarchy most affected by their loss. He pointed out that the victory at Kings Mountain was the first patriot victory in the Southern Campaign, the first in a string of patriot victories that led to Yorktown and the British surrender.

The recording of the entire ceremony can be viewed on the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/catawbavalleyencssar/videos/1443734215826383>



Battle of Kings Mountain, South Carolina, October 7, 1780



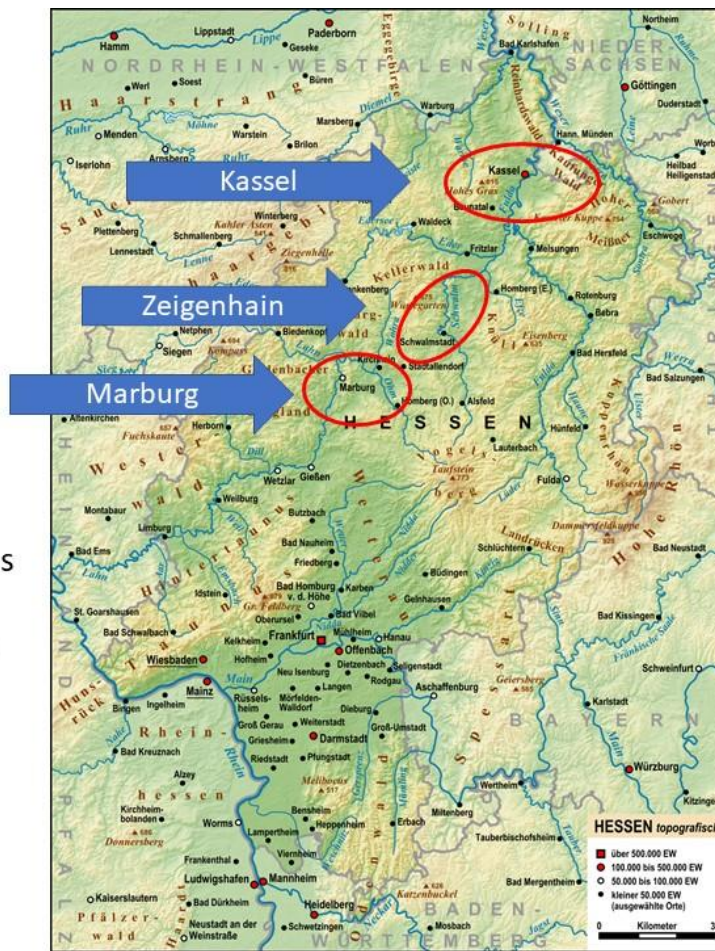
Colonel William Grayson Chapter President Weyler presenting chapter wreath

October 10, 2020: Presentation “The Amphibious Assault on Long Island August 1776”

Chapter Historian Ross H. Schwalm presented a talk to the chapter on October 10, 2020, entitled “The Amphibious Assault on Long Island August 1776”. Compatriot Schwalm focused his discussion on the role the German Auxiliary units, known as the Hessians, conducted in the battle in support of the British forces. One of the Hessians was Compatriot Schwalm’s Third Great Grandfather, Johannes Schwalm, a Grenadier in the Knyphausen Regiment. This regiment was provided to the British in March of 1776 by subsidy treaty. Compatriot Schwalm covered the “footsteps” of the Knyphausen Regiment from Fortress Zeigenhain in Hesse to a long sea voyage to the Staten Island muster location in mid-August 1776. Other topics covered were how both the Continental and British forces, including the Hessians, prepared for defensive and offensive operations, respectively. On August 22, 1776, the British landed 15,000 troops during an unopposed landing and added another 5000 on August 25. Hessian Jaegers conducted reconnaissance on the left flank of the Continental defensive line and found an undefended road. The British took full advantage of this gap and conducted a flank attack coordinated with a direct assault by the Hessians and the British on the center and right of the Continental defensive line on August 27. This British tactical victory allowed General Howe to organize a Peace Conference with Continental Congress representatives in September on Staten Island. This conference resulted in no agreement to end hostilities. Shortly after the conference, the British and their Hessian allies continued offensive operations. To read more about these actions, Compatriot Schwalm recommends two recent articles published in the *The Hessians: The Journal of the Johannes Schwalm Historical Association Volume 23, 2020*.

