



Colonel James Wood, II Chapter
Virginia Society of the
Sons of the American Revolution
Northern Shenandoah Valley - Winchester City



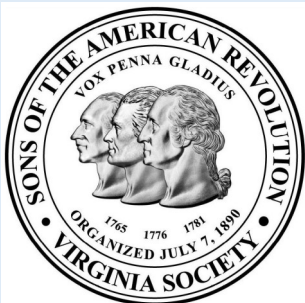
The Colonel's Dispatch

Robert B. Andrews—Editor, Web Master and Plagiarist

Public Service Awards Highlight November Chapter Meeting

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The Chapter has presented Public Service Awards at its November Meeting since its first year. Each year, we try to find deserving public servants to receive recognition for exceptional and ongoing service to the community.

This year we recognized Master Patrol Officer Brittany Kotyinksi-Neer and her partner K-9 Kota of the Winchester City Police Department with our Law Enforcement and Heroism Awards, Lt. Carroll Richardson of Winchester Emergency Services with the EMS Award, History Teacher Tommy Pitts of Luray High School with Teach of the Year and Mr. Irvin Shendow of Winchester with the Bronze Good Citizenship Award.

Also honored at the meeting were Compatriots Rob Fagan with the War Service Medal and Hal Goodman with the Military Service Medal.



MPO Brittany Neer receives the Law Enforcement Medal



Compatriot Rob Fagan receives the War Service Medal

10th Anniversary Luncheon—December 5th

Compatriots, make your reservations for the Chapter's 10th Anniversary Luncheon to be held at 12 noon at the Wayside Inn in Middletown. Reservation forms have been mailed to you. Cost is \$25.00.

Served luncheon
10 Years of the
Col. James Wood, II Chapter
Presentation
Anniversary Cake!

A Message from the President



Compatriots,

Another year is nearly over and so is my term as your President. It has been another great year for our Chapter. While I set an ambitious agenda for our 10th year, it was one I felt we could fulfill as this chapter always rises to the occasion.

None of us who are charter members of the Chapter ever expected this group to become one of the strongest chapters in the state. For those who helped build this chapter, develop our programs and carry them out, the accolades are well deserved.

After 9 years and 6 best chapter awards, what can one do to continue to grow and contribute to the community? Believe it or not, even with all that the Chapter accomplishes year-in, year-out, there are more programs and

higher levels of service we can obtain. This year we did just that. We gave out more scouting awards, more veterans support, more Color Guard support and more donations/scholarship money than any year in the past. Our fundraising and donations to the Chapter totaled over \$5,000. And then to top it all off, we gave the community a great gift that we hope will keep on giving in Patriots Pride Day.

Soon, I will pass the Presidency onto 1st VP Dale Corey and resume my previous work as a committee and program member. I only ask of you as a compatriot that you become more involved if you are idle and ask all of you to give Dale the same support you gave me.

Each year brings anew the promise of a better future and for this Chapter, a promise that is kept. As I fill out the year end reports for the Chapter, I am amazed at the depth, width and totality of the work of our members, their generosity, their dedication, their accomplishments and their stature as Americans who remember freedom isn't free. America is always a work in progress. While it remains to be seen how this year compares to all of our previous years as a chapter, I will remember my time as President of the Best Chapter in the State fondly.

Compatriotically,

Robert B. Andrews
President 2017

At the next meeting be sure to pick up a bundle of the new chapter recruiting cards! The New Revolution in recruiting for the chapter. It gives the recipient a lot of information in a small place including how to find our meetings, our website and how to contact us.

Col. James Wood, II Chapter

Virginia Society of the
Sons of the American Revolution
Best Chapter: 2009 - 2012 - 2013
2014 - 2015 - 2016



Frederick - Clarke - Page - Warren - Shenandoah Counties
and the City of Winchester

Website addresses on back of card

All meetings open to the public. Visit the website for dates and times.

Website:

<http://coloneljameswood.virginia-sar.org/>

Membership inquiries:

<http://coloneljameswood.virginia-sar.org/membershipform.php>

Color Guard appearance requests:

<http://coloneljameswood.virginia-sar.org/cgrequestform.php>

Mapquest directions quicklink:

<http://mapq.st/2j4uYFM>

A Visit from Ben Theis, Commander of the British 4th Co'y of Guards



Our speaker for the October Chapter meeting was Ben Theis, Commander of the British 4th Company of Guards in America. This wonderful presentation allowed chapter members to see the war from the other side and to increase their knowledge of the Revolutionary War.

Ben and his unit are a common foe for Continental Reenactors in events around the area. The 4th Company, along with Mercer's Rangers participated in our battle reenactment at Patriots Pride Day in Middletown on July 22nd.

Ben spoke of the centuries old history of the unit, its stature in the British Army, and their long list of campaigns in service to the British Crown.

