

The Defender

Fairfax Resolves Chapter Sons of the American Revolution

President, John (Jack) Pitzer
Publisher, Larry McKinley (703) 450-6041

December 2006

Message from The President



President Jack Pitzer presiding over Board Meeting before Chapter Meeting

As we end this year, we have much to be thankful for and to celebrate. I for one appreciate the dedication and friendship of many compatriots who make our Chapter successful. As we begin the New Year, I urge all Fairfax Resolves compatriots to set aside time for our monthly meetings and special activities. As the saying goes, *“None of us is as strong as all of us”*. It is through the participation of everyone that our Chapter can grow and become what we wish it to be.

We have an excellent venue for our meetings at Vinson Hall thanks to **Paul Peak**. **Tom Speelman** has put together excellent presentations for our meetings and **Darrin Schmidt** is leading an effort to establish our own web-site so we don't forget an event or meeting or what a program is about.

In January, we will have our annual orations contest. I urge you to come to this meeting as it showcases high school students who have taken the time to research and present their thoughts on the American Revolutionary War period. Lastly, please consider attending the State

VASSAR meeting in Richmond over the weekend of February 16-18. Participating in the State VASSAR meeting provides a deeper understanding of how our Society works and what programs are geared truly for the local community. Make little mistake—the local community is where SAR is able to do its best work.

Dates to Remember Dec 2006/Jan 2007

1. Veterans Common: December 7, 2006

Pearl Harbor Day

7:30 a.m., Little Falls Road & W & OD pathway
across from the Masonic Meeting Hall

2. Bi-Chapter Meeting: December 12, 2006

Gunston Hall, Mason Neck, VA 12 noon

This is our Christmas Luncheon

(\$40 per person--more later in newsletter)

3. Cowpens, January 13, 2007

Daniel Morgan Chapter sponsors this the 226th Battle of Cowpens at Gaffney, South Carolina

For more information contact Robert Bowen, Historic Sites Chairman, VASSAR semperfibob@cox.net

4. Chapter Meeting: January 25, 2007

Annual Orations Contest, 7 p.m. Vinson Hall

Students are from Bishop O'Connell H.S.

5. VASSAR State Meeting: February 16-17, 2006

Sheraton South, Richmond, Virginia

Further information on web-site of VASSAR

www.sar.org/membership/state_web-sites

Just to let all Chapter members know we have an engagement at Bishop O'Connell High School to listen to the students who are preparing for the speech contest—all are invited, but the time may hurt some of us. December 6, 2006 at 1:15 p.m, 2 classes at Bishop O'Connell High School, Arlington, VA

Message from the Secretary

I want to summarize our short Administrative meeting before the Chapter Meeting to make a point. We meet for 30 minutes to carry out the business of the Chapter and decide on extent of program involvement. This is quite important because it is our work program for the year. What we do as a Chapter is measured against other Chapters of the same relative size in the State and we compete for honors we **proudly display on our flag as streamers**. Not only are we in competition with others as we raise awareness of historical observations, historic education and patriotism in the community, but the **quality of what we do honors our patriot ancestors more**.

At the November Meeting we set in motion the following:

- We will honor the City of Vienna with a Flag Recognition Certificate for their patriotic display of the American Flag at their Council Meeting.
- Have three current Flag Certificates to be awarded in the community this year.
- Decided to establish a date for a genealogy workshop to be lead by our Compatriot John Sinks, PhD. (March of 2007)
- Established a web-site committee with Chairman Darrin Schmidt, members Thomas Speelman, Larry McKinley and John Sinks. Content to be established then establish site.
- Request was made for Citizen of the Year nominees by 12/30/2006.
- War Service Medals will be awarded in the February timeframe...Criteria addressed later in newsletter.
- Christmas lunch with George Mason Chapter was reported to be \$50 per person, a bit too much. See information about the luncheon elsewhere in this newsletter.
- Potential Speech contest held at Vinson Hall instead of Bishop O'Connell High School teacher's lounge.
- Investigate awards banquet for Chapter in May to be held at Washington Country Club.
- Excellent Treasurer's report presented and we are in the black about \$2,500.



New Fairfax Resolves Gavel-long may it live

During the meeting Sec. McKinley presented President Pitzer with a new gavel (the former being misplaced). It is engraved with "President Fairfax Resolves Chapter, SAR". Gavels have had some history with Fairfax Resolves.

Other than being lost, John Sinks relates this story when he had just been installed as President of Fairfax Resolves. He was hearing some fairly loud pounding coming from outside his house. Upon investigating his very young daughter was attacking a group of ants on the sidewalk with the gavel he had just been presented and she was being fairly effective with it. Bottom line—another new gavel was purchased for Fairfax Resolves.



