

THE DEFENDER

FAIRFAX RESOLVES CHAPTER SPRING 2011

President's Message

State Conference was a great first opportunity to represent Fairfax Resolves as your Chapter President. We received many awards which are detailed later in this newsletter, but none is more exciting and indicative of our Chapter's strength of programs as the "Best Large Chapter in Virginia." Fairfax Resolves earned this award for the FOURTH year in a row! We owe a huge round of applause to our immediate Past President, Jack Sweeney, for his excellent leadership and detailed documentation. **Thank you, Jack!**

Coming off a great State Conference, we enjoyed camaraderie and a wonderful speaker at our March luncheon. Our visits to Falcons Landing are always a treat, and we particularly thank our host AND guest speaker, Jim Compton for a great presentation!

Looking forward to April and May, our meetings will be held at Vinson Hall in McLean. Look

for time and presentation details later in this newsletter. Our meetings at Vinson Hall are in the Penthouse Auditorium, with a brief business meeting usually following the meeting.

Of course, a highlight of the summer is the **SAR Congress**. This year's event will be held in **Winston-Salem, NC**. Really, just a hop-skip and a jump in comparison to other years' events! While attending last year's Congress in Cleveland, I had the opportunity to cheer for our successful orations contestant, Kristy Bowers, as she won 1st Place in the Nation! I also had the opportunity to participate in the Memorial Service as part of the National Color Guard. Even if you've seen Cowpens, or Guilford Court House observances, this is an SAR Color Guard opportunity NOT to be missed! I hope several of you will join in a Fairfax Resolves contingent, and bring your wives too!



I leave you with a few suggestions as we enjoy our 4th year as "Best Large Chapter in Virginia":

Ask questions. Attend a new event. Engage a new Compatriot. Support your Chapter. Enjoy the fellowship.

Let's make this another great year!

Fraternally,

Darrin M. Schmidt
President, Fairfax Resolves
Chapter

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secretary@fairfaxresolvessar.org
registrar@fairfaxresolvessar.org
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webmaster@fairfaxresolvessar.org

Registrar's Report



**Registrar
John E. Sweeney**

**2010
Accomplishments and
Totals**

14 new members; 3
Forgotten Patriots; 4
New Applicants last
quarter, 11
Supplemental
applications.

In addition, the chapter

carried over four
approvals from 2008
towards the 2009
Supplementals program.

Working: 7 New
Applicants; 6
Supplementals, 3 New
Applications being
signed and ready for

submission, and 1
Supplemental being
finalized.

Of the eleven current
prospective members,
about three appear to be
actively working on their
applications.

More prospective
members are needed.

Assistant Registrars:

J. Clarke Bursley

Donald G. Cooper

Lawrence E. McKinley

Members	Ancestor	State of Service	Date Approved by NSSAR
New Members			
Adam C. Huftalen	Lewis Shive	PA	12/8/2010 *
Brandt Heatherington	Henry Grogan	NC	12/9/2010 *
Applicants			
Percy M. Floyd	Thomas Stanley	VA	1/26/2011
Howell C. Sasser	Henry Lansford	VA	12/31/2010
Glenn A. Snow	Joshua Danforth	VA	12/1/2010
Richard E. Weeks	Augustine Prestwood	VA	3/4/2011
Michael A. Weeks	Augustine Prestwood	VA	3/4/2011
Paul J Kirkegaard	Augustine Prestwood	VA	3/4/2011
David W. Ross	Thomas Ray	NC	enroute from VASSAR
Supplemental Applications Approved			
Andrew W. Gutowski	Baldwin Dade, Sr.	VA	3/30/2011
Supplemental Applications Submitted			
Larry E. McKinley	Charles Parsons	VA	11/1/2010
William W. Price	William Hudnall	VA	10/18/2010
John C. Bursley	Samuel Thomas	MD	3/16/2011
John C. Bursley	Winthrop Smart	NH	Enroute to VASSAR
Joseph Paton Marshall	James Washburn	MA	Enroute to VASSAR
Andrew W. Gutowski	Jonathan Cowherd	VA	9/9/2010 **

Encourage family members to join SAR! Your hard work makes their application easier!