He also told of their actions in America and their being taken prisoner at Yorktown when General Washington and Comte Rochambeau forced Lord Cornwallis to surrender in 1781.

Part of the many held troops at the Barracks in Charlottesville by Colonel James Wood, they were eventually paroled and returned to England at the close of the war.

Chapter Officers for 2017

President

Robert Andrews

1st VP

Ralph Pierce

2nd VP

Dale Corey

Secretary

Dave Carpenter

Treasurer

Fred Gill

Chaplain

Raleigh Watson

Registrar

Jim Simmons

Historian

Chip Daniel

Asst. Treasurer

Don Dusenbury

Asst. Registrar

Jake Trenary

Asst. Secretary

Jim Glymph

Chapter Meeting Dates for 2017

January 28th 9am - Guest VASSAR 1st VP Mike Elston. Officer installation Meeting, Best Western Conference Center Winchester, Virginia.

February 25th 9 am - Guest Col. John Cassarino Randolph Macon Academy. VASSAR Annual Chapter Awards. Best Western Conference Center Winchester, Virginia.

March 25th 9 am - Guest Ben Fiore Walker, Old Towne Crier Alexandria. Best Western Conference Center Winchester, Virginia.

April 22nd 9am - Guest Rolling Thunder. VASSAR Annual Chapter Awards. Best Western Conference Center Winchester, Virginia.

May 27th 9am - Miss Abbey Grant, District 4 Winner, National History Day. Best Western Conference Center Winchester, Virginia.

June 24th 9am - Guest Patrick Murphy, Author F&I War. Best Western Conference Center Winchester, Virginia.

July 22nd 10am-4pm - Patriot Pride Day, Middletown Virginia.

August—No meeting.

September 23rd 9am - Guest TBA. Best Western Conference Center Winchester, Virginia.

October 28th 9am - Guest Ben Theis, 4th Company of British Guards in America. Best Western Conference Center Winchester, Virginia.

November 18th 9am - Chapter Annual Public Service Awards. Best Western Conference Center Winchester, Virginia.

December 16th 12 noon - SAR/DAR/CAR Luncheon George Washing-

8th Virginia Regimental Flag

One of the more notable units of the Continental Army was the famous "German Regiment" from the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia under the command of Colonel Peter Muhlenburg. This hardy group of 300 volunteers from southern Pennsylvania through the Fincastle area of Virginia endured much during its two years in service and left a lasting legacy.

Recently, it came to light that it had also left behind one of the great artifacts of the American Revolution, its Regimental Flag. One of three Virginia Regiment Flags known to exist, it is the only one to bear the name of its regiment. There were a number of Regimental Flags made of the same design, but of different colors so that their identity could be known from a distance. The blue flag was believed to belong to Virginia's 3rd Virginia.



The Eighth Virginia first marched to Suffolk, Virginia from Dunmore County(now Shenandoah) where they were invested as the 8th Virginia Regiment. They then marched south to Fort Sullivan at the mouth of the harbor for Charleston, SC. There they witnessed the British Naval assault on Fort Sullivan. The British troops came ashore north of Fort Sullivan but found the sand bars and deep waterways made operations too difficult to accomplish any military strategy. They subsequently gave up the campaign, boarded their ships and set sail for New York.

The 8th Virginia was then marched north to join the Grand Army under General Washington at Brandywine Creek in southern Pennsylvania. Shortly after arriving at Brandywine, the 8th Virginia was placed on the right flank of the southern facing army. The British under Generals Howe and Cornwallis had arrived in the area after sailing north through the Chesapeake Bay.

In a well documented event, the British split their force and Gen. Cornwallis led his troops to the west in a flanking maneuver. Faced with a superior force, the 8th Virginia and other units were nearly overrun until Gen. Lafayette in his first action in America arrived on the scene and rallied the troops to stand their ground. It was just enough to allow the main army to withdraw and avoid encirclement. A desultory winter campaign followed and the regiment followed the Army into Valley Forge for the winter encampment.

Later the next year, expiring enlistments, deaths, desertions and battles having taken their toll, the army was reorganized. The original 8th regiment was no more and its remnants were combined with the 4th regiment. The 12th Virginia Regiment was re-staffed and renumbered the 8th Virginia and placed under the Command of Colonel James Wood, II.

At this time, Colonel Muhlenburg who had been promoted Brigadier General took the original Regimental flag home to his family in Trappe, Pennsylvania where it then stayed for nearly 240 years, being passed down through family members to the present day.

Cont'd on page 5

8th Virginia Regiment Cont'd.

Its last family owner, Bernard Goetz passed away several years ago and all of the family Muhlenberg possessions were auctioned off. This included diaries, papers, maps and of course the rare flag of the 8th Virginia. In preparation for the auction, a publicity tour was held and the flag journeyed south to Virginia to be shown prior to its auction by Freemans Auction House of Philadelphia.