Hesse had
3 Major
Fortresses
Kassel
Zeigenhain
Marburg

Zeigenhain is
now a village as
part of
Schwalmstadt



Water Fortress
Zeigenhain

Moat is fed by
Schwalm River

Built as a
Defensive Fallback
For Marburg
& Kassel

Also served as
Hesse Archives

October 14, 2020: A Revolutionary soldier gets a new resting place

Compatriot Roy Richey notified the Chapter that he contacted Veterans Affairs (VA) which supplied a new grave marker for Compatriot Richey's patriot ancestor Robert Ritchie. Robert Ritchie enlisted in Captain John Lowdon's Company of rifleman, a part of Col. Thompson's First Regiment of the Continental Line at Derr's Mill in Northumberland, Pa. He served in 1775 when George Washington was appointed the Commander in Chief of what is recognized as the first US Army. Upon passing in 1828, he was buried in the Great Island Presbyterian Cemetery, just outside Lock Haven. His grave site was destroyed during construction and his remains were never recovered. Roy Richey traveled from his home in Lake Ridge, Va., to see the new grave marker installed at the Dunnstown Cemetery in Pennsylvania.

October 17, 2020: Yorktown Wreath Ceremony at Governor Nelson's Grave

On Saturday, October 17, 2020, the Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution, held its annual wreath laying ceremony at the grave of Governor Thomas Nelson in Yorktown, Virginia. This ceremony has usually been held on Yorktown Victory Day, October 19. However, because of the pandemic, the normal events of October 19, including the parade down Main Street in Yorktown, were cancelled.

Not to be put down by the virus, VASSAR received permission from Grace Episcopal Church to use their graveyard, the site of Governor Nelson's grave, for our ceremony on October 17.

While Governor Nelson's wreath laying ceremony in past years may have been overshadowed by the other events of Yorktown Victory Day on October 19, this year, on October 17, our focus was on Governor Nelson.

Thomas Nelson Jr. (December 26, 1738 – January 4, 1789) was a planter, soldier, and statesman from Yorktown, Virginia. In addition to serving in the Virginia General Assembly for many terms, he twice represented Virginia in the Continental Congress. Fellow Virginia legislators elected him to serve as the Commonwealth's Governor in 1781. He is also one of the U.S. Founding Fathers having signed the Declaration of Independence as a member of the Virginia delegation. At the Siege of Yorktown, his hometown, he was a General of Virginia Militia.

The Colonel William Grayson Chapter was represented by President Mike Weyler. Dual members present were Ken Morris, Pat Kelly and Mike and Will Elston.



Colonel William Grayson Chapter President Michael E. Weyler rendering honors at the grave of Governor Thomas Nelson, Jr.



VASSAR Color Guard

October 24, 2020: Grave marking ceremony in honor of John Longden, John Sloan, and Joseph Smith.

On Saturday 24 October, Compatriots Andrew Mills, Jack Mills, and Dave Button, represented the Colonel William Grayson Chapter at a grave-marking ceremony conducted by the George Washington Chapter in honor of John Longden, John Sloan, and Joseph Smith. Compatriots Andrew Mills and Jack Mills were in uniform and presented the colors at the ceremony. The ceremony was held at the Trinity United Methodist Church Cemetery in Alexandria, VA.



Flanking the wreath are Compatriots Dave Button (L) and Andrew Mills (R)

October 31, 2020: Grave marking ceremony in honor of Charles & Elizabeth Lewis Carter

The Colonel William Grayson Chapter supported the Ketoclin Chapter NSDAR in a commemorative marking for Charles & Elizabeth Lewis Carter in Berryville, Virginia. Elizabeth was the daughter of Colonel Fielding Lewis, Revolutionary War Patriot. NSDAR remembers true daughters of the Revolution by placing Commemorative Markers. Our chapter supported the Colonel James Wood II Chapter who led a large SAR Contingent including VASSAR President Bill Schwetke and VASSAR Color Guard Commander Ken Bonner. Leamon Duncan and Mike Weyler wore Continental uniforms and participated in Color Guard. Leamon presented the Chapter wreath, and Barry Schwoerer wore a Militia Uniform and marched with musket in Color Guard and participated in a Firelock volley.



L-R: Dale Corey, Leamon Duncan, Mike Weyler, Barry Schwoerer, and Marc Robinson.

November 6, 2020: Flag Certificate presented to Holly Acres RV and Marine.



Compatriots Leamon Duncan(R) and Dave Button (L) presented a Flag Certificate to Holly Acres RV and Marine. Receiving the certificate for Holly Acres were Jeff Myers, Derek Lynn, Bill Garber and Robyn Eckley pictured above from left to right between compatriots Button and Duncan.

November 11, 2020: Veterans Day at Washington's Tomb

At 2:15 pm on Wednesday, November 11, 2020, Veterans Day, a joint SAR/DAR wreath laying ceremony was conducted at the Tomb of George Washington at Mount Vernon. This annual event was sponsored by the Kate Waller Barrett Chapter, Virginia Society DAR, and the George Washington Chapter, Virginia Society SAR. General George Washington was being honored on this Veterans Day as our nation's First Veteran with a wreath at his tomb.

Our Colonel William Grayson Chapter President, Michael E. Weyler, participated as a sentinel at the tomb during the program. Other SAR compatriots who participated as sentinels were Ken Bonner, VASSAR Color Guard Commander, and Dave Cook of the Fairfax Resolves Color Guard.

Tom Roth, Vice President of the George Washington Chapter, was the master of ceremonies for the event, and Jay Henn, President of the George Washington Chapter, was the featured speaker.

Jay spoke of his father, a WWII veteran, captured and held as a POW, who eventually returned home after an extended period in captivity. While honoring all veterans on that day, Jay had a personal reason to honor veterans, one of whom, his father, had endured much in service to our nation.

The lone wreath was presented at the front of the open tomb by two U.S. Army veteran, both in uniform, Master Sergeant Genevieve Chase, a member of the Kate Waller Barrett Chapter, and First Sergeant Don Francisco, a member of the George Washington Chapter.

While it was a memorable ceremony, it was done in a steady rain, which showed the commitment of those who attended.



L/R: Ken Bonner, Mike Weyler, and Dave Cook stand sentinel in front of General Washington's Tomb.



At the placement of the wreath, Present Arms.

November 21, 2020: Dedication of Monuments at Ketocin Baptist Church

At 12:30 pm on Saturday, November 21, 2020, two monuments, one for Revolutionary War Patriots and one for War of 1812 Veterans, buried in the Ketocin Baptist Church graveyard in Purcellville, Virginia, were dedicated. The ceremony was sponsored jointly by the Colonel William Grayson Chapter of VASSAR, the Fairfax Resolves Chapter of VASSAR and the Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia.

The Master of Ceremonies was Curtis Robb of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter. Curtis, along with Thad Hartman, also of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter, Mike Lyman of the Culpeper Minutemen Chapter, and Paul Walden, President of the Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia, did the research for all of those cited on the two monuments. The documentation for all those cited on the monuments was turned over to the church, which until then had no grave records. The church was a significant beneficiary of the research work done by the team led by Curtis.

After the initial welcome by Curtis Robb, the ceremony began with the invocation by Richard Potter, Chaplain, Colonel William Grayson Chapter, and the advancement of the colors by the VASSAR Color Guard under the

command of Ken Bonner. The pledge of allegiance was led by Jack Mills and the SAR Pledge was led by Jacob Schwoerer, both of whom are junior members of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter.

Notable guests, all of whom participated in the program, were Bill Schwetke, President of VASSAR, Stuart Butler, Vice President General of the Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia, and Pat Kelly, Past President of VASSAR.

After opening remarks, the two monuments were unveiled. The Revolutionary War Patriots monument, which contained 14 names, was unveiled by Thad Hartman and John Callaway of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter. The War of 1812 monument, which contained 33 names, was unveiled by Stuart Butler and Dale Corey of the Colonel James Wood II Chapter and the Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia.

The names of all those memorialized on the two monuments were read aloud, one at a time, each one followed by the ringing of a bell. The 14 names of the Revolutionary War Patriots were read, alternately, by Michael Weyler, President of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter and Carl Loveland, President of the Fairfax Resolves Chapter. The 33 names of the War of 1812 Veterans were read, alternately, by Stuart Butler and Bill Collier of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter and the Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia. The bell was rung after each name was read by Leamon Duncan, who was assisted by Jacob Schwoerer, both of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter.

There were seven wreaths presented at the ceremony. The wreath presenters and their organizations were: Bill Schwetke, President, Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution; Stuart Butler, Vice President General, Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia; Pat Kelly, SAR French Society; Michael E. Weyler, President, Colonel William Grayson Chapter, VASSAR; Dale Corey, Past President, Colonel James Wood II Chapter, VASSAR; Carl Loveland, President, Fairfax Resolves Chapter, VASSAR; and James O'Kelley, President, Thomas Jefferson Chapter, VASSAR.

Following the presentation of the wreaths, Dale Corey led in the singing of God Bless America, followed by the SAR Recessional led by John Callaway and the benediction given by Richard Potter.

The ceremony closed with the VASSAR Guard, under the command of Ken Bonner, firing a three-volley musket salute, after which Taps was played by Dale Corey.

The event was the culmination of two years of planning and preparation, including the procurement and placement of the two granite monuments. Great credit must go to the Curtis Robb, who led the struggle to hold a live, in-person event in spite of the limitation imposed by the virus that has caused the cancellation of so many of the SAR's 2020 events. Thank you, Curtis.



Reading the names of the Revolutionary War Patriots; L//R, Curtis Robb, Mike Weyler, Carl Loveland



Reading the War of 1812 names; L/R, Jacob Schwoerer, Leamon Duncan, Stuart Butler, Bill Collier



Musket salute under the command of Ken Bonner, Commander of the VASSAR Color Guard. The Firelock squad, l/r, Ken Bonner, commanding, Pat Kelly, Bill Schwetke, David Adamy, Barry Schwoerer

December 2, 2020: Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA
Compatriot Ralph Frederick DeWalt honored with Sons of the American Revolution Burial Ritual

Captain Ralph Frederick DeWalt, United States Navy (Retired) was honored with the National Society Sons of the American Revolution (NSSAR) Burial Ritual by six Compatriots representing three Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution (VASSAR) Chapters. His home chapter, Colonel William Grayson, organized honors and provided four Compatriots: President Michael Weyler, Secretary David Button, Past President Thad Hartman and Barry Schwoerer. George Mason Chapter President Ken Morris, and Colonel James Wood II member Paul Christensen rounded out the VASSAR team. The team saluted the casket as it was carried into and out of the Old Chapel at Ft Meyer, adjacent to Arlington National Cemetery. A Navy and Army Honor Guard marched with a horse-drawn Caisson as it wound through Arlington National Cemetery to Captain DeWalt's final resting place. After a military gun salute and Taps, the VASSAR team moved forward and conducted the NSSAR Burial Ritual. Following the ceremony, the team presented a plaque to Mrs. Charlotte DeWalt, Captain DeWalt's widow, and the DeWalt family. The plaque commemorated the link from Captain DeWalt to his Patriot Ancestor, Private Christian DeWalt, who served in the Northampton County, Pennsylvania Militia.

Captain DeWalt was given full military honors, fitting for a veteran with Vietnam War combat experience. He was a highly respected Naval Aviator who flew multiple type aircraft from several different aircraft carriers. He closed his aviation career as Commanding Officer of a Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron flying EA-6B “Prowler” aircraft. You could not find a more Patriotic Family than the DeWalt’s. Ralph, and wife Charlotte, had four sons. Three graduated from the Naval Academy and all four sons earned Navy pilot wings of gold. Rodney was selected for promotion to Rear Admiral in September 2017. Captain DeWalt had the honor, and pleasure of saluting newly promoted Rear Admiral Rodney DeWalt at a promotion ceremony at the Washington Navy Yard. Captain DeWalt later said saluting his son was the biggest honor he ever had. Five members of the DeWalt family became members of NSSAR: Ralph, Michael, Rodney, Lucas, and Nicholas. Lucas DeWalt is a 2nd LT in the USAF who entered Air Force Flight training in 2020, making him the third generation of DeWalt’s becoming military pilots.



