

Norfolk

*Honoring our forefathers,
serving our fellow men.*



Patriot

www.norfolksar.org

Tuesday, September 20th, 2016

NORFOLK SAR DINNER MEETING

Time: 6 pm (*social*); 6:30 pm (*dinner*) **Dinner:** On your own from the menu.

Place: Gus and George's 4312 Virginia Beach Blvd., Virginia Beach, Virginia

Speaker: Dr. Phillip Hamilton, Professor of History, Christopher Newport Univ.
"Henry and Lucy Knox and the Campaign of 1776 -
War and Marriage in the Revolutionary War"

RSVP: Edward Douglas @ (757) 490-3819 or
ed0236@verizon.net by Fri. Sept 16th (for a head count)

Dear Norfolk Compatriots,

Our next dinner meeting is set for 20 September. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Phillip Hamilton, Professor of History at Christopher Newport University. His topic is listed above and should be very interesting for all. Please plan to attend to show your support to both our speaker and our chapter.

We only have two dinner meetings left before the end of the year. September and November. Both are planned to be very interesting and on track with the topics we all discussed a few months back. Also you might look forward to the number of dinners we plan for the future and the various locations we hope to use. January 2017 will be our annual meeting and new officers will be sworn in.

With that said, the Nominations Committee of Ken Hawkins, Mike O'Shea and Charles Hassell are working hard to come up with a slate of officer for next year. The committee will report out in September and elections will take place at the November dinner meeting. Please, if you wish to serve, let one of the members of the committee know. They are still looking to fill spots on the Board of Managers. Again, as I've said before, this is your organization and members are the life blood. Be active. Get involved.

Planning has started for Battle of Great Bridge, our next really big event. If you want to help or serve on the committee, let me know. Before Great Bridge will be the Yorktown celebration and Battle of Kemp's Landing. I look forward to seeing you all there at both.

Maury

2016 CHAPTER OFFICERS

President: Maury Weeks
Vice Pres.: Mike O'Shea
Secretary: Edward Douglas
Treasurer: Kenneth Hawkins
Chancellor: Carter Furr
Registrar: Kurt Lawson
Historian: Stuart Whitehead
Chaplain: Charles Hassell II
Past Pres.: Tom Whetstone

COMMITTEES

Americanism – Vacant
Eagle Scout – Ken Hawkins
ROTC – Ken Hawkins
Flag – Carter Furr
CAR/DAR – Robert Hitchings
Veterans Affairs – Vacant
Knight Essay – Tom Whetstone
Programs/Speakers – Vacant
Great Bridge – Maury Weeks
Monuments – Vacant
Membership – Warren Chauncey

History Quiz:

Where did the patriots receive their first major victory causing British General Burgoyne to surrender?

Our guest speaker for 20 September 2016 Dinner Meeting

Phillip Hamilton is Professor of History at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Virginia. He received his BA from Gettysburg College, MA in history from George Washington University, and Ph.D. in history from Washington University in St. Louis. A historian specializing in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century America, Hamilton taught at Lindenwood University in Missouri from 1995-2002 and Christopher Newport University from 2002 to the present.

He is the author of two books, *The Making and Unmaking of a Revolutionary Family: the Tuckers of Virginia, 1752-1830*, published by University of Virginia Press in 2003 (paperback edition, 2008), and *Serving the Old Dominion: A History of Christopher Newport University*, published by Mercer University Press in 2011. He has also published numerous articles on early American history in such journals as *The William & Mary Quarterly* and *Virginia Magazine of History & Biography*. He is currently writing a joint-biography of the Revolutionary War general, Henry Knox, and his wife, Lucy Flucker Knox as well as editing a volume of their wartime correspondence.

Dr. Hamilton teaches courses at Christopher Newport on Virginia history, the Revolutionary War, American slavery, the Age of Jackson, and the Civil War/Reconstruction.

A Selection of Norfolk Chapter Patriot Ancestor Grave Photos

For more photos, and stories to go with the pictures, visit the Chapter Website.



Patriot General John Stricker
Stricker C. "Rick" Sanford, IV



Patriot William Ashley
Robert J. Avery



Patriot Josiah Kendall Sr.
Robert Kendall



Patriot Adam Conde
Mike O'Shea

Spotlight on a Patriot –

Each newsletter I would like to spotlight the Patriots of our membership. If you would like to have your ancestor highlighted in the newsletter, please let me know and we'll go from there. This time we are spotlighting Patriot Richard Borden, the ancestor of Kurt Lawson, our Registrar.

Patriot Richard Borden's treatment at the hands of the British is best described by someone who was there.