Chapter member Rob Andrews was privileged to play host to the flag when it came to Shenandoah County.



Rob Andrews and Erik Dorman unveil the 8th Virginia flag.

" I was lucky that I found out about it just a couple of days prior to the event. I contacted my friend Erik [Dorman] who also was interested in writing about the 8th and we decided to show up in our uniforms. We caused quite a stir when we walked around the corner of the Courthouse into the square. We were immediately enlisted to "guard" the flag and unveil it during the event. "

"As someone in the past painted the flag so that 8th Virginia was visible the opposite side of the flag is displayed to show its original condition. And its years in the frame have led to its faded rectangle appearance."

The flag was purchased anonymously for \$422,500 and is owned by an anonymous collector.

Color Guard Events

Color Guard Presents Colors at Marine Corps Birthday Ball



The Colonel James Wood, II Color Guard was honored to present the colors at the opening of the 242nd Marine Corps Ball held at the James Charles Winery on Middle Road, south of Winchester Virginia on November 11th.

An annual tradition, the event was hosted by Colonel James Bodega and the ranking guest was Lt. Gen. Norman H. Smith, President of the Iwo Jima Association of America. The oldest Marine present was born in 1932 and the youngest in 1993. Guests came from as far away as Minnesota.

Ceremonies included the Commendant's Message, a toast offered by Lt. General Smith and the cutting of the Birthday Cake, plus two renditions of the Marine Corps Hymn.

The grateful owners of the winery donated \$200 to the chapter for our services.

Chapter recruits 17 new members in 2017—Members register 7 supplementals and 4 forgotten patriots.

We welcome new members:

- Davison, Aron Christopher
- Davison, Daryl Dwayne
- DeHaven, Michael
- DeHaven, Aaron
- Ford, Kelly
- Fournier, Jonathan
- Gano, James
- Hedges, Jeffrey
- Miller, Harold
- Robinson, Daniel
- Robinson, Marc
- Stevens, John
- Goff, Howard
- Walkup, Joseph
- Walton, Charles
- Fagan, Robert Joseph

Supplemental Ancestors

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Carl Frederick Liles | William Atwood |
| Carl Frederick Liles | Sarah Ligon |
| Lawrence Eugene Liles | William Atwood |
| Lawrence Eugene Liles | Sarah Ligon |
| William Wood | Gershorn Hawks |
| William Wood | Jonathan Hawks |
| William David Carpenter | Archibald Woodside |

Forgotten Patriots

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Carl Frederick Liles | William Atwood |
| Carl Frederick Liles | Sarah Ligon |
| Lawrence Eugene Liles | William Atwood |
| Lawrence Eugene Liles | Sarah Ligon |
| Harold Edgar Goodman | Joseph Goodman |
| William Wood | Jonathan Hawks |



Dual Member Paul Chase

Our guest for the September Meeting was Chapter Dual Member Paul Chase who discussed his just recently published : *“The American Revolution: A Compendium of Terms and Topics”* which features many arcane words of the era. It should be a handy reference to historians and researchers everywhere.

Paul has generously donated all proceeds from the book to the SAR. You can find the book online at Amazon or Barnes & Noble. Copies will be available at the meeting for \$17, a discount of \$3 off the online price.

<https://www.amazon.com/AMERICAN-REVOLUTION-Compendium-Terms-Topics/dp/1478791837>

Chapter Holds Grave Marking for Patriot John Sonner

On October 7th, 2017 Sonner family descendants, Chapter members and guests and the Col. James Wood, II Color Guard marked the grave of the Patriot John Sonner at the Fairview Cemetery in Strasburg, Virginia. Mr. Calvin Sonner had procured a new headstone for John Sonner from the Veterans Administration. The stone was delivered to his house and subsequently remained there for 10 years as its installation was not completed. Mr. Sonner got in touch with the Chapter through our website’s Contact Us page and asked for our assistance in getting the stone installed.

Grave Marking Chairman Dale Corey immediately took the task to heart and he coordinated the proper installation of the stone with the caretakers of Fairview Cemetery. Arriving at the Sonner home near Strasburg, Dale and his son took possession of the heavy stone and transported it to Fairview Cemetery for installation.

Dale then arranged for a grave marking ceremony with Chapter, Color Guard and family members. The Patriot grave was marked with our SAR grave marker, prayers were offered, a reading of his life and contributions was given and honors were rendered with a three volley salute from the Color Guard and a playing of Amazing Grace by Piper Bill Wood. The Sonners donated \$300 to the Chapter in appreciation of our support and respect for their ancestor.



Annual Dues Collection Drive

Its that time of year again! Look for your annual Dues and Membership Card mailing. All fees are due to the VASSAR office on December 31st. Those who are late will be dropped from National, State and Chapter SAR rolls. Don't let this happen to you! Dues are currently National \$35, State \$26 and Chapter \$20 for a total of \$81.00.