

THE JEFFERSONIAN GAZETTE

THE THOMAS JEFFERSON CHAPTER OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION SPRING/SUMMER ISSUE – 2017



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Your TJ Chapter has been most active over the last six months. The “Opportunities to Participate” program has resulted in multiple Compatriots participating in 25 plus ceremonies, commemorations, and wreath presentations, including a most successful Divers Family Grave Marking ceremony in partnership with the DAR. We have also seen an active response to our Veterans Recognition Program under the leadership of Compatriot Jim O’Kelley and to the VASSAR President’s Initiatives. We have a busy next six months starting off with the Jefferson Grave Site Ceremony on July 4th. Please place on your calendars: The Chapter Garden Party hosted by Phil and Marilyn Williams on September 10th, and especially, our 1st annual Holiday Luncheon scheduled for Saturday, December 2 at the Greencroft Club, where all Compatriots and Ladies are welcome to start off the Holiday celebration. Thanks to all Thomas Jefferson Compatriots for your membership and participation. Our Chapter is successful because of you!



(Divers Grave Marking, Farmington Country Club, VASSAR Musket Salute)

UPCOMING EVENTS (MARK YOUR CALENDARS, PLEASE!)

- Sept. 7 Board of Managers meeting at Harvey Hague's "High Ground", 3:30
- Sept. 10 **The Annual Garden Party, Ladies invited, 4:00 at the home of Marilyn and Phil Williams**
- Sept. 15,16 VASSAR Semi-Annual, Norfolk
- Oct. 7 **October Chapter Breakfast, FCC, Compatriots only, 8:45 Coffee, 9:00 Breakfast, 9:20 Meeting**
Guest Speaker, Prof. Gustavo Pellon, introduction by Compatriot Williams on the subject of the Spanish Contribution to the American Revolution and the story of Simone Bolivar's nephew and adopted Son and time in America and as a student at UVa.
- Oct. 19 Victory Commemoration, Yorktown, Wreath
- Nov. 2 BOM Meeting, AMVEST Bldg., 4:00
- Dec. 2 **Annual Holiday Luncheon with Ladies at Greencroft. Keynote Speaker, and recipient of the VASSAR-approved Silver Good Citizenship Award, Highlands Executive Director, Sara Bon-Harper. Compatriots, please remember to bring a gift for a Veteran, man or woman, in the Spinal Cord Injury Unit of Maguire VA Hospital.**
- Jan. 11 BOM Meeting, AMVEST Bldg., 4:00

PAST EVENTS

Mar. 4 Chapter Breakfast, FCC, Pine Room, included Chapter Officer Installation, new member Inductions (Thomas R. Moore, Terry L. Peters, James T. O'Kelley, Jr., Joseph P. Kelly and John D. Lauler), a Law Enforcement Award to third generation law enforcement Charlottesville Sheriff's Office Captain, Michael W. Baird, and brief remarks by VASSAR President-Elect Pat Kelly.



Mar. 16 We thank President Tilman for presenting the wreath at James Madison's Birthday Commemoration, Montpelier. Compatriots Minich, Pat and Joe Kelly, Jim O'Kelley and Williams also attended.

March 18 Compatriot Tilman presented the Chapter wreath at the Battle of Guilford Court House in Greensboro. He was joined by Compatriots Kelly and Wallenborn.

April 6 Compatriot Williams was the keynote speaker, on the subject of Jefferson's dear friends, George and Martha Divers, owners of Farmington Plantation, at a Jack Jouett DAR luncheon.

April 11 The Chapter wishes to thank Presenters Mackey Tilman, Nick Minich, and Ken Wallenborn, who handed certificates and \$100 checks to the UVa ROTC (Army, Navy, Airforce) Citizenship award recipients. Also attending were Compatriots James Kelley and Phil Williams.

April 13 President Tilman presented a Chapter wreath and Pat Kelly presented a VASSAR wreath at the Thomas Jefferson Birthday Commemoration. Compatriots Kelley and Williams also attended.