New Wreath acquired by President Pitzer for Fairfax Resolves-It reflects colors of the SAR

Program for November

Our guest speaker for November was our own **John Sinks, PhD, Vice President General Mid-Atlantic District**. He communicated the significance of the **Culpeper Minutemen Battalion** and the role it played in the Battle of Great Bridge, Virginia December 1775.



John Sinks communicating his message to approximately 50 people gathered at Vinson Hall

The Culpeper Minutemen Battalion played a key role in the defeat of the British at Great Bridge, Virginia in December 1775. After this defeat, it was virtually inevitable that Lord Dunmore and his troops would have to abandon Virginia. During the 19th century and even during the Bicentennial of the Revolution, considerable mythology sprang up about the Battalion.

John is a dual member of the Culpeper Minutemen Chapter, SAR and has been heavily involved in a project to identify members of the Battalion from 18th and 19th century documents, including pension files, legislative petitions, records of the Committee of Safety, and Williamsburg public store records.

In the course of this research, John has not only uncovered information refuting myths, but a great deal of new information about the outbreak of the American Revolution in the counties of Orange, Culpeper, and Fauquier.

Our Thanks go to **Paul, Roger and Jane Peak** for marketing of our programs to the community. We had about 50 people in attendance. It would be nice to have 100 as a goal.



VASSAR Color Guard at the Valley Forge Service, November 12, 2006. This service is conducted honoring those Virginians who wintered over with Washington at Valley Forge. LtoR: Andrew Johnson, Commander, Larry Alexander, Culpeper Minutemen, Larry McKinley, Fairfax Resolves, James Bayne, President of VASSAR, Trice Taylor, Thomas Jefferson Chapter, Dominic Lay, Culpeper Minutemen, and Rob Andrews, Col. Fielding Lewis.



All descendants of Friederich Wilhelm Nagel, a German immigrant born in 1713 as they commemorated the Service of Nagel. Left to right Jane Sinks, (sister of John Sinks), Charlene Coch, (local School Board Official), Alice Sinks (mother of John Sinks), and Compatriot John Sinks, PhD. Photos by Jack Pitzer

Historic Observances

Members of the Fairfax Resolves traveled north to **Valley Forge, PA** where the Washington Chapel provides each year a service to honor those Virginian's who had wintered through during the terrible winter of 1777-1778. **President Jack Pitzer and Vice President General John Sinks and National Trustee Larry McKinley** represented the Fairfax Resolves at this very appropriate service. The picture of the VASSAR Color Guard is standing in front of the Washington Chapel, Valley Forge, PA. During this service a prayer was given for the Commonwealth of Virginia:

“Renew Thy grace, O Thou ruler of destiny, upon the Commonwealth of Virginia, that she may ever rejoice in the dominion of Thy providence. Bless the gracious land where Thou has unfolded such a measure of Thy purpose for mankind. For each step on the highway of history we lift our Thanksgiving: For those who wrested welcome from the Wilderness; who planted peace along the inland avenues of the sea; who saw Thy glory upon the mountain heights and likened it to freedom. Praise be to Thee, mighty Lord, for the sturdy quest which generation by generation sought out the noble mark of independence and distilled that brave wisdom into the instruments of a nation's governance. Cherish, O Father, that generous spirit which has raised up such leaders of Liberty; and sanctify to Thy people still the vision of Thy great design for them and for all men; through Jesus Christ our Lord”.

Some members of the Valley Forge Group journeyed to Northampton (about 60 miles north) of Valley Forge to commemorate the Revolutionary service of **Friederich Wilhelm Nagel, a German immigrant born in 1713**. The group, led by **John Sinks, PhD**, marked the grave of Friederich Nagel at the Zion Stone Church, registered the grave with National SAR.

John has submitted four more grave registrations to our VASSAR Graves Chairman, Mike Lyman. He stated we should have enough graves registered to qualify for a **Program Excellence Streamer** for graves registration. Thanks **John** for your efforts. As most of you know, John is our Graves chairman so any question

please get to him about marking or registering Revolutionary War period graves.

During the last 12 months, John Sinks made a major breakthrough on the Pennsylvania-German lines of one of his great grandfathers. In addition to generating nine supplementals-eight approved and one at National—this breakthrough has provided our Fairfax Resolves Chapter with a robust Revolutionary Grave Program for 2006. The following patriot's graves were registered:

Friederich Wilhelm Nagel
Pvt. Frederick William Nagel
Pvt. John George Nagel
Pvt. Nicholas Mildenberger
Balzer Rockel
Pvt. John Rockel
Pvt. Gotthard Mory
Commissary Of Issue Daniel Horlacher
And a bronze SAR marker was placed at Friederich Nagel's grave on the 12th of Nov.

