

Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution

2010-11 Volume XXXIV No. 3

Leland-Madison Religious Freedom Program – Orange County – September 18







More than 40 people, 12 Chapters and two other Societies attended the special Leland-Madison Program to learn from James Madison how he came to meet with Elder John Leland in 1788 to discuss adding Freedom of Religion to what would become known as the Bill of Rights. Above (L-R) James Madison, VASSAR President Bob Bowen, and Past VASSAR President James Bayne and VASSAR Chaplain Nick Minich, program organizers.



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President Bob Bowen

The Virginia Society showed its true colors this year by becoming the first and only state society to record a 100% response to the national society's drive to have all state societies and chapters donate to the Center for Advancing America's Heritage. All 26 of our Chapters answered the challenge as well as your state society. Every Chapter received a special national donor streamer for their flag along with a certificate of recognition. In addition, a special VASSAR streamer was awarded each Chapter, compliments of an appreciative Society President.

Your Society also brought credit to its members by winning the Jersey Devil Plaque for attendance at the Atlantic Middle States Conference in August. It was the sixth straight year that Virginia has won the award. And, not to be outdone by Virginia Chapters, when President General David Sympson and CAAH Capital Campaign Chairman Sam Powell laid down a donation challenge, VASSAR delegates quickly responded. No other Society met the challenge.

On July 24, I was privileged to represent you at the annual Fort Laurens Commemorative program. Fort Laurens is located in the present-day town of Bolivar, Ohio. A siege and ensuing battle there in 1779 by a Britishled Indian force was the first battle action of the Revolutionary War recorded in what is now Ohio. At the time of the encounter the territory was part of Virginia. The 13th Virginia Regiment under the command of Col. John Gibson and a small force of Pennsylvania troops, were manning the fort.

I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting in February.

15,939 miles to date and counting



A highlight of the Semi-Annual Meeting in Winchester was the presentation of a special streamer to fifteen Chapters and the State Society for attending the special Plaque in the Valley program near Raphine in May. (See AWARDS on page 6)

VASSAR Semi-Annual – Winchester – September 10-11

More than 70 Compatriots, representing 18 Chapters, traveled to Winchester over the weekend of September 10-11 to attend the 2010 Semi-Annual Meeting. The local Colonel James Wood II Chapter was our host and the visitors could not have asked for better accommodations, a better planned conference, better speakers, or a better watering hole and Smörgåsbord following the Board of Manager's Meeting on Friday. The Saturday Luncheon was equally well received. "Jimmy II" can put a well-deserved feather in its cap.

For the first time in memory, the VASSAR Nominating Committee presented its nominees for state officers to serve in 2011-2012. They are: Mark Brennan, President; Phil Williams, President-elect; Kent Webber, 2nd Vice President; Bill Broadus, 3rd Vice President; Bob Carr, Secretary; Rick Elofson, Treasurer; Walt Sheffield, Chancellor; Brent Morgan, Registrar; Larry Aaron, Historian; Reverend Cannon Henry Minich, Chaplain; Dr. White "Ken" Wallenborn, Surgeon. Bob Bowen was endorsed to serve as Virginia's National Trustee and Mark Brennan was endorsed to serve as Alternate Trustee. Larry McKinley was endorsed to serve as Vice President General of the Mid-Atlantic District, and Joe Dooley was endorsed to serve as Treasurer General.







(L-R) Brett Osborn and Becky Ebert presented a skit to let the delegates know about Col. James Wood II. Larry Aaron presented a very informed talk on the Retreat to the Dan River on Valentine's Day 1781. And, Michael Foreman explained the relationship between Winchester and Gen. Dan Morgan, who made the town his home while a young man.



Timothy Murphy by Bud Disney James Monroe Chapter

Tim Murphy was born in the Delaware Water Gap region of Pennsylvania 1751 of Irish parents, Thomas and Mary Murphy. They had emigrated from Donegal County, Ireland shortly before he was born. Many Irish immigrants left Ireland's intolerable conditions set upon them by the British, and migrated to the American Colonies. In the American Revolution they were to face their oppressors as members of the Continental Army with a vengeance.

