



On-line

# Virginia Bulletin

Virginia Society  
Sons of the American Revolution



2009-10

Volume XXXIII No. 1

## The Give and Take of the VASSAR Presidency



(L-R) President Art Batten presents President-elect Bill Simpson the Meritorious Service Medal; Mid Atlantic District Vice President General Gary Bond installs Bill Simpson as VASSAR President; President Bill Simpson presents Immediate Past President Art Batten the Patriot Medal, all in the blink of an eye.

**N**inety-eight Compatriots representing 21 of Virginia's 26 Chapters, along with many wives and guests, gathered in Richmond over the Valentine's Day weekend for the Virginia Society's 2009 Annual Meeting. Attendance bragging rights went to the George Washington Chapter with 15 men registered, followed by the Richmond Chapter with 12 and the Culpeper Minute Men Chapter with 10.



The VASSAR Color Guard posts colors during the Saturday Night Banquet. Good food and camaraderie prevailed.

## *Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution* 2009-2010 Officers

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<b>* Executive Committee</b>	



President William L. Simpson, Jr.  
2009 Message

Friends, Family and Compatriots, thank you very much for your support. I am honored to stand before you as your new Virginia Society President and I humbly accept the duties and responsibilities that accompany the title. I hope that I can live up to the standards and expectations set by past Society Presidents and I look forward to visiting the chapters and having fun at the Semi-Annual meeting and commemorating our 120<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting next year.

The President's Initiative this year is "Celebrate Your Local History". All I ask is that chapters do something to celebrate their local revolutionary or colonial history. I also ask each chapter to research their own history and report when their chapter was founded.

My presidential project is installing a historical roadside marker on the Wilderness Battlefield, next to Grant's Headquarters, about Maj. Gen Marquis de Lafayette's maneuvers through the area during the campaign of 1781 and his two subsequent visits during his grand tour in 1824/5. The Col. Fielding Lewis Chapter is sponsoring this project and the Friends of the Wilderness and the National Park Service are involved. Currently the VDOT Historical Resources Division is reviewing the application.

- continued on page 11-

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## FOCUSING ON THE 2009 VASSAR ANNUAL MEETING ...



*Chapter Excellence Streamers for 2008 went to the following Chapters: Col. Fielding Lewis Chapter (Wayne Rouse), Col. James Wood Chapter (Steve Bush), Culpeper Minute Men Chapter (Francis Lay), Fairfax Resolves Chapter (Tom Speelman), Fincastle Resolutions Chapter (Reverdy Wright), General Dan Morgan Chapter (not present), George Washington Chapter (David Walker), Martin's Station Chapter (not present), Overmountain Men Chapter (Bobby McConnell), Richmond Chapter (Taylor Cowardin), Rockbridge Volunteers Chapter (Col. Richard Weede), Thomas Jefferson Chapter (Pat Kelley), and the Williamsburg Chapter (Ed Truslow).*



*(L-R) George Washington Chapter President David Walker receives the Best Extra Large Chapter Streamer from President Art Batten. Fairfax Resolves Chapter President Tom Speelman receives the Best Large Chapter Streamer. And, Overmountain Man Chapter President Bobby McConnell receives the best Medium Size Chapter Streamer. The Best Small Chapter Streamer went to the Martin's Station Chapter, not represented at the Annual Meeting.*



(L-R) Ms. Gilliam Byles, a student at the Margaret L. Walker's Governor's School of Government and International Studies, was the winner of the Knight Essay Contest. She is shown with sponsoring Chapter President Taylor Cowardin of the Richmond Chapter and Contest Chairman, Lou Beach. Matthew Retterer, a student at Bishop Denis J. O'Connell High School, sponsored by the Fairfax Resolves Chapter, won the Rumbaugh Orations Competition. Matthew is shown with Contest Chairman Wayne McClelland.



(L-R) Cadet CPO Sean Warren came closing to taking top honors in two categories, JROTC and Eagle Scout, but he finished first in one and second in the other. At left, he is shown being presented the JROTC award by Contest Chairman Kent Webber and Matt Hogendobler of the sponsoring Norfolk Chapter. Austin Burdick (second from right next to Matt Hogendobler) was the winner of the Eagle Scout Competition. He is shown with his parents, twin brother Tyler, and Lance Lyngar, Eagle Scout Chairman of the sponsoring Culpeper Minute Men Chapter.