VASSAR Burial Ritual team before arrival of the casket carrying Captain DeWalt. L-R: Barry Schwoerer, Thad Hartman, Paul Christensen, Michael Weyler, Kenneth Morris, David Button.



VASSAR Burial Ritual Team Saluting Captain DeWalt's casket as it enters the Old Chapel at Fort Meyer.



Conducting the NSSAR Burial Ritual: President Michael Weyler at head of casket, Barry Schwoerer at Foot, Dave Button, Thad Hartman at the side, Paul Christensen with United States Flag, Ken Morris with VASSAR Chapter Flag.

December 2, 2020: Presentation of the SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Certificate and Medal to three Virginia State Troopers

On Wednesday, December 2, 2020, Compatriot Bill Collier presented the SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Certificate and Medal to three Virginia State Troopers at the Virginia State Trooper Area 11 Headquarters in Fairfax, Virginia.

The Virginia State Troopers' citations read:

On the evening of January 17, 2020, Senior Trooper Andre D. Jones went above and beyond the normal duty requirements of a Virginia State Trooper by saving the life of an individual having a heart attack. While patrolling his area, Senior Trooper Jones decided to stop by the Walmart to buy needed supplies. As he was preparing to check out, a cashier urgently waved at him to follow him towards another check out station. Following the cashier, Senior Trooper Jones observed an individual lying on the floor. After rapid assessment Trooper Jones radioed for EMS assistance and began to perform CPR until they arrived, approximately six minutes after he initially encountered the victim. EMS personnel administered an AED, which was able to get the victim breathing once again. EMS transported the victim to Fairfax INOVA Hospital where the victim required surgery. Senior Trooper Jones' swift and decisive actions were instrumental in saving a life during the middle of the night in a nearly empty Walmart shopping center. Fortunately for the victim, Senior Trooper Jones' experience, poise, and quick thinking helped bridge critical minutes until advanced life-saving personnel could arrive and take over. In this singular event, Senior Trooper Jones represented the best of law enforcement and epitomizes the highest quality of character as a member of the Department of State Police.



Compatriot Bill Collier and Senior Trooper Andre D. Jones

For the past 14 years Senior Trooper Alexander L. McInnes has served at the Virginia State Police's Area 09 Office that covers Fairfax and Prince William Counties on I-66. During his time, he is looked upon for his great initiative promoting highway safety and enforcing Virginia Criminal Laws. He leads his peers in felony arrests,

drug arrests, DUI's and other misdemeanor violations. He also leads the Area 9 in the issuance of summons for speeding violations, reckless driving, and vehicle equipment violations. In addition to his patrol duties, Senior Trooper McInnes serves as one of the Area Field Training Officer training new Troopers assigned to Area 09. Senior Trooper McInnes performance of duty and his attention to detail, accuracy, and timeliness of reports are examples which other Virginia Troopers follow.



Compatriot Bill Collier and Senior Trooper Alexander L. McInnes

On January 8, 2020 Trooper Kyle J. Page arrived on scene of a motor vehicle crash involving a fatality on Interstate 95 south at the 149.9-mile marker. After arriving on scene Trooper Page began to check for injuries.

One female driver was entrapped in her vehicle and was unable to get out. Shortly after Trooper Page's arrival, the driver's vehicle began to smoke and then became engulfed in fire. Trooper Page immediately called for Fire and Rescue to respond to the scene. While Fire and Rescue was responding to the scene, Trooper Page was able to free the driver from the burning vehicle. His dedication to the preservation of life and property did not stop there. When the Prince William County Fire Department arrived on scene to extinguish the vehicle fire, Trooper Page used his prior firefighter training to assist Prince William County Fire Department with running a line and extinguishing the fire. Trooper Page's actions reflected great credit on himself, the Virginia Department of State Police and the entire Law Enforcement Profession.