Key: * Not yet inducted ** application pending

DECEMBER MEETING REVIEW

VASSAR President Robert Bowen was on hand to induct the Chapter officers for 2011.

For his outstanding service to the Fairfax Resolves Chapter as President, Jack Sweeney was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. This medal is awarded for "long, faithful and meritorious service" to the Fairfax Resolves Chapter.

In a "gotcha" that only Fairfax Resolves could pull off, Compatriot Larry McKinley was awarded the Fairfax Resolves "Citizen of the Year."

See Larry's citation and our Press Coverage on the Chapter Website.

Immediate Past President Jack Sweeney receives the Meritorious Service Award from newly inducted President, Darrin Schmidt.



President Jack Sweeney (middle) and Chairman Dennis Hickey (right) share a chuckle at being able to "pull one over" on Larry.



RUMBAUGH ORATIONS CONTEST HELD



President Schmidt and our winner Yvonne J. Bowser-Caballero with Orations contestants at the Feb 3 contest.

After a week's delay due to Washington's Winter Weather, the Fairfax Resolves' annual Rumbaugh Orations Contest was held on February 3 at Falcons Landing in Sterling.

Three contestants from Mrs. Mary Lou Wentzel's class at Bishop O'Connell High School presented orations demonstrating their understanding of Revolutionary War

topics, and how those topics relate to today.

Thanks to Larry McKinley for coordinating the contestants, and working with Mrs. Wentzel's class to provide this contest opportunity for the students!

Our winner, Yvonne J. Bowser-Caballero, participated with eight other contestants at the State Contest in Richmond.

The National Orations Contest fund provides monetary awards at the National Level. If you are interested in contributing, contact Larry McKinley! A contribution medal is in the works that will honor a Revolutionary War Orator!

State Conference Success!

Several Fairfax Resolves members attended the Virginia State Conference in Richmond this year.

Fairfax Resolves members cheered on our Orations Contestant, celebrated our numerous awards, participated in the VASSAR Color Guard, and enjoyed the camaraderie of our VASSAR Compatriots.

Fairfax Resolves brought home the following State awards: Best Large Chapter, State Law Enforcement (Det. Monaghan), State Citizen of the Year (Larry McKinley), Streamers for History Day support, Flag Appreciation, Chapter Excellence Award, and stars for our Grave Registration & Forgotten Patriots (6—highest in the State).

Larry McKinley was given accolades for his C.A.R. / SAR liaison efforts.

*Thank you to **everyone** who attended!*



Chapter Members after the Awards Ceremony

FEBRUARY MEETING AT VINSON HALL



Past VASSAR President William (Bill) Simpson spoke on *Modern Irregular Warfare and the Revolution*

Bill shared how today's soldiers, sailors and airmen owe many tactics and warfighting skills to the evolution of warfare. While technology has influenced today's warfare, many tactics and

strategies from the Revolutionary War are still very relevant.

Bill spoke on the relevance of the Revolutionary War to the current way of warfighting and shared examples for examination and discussion.

Bill Simpson receives a certificate of appreciation for his presentation.

MARCH MEETING A SUCCESS

The March Luncheon, held at Falcons Landing in Sterling, was attended by many members, wives and guests.

1st Vice President Dan Rolph introduced Jim Compton who gave an interesting presentation on Sergeant Major John

Champe.

Jim explained the interesting missions and dangerous situations that SGM John Champe survived, and the distressing lack of recognition that he received until long after his death.

In an excellent tim-

ing of events, a new high school in Loudoun County was just named after SGM Champe! President

Schmidt and several other members of Fairfax Resolves were able to write letters of support for this new school's name. "The Champe" sounds like a mascot we can all support!



Jim Compton presenting on the life and times of SGM John Champe at the March meeting.

2011 Officers

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| President | Darrin Schmidt |
| First Vice President | Dan Rolph |
| Second Vice President | Phil Ray |
| Third Vice President | Vernon Eubanks |
| Secretary | Larry McKinley |
| Treasurer | Bill Price |
| Registrar & Genealogist | Jack Sweeney |
| Chaplain | Rev. Edward Hathaway |
| Parliamentarian | Darrin Schmidt |
| Assistant Registrar | Larry McKinley |
| | Don Cooper |
| Assistant Chaplain | Paul Peak |

Board Of Managers

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Three Year Term | Jack Sweeney |
| Two year Term | Dennis Hickey |
| One Year Term | Don Cooper |
| One Year Term | Earl Anderson |



GUILFORD COURTHOUSE

The Battle of Guilford Courthouse was a turning point in the British southern campaign during the American Revolutionary War. Fought on March 15, 1781, General Cornwallis led his troops against General Nathanael Greene in what is now Greensboro, North Carolina. While the battle was technically a blow to the American forces, who retreated from the battlefield, the win cost the British dearly in men

and morale. Charles Fox, a British statesman remarked of the battle that, "Another such victory would be the ruin of the British army."

The National Park Service maintains the battle site as well as a museum and monument dedicated to the battle. Each year, the Park Service hosts a day of activities that includes reenactments and ceremonies commemorating the

American victory and the Patriots that fell there. Historical organizations gather on this day to participate in a ceremony that pays homage to the sacrifices of our ancestors.

This year, Larry McKinley participated and laid a wreath on behalf of Fairfax Resolves.

The VASSAR Contingent at Guilford Court House

CROSSING OF THE DAN & COWPENS

Two events attended by members of the Fairfax Resolves Chapter were the "Crossing of the Dan" and the Cowpens Historical Observances.

The "Retreat to the Dan" began in January 1781, following an American victory at Cowpens in South Carolina and became a "Race to the Dan" across North Carolina and into Virginia. The race was won by General

Nathanael Greene with his "Crossing of the Dan" on February 14th at Irvin's and Boyd's ferries on the Dan River. This tactical retreat saved the American Southern Army and was one of the turning points in the war. The historical significance of the event places the Dan River crossing on a unique list of landmark sites of the American Revolution.

The VASSAR Color



Guard attended the 2011 Cowpens observance in South Carolina. The participants started the day in downtown Spartanburg where the National SAR Color Guard presented Colors. Participants

recognized Patriot's achievements at the Cowpens Battle by laying a carnation at the base of the monument topped by a statue of Morgan.

ATLANTIC MIDDLE STATES CONFERENCE 12-13 AUG



The planning committee for the Atlantic Middle States Conference invites you (and your guests) to attend this year's Conference!

In the footsteps of our Founding Fathers, the 2011 AMS Conference will be held in Alexandria, with a trip to Mount Vernon and an

evening of Virginia Hospitality at Belle Haven Country Club planned for our guests.

The Virginia State Society is honored to host this year's Conference.

At this Conference, you can meet many of the candidates for National Office, find out about programs for the upcoming SAR year, and meet our President General.