Courtesy - Don Moran, Editor  
The Liberty Tree

## IN MEMORIAM

George Bailey – Thomas Jefferson Chapter  
 Thomas Booker – Gen. William Campbell Chapter  
 Richard O. Bennett – Gen. Daniel Morgan Chapter  
 Blanchard D. Smith – George Washington Chapter  
 Charles Henry McGlothlin – Lt. David Cox Chapter  
 Walbrook DE. Swank – Thomas Jefferson Chapter  
 John C. Anthony – Culpeper Minute Men Chapter  
 John T. Dailey – Culpeper Minute Men Chapter  
 William W. Taylor – Rockbridge Volunteers Chapter  
 Clark Stephen Gregory, Jr. – Fairfax Resolves Chapter  
 Thomas Nash – Richmond Chapter  
 Harold E. Williams – Thomas Nelson, Jr., Chapter  
 Lee Baker – Overmountain Men Chapter  
 (CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)



Chaplain Henry N. F. Minich





(L-R) The Citizen of the Year Award was presented to Captain Walter Hartman by President Batten with Competition Chairman Walter Neville looking on. Walter A. Sheffield was honored as Teacher of the Year. He received his certificate and plaque from President Batten with Committee Chairman Wayne Rouse looking on. Virginia's nominee for the Tom & Betty Lawrence Teacher of the Year recognition was to James E. Triesler, sponsored by the Richmond Chapter. He is shown with President Batten, Richmond Chapter President Taylor Cowardin and Committee Chairman Rouse. Others receiving recognition, but not in attendance, were Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Sgt. Cindy Cuff-Wright of the Harrisonburg Police Department, sponsored by the Fort Harrison Chapter, Emergency Medical Services person of the year Captain Ryland B. Kendrick of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department sponsored by the Fairfax Resolves Chapter, and Fire Technician of the Year Michael L. Frames of the Fairfax Fire and Rescue Battalion, also sponsored by the Fairfax Resolves Chapter.



(L-R) President Batten presented the SAR Gold Good Citizenship Medal to Michael C. Quinn, President of the Montpelier Foundation. Mr. Quinn was the Guest Speaker at the Saturday Night Banquet. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Mark Brennan presented the SAR Silver Good Citizenship Medal to Martina Caputy, President of the VSCAR.



## APRIL EVENTS

- 11 – Halifax Days – Halifax, NC - 2:00 p.m.
- 13 - Thomas Jefferson Birthday - Naturalization Ceremony & Wreath Laying – Monticello - 10:00 a.m.
- 13 – Thomas Jefferson Birthday – Jefferson Memorial – Washington, DC – 11:00 a.m.
- 18-19 – Battle of Petersburg – Battersea, Petersburg – 9-6 Saturday – 9-4 Sunday
- 19 – Patriots' Day – Cumberland County Courthouse – 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- 28 – James Monroe Birthday – Hollywood Cemetery – Richmond – 11:00 a.m.





## Focusing on the 2009 VASSAR Annual Meeting ...**PERSONAL AWARDS**



*President Batten presented the Silver State-level Distinguished Service Medal to Wayne Rouse.*



*Retiring VASSAR Treasurer Jeff Sweeney was presented a Meritorious Service Medal.*



*VASSAR Registrar Dick Bidwell received a Certificate of Appreciation.*



*Retiring VASSAR Historian Bob Schmidt received the Meritorious Service Medal.*



*President Batten presents pewter cups to VPG Gary Bond and his wife Janis.*



*Mrs. Wayne "Wink" Rouse was presented the Martha Washington Medal.*



*Annual Meeting Chairman Steve Atkinson received a Presidential Citation.*



*President Art and Ann Marie Batten inspect the engraving on a special bowl presented to the retiring President.*



*3<sup>d</sup> Vice President Mark Brennan presented the Liberty Medal to former President General Bruce Wilcox.*



*President Batten presents the Martha Washington Medal to his wife, Ann Marie.*



### MAY EVENTS

9 – Raid on Martin's Station – Ewing, VA 10:00 a.m.  
 25 – National Memorial Day Parade – Washington, DC  
 29-30 - Tribute to Pioneers and Pathfinders - Siege at the Blockhouse Natural Tunnel State Park - Scott County, Virginia - 29th - 6 p.m. Continues on the 30th at 9:00 a.m.  
 30 – Buford's Massacre – Waxhaw, SC – 10:30 a.m.



## Meet Your State Officers



**PRESIDENT**  
William L. Simpson, Jr.



**PRESIDENT-ELECT**  
Robert L. "Bob" Bowen



**2<sup>nd</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**  
Mark S. Brennan, Sr.



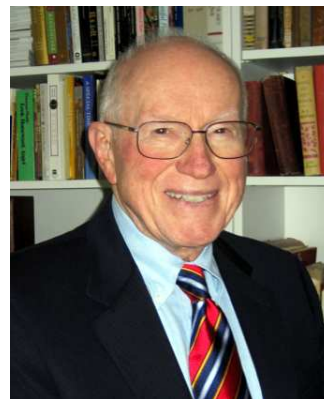
**3<sup>rd</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**  
Henry P. Williams III, Ph.D



**SECRETARY**  
Kent S. Webber.



**TREASURER**  
Frederick N. Elofson



**REGISTRAR**  
Richard Bidwell



**CHANCELLOR**  
Walter Jervis Sheffield



**CHAPLAIN**  
Reverend Henry N. F. Minich



**HISTORIAN**  
R. Wayne McClelland



**SURGEON**  
W. McKenzie Wallenborn, MD



**NATIONAL TRUSTEE**  
Joseph W. Dooley  
**ALTERNATE TRUSTEE**  
Arthur D. Batten



### **IN MEMORIAN**-continued from page 4

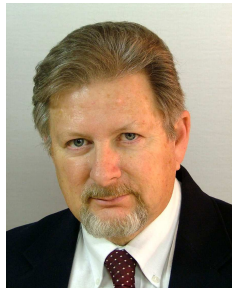
James Dominic Lay – Culpeper Minute Men; Bruce Cushman Halstead – Richmond  
David Bassett – Williamsburg; Richard Ward – Richard Henry Lee; Stuart Bray - Richard Henry Lee Chapter



## Meet Virginia's Chapter Presidents



**Col. Fielding Lewis**  
Wayne Rouse



**Dan River**  
Larry Aaron



**Gen. Daniel Morgan**  
Frederick Downs



**New River Valley**  
Clay Bane



**Rockbridge Volunteers**  
Col. Richard Weede



**Col. George Waller**  
Andy Doss



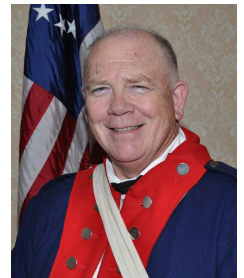
**Fairfax Resolves**  
Tom Speelman



**George Washington**  
David Walker



**Norfolk**  
Bob Hitchings



**Thomas Jefferson**  
Pat Kelley



**Col. James Wood, Jr.**  
Steve Bush



**Fincastle Resolutions**  
Reverdy Wright



**James Monroe**  
Art Buswell, Jr.



**Overmountain Men**  
Bobby McConnell



**Thomas Nelson, Jr.**  
Jim Swords



**Col. William Grayson**  
Bill Broadus



**Fort Harrison**  
Barkley Rosser



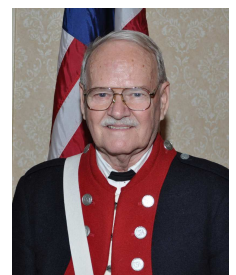
**Lt. David Cox**  
Charles Crockett



**Richard Henry Lee**  
Robert Davis



**Williamsburg**  
Ben Fegan



**Culpeper Minute Men**  
Francis Lay



**George Mason**  
Richard S. Austin



**Martin's Station**  
Tom Coker



**Richmond**  
Taylor Cowardin

### NOT SHOWN

**Clinch Mountain  
Militia**  
Chris Calo III

**Gen. William  
Campbell**  
Dr. Jack Butterworth





*President Bill Simpson brought greetings to the Daughters of the Virginia Society, DAR at their Annual meeting in Portsmouth on March 20. His speech was well-received. He spoke about SAR and DAR recruiting and the DAR Finders Contest.*



*Shortly after the Annual Meeting in Richmond, President Simpson traveled to Norfolk where he took part in ceremonies honoring Levy Old, the oldest living member of the Virginia Society, SAR.*

Dr. Levi William Old, Jr. became a member of the Norfolk Chapter in 1944 and has been a member of the Virginia Society, SAR longer than any other Compatriot alive today. At a small ceremony in his apartment at Westminster Canterbury on February 28th, Chapter President Robert Hitchings and Virginia Society President Bill Simpson presented Levi with a "65-Year" pin.

Levi's son, Bill Old, a cardiac surgeon in Hampton, recalls one of the stories his thoracic surgeon father used to tell: "Our family qualified for the SAR because our patriot ancestor, Thomas Old, served on the Committee of Public Safety in Princess Anne County. We also had an ancestor, Major William Ferebee, who served in the North Carolina Continental Line, at the Battle of Great Bridge and at Valley Forge."



*The Col. James Wood, Jr., Chapter marked the grave of Rev War Patriot Daniel Gray at Mt. Jackson on November 1. L-R - Warren Bock Mayor Joseph Williams; Rob Andrews; First Vice President Ed Craft; President Steve Bush; Brett Osborn; and Ralph Pierce.*



*Steve Atkinson (L) outgoing President of the Richmond Chapter, was presented the Virginia Society Chapter Service Medal by newly installed President Taylor Cowardin. During Atkinson's two-year term, the Chapter grew by 15% to more than 130 members.*



## MARTIN'S STATION PROGRAM

The Martin's Station and Overmountain Men Chapters of the Virginia Society, SAR, have extended an invitation for the Sixth Anniversary "Raid on Martin's Station" celebration in Ewing, Virginia. SAR, DAR, C.A.R., Colonial Dames and SR Societies and Chapters are invited to participate in a formal wreath laying ceremony at Martin Station Monument, Wilderness Road State Park. Join us for a continental breakfast in front of the Visitor's Center at 9:00 a.m. The Ceremony begins at 10 a.m. on May 9, 2009.



## St. John's Episcopal Church

More than 30 men and women gathered on a rainy day in Hampton on March 14 to dedicate a plaque honoring three founders and six patriots. The program was organized by the Order of the Founders and Patriots of Virginia and VASSAR's Thomas Nelson, Jr., Chapter



OFPA of Virginia Governor Mike Lyman.



President-elect Bob Bowen presented the VASSAR wreath.





## DISTRICT V HISTORY DAY COMPETITION

BY John D. Sinks, Ph.D

The Annual History Day Competition for District V was held at George Mason University on March 7<sup>th</sup>. The District V competition has grown, with almost 200 entries this year. In opening ceremonies, the master of ceremony named those organizations that provided financial support to the level of sponsorship to an auditorium full of history students, their parents, and teachers. Four chapters of the Virginia Society were named: Col. Fielding Lewis, Culpeper Minute Men, Fairfax Resolves, and George Mason. Eight Virginia Society members served as judges: Larry Alexander, Lance Lyngar, and Gar Schulin of Culpeper Minute Men; Bob Hampton, Andrew Monahan, John Sinks and Jack Sweeney of Fairfax Resolves; and Dick Austin of George Mason. There were more projects in the field of American History 1750-1800 than in previous years. Fourteen students had nine projects in this category that placed first, second, or third. These students were awarded Bronze Good Citizenship medals jointly by the Culpeper Minute Men Chapter and Fairfax Resolves Chapter.

With ten chapters based within or partly within the District V area, chapters might work at cross-purposes. Three years ago the Virginia Society called for volunteers to serve as facilitators for the various districts in the state. In District V this has resulted in a close, on-going relationship between the SAR and the district's History Day Officials. A level of funding necessary for sponsorship has been agreed upon; district officials contact the SAR for men suitable to serve as judges; SAR is a welcome participant in the closing ceremonies, awarding its medals at the same time the winners receive their history day trophies.

The Virginia History Day competition will be held on April 25<sup>th</sup> in Williamsburg and the National History Day Competition in College Park, Maryland from June 14<sup>th</sup> through 18<sup>th</sup>. Next fall will be an ideal time to establish a working relationship with your district History Day officials to determine what your chapter can do to best provide support in your area.

Further information about History Day, including the Virginia schedule, can be found at: <http://www.history.org/history/teaching/vahisday.cfm>



## GUILFORD COURTHOUSE



Photo by Bob Yankle NCSSAR

President Bill Simpson, second from left, attended the Guilford Courthouse program in Greensboro, NC on March 14. The program was forced inside for the first time in more than 10 years because of rain.



In addition to the annual wreath-laying ceremony, new officers of VASSAR's Dan River Chapter are traditionally installed at Guilford Courthouse. Here, President Simpson installs Chapter President Larry Aaron.



Aaron also was presented a Patriotic Service certificate from the President General for taking part in the national SAR 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Revolutionary War Program. Aaron wrote an article on the Crossing of the Dan for The SAR Magazine.



*(continued from page 2)*

This year is the culmination of a journey that started when I became charter president of the Col. Fielding Lewis Chapter in 1999 and saw many challenges facing the Chapter and Virginia Society. In the intervening years I have worked alongside Virginia Society presidents & officers to modernize Virginia Society planning and management; improve members' participation in Society affairs, and to provide fun and fellowship at the Society meetings. This journey will end at the Annual Meeting in 2010. I have no desire or intent to run for National Office, although, if asked, I will fulfill the duties of National Trustee.

The combined efforts of the Society Presidents & Officers have solved most of the challenges encountered when this journey started. The Handbook is now clear, concise and user friendly. The Board of Managers' Meeting has been streamlined, focusing on key issues giving us time to either hold training or have informative presentations on Friday night. The Treasurer starts working on the next year's budget in August and the draft budget for the upcoming year is now presented to the members at the Semi-annual meeting giving them time to review and provide input before the annual meeting.

VASSAR has an excellent method of preparing its presidents for office by having them occupy in succession the offices of 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, and President-Elect before taking the office of president. However longstanding traditional practices followed by VASSAR still do not take full advantage of this process. The President-Elect is an elected and installed officer yet he does not have the authority to fully prepare for his year. He does not have the responsibility to prepare his budget. The Chapter Annual Report form for his year, which could be a great management tool, is not even drafted until after he is president, and is normally not released until the year is one quarter to one third over.

There is absolutely no reason why he can't oversee the drafting of the report while he is President-Elect and release the report at the beginning of the calendar year it covers.

As a temporary solution, the President-Elect and the Treasurer are drafting next year's budget so it meets the incoming President's objectives. With the agreement of the President-Elect, I have directed that next year's Chapter Annual Report form be tailored to help the Society fill out our reports to National, meet the incoming Presidents agenda, AND be released before the calendar year it covers.

For a permanent solution, the Handbook Chairman and I are drafting proposals for the handbook to make these changes permanent. I hope to have these ready for a vote at the Semi-Annual meeting.

The 2009 Semi-Annual Meeting is at the Virginia Beach Resort Hotel and Conference Center on 18-19 September. It will be productive, informative, and FUN for Compatriots & their spouses! The theme is "Pirates of the Revolution." Since Pirates usually didn't wear neck ties, we won't either. (For some reason Pirates didn't like necktie parties.) The dress code for the Semi-Annual is easy. Coats and ties are optional.

The Norfolk Chapter has secured discounted rates for Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, so people can come early or stay later. The Norfolk Chapter is working on some great bus tours following the Saturday luncheon.

There will be three member contests to liven up the meetings. On Friday night, it is a tropical shirt contest; members wishing to participate will wear tropical shirts to the Board of Manager's meeting. The wives, lead by the first lady will judge the results and determine the categories. At the General Membership meeting, Saturday Morning, there will be two contests:

one for Sports Jackets, one for Golf Pants. Brave souls can participate in both. As before the ladies will be the judges.

For Friday Night, after the Board of Managers' meeting, I plan on following Art Batten's lead and have two or three short entertaining and informative presentations for the members. The first presentation will be on the Pirates of the Revolution. The Norfolk Chapter is pursuing the very exciting leads for the other presentations and the keynote speaker at the luncheon.

The First Lady is hosting two exciting events for the ladies one on Friday night during the Board of Managers Meeting and Saturday Morning during the General Membership Meeting and is planning a contest of her own.

More details on the Semi-Annual Meeting in Virginia Beach will follow soon.

The 120<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Virginia Society will be 13-15 February 2010 at the Holiday Inn Select, Richmond – Koger South Conference, the same hotel as this year.

Compatriotically  
Bill Simpson  
President, Virginia Society  
Sons of the American Revolution

## UPCOMING EVENTS

119<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress  
Atlanta, Georgia  
July 4-8, 2009

2009 AMS Conference  
Rochester, NY  
August 8-9, 2009

2009 VASSAR Semi-Annual  
Virginia Beach, VA  
September 18-19, 2009

## The "For What it's Worth Department"

We suspect there are bragging rights attached to being the oldest Chapter in the Virginia Society. And, with that being said, it is our humble opinion that those bragging rights go to the Richmond Chapter, chartered on April 11, 1923, a full ten months before the Norfolk Chapter was chartered on February 9, 1924. Norfolk did have a Chapter and a President in 1906. His name was Tench Tilghman. But, it was the Tidewater Chapter, not the Norfolk Chapter. At some point, unknown to your editor (*but the search continues*), the Tidewater Chapter folded its tent. In 1927, Compatriots in Norfolk understood their date of birth as a Chapter because the March 1927 issue of "The Minute Man", the original SAR Magazine, contains a report on a February 4<sup>th</sup> Norfolk Chapter meeting submitted by a member of the Norfolk Chapter. The article closes with these words: "After the business meeting, luncheon was served. This chapter was organized February 9, 1924, with seventeen charter members. It now has thirty-two members, with at least ten applications pending."

Comparisons could be drawn in Winchester where the Gen. Dan Morgan Chapter was once active but later dissolved, only to be replaced by the Col. James Wood, Jr Chapter in 2007. And, in Fredericksburg where the Gen. Hugh Mercer Chapter disbanded in the early 1990's but reorganized as the Col. Fielding Lewis Chapter in 1998.

## SPRING LEADERSHIP/TRUSTEES MEETING



Two Virginia Compatriots, Robert L. "Bob" Bowen and Genealogist General Joseph W. "Joe" Dooley were among six chosen to receive the Minuteman Medal at the Annual Congress in Atlanta this July. (L-R) Barry McKown, Minuteman Committee Vice Chairman; Martin Boyer, standing in for Jacque de Trintinian of the France Society; Richard Brockway of the West Virginia Society; Peter Gooble of the New York Society; Bowen; Marston Watson of the California Society and Dooley.

VASSAR Compatriots attending the National Meetings in March were Dooley, Bowen, National Executive Committeeman Larry McKinley, Alternate Trustee Art Batten, and Bill Broadus, President of the Col. William Grayson Chapter.

## Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution

### CHAPTER DIRECTORY

Clinch Mountain Militia	Tazewell area
Colonel Fielding Lewis	Virginia's Eastern Piedmont Region
Colonel George Waller	Martinsville area
Colonel James Wood, Jr.	Northwest Virginia
Colonel William Grayson	Prince William County area
Culpeper Minute Men	Virginia's Central Piedmont area
Dan River	Danville area
Fairfax Resolves	Fairfax County
Fincastle Resolutions	Roanoke Valley area
Fort Harrison	Harrisonburg area
General Daniel Morgan	Staunton area
General William Campbell	Abingdon area
George Mason	Arlington County
George Washington	Alexandria
James Monroe	Upper Northern Neck
Lieutenant David Cox	Galax/Independence
Martin's Station	Cumberland Gap
New River Valley	New River Valley area
Norfolk	Norfolk/Virginia Beach area
Overmountain Men	Gate City
Richmond	Richmond/Petersburg
Rockbridge Volunteers	Lexington
Richard Henry Lee	Lower Northern Neck
Thomas Jefferson	Charlottesville
Thomas Nelson, Jr.	Newport News/Hampton/Yorktown
Williamsburg	Williamsburg

## NATIONAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES SLATE FOR 2009-2010

Three members of the Virginia Society, one primary and two dual, were among those named by the National Nominating Committee following interviews and deliberation during the Spring Trustees Meeting in Louisville on March 7.

### PRESIDENT GENERAL

Judge Edward F. Butler - Dual - Culpeper Minute Men - Virginia  
 Secretary General - I. Barnett "Barney" Ellis - Kansas  
 Treasurer General - Larry J. Magerkurth - Dual - At-Large Virginia  
 Chancellor General - James Say - Illinois  
 Genealogist General - Joseph W. Dooley - George Mason - Virginia  
 Registrar General - Steve Leishman - Delaware  
 Historian General - Lindsey Brock - Florida  
 Librarian General - Miles K. Dechant - Pennsylvania  
 Surgeon General - Dr. Lee C. Clark - Maryland  
 Chaplain General - Rev. A. Clark Wiser - North Carolina