Later that day, as the featured speaker of the Farmington Country Club Historical Society, Compatriot Williams spoke on the life and times of George and Martha Divers in the historical setting of 18th and 19th century Virginia and America.

April 14 The Dogwood Festival, Vietnam War Memorial Ceremony, has grown to be a major event. Compatriot, retired Marine Corps Colonel, James O'Kelley delivered a memorable Keynote address. Compatriot Kelly was one of those honored to raise a flag in memory of one of a number of Charlottesville MIAs. Also in attendance and pictured here with Miss Virginia are Compatriots Chapman, Cobham, Joe Kelly and Williams.

April 15 Graves Mountain, Multi-Chapter Luncheon saw some 60 Compatriots gathered from 7 Chapters. Highlights included a surprise awarding of a Silver Color Guard Medal for significant State-level service over many years by Ken Wallenborn. Also attending were Compatriots Brown, Tilman, Kelley, Williams and their wives.



April 17th Jack Jouett DAR, Thomas Jefferson Chapter SAR, the Farmington Historical Society, and Farmington Country Club joined forces to mark the graves of Patriots George and Martha Divers, and their son, Thomas Jefferson Divers in a moving ceremony at the burial site located next to the 10th Tee at the Club, formerly Farmington Plantation before 1928. Jouett Regent Sharon Boyer and Compatriot Williams, in an authentic replica of his ancestor's New York Continental Line uniform led the ceremony. DAR State Regent Judy Surber, Past Jouett Regent Diane Inman (procuring cause of the Marking), the Middleton C.A.R. children, Chapter President Tilman, Chaplain Minich, Compatriot photographers Montes-Bradley and Garland, and Historical Society President Punkie Feil and Programs coordinator, Sharon Walker, all played roles in the Grave Marking. The ceremony was attended by local DAR, SAR, Club members and their children. The finale included the piping of Club Member Lowry of Amazing Grace and a rousing VASSAR Color Guard musket salute, which team included Chapter Compatriots VASSAR President-Elect Kelly and Wallenborn



May 11 The BOM meeting had an unusual aspect to it. A UVa. student, John Warren Seely, was there sworn in as a new Member. Also, new Board Member Jim O'Kelley made his debut with the board. He immediately volunteered to head the Veterans' Affairs Committee. Welcome aboard!



May 29 President Tilman and Compatriot Williams presented the Chapter and State Wreaths for Memorial Day at the Pavilion ceremony in downtown Charlottesville. Compatriot Joseph Kelly joined us. Compatriot Minich was also busy that day presenting a Flag Certificate to his neighbor, Thomas Dolan, formerly a helicopter pilot with the NYPD who flies the flag year 'round.



June 3 President Tilman inducted the Chapter's newest member, Preston Moore. The highlight of the Chapter Breakfast, on a sunny morning in the Thomas Jefferson Room, Farmington Country Club, with our Ladies, was a Presentation by Jason Corral, local director of Concerned Veterans of America, and Junior Vice Cmdr. VFW Post 1827, who gave us a stirring and informative talk. One of the more memorable lines offered, "Not a day goes by without my thinking about those who weren't as fortunate (who didn't return from war). I think about it every time we go to a sporting event and hear the National Anthem! A nation... where we get to enjoy our lives the way we want and where we have opportunities that most nations don't... Not because of politicians, athletes, or celebrities, but because of heroes who cared more about their loved ones and the place they call home, than they did for their own lives." This modest Patriot, who says he did "nothing special", including a tour in Iraq (with a wife and kids at home), who grew up on the South Side of Chicago with nothing, could not have been more deserving of the Bronze Medal and Good Citizenship Certificate which the Chapter bestowed on him with great appreciation.



President Tilman has been making a real difference to the Chapter. His leadership by example has been outstanding. Pictured below he is presenting a book to the Charlottesville Historical Society and a History Day Award to three students at Monroe High School in Green County.



The Chapter wishes to thank Awards Chair Williams and other Presenting Compatriots of the Good Citizenship School awards, Cobham, Minich, Day, Wallenborn, Kelly and Cooke, who present this time every year 6 Private High schools and 7 Public Middle Schools and 1 Elementary School. It's a tall order every year, but to the Schools, the parents, the recipients and the presenters all get a lot of the experience. And, one never knows who one might meet. While presenting the award at the Blue Ridge School, I met the Queen of Spain whose grandson was in that graduating class. That tradition of the Seniors, stripping down into their bathing suits, and stampeding down through the audience and jumping into the lake together only added to the Publicist's pleasure.



July 4 The Monticello Immigration and Naturalization ceremony was followed by the Joint Jack Jouett DAR and Thomas Jefferson Chapter graveside ceremony, Compatriot Williams spoke on "Joseph Warren: Physician, Writer, Orator, Political Leader, Soldier".

VASSAR News – the VASSAR SEMI- ANNUAL will be in Newport News, September 15, 16, 2017. Here are a couple of pictures of VASSAR President-Elect and Thomas Jefferson Compatriot Patrick Kelly at two of the many events that he attends in his elected capacity as well as an avid Color Guardsman, around the State, and the neighboring States and DC.



NSSAR NEWS – National will meet in Knoxville this year July 6 – July 12, 2017.

CHILDREN of the AMERICAN REVOLUTION – Peter Jefferson Society

Maybe the youngest member of our Chapter, inducted 4 years ago, is still active in the C.A.R.. Compatriots, it is hoped that you will find the following encouraging.

Dear Mr. Williams,

*“I am writing to let you know that I have recently been appointed to the position of National Chairman of the Government Studies Committee for the Children of the American Revolution, and the state position of State Chairman of the Government Studies Committee for the Virginia Society, Children of the American Revolution. I want to thank you for your many years of being a friend and advocate to me, and for supporting me and Peter Jefferson Society, CAR. I always enjoy seeing you at CAR and SAR events, and it is important to me to honor you and your faith in me by being the best leader I can be, and by putting my mind and heart into my service to CAR. Thank you for all you have done. I hope that in the coming years as I continue my CAR and SAR journeys that you will be proud of your hope and belief in me. With Best Regards,
Peter Middleton”*

COMPATRIOTS’ CORNER - As described by The Museum of the American Revolution’s E-Newsletter, Alan Taylor’s latest book, American Revolutions: A Continental History, 1750-1802 strips away some of the rosy veneer associated with the American Revolution to reveal a violent civil war and a fragile new nation. In extending the timeframe and geographic boundaries in his book, Taylor broadens the narrative to include the “multiple and clashing visions” of the Revolution and its legacies by tracing the role of European empires, slavery, and Native American communities and westward expansion.

NECROLOGY – While this section is normally reserved for deceased Chapter Compatriots, it is with great sadness that we have lost the previous VASSAR President, Ed Truslow, who died of an unusual disease inside of a year. He was a fine man, a good leader and served as your Publicist’s 3rd VP when he was the State President. Some in our Chapter, Father Nick, Pat, Ken, Mark Day, who have served at the State level knew him well. He will be missed and our condolences go out to his dear wife, Laura. I consider myself to have been close to both of them and honored to know them. Compatriots Williams and Kelly attended the Memorial Service.

OFFICERS - G. McNeir Tilman, President; Geoff Cobham, Secretary and Event Coordinator; David Cook, Vice President, Joel Strauch, Treasurer, The Rev. Cn. H. N.F. Minich, Chaplain; Mark Chapman, Registrar; Pat Kelly, Historian; Harvey H. J. Hague, Chancellor; W.M. Wallenborn, Surgeon; and Phil Williams, Publicist.

BOARD OF MANAGERS - Mackey Tilman, Geoff Cobham, Pat Kelly, Ken Wallenborn; Phil Williams; Cn. H. N. F. Minich; Harvey Hague; Mark Chapman, Joel Strauch, Col. Steve Hiss (Ret.), James O’Kelley.

Emeritus: Lea Schultz, T. Connor

COLOR GUARD P. Kelly (Committee Chair), M. Day K. Wallenborn, P. Williams