Compatriot Bill Collier and Trooper Kyle J. Page

December 5, 2020: Virtual Ceremony Commemorating the Battle of Great Bridge

At 10:00 am on Saturday, December 5, 2020, the upcoming 245th anniversary of the Battle of Great Bridge in Chesapeake, Virginia, was celebrated with a virtual ceremony jointly hosted jointly by the Great Bridge Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution and the Norfolk Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution. The Master of Ceremony duties were split between Bobbie Gribble, Regent of the Great Bridge Chapter, DAR, and Ken Hawkins, Immediate Past President, Norfolk Chapter, SAR. Many society presidents brought greetings, including SAR President Jack Manning and VASSAR President Bill Schwetke.

Over 150 members of the SAR, DAR and CAR participated in the virtual ceremony, with 65 wreaths presented by folks in numerous states, including one in California who was a descendant of a patriot who fought in the battle. The Colonel William Grayson Chapter wreath was presented by President Mike Weyler.



Below is a description of the battle from an article written by Compatriot Tom Whetstone.

The Battle of Great Bridge, December 9, 1775

After British Governor Dunmore's victory at Kemp's Landing and his infamous proclamation, the Committee of Safety sent Colonel William Woodford with the 2nd Virginia Regiment along with the Culpeper Minutemen to attack Norfolk. An advance party under Lt. Colonel Charles Scott of the 2nd Virginia and Major Thomas Marshall of the Culpeper Minutemen reached Great Bridge on November 28. Colonel Woodford arrived at the village of Great Bridge on December 2 with the remainder of his command, then numbering about 900 men with the arrival of volunteers from Pasquotank, North Carolina, 12 more with Colonel Jarvis of Currituck, and Norfolk-area militiamen. The Patriots constructed a breastwork on the south side of the causeway, opposite Fort Murray.

On December 8, Lord Dunmore sent the British 14th Regiment of Foot, commanded by Captain Samuel Leslie, and sailors and marines from the Otter from Norfolk to Fort Murray with a unit of loyalists called "The Queen's Own Loyal Virginia Regiment" and a unit of runaway slaves designated "Dunmore's Royal Ethiopian Regiment" (a total force of about 670 men).

Dunmore knew the risk of a frontal assault because the main bridge and causeway were narrow, allowing only six men abreast as they approached the breastwork. Patriots could command the bridge and causeway from flanking trenches, as well. But Dunmore ordered the attack at dawn. Captain Leslie directed the gunners from the Otter to open fire and Captain Charles Fordyce led the imposing British grenadiers of the 14th Regiment of Foot across the bridge and onto the causeway, bayonets fixed, toward the breastwork manned by Lieutenant Travis's 60 men. The British pressed forward, firing as they approached, supported by two cannons, firing chain and grapeshot from the south side of the bridge. Heroic sentinel Billy Flora, a free Black Patriot, fired eight rounds at the British before retiring to the breastworks.

When alerted in the main encampment 400 yards from the breastworks, Colonel Woodford reinforced

Travis's men and others manned the flanking earthworks. Lieutenant Travis ordered his men to hold fire until the British were within 50 yards. The volleys at close range took a terrible toll on the attackers. A ball hit Captain Fordyce in the knee, but he staggered to his feet and wrapped a handkerchief on his wound. Heroically, he waved his hat and shouted to his soldiers that the day was their own. But he died about 15 feet from the breastwork, his body riddled with 14 (some say 11) shot.

British survivors retreated over the causeway. Captain Leslie tried to regroup them at the island where the cannon continued to fire on the Patriots, who also continued to fire at will from the flanking breastworks. The battle lasted about half an hour. Remarkably, only one Patriot was wounded, in the hand. Lord Dunmore admitted to 17 killed, although this appears to have included only British regulars, not members of the Virginia Loyalists or the Ethiopian Regiment, who lost heavily. A Virginian reported to Woodford that the British loss was 102 killed and wounded.

