



Liberty Gazette

"Give me liberty or give me death!"

Patrick Henry - Richmond, Virginia
March 23, 1775



Fall 2024

Richmond ★ Virginia ★ Sons of the American Revolution

A Summer of Activity

While the Richmond SAR doesn't officially meet during the summer months, that doesn't mean the Chapter isn't engaged and participating in events to honor our Patriot Ancestors and our Nation's founding principles of liberty, justice and equality for all. Read on to see all that's taken place since the end of June.



Board of Managers 2025-26 Officer Recommendations

The Richmond SAR Board of Managers (BOM) held its semi-annual meeting on August 17. In addition to covering normal business, Chapter leadership held nominations for 2025-26 officers. All nominee motions were seconded and unanimously approved. The following names will be presented at the October 13 meeting as the BOM's recommended slate of officers for the next two-year term. Additional nominations, if any, will be entertained from the floor at that time and official elections held for each position. The BOM recommended Richmond SAR officers for the 2025-26 term are:



President ~ **Philip Barnard**

First Vice President ~ **Chris Ackiss**

Second Vice President ~ **Jason Gagnon**

Third Vice President ~ **Robert Halpern**

Secretary ~ **Jim Russell**

Registrar ~ **Bill Haskins**

Treasurer ~ **Bill Haskins**



New, Permanent Richmond SAR Logo

Establishing a logo is an important brand element for any organization. It builds pride among members and becomes a readily identifiable symbol of that organization to others. While the National SAR and Virginia SAR have long-established landmarks, the Richmond SAR first created one with its centennial celebration. That icon, featured on the centennial lapel pin and challenge coin, was soon-after disallowed by the National SAR for use by chapters and state societies.



The Chapter, on short notice, then adopted a depiction of the George Washington equestrian statue atop the Virginia Washington Monument. However, feedback from several members saying they preferred the minute-man of the original logo, encouraged another change to the popular Concord minute-man statue, which we've been using for the past several months.

A discussion at the recent BOM meeting, however, prompted additional thought as to what would be the most appropriate symbol of the Richmond SAR. General consensus was the symbol should be something that not only reflects the SAR mission and clearly depicts the American Revolution, but also reflects Richmond.

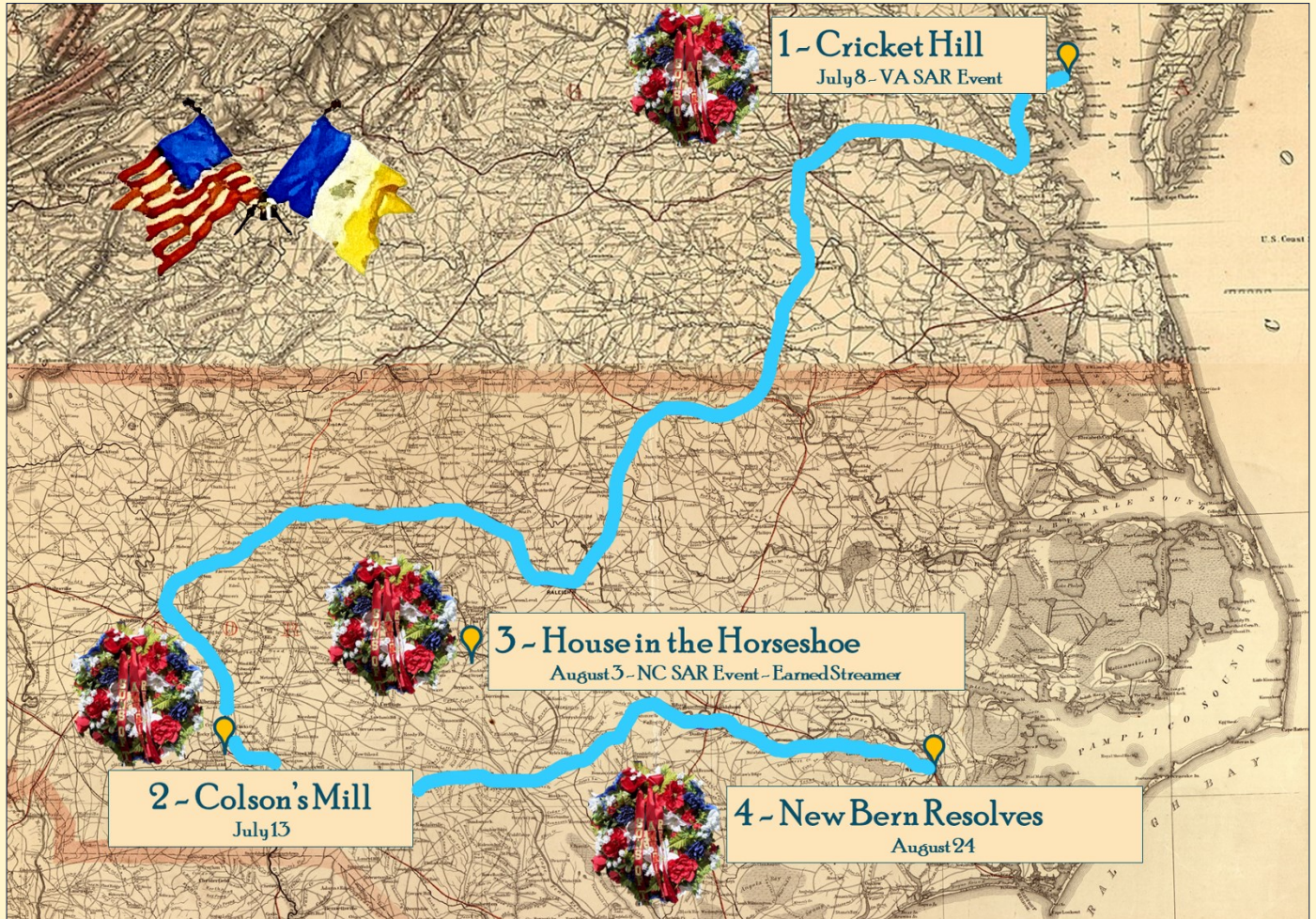
President Yohn and President-elect Nominee Barnard collaborated to address the BOM's desires and determined a new Richmond SAR logo that meets these worthy goals as well as meeting the purpose of an eye-catching brand icon that will stand the test of time.

The Houdon George Washington statue was commissioned by the 1784 Virginia General Assembly. Jean-Antoine Houdon was recommended by Benjamin Franklin, who accompanied the artist from France to America. Houdon stayed with Washington at Mount Vernon. He took careful measurements of Washington's dimensions and also created a life-mask from which to work. When complete, Chief Justice John Marshall said, "Nothing in bronze or stone could be a more perfect image than this statue of the living Washington."

As a lasting icon of the Richmond SAR, the work clearly reflects the American Revolution, the SAR and its mission. It's also a public and instantly recognizable symbol of Richmond as it's stood in the rotunda of the Virginia Capitol for more than two centuries. Statewide SAR members will be particularly familiar with it as they've walked passed it into the Old House Chamber while attending many Virginia SAR annual meetings.

The new logo also better serves the function and purpose of a brand symbol as its classic and eye-catching design will stand out as an unmistakable icon of the Richmond SAR for decades to come.

The Southern Campaign



Chris Ackiss put in significant time and miles to represent the Chapter and present our wreath at events across VA and NC

Richmond SAR Secretary and First Vice President-elect Nominee Chris Ackiss conducted a well-planned and perfectly executed summer campaign to represent the Chapter at multiple commemorations, including two state-level events.



Battle of Cricket Hill



Battle of Colson's Mill



House in the Horseshoe



New Bern Resolves

Fairfax Resolves 250th Anniversary

Philip Barnard represented the Chapter at the 250th anniversary of the Fairfax Resolves, an SAR national event.

National SAR Historian General and Fairfax Resolves Chapter Member Jeff Thomas and his committee led the effort to commemorate this important event. While dedicating a plaque at George Washington's townhouse, Jeff referenced Philip's thorough research of the townhouse property and its history.



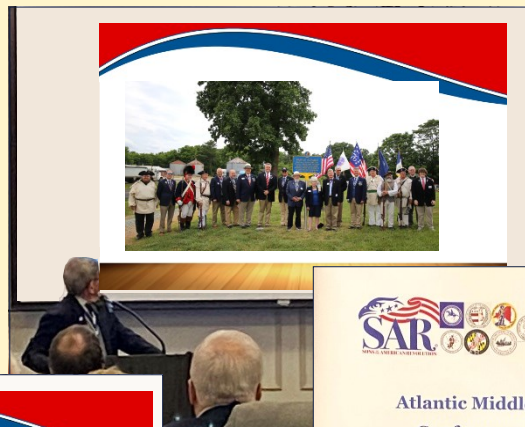
Philip Barnard and Jeff Thomas

Atlantic Middle States SAR Conference

Chris Yohn represented the Chapter at the Atlantic Middle States SAR Conference comprising the Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey and Washington D.C. Societies. The Virginia Society hosted the August event in Williamsburg. Each Society President delivered a 2024 report. In his, Virginia SAR President Bill Greaft highlighted four events. Three were hosted by the Richmond SAR.



Berkeley Shipyard
Marker Dedication



Joseph Eggleston
Pomeroy
Patriot Burials
Marker Dedication



Chief Justice John Marshall Grave Marking

A graphic for the Atlantic Middle States SAR Conference 2024 Annual Dinner. It features the SAR logo and several state emblems. The text reads: "Atlantic Middle States Conference 2024 Annual Dinner August 10th, 2024 Williamsburg Lodge 310 S England St., Williamsburg, VA". Below the text is a photograph of the Williamsburg Lodge, a large red brick building with a white portico and a steeple.

Richmond SAR September Meeting

The Richmond SAR held its traditional annual dinner on Tuesday, September 10. The evening kicked off with a half-hour social time before the meeting officially started.

First Vice President Philip Barnard hosted the meeting in President Yohn's unavoidable absence. In a special presentation, Philip treated attendees to his scholarly and entertaining biography of Chief Justice John Marshall, first delivered at the Richmond SAR John Marshall grave marking event in June.



Philip Barnard delivers his John Marshall biography

Virginia SAR Semi-annual Meeting

The Richmond SAR was present at the Virginia SAR Semi-Annual Meeting. A number of members attended the virtual workshops and Philip Barnard attended the in-person meeting and the Bruton Parish grave marking event in Williamsburg on September 13 and 14.

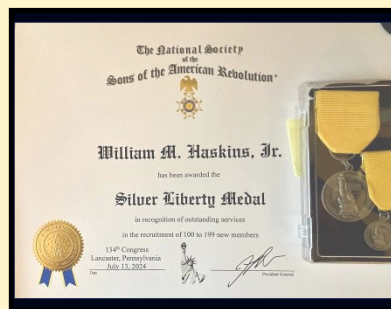
The Richmond SAR and its members earned the following recognition:



Bruton Parish grave marking (L-R): Jeff Thomas, Dr. Kenneth Hawkins, Dr. Michael Weyler, Philip Barnard, Michael Wilson



Richmond SAR - PG Streamer



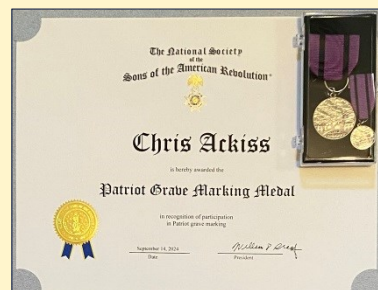
Bill Haskins - Silver Liberty Medal



Mark Samples - Liberty Medal
Oak Leaf Cluster



Philip Barnard - Virginia SAR State Service Medal and inducted Sergeant in the First Virginia Regiment



Chris Ackiss - Patriot Grave Marking Medal



Chris Yohn - Patriot Grave Marking Medal

Photos courtesy of Philip Barnard

Richard Carter III Event

In Virginia SAR President Bill Greaf's final 2024 signature event highlighting the four segments of the SAR recession, the Virginia SAR honored Robert Carter III for promoting a *nation of free men*. Carter was moved to free the more than 500 enslaved people he owned at the time.

Carter's 7th great-grandson Charles Belfield inspiringly portrayed Carter, sharing his desire to do the right thing and describing the criticism and danger he endured, afterward.

Chris Yohn presented the Richmond SAR wreath.



Richmond SAR Recognition - Americanism Points

Did you know your attendance at public events celebrating patriotism or related to U.S. Veterans of any time period earns points for the Richmond SAR? Events such as parades, commemorations, etc. count as long as you wear something identifying you as an SAR member.

These *Americanism* points are recorded throughout the year and tabulated as part of Virginia SAR Chapter recognition. If you've attended any such 2024 events, please email cy.rva.sar@gmail.com with the: 1) date, 2) city and state, 3) event name and 4) how many SAR members you're aware were in attendance.

Richmond SAR Bolling/Lafayette Marker Dedication

Don't miss the last major Richmond SAR commemorative event of 2024. The October 27 marker dedication to Revolutionary War Hero Susanna Bolling will include the participation of Virginia SAR President Bill Greaf, statewide SAR, DAR and CAR organizations and the American Friends of Lafayette.

This is a chance to see the results of Chapter challenge-coin and memorial page fundraising efforts, first-hand.

October 27 also marks the actual 200th anniversary of Lafayette's return to Richmond on his 1824 U.S. farewell tour.

The event takes place at the Half Way House restaurant at 2 p.m. See the [Virginia SAR calendar event](#) page for full details and registration.



Hero of the Revolution 16 year-old Susanna Bolling snuck through enemy lines to warn Lafayette of British plans to capture him.

Eagle Scout Recognition

Richmond SAR Eagle Scout Chair Jason Gagnon attended another Council of Honor and presented the Chapter's certificate of Recognition to Hailey Ouellette on September 20.



Richmond SAR Challenge Coins

Richmond SAR Centennial Celebration Coin



Designed and purchased before the announced disuse of the SAR/minute-man design, these challenge coins became instant collectors' items. Limited quantities remain and this design will not be reordered.

Order this design [at this link](#).

General Washington Coin

This coin features an equestrian image of General Washington as featured the on the Richmond landmark Virginia Washington Monument.

Order this design [at this link](#).



Coins of either design are \$15 per piece. Funds support Richmond SAR historic commemoration events like those shown in this newsletter. Reserve or purchase your coin(s) via credit card, at the links above, and pick them up at a Chapter meeting. Since they were created as a fundraiser, they will not be mailed.

For those who wish to purchase in-person (via check only) coins will be available at Chapter meetings, while supplies last. Please bring your check made payable to *Richmond SAR*.

Thanks for supporting Richmond SAR historic commemoration activities!

The Richmond SAR Memorial Fund



Your \$10 donation
to this special fund
honors your patriot
ancestors and supports
the programs and
work of the
Richmond SAR.

Chris Carr
Nathaniel Preston ~ Jacob Lotz

A. Brian Cowardin
John Cowardin

Doug Cumins
Phillip Keister ~ Nathaniel Wilson

Robert Halpern
James Sproul

William M. Haskins, Jr.
William Gannon ~ Moses Preston ~ Gilbert Stevens ~ Thomas Prather

Dana K. Law
Henry Law

Brian K. Miller
Theophilus Avery ~ Abel Sholes

William Nash II
John Nash

Ralph Spaulding
Edward Spaulding

Arthur H. Taylor III
Silas Call

Chris Yohn
Ludwig Tobias ~ Joseph Potter

October Meeting and Upcoming Schedule

Our next meeting takes place on Sunday, October 13, at 1 p.m.

We'll be joined by Author and Virginia SAR Compatriot David Smith who will discuss his book *The Armstrong Brothers*, a story of five brothers and their fight for American independence.

We'll also hold a commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the First Continental Congress and our official 2025-2026 Richmond SAR officer elections.



Richmond SAR upcoming meetings
All meetings take place at
Willow Oaks Country Club

Sunday, October 13 - 1 p.m.

Sunday, November 10 - 1 p.m.

Tuesday, December 3 - 6 p.m.

In memoriam

We honor and remember our Richmond SAR compatriots who have departed this life.

Robert Massie



SONS of the AMERICAN REVOLUTION
Patriotic ★ Historical ★ Educational

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