National History Day

History Day is an academic competition for students in grades six through twelve. It obviously supports our SAR objectives in Education and Youth Programs inclusive at National, State and Local levels. At VASSAR's annual meeting last year, History Day support was established as an official Virginia Society program. Support for History Day affords the SAR a wonderful opportunity to encourage and support young men and women interested in history.

Our Chapter has a significant presence in District V: covers counties Arlington, Loudoun, Fairfax, Prince William, Fauquier, Westmoreland, Stafford, Spotsylvania, King George, Caroline, Northumberland, Richmond (county), Lancaster, Alexandria, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Manassas and Manassas Park. The 2007 District V competition will be held at George Mason University on March 10. The District Coordinator, Professor Brian Platt, was pleased with the support last year and we have the same opportunities to contribute and participate this year.

There are five areas where we can contribute: **Financial Contributions:** Our Chapters and Members can make financial contributions. Checks can be sent to our Treasurer Richard Spurr and please indicate

on the check it is for National History Day. **We must have the contributions by December 31st** to qualify for 2006 participation. Any Chapter that raises at least \$100 (we have \$60 already) will be recognized as a sponsor.

Judging: History projects in two school grade divisions and seven presentation categories need to be judged. Judges need to be knowledgeable of history in general and be able to ask questions in a non-intimidating manner, and offer suggestions in a positive way. If you are interested in judging send your name and contact information (including Chapter SAR representing) to Professor Brian Platt at bplatt1@gmu.edu. Last year several men who had simply planned to show up had an opportunity to judge.

Special Awards: Last year the Fairfax Resolves along with another Chapter awarded bronze Good Citizenship medals to students who placed first or second for a project in American History, 1750-1800. Four students were recognized last year and three the year before. The theme for History Day 2006-2007 invites students to research topics related to Triumph & Tragedy in History. As is the case each year, the theme is broad enough to encourage investigation of topics ranging from local history to world history, and from ancient time to recent time. **Obviously, the SAR would like the students to research the time period 1750-1800 since we emphasize American Revolution.**

Promotion of History Day: We all have contacts in our schools from the Knight Essay Contest, the Rumbaugh Oration Contest, our Outstanding Student Programs and most all of us have children and grandchildren and we know teachers. Use the channels of communication already established to help promote the participation by the schools.

Attendance: Simply attending History Day Fair, looking at exhibits and encouraging the students is important. History Day is covered in section **7E of the Orientation Manual**. Remember March 10th, George Mason University fir the District V competition. More information later issues of newsletter.

Fairfax Resolves Meeting Place

Vinson Hall and Compatriot Paul Peak and Jane Peak are gracious hosts. Vinson Hall appears to have it all---**hospitality and the facilities to assist in our meetings at a very reasonable cost.**

Remember that getting to Vinson Hall is simple. Route 123 North from the Beltway is Chain Bridge Road (Dolley Madison inside the Beltway). Turn right on Old Dominion and proceed 2.5 miles on Old Dominion. After you pass under an overpass, you will see Chesterbrook Shopping Center on your left. Look for the sign for Vinson Hall on your right and turn right onto Vinson Hall Drive.

Proceed through the campus following signs to the visitor parking (you can drop off at the main entrance then proceed to visitor parking). After parking, go up the sidewalk to the entrance. There are three handicapped parking spaces usually arranged for by **Paul Peak** for each scheduled meeting.

Important Notice

Chapter, State and National dues are due before December 1st and you will get a membership card upon payment. If you're late we will reinstate you.

December Meeting at Gunston Hall.

*There was a typo in the original announcement—the price per person is **\$40 not \$50 (pay at the door)**. We will enjoy the music of the Prince William III Fifes and Drums and George Washington as well as our VASSAR President will speak. Please let Ralph Lewis, President George Mason Chapter know you are coming. Ralph's email address is ralphlewisiii@mrisc.com*

Criteria for the War Service Medal:

The Criteria for receiving these beautiful medals from the SAR are:

The War Service Medal was authorized in 1919 and is in bronze and may be presented to members who have 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.

Proof of such service, in the form of a member's discharge (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.

Specific bronze bars are available indicating service in WW I, WW II, Korea, Vietnam, or Southeast Asia, and Kuwait, or Southwest Asia. Current engagements (War against Terror in Afghanistan and Iraq) I have to check on the availability of a special bar. Please let me know—David Cook and Tom Speelman I have your information. And everyone else, if you 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
Dustoff @Verizon.net
703-450-6041



The Front side of the War Service Medal has the years 1776-1783 & Libertas Et Patria in the inner Circle. The service bar is worn above the ribbon



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