As patriots crawled from their breastworks, British wounded cried out, "Don't scalp me!" Instead, the patriots and brave women, including Polly Miller, dressed the wounds of the British, inducing Captain Leslie to come out of Fort Murray to bow in gratitude. The patriots buried Captain Fordyce under a cypress tree with full military honors. That night, Leslie led the British troops back to Norfolk.

*Excerpts with minor revisions from J. Thomas Whetstone, D.Phil., "The Amazing Complete Victory at the Great Bridge," SAR Magazine, 106:2 (Fall 2011), 18-23.



25 of the more than 150 who attended the virtual ceremony commemorating the Battle of Great Bridge. Colonel William Grayson Chapter members shown above are: Mike Weyler, Chapter President, top row, second from left; Marc Robinson, dual member, bottom row, on the left, Dale Corey, dual member, bottom row, second from the right. Bobbie Gribble is top row, left, Ken Hawkins is top row, right.

December 9, 2020: 245th Anniversary, Battle of Great Bridge.

The Colonel William Grayson Chapter helped the Culpeper Minutemen Chapter celebrate the 245th Anniversary, Battle of Great Bridge.



President Mike Weyler presents the Chapter wreath.



Mike Weyler (C) plus dual members Ken Morris (L) and Dale Corey (R)

December 14, 2020: The Passing of our Compatriot David Charles Allard

With sadness we report the passing on 14 December of Compatriot David Charles Allard, Colonel, United States Air Force, Retired. He leaves his wife Sandra, his daughter Cathlene and his son David.

Dave, a graduate of the United States Air Force Academy, was a B-52 pilot who retired with 30 years of service. His cancer was attributed to the Agent Orange he and others dropped over Vietnam so many years ago. Dave will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery when an interment date is available. His wife, Sandra, has asked that our chapter be there with the SAR Burial Ritual, a Ritual that Dave himself had conducted for other veterans.



David Charles Allard, Colonel, USAF (Ret)
14 October 1945 – 14 December 2020

December 17, 2020: SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Certificate and Medal awarded

The Colonel William Grayson Chapter SAR presented the SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Certificate and Medal to Station Logistics Technician Boyd F. Thompson on the eve of his retirement from the Fairfax County Police Department after almost 40 years of service. His citation reads:

Station Logistics Technician and Fairfax County Police Department Retired Second Lieutenant Boyd F. Thompson is retiring after thirty-nine and half years' service to the Fairfax County community. SLT Thompson

began his law enforcement career in May 1981 as A Fairfax County Police Officer. He served in multiple positions and achieved the rank of Second Lieutenant before retiring in November 2009. Shortly afterwards he began a civilian position as a Station Logistics Technician at the Sully District Station. During his entire Law Enforcement Career both as a uniformed officer and a civilian technician Boyd Thompson displayed unwavering dedication, motivation and distinguished service to his fellow officers, professional staff, the Fairfax County Police Department and the citizens of Fairfax County. He has brought great credit not only to himself, the Fairfax County Police Department, and the entire Law Enforcement Profession.



Compatriot Bill Collier (L) with Logistics Technician Boyd F. Thompson (R)

December 19, 2020: Wreaths Across America event and honor to Revolutionary War Patriot Henry Dogan

Members of the Colonel William Grayson Color Guard presented the colors in a Wreaths Across America event at Stonewall Memory Garden in Manassas, VA. In addition, a wreath was laid at the site of the grave of Revolutionary War Patriot Henry Dogan.



-R: Barry Schwoerer, Ken Morris (dual member), Mike Weyler, Jack Mills, Andrew Mills, and Color Guard Commander, Leamon Duncan.



Compatriot Barry Schwoerer laying the wreath



L-R: Color Guard Commander Leamon Duncan, Andrew Mills, Jack Mills, Mike Weyler, Ken Morris, and Barry Schwoerer.