Captain Joseph Durfee, Freetown Militia, 9 Apr 1778 to 16 Jun 1778 – recalls the battle of Freetown at Fall River (then a village) - "It was not long before one of the guard, Samuel Reed, discovered boats silently and cautiously approaching the shore from the Bay. The challenge was given but no answer received. – He fired upon the boats. This created an alarm and the whole neighborhood were soon in arms. I stationed the guard behind a stone wall, and kept up a constant fire upon the enemy, until they brought their cannon to bear upon us, and commenced firing grape shot amongst us. – when, as we were unable to return the compliment, it was deemed advisable to retreat. Two of the guard were sent to remove all the planks which laid over the stream for foot people to cross upon... - We then retreated slowly, until we reached the main road, near where the bridge now crosses the stream. I then gave orders to form and give them battle... they soon beat up a retreat, leaving behind them one dead and another bleeding to death, besides the wounded whom they carried away. The wounded soldier... before he expired, informed me that the number of the enemy that attacked us was about one hundred and fifty, Commanded by Major Ayers.- When the enemy landed they set fire to the house of Thomas Borden [*Richard's* eldest son], then new. They next set fire to a grist mill and saw mill, belonging to *Mr. Borden*, standing at the mouth of the Fall River. These buildings, I saw when set on fire. When the British troops retreated, as they were compelled to do, from the shots of our little band of volunteers, they set fire to the house and other buildings of *Richard Borden*, then an aged man, and took him a prisoner. We pursued them so close in their retreat that we were enabled to save the buildings which they had last fired. The British were frequently fired upon...as they passed down the Bay in their boats on their retreat. *Mr. Richard Borden*, whom they had taken prisoner was in one of their boats. ...American soldiers, who from the shore, poured in their shot and balls upon them as fast as they could load and fire... They ordered *Mr. Borden*, their prisoner, to stand up in the boat, hoping that his comrades on the shore would recognize him, and desist from firing upon them. But this he refused to do and threw himself flat into the bottom of the boat... *Mr. Borden* was obstinately silent to all questions which were asked him – so that not being able to make any profitable use of him, they dismissed him in a few days on parole. This engagement took place of a Sabbath morning, on the twenty fifth day of May, 1778." - Excerpted from 1834 news article.

Private Borden Brayton, Freetown Militia, 9 Apr 1778 to 16 Jun 1778 – excerpt from his pension declaration... "he was then under Capt. Joseph Durfee afterwards, Colonel, and was on duty at said guard station. ~ The enemy landed at said Fall River and burned the Mills of *Richard Borden* and carried him said *Richard* away prisoner, we had something of a skirmish with them. ~ They left two, of their men one of which was shot through the jaw and dropped dead, the other lived about two hours, and told that Thomas Borden [son of William Borden, Tory/Loyalist*] and Richard Holland piloted them there. ~ we hastened their departure in time to put out most of the fires they had kindled. ~ At another time while in the service at said

Station your Declarant with three others was detached to guard two Tories to Providence to deliver over to Gen. Sullivan. ~ These Tories names were John & George Brightman.”

*The Bordens that were Tories fled to Canada.

The British view of this event is from the letters of **Major General, Sir Robert Pigot** to his superior, General, Sir Henry Clinton. Published in the “The Remembrancer or Impartial Repository of Public Events, For the Year 1778 and Beginning of 1779.” Published in London 1779.

Letter dated “Newport, May 31, 1778...” Having information that there was a large quantity of boards and planks at Fall River, and the only saw mills that are in this part of the country, the Commodore and I were of the opinion it would be doing good service if the whole could be destroyed. To effect which, 100 men, of the 54th Regiment commanded by Major Eyre [Major Edmund Eyre] embarked last night in flat bottomed boats at Arnold’s Point, having the [HMS] Pigot Galley and some armed boats for their protection and convoy. Unfortunately the Galley got a-ground in passing Bristol Ferry; but the boats proceeded, and arrived a little after day-break at the proposed place for landing. They were discovered some time before they approached the shore, and a general alarm was given by the discharge of cannon and small arms. When the troops attempted to land, they were fired upon by a strong guard; however the gun-boat soon dispersed them, and they landed and pushed towards the two mills, the one for sawing, the other for grain, which were set fire to, and entirely consumed, together with a considerable quantity of boards and planks for building boats or privateers. The Major [Eyre] finding a greater number of men in arms than he expected, and being apprehensive the opposition would increase, thought it more prudent to retire than advance farther to the other mill, as the chief object of the expedition was answered, by destroying the principal saw mill, and all the boards and planks. In returning to the boats, they set fire to the rebel guard room, a provision store, and nine cedar boats; many sacks of corn were destroyed in the mills. His loss was two men killed, and Lieutenant Goldsmith and four men wounded. The rebels loss is thought to be more considerable. When the tide made, the Galley got afloat; but in towing her off, Lieutenant Congleton of the [HMS] Flora man of war was much wounded, and two men unfortunately killed.

Major General Pigot leaves out the detail of Richard Borden’s abduction but the following excerpt is telling, from his letter dated “Newport, July 31 and August 1, 1778” he writes...

“I have twice endeavored to get an inhabitant from the main, but both times failed in the attempt.”

According to the official records there were a total of twenty two men mustered in the Freetown Militia including Capt. Joseph Durfee and Pvt. Borden Brayton, who repelled the british forces at Fall River. The saw mill and grist mill that belonged to Richard Borden’s family was specifically targeted as the intelligence for that area came from a former resident, Col. Thomas Gilbert, Esq., who was discovered embezzling town funds to buy weapons and stores for Tories in the area. Once he was discovered, Col. Gilbert fled to Boston, where he no doubt shared everything he new about the saw mills. There is a re-enactment of the raid on Gilbert’s home by resident patriots, held today.

Upcoming events –

September 20th, 2016 – Dinner Meeting at Gus and George’s

October 15th and 16th, 2016 – Yorktown Celebration

November 12th – Battle of Kemp’s Landing Observation

Additional information and dates will be added as they are finalized.



Quiz Answer: Battle of Saratoga in 1778.

Patriotic Inspiration:

"In matters of style, swim with the current; in matters of principle, stand like a rock."--Thomas Jefferson

SEE YOU Sept 20th for dinner.