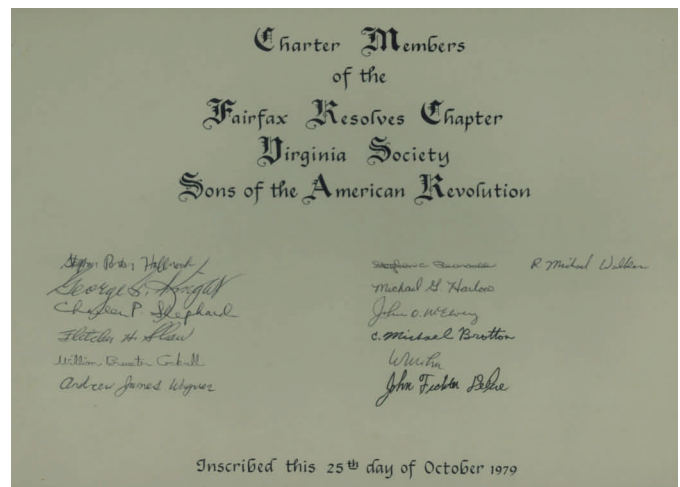
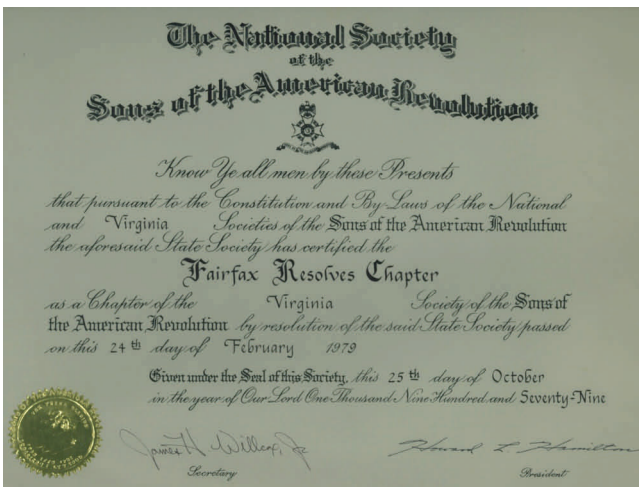
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22303**
**Mention SAR Atlantic
Middle States
Conference
for our special rate of
\$109/night plus tax.**

**More information can be found at
http://www.sar.org/madist_sar/**

CHAPTER CHARTER

Many Fairfax Resolves Compatriots haven't seen our Charter.

Fairfax Resolves was officially chartered as a Chapter of the Virginia Society on October 25, 1979.



UPCOMING PROGRAMS

April 14 Meeting:

Life and time of Thomas Nelson, Jr.

Speaker: Hon. William Page Johnson, II, a direct lineal descendant of two signers of the Declaration Of Independence, Gov. Thomas Nelson, Jr. and Carter Braxton.

Thomas Nelson, Jr., a signer of the Declaration of Independence, was the Governor of Virginia in 1781, succeeding Thomas Jefferson. Nelson represented Virginia in the Continental Congress and was a statesman from Yorktown, Virginia. This talk will give a brief discourse of Nelson as a politician and Commanding General during the Revolutionary War.

May 12 Meeting:

Revolutionary Soldiers of Virginia

Speaker: Brandt Heatherington, an officer of the First Virginia Regiment.

Mr. Heatherington, along with other soldiers of the First Virginia Regiment, will present the historical aspects of various military personnel during the Revolutionary War, including officers, non-commissioned officers, riflemen, horse, and artillery troops. Representatives from the First Virginia Regiment, modern day reenactors, will be present to demonstrate the various uniforms and equipment of the Revolutionary troops of the Virginia Continental Line.

Input Requested:

If you have any suggestions for interesting programs that you would like to see in our upcoming meetings, please let Dan Rolph know! He is putting together the lineup for the 2011-2012 Event Calendar.... So now's your time to speak up!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**April 14—7PM, Vinson Hall
Speaker and Business Meeting
Speaker: Page Johnson
Topic: Virginia's Governor Nelson**

April 15—Color Guard Muster to Present Colors at the C.A.R. National Convention
Interested in Color Guard? Contact Darrin Schmidt, Dan Rolph, Vernon Eubanks or Larry McKinley!

**May 12—7PM, Vinson Hall
Revolutionary Soldiers of Virginia
Speaker: Brandt Heatherington, an officer of the First Virginia Regiment.**

**May 27 & 28
A Tribute to Patriots and Pathfinders & The Siege at the Blockhouse—Cove Ridge Center at
Natural Tunnel State Park**

**July 9-13
VASSAR 121st Annual Congress
Location: Winston-Salem, NC**

**August 12-13
SAR Atlantic Middle States Conference
Location: Alexandria, VA**

HISTORY HIGHLIGHT

On a rainy Yorktown Day in 1989, Fairfax Resolves was represented at the annual Thomas Nelson Wreath Laying ceremony.

Former Fairfax Resolves Chapter President John Bacon is pictured with wreath at Thomas Nelson's gravesite at Grace Church.



.....FROM THE ARCHIVES