Historical Notes: “The Surrender of Lord Cornwallis”



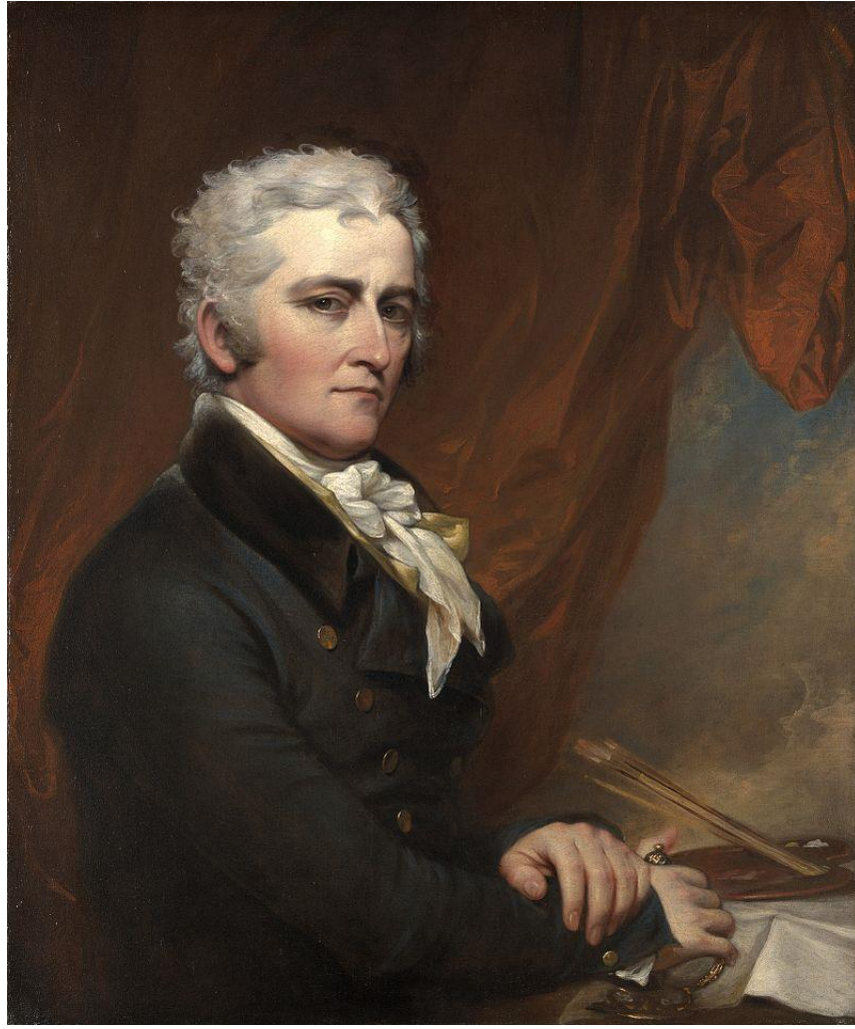
The Surrender of Lord Cornwallis by John Trumbull

Artist John Trumbull served in the Revolutionary War as an aide to George Washington. After the war he pursued a career as an artist. In 1785 he began sketching out ideas for a series of large scale paintings to commemorate the major events of the American Revolution. In 1791 he went to Yorktown, Virginia to sketch the site of the British surrender to General George Washington.

Some twenty five years later, Congress commissioned Trumbull to paint four large paintings to be hung in the U.S. Capitol rotunda, one of these, *The Surrender of Lord Cornwallis* was completed in 1820, and depicts the surrender of Lt. General Charles, the Earl Cornwallis, at Yorktown on October 19, 1781. Trumbull received \$8,000 for the painting (which would be approximately \$200,000 in today's money).

George Washington did not think that Yorktown would be the last battle of the Revolutionary War, and felt that it was his duty to keep the Continental Army together until a final peace treaty was signed. Despite the devastating loss at Yorktown, loyalist militias continued to fight throughout the back country.

Peace talks began in April 1782. A preliminary treaty finally came on November 30, 1782, more than a year after Yorktown. The final treaty was signed on September 3, 1783, and ratified by the Continental Congress early in 1784.



Self Portrait by the artist John Trumbull