

Vol. 12, No 5

Fall 2017

**Next membership Meeting
TBD
Next EC Meeting—TBD**

Welcome Transfer/New Associate

Welcome to Associate **Richard Holmes Knight, JR.**, of Tennessee

VA Number 251 Order number 5782

Founder: Edwin Conway at Northampton Co., VA

Patriot: Catlett Conway of Orange Co., VA

Welcome to the best OFPA Society. We all look forward to meeting/seeing you at our next meeting.

Notes from the October 19, 2017 meeting:

Deputy Governor Walt Sheffield summarized the project plans for year 2019 with regards to the OFPA General Court being held in Virginia and it will be merged with the Jamestown 2019 extensive celebrations and/or festivities planned for 2019. Walt will be coordinating year 2019 events with the OFPA General Court officials along with Ben Fegan of our Virginia Society. Year 2019 marks the 400th anniversary of four (4) significant events which occurred in Jamestown namely:

1. In April 1619 Virginia's new Governor, George Yeardley, arrived to take his post as newly appointed governor of Virginia. His mandate was to implement new instruction/reforms which would reorganize the Virginia Company's activities in the colony and organize the first representative assembly in North America to include 22 delegates or "Burgesses" representing each of the towns or plantations. This new assembly became the "House of Burgesses."

2. On July 20, 1619, the General Assembly of the Colony of Virginia, the first representative assembly in English America (House of Burgesses) met in the church at Jamestown until August 4, 1619.
3. In 1619-1620 approximately 90 women arrived in Virginia to supplement those already in the colony, and to serve as wives for the planters. About 50 more women arrived in 1621; and
4. In August of 1619 the first recorded Africans (as slaves) arrived in Jamestown.

Tentatively the plan is for the attendees to check-in at the Omni Richmond Hotel in Richmond, Virginia.

The general Court and the VA society will participate in the reburial of a *Founder*, at Two Rivers Country Club located at Williamsburg, VA. Two Rivers Country Club is located 7 miles up river from Jamestown.

If you recall, the VA OFPA conducted a reburial of a *Founder* at that location, on April 2, 2016. At that time, remains of an additional *Founder* were still being examined by the Smithsonian Institute and those remains are expected to be returned (for burial) by the OFPA General Court session in 2019.

Secretary Doug Graves reported we had one Youth Associate eligible for full Associate Membership as of July 4, 2017 (he turned 18 years of age). His name is Zachary Nolan Hall. And, at the last EC meeting (July 23, 2017) a vote was taken and unanimous approval was obtained to allow him full Associate status. FYI-Zach is the fourth Youth Associate in 2017 to request, and obtained, full Associate membership.

Amendment to the Virginia Society By-Laws

Section III: Meetings and Order of Business was discussed. The proposed amendment would allow more flexibility as to the dates selected for the required two business meeting each year. Proposed amendment would allow the Governor or his representative and with approval of the Executive Council to move the business meetings four weeks forward or backward. The EC voted and passed it and at the October 2017 membership meeting— a vote was taken, as required by our by-laws, and it was passed. The *final vote*, as required by our By-Laws, will be in March 2018 at our next business meeting.

The **Louisiana State Society amendment** to the General Order By-laws was discussed and passed by unanimous vote. Brief overview of the proposed amendment is as follows: Due to declining membership in the Order, the amendment was created as a means to hopefully provide incentives to attract new members (as Associate-at-Large) – where potential candidates for membership may not have a state Society to apply to or they not wish to become a member of a State Society. The Amendments had unanimous approval at the General Court this past May. (Editor note—It is my understanding that all but one society has now approved the amendment. I believe a few details still need to be worked out concerning the amount of the required dues.)

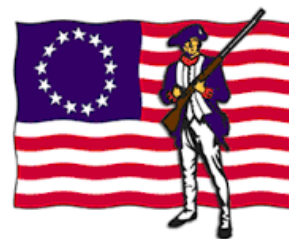
GG Warren advised that a number of state societies are failing. No one within these failing societies are willing to “accept leadership positions” with the end result being they lack organization and subsequently fail!

Editor comment—A rough estimate is that 20% of OFPA Societies have failed or are failing at this time. I will not speculate as to where I believe the leadership problem lies. Obviously Associates within each Society

need to step up but why don't they want to step up? That is the question that needs to be answered. Or is this entire downturn merely a reflection of the downturn in ALL heredity societies? People want to see accomplishments in organizations in which they belong, at all levels.

On Thursday October 19, 2017, Virginia Society OFPA members marched in the parade at the Yorktown Day festivities. The Virginia Society banner was proudly displayed along the entire parade route. A photograph, with names of the Virginia Society Associates and their guests, is shown below.

(l-r) Associate Mike Weyler, Angel Robertson (guest), Don Smith (SAR-guest), Governor Shane Newcombe, James Russell (SAR guest), and former Governor Mike Lyman.



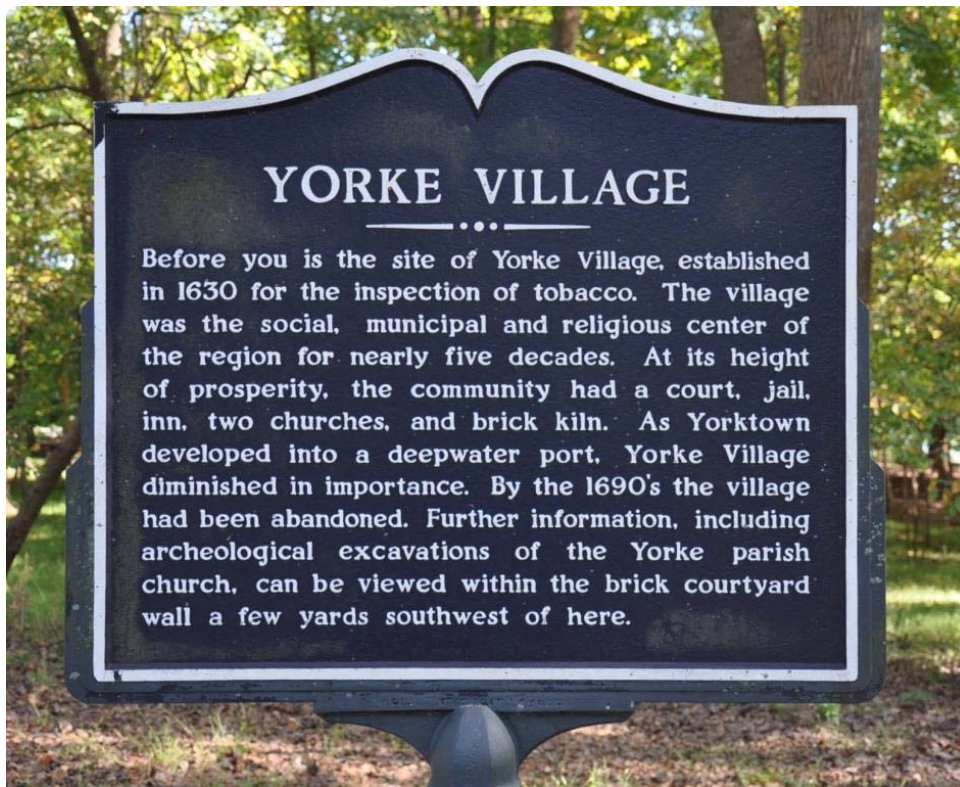
THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY
of The Order of the Founders and Patriots of America

On October 19, 2017 Virginia Society Associates gathered at the burial site of *Founder* Major William Gooch located at the York Village Archeological Site in Yorktown, Virginia. We gathered to present the Virginia Society wreath, as well as the General Order wreath, honoring the tomb of Major William Gooch.

The burial site is located on the United States Coast Guard Training Facility located just a short distance south of Yorktown, Va. There, the burial site is more specifically located on the Yorke Village Archeological site.

A total of eight (8) individuals (Associates and guests) attended this very solemn event. Governor Shane Newcombe presented the Virginia Society wreath and Deputy Governor Walt Sheffield, acting in his role as Councilor General, presented the OFPA General Society wreath.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

(l-r): Governor Shane Newcombe, Angel Robertson (guest), former Virginia Society Governor Jerry Hubbard, Councilor General Walt Sheffield, Associate Mike Weyler, former Virginia Society Governor Mike Lyman, and Secretary Doug Graves. Not in the photograph- Katherine Weyler.



Grave Stone and burial site of Major William Gooch
Major William Gooