

Minutes of the Sons of the American Revolution, Norfolk Chapter
Membership Meeting
November 10, 2020

President Gary Pridgen called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm at Cypress Point Golf Club.

The Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, and SAR Pledge were recited.

President Gary Pridgen introduced the speaker, Dr. Tom Whetstone, who spoke on the Battle of Great Bridge. He gave an account of how the Norfolk Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, became involved in hosting the Commemoration of the Battle of Great Bridge, and this year will be the 10th Annual event. Recognition of the battle was actually started in 1900 by the Great Bridge Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Tom learned about the battle when he moved here in 2007, and he wrote an article about the conflict in 2011. He worked with the Chesapeake City mayor and others in establishing the ceremony and went to the SAR Headquarters in Louisville, Kentucky to get the organization to recognize Great Bridge as a tier one battle. In 2011, then VASSAR President Mark S. Brennan, Sr. had as a major initiative to secure major National SAR recognition for the battle. Tom then gave a sketch of the events leading to the battle and how it unfolded.

Business:

The minutes from the September meeting were approved as written.

Financial Report:

- Mike O'Shea, Treasurer, gave his report. 75% of members have paid 2021 dues. After January 1 those who have not paid will have to join by reinstatement. Ending balance on November 5, 2020 was \$2,667.51. After receipt of dues and paying VASSAR our balance will be \$1981.18. We currently have 92 members.

President's Report:

- The Great Bridge Commemoration is scheduled for December 5, 2020 at the Chesapeake City Hall.
- The President General responded that he will not be able to attend.
- Pete Davenport will represent National Headquarters
- Gary has been meeting via Zoom with VASSAR President, Bill Schwetke

New Members:

- New members were welcomed to the Chapter:
Bruce Besley
William Fisher
Nathan Elliott
William Davis

Awards:

- Tom Whetstone was recognized with the Bronze Congress Appreciation Medal for work on the SAR 2020 Congress Committee.
- Ken Hawkins was recognized with a Norfolk Chapter Meritorious Service Medal, VASSAR Certificates of Appreciation for Eagle Scout and Battle of Great Bridge Committees Chair and VASSAR Patriot Graves Preservation Medal.

The next meeting is in January and is normally our Annual Banquet. Stand by for further notice pending Covid guidelines.

The meeting was closed with the SAR Recessional and Benediction.

These minutes are respectfully submitted for your review and acceptance.

Robert E. Bruce
Historian