Tim Murphy was not an immigrant, but the negative feeling of terrible treatment received from their British rulers, their hatred was passed on to young Murphy. Tim Murphy hated all things British.

The Murphy's moved to Sunbury, Pennyslavania when Tim was eight years old. Sometime later he was apprenticed to the Van Camp family. Tim moved with the Van Camp's to Wyoming County, in western Pennsylvania. This was the hostile and dangerous frontier region.

His youth was spent in the woods, learning survival, living off of the land. His senses were honed keen and he had a sharp eye for games and protection from wild animals and Indians. He was an experienced hunter with a rifle, a knife and a tomahawk. Tim was 5 feet 6 to 9 inches tall, a wiry 160 pounds in weight, with olive skin, all muscle. He was fleet of foot, quick, fast like a rabbit. Eyes like an eagle, deadly with a rifle, a genuine sharpshooter.

At the news of Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts, Murphy enlisted in the Northumberland, Pennsylvania Militia. They marched to Boston without hesitating.

The British forces were under a siege by the American Rebel Army. Murphy's weapon, as many of the Frontiersmen, was a Kentucky Rifle, custom made by a gunsmith. The Frontiersmen wore different attire than the average colonial man. The frontiersmen wore long shirts, known as frocks. They stood out when grouped with the Continental Army members or local Militia.

Tim Murphy was especially obvious because of his Kentucky rifle, which had groves in the barrel which the lead bullet followed, resulting in a spinning action that provided a more accurate projectile. Murphy's Rifle was eye catching, with a double barrel, over and under. According to Murphy, when you are fighting Indians, they often travel in twos. If you fire and kill one, you would never have a opportunity to reload. But, the second barrel is like insurance against his partner. Murphy could hit a man from a distance of more than 200 yards, closer to 700 plus feet with deadly accuracy!

In August 1775, Doctor James Thatcher wrote of these frontiersmen: Remarkably stout and hardy men, many of them 6 feet tall, they dress in white frocks or rife shirts, wear round hats, with a colorful feathers.

A story of Murphy's prowess is typical of the man. The siege of Boston began after the battle of Bunker Hill, the Continental Army was formed, and George Washington was commissioned General of the Army. In the meantime, cannons from Fort Ticonderoga were transport from there in an almost impossible mission. The British were in a bad situation, because of the topography of Boston. There were cliffs nearly surrounded the city, some 200 feet high. The Continental Army had Boston cutoff and now with cannons to wreak havoc on the British.

The British sent out a scow boat filled with British sailors and several soldiers, marking the channels with buoys or markers. The rowed along, doing their work, thinking that they were safe from any fire by the Rebels, dropped anchor.

Tim Murphy left the camp climbed down the cliffs. Carrying his rifle, with gunpowder and ammunition, and found a perfect place to observe and shoot.

The British, looking up towards the top of the cliffs, perhaps one half mile away from the Americans up on high ground, felt completely safe and secure.

Murphy began firing, He hit one of them, shot again another crumpled down into the boat. The crew tried to pull up the anchor, Murphy, if it was Murphy, kept shooting. Now, they could not drop the anchor for fear of getting shot, the wind and tide moved them toward shore. He fired until he ran out of powder or shot and left. It was noticed that when the scow made it back to shore, there were numerous stretchers to take the dead and wounded back to the safety of their base.

Tim Murphy fought with General Washington through the "Times that try men's souls" at Trenton and Princeton and with Gen. Dan Morgan at Saratoga. He wintered with the Continental Army through the frozen, cold winter at Morristown.

The Saratoga Man, General Washington forms the Continental Army, Captain Daniel Morgan's Sharpshooters

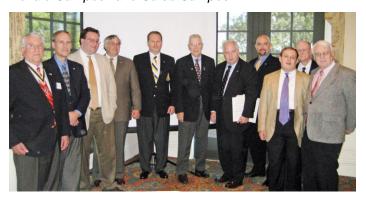
CHAPTER NEWS





Martin Station

Martin's Station Chapter conducted a grave marking ceremony on Aug 14 in memory of Captain David Chadwell. Chadwell is buried at Brest Works Cemetery in Tazewell, Tennessee. He served as a Captain during the Revolutionary War. He went into service in 1775 in Pittsylvania County, Virginia and by 1779, was named Captain. In Lee County, Chadwell Station was named for him. He is the pioneer ancestor of many Lee County residents. Joining the Martin's Station Chapter were members of the Major George Gibson Chapter and Kentucky Path Chapter of the DAR. Those in attendance included Donnie and Charlotte Brooks, Ronnie Brooks, Frankie Brooks, Eric Brooks, Agnes Marcum, Linda Lawson, Bill and Andrea Cheak, Margaret Bull, Doug Lewis, Chapter President Tom Coker, George Coker, Donald Campbell and Caleb Campbell.



George Washington

In what may be the George Washington Chapter's largest induction ceremony ever, eleven new members were inducted at the Chapter's September 18 luncheon meeting. From (L-R) Chapter President Bob Carr and new members Scott Wagoner, Andrew McDonald, William Arnhart; Dwight Whitney; Richard Seesholtz; Ernest Coggins, Jr., Leyton Pitzer, Steven Pruitt, Jack Pitzer; and Donald Pruitt. Not shown, Matthew Phillips.



Williamsburg

Williamsburg Chapter President Ben Fegan recently presented SAR Medical Emergency Service medals and certificates to six local firefighters. Several months ago the rapid response and actions of York County and James City County Emergency Medical Services trained firefighters saved the life of retired Navy Captain Bill Smith. Smith was leaving the YMCA after completing his routine fitness session when he collapsed. The quick response and combination of life saving procedures administered was credited by Smiths' doctors as literally bringing him back to life. (L-R) David Belvin Jr., Laura Rondeau, Garry Corker Sr., Navy Capt. Smith, Wade Dunlapand Ben Fegan. Front Row: Robert Mintern and Edgar Williams.



Fincastle Resolutions

The Fincastle Resolutions Chapter conducted a field trip in July which included visits to the Botetourt County Courthouse Clerk's Office (above) and a site near Daleville where the Chapter has been working for more than a decade to erect a monument to Col. William Preston. At the Court House, Clerk Tommy Moore gave an overview of County history and showed some historic documents that are safely preserved in his office. The Chapter also visited the Fincastle Museum, the Episcopal Church, the Presbyterian Church, and one of the historic residences in the town.

Semi-Annual Personal Awards



Silver Color Guard Medals were presented to (L-R) Dennis Fritts, Allen Brahin and Rob Andrews.



Former VASSAR President Trice Taylor received a national-level Meritorious Service Medal.



Steve Bush was awarded the Liberty Medal for recruiting excellence.



James Madison Medals went to Ralph Pierce and Steve Bush of the Col. James Wood II Chapter and Don Philen of the Lt. David Cox Chapter



President Bowen presented Dolley Madison Certificates of Appreciation to three VASSAR Ladies for their work at the Annual Congress in Cleveland. The Virginia Ladies, and others, prepared 50 packages of comfort items and food for our troops in Afghanistan. (L-R) Sharon Morgan, Julia Carr, and Helen Bowen.



President Bowen presented Color Guard Commander Rob Andrews a certificate and star to add to the State's Admiral Furlong streamer, indicative of Virginia earned its ninth consecutive Furlong Award.



The Col. James Wood II Chapter was presented a Certificate of Appreciation recognition of the superb job done in hoisting the 2010 VASSAR Semi-Annual Conference. The Certificate was accepted by Chapter President Ralph Pierce.





David M. Walker-Immediate Past President of VASSAR's George Washington Chapter.

New York, N.Y. -- The Peter G. Peterson Foundation (PGPF) announced today that President and Chief Executive Officer, David M. Walker, has left the Foundation to launch a new initiative focused on promoting and achieving specific fiscal solutions. The new organization will be entitled the Comeback America Initiative (CAI). Walker will serve as the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of CAI, which has received a three-year grant from PGPF and will engage the public and promote fiscal solutions, including those outlined in Walker's book, Comeback America: Turning the Country Around and Restoring Fiscal Responsibility.

"Dave Walker has been a Paul Revere on the unsustainable fiscal outlook for our country. He has done a first rate job of getting our Foundation off to a fast start and raising awareness of the critical need for fiscal responsibility"

Walker said, "It has been a privilege to work directly with Pete Peterson, and I highly value my relationship and experience with my colleagues at the Peter G. Peterson Foundation. With a report from the President's commission to be released in December, the next three years represent a critical time for our country's fiscal future and I am excited to be able to devote more time and energy into engaging the public regarding my potential specific and action-oriented solutions to our nation's fiscal challenges. I look forward to launching the Comeback America Initiative as a means to engage Americans and assist key policymakers in making government more futurefocused, results-oriented, responsive, efficient, equitable and sustainable.

JRTOC Awards

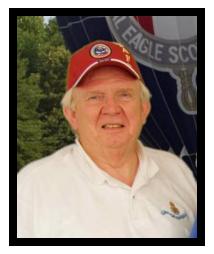
By Don Kraft

The George Washington Chapter has presented certificates and medals to JROTC cadets at five local high schools. A sixth high school is scheduled to include a JROTC program this fall. Chapter JROTC Awards Coordinator Brigadier General Paul D. Wagoner, USAF (retired), commented on the accomplishments of these fine young Americans. Cadet First Lieutenant Nicolas Laffosse, a rising senior at Fairfax County's Lake Braddock High School, has a 4.2 Grade Point Average and is an All Conference Varsity Swimmer, an Eagle Scout and Senior Patrol Leader. Further, Cadet Laffosse was selected to participate in the West Point Spring and Summer Leadership Seminars and plans to attend West Point after graduation. This was Lake Braddock High School's first year with a JROTC program.

Other cadets receiving awards for 2010 are: First Sergeant Nijee Taylor of Thomas Edison High School; First Sergeant Anthony Rossi of Hayfield High School; Sergeant Major Kaleb Madison of Mount Vernon High School; and Major Eric Williams of T. C. Williams High School. Cadet Donell Sniper of West Potomac High School will receive his award in November.



In August, Genealogist General Joe Dooley presented a National SAR Patriotic Leadership Certificate to Sloan Gibson, President of the United Service Organization (USO).



Arthur D. Batten

Arthur D. Batten passed away on Aug. 5, 2010, at his home. He is survived by his wife, Ann Marie; his son, Mark; his son, Christopher and wife, Laura; and his granddaughter, Fiona.

Arthur was born on May 2, 1944, in Manchester, N.H. He earned a BA from St. Michael's College, Vt., an MEd from the University of Southern California, and an MBA from Golden Gate University.

He was an Electronic Warfare Officer for the U.S. Air Force, flying 100 combat missions in Vietnam. He retired with the rank of Major in 1987. Since 1993, he had worked for the Virginia Employment Commission, and at the time of his death was serving as manager of the Virginia Workforce Center in Williamsburg.

A passionate and lifelong member of the Boy Scouts of America, Arthur received his Eagle Scout award in 1962. He served more than 25 years in various adult leadership. His service was recognized with numerous awards including the prestigious Silver Beaver award in 1996.

Arthur served as President of the Williamsburg Chapter, Virginia Society President, National Society Trustee, and National Eagle Scout Committee Chairman and had been awarded the Patriot Medal. He was a member and Virginia state president for both the Order of the Founders & Patriots of America, and the Sons & Daughters of the Pilgrims.

Bragging About Mom

by VASSAR Chancellor Walt Sheffield



Walt Sheffield and sisters Dr. Polly Roberts and Courtney Lou Tierney with their favorite "DAR Daughter" and Mom, Betty Lou Bailey

I had dinner with my mother (Betty Lou Bailey) last night, She told me the Regent of the Frances Bland Randolph Chapter, NSDAR, in Petersburg had called her. My mother's family is from Petersburg where I was born. She was born in Folly Castle, the oldest home in the Cockade City, which was built by one of my father's ancestors, Peter Jones, whose great-grand father, Peter Jones, founded Petersburg.)

The regent told Mom that she wants to deliver a certificate recognizing her SIXTY-FIVE YEARS as a member of the FBR chapter! (Mom had been a member of the C.A.R. in Petersburg from her early childhood before "flying up.") Her mother and grandmother had been Regents of that Chapter, as well.)

So,.....there you have it,....bald-faced bragging about Mumsie!

2011 VASSAR Annual Meeting

February 25-27
The Holiday Inn Koger
Conference Center
Richmond, VA

PATRIOTISM PRACTICED IN REMEMBRANCE OF SEPTEMBER 11TH AT ST VERONICA



PHOTO BY HOLLY SCHMIDT

Fairfax Resolves Chapter President Jack Sweeney presents an SAR Flag Certificate to Father Edward Charles Hathaway of Saint Veronica High school in Northern Virginia during a special Mass of Remembrance of remember events of September 11, 2001.

Since many of the children were too young to remember the specific events, Father Edward Charles Hathaway spoke on the virtues of justice, religion and patriotism. As a fitting demonstration of patriotism, the Fairfax Resolves Chapter presented St Veronica School with a Flag Certificate in recognition of their proper display of the American Flag at the school. Father Hathaway was then inducted as a Compatriot of the Fairfax Resolves Chapter. Parishioner Bill Price introduced Father Hathaway to the SAR, and Father Hathaway was admitted as a proven descendant of Erastus Hathaway of Vermont.



Members of the Virginia Society attended the 100th Anniversary Boy Scout Jamboree at Ft. A. P. Hill on July 30. (L-R) VASSAR Eagle Scout Chairman Lance Lyngar, President Bowen, and Jim Mitchell with National Eagle Scout Chairman Rex Legler.



Certificates of recognition and streamers were during the regularly scheduled meeting of the Lt. David Cox Chapter on August 7. (L-R) VASSAR President Bob Bowen, New River Valley Chapter President Clay Bane; Gen. William Campbell Vice President Joe Alexander; Bill Cheak of the Martin's Station Chapter, and Lt. David Cox Chapter President Charles Crockett.



Sgt. George Southard of the Warrenton Police Department was presented the SAR Law Enforcement Medal during the Culpeper Minute Men Chapter's annual community awards meeting held this year at the Inn at Kelley's Ford. (L-R) Mrs. Southard and the two Southard boys, Police Chief Connie Novak, Sgt. Southard, Awards Chairman Francis Lay and Chapter President Gar Schulin.



The Virginia Society was well represented by primary and dual members at the 230th Anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain in South Carolina on October 7.



Fort Laurens

Compatriots from throughout the northeastern sector of the country gathered in Bolivar, Ohio on July 24 to commemorate the 231st anniversary of the siege and battle of Ft. Laurens, the only Revolutionary War battle fought in present day Ohio. VASSAR President Bob Bowen and Genealogist General Joe Dooley represented the Old Dominion.



Fort Laurens was built in 1778 and defended by members of the 13th Virginia Regiment and a small contingent of the 8th Pennsylvania Regiment. It was under the command of Col. John Gibson.

(Left) President Bowen presents the VASSAR wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Fort.



Compatriots from throughout the country gathered at Tu Endie Wei State Park in West Virginia in October to commemorate 236th anniversary of the Battle of Point Pleasant. VASSAR representatives included President Bob Bowen, Genealogist General Joe Dooley, Color Guard Commander Rib Andrews, Peter Davenport and Vern Eubanks.



Rockbridge Volunteers Chapter President Col. Richard Weede was presented a Bronze Good Citizenship Medal at the Chapter's monthly meeting in September. President Bowen recognized Weede for his work with a paralyzed veteran of the Iraq War during a turkey hunt in Texas.



Gold Good Citizenship Medal to be presented to Gen. Peter Pace, USMC

General Peter Pace, the first Marine to serve as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will receive the SAR Gold Good Citizenship Medal during ceremonies at the Belle Haven Country Club in Alexandria on January 8. Details for this black tie dinner program are being firmed and will be distributed soon. Please mark your calendars and make early plans to attend.

Fall Trustees and Leadership Meeting

September 23-26



Virginia Society Compatriots and their wives attended the Friday Night Banquet on the eve of the dedication of Phase #1 of the Center for Advancing America's Heritage. (L-R) VASSAR President Bob & Helen Bowen; President General Bruce and Theresa Wilcox (2007-08); Jack and Jennifer London of the DC Society; George Washington Chapter President Bob and Julia Carr; VASSAR Secretary Bill Broadus; former VASSAR President Tom Burch.





President General Dave Sympson holds the ceremonial "Key to the Building" following dedication ceremonies for Phase #1 of the new Center for Advancing America's Heritage.





National Color Guard Commander and Genealogist General Joe Dooley and National Sojourner President-elect Bill and Patti Turner





National Trustee Andy Johnson and Treasurer General Steve Leishman.



President General Larry and Betty McClanahan (2001-02).



President General Ed & Robin Butler (2009-10).



Secretary General Larry and Barbara Magerkurth.



Registrar General Lindsey and Billie Brock.

VASSAR Receives \$50,000 Challenge to raise funds for the Center for Advancing America's Heritage.

There was "standing room only" when Phase #1 of the new Center for Advancing America's Heritage was dedicated on September 25. That phase included the library, genealogy staff, registrar staff and merchandising. Phase #2, to be started and completed as soon as the necessary funds have been obtained, will include the headquarters admin staff, museum and remainder of the Center for Advancing America's Heritage.

How can you help?

One way would be to climb onboard the challenge response train the Virginia Society is organizing to answer a \$50K challenge laid down by one of our dual members.

The form to use to make your pledge can be found on the VASSAR Website www.sar.org/vassar. Print a copy of the donor form. Fill out the form and return it, with your contribution, to the address at the bottom of the form. Donations received using this special donor form will be credited to the challenge, and to your personal giving account. It will count towards pledges you have made in the past and be used to determine any medals and lapel pins you might be qualified for.

The \$50K challenge donation will be credited to the VASSAR account. The full amount received will go towards meeting Virginia's contribution goal of \$250 per member.

Please do your part. My \$1000 check in response to this challenge was sent October 25.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Semper Fi - Bob Bowen, President Virginia Society, SAR



Atlantic Middle States Conference - Philadelphia, PA

August 13-14

VASSAR Compatriots in attendance at the Saturday Night Banquet. Front Row (L-R) Treasurer General Steve Leishman; Secretary General Larry Magerkurth; President General Dave and Evelyn Sympson; VASSAR President Bob Bowen Genealogist General Joe Dooley. Back row (L-R) George Washington Chapter President Bob Carr; GASSAR President Mike Tomme; VASSAR Secretary Bill Broadus; President General Bruce Wilcox (2007-08); former VASSAR President Larry McKinley; Registrar General Lindsey Brock and former VASSAR President Trice Taylor. .President-elect Mark Brennan attended but left before the group photo was taken.





One of the highlights of the two-day conference was Virginia receiving her sixth consecutive Jersey Devil Award from Mid-Atlantic District Vice President General Davis Wright. The plaque goes to the State Society with the most conferees based on a formula that takes into account the distance between the host city and the State Capitol of the six participating State Societies. The focal point of the conference was a visit to Independence Hall Saturday afternoon, following a business meeting and lunch at City Tavern earlier that day.





Yorktown Day

October 19



VASSAR President Bob Bowen leads the joint SAR Color Guard down the Main Street of Yorktown during the parade that draws on military high school and patriotic organizations from throughout the east coast.



The VASSAR Color Guard stood tall during the annual wreath laying service at the grave of Governor Thomas Nelson, Jr., at the Grace Episcopal Church.





President Bowen presented the VASSAR wreath and delivered a eulogy honoring Governor Nelson.

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



The Col. William Grayson Chapter marked the grave of Joseph Simms following its Chapter meeting on October 9. (L-R) VASSAR Graves Chairman Mike Lyman, CWG Chapter President Bill Broadus, program coordinator Thad Hartman, VASSAR President Bob Bowen and Chapter President-elect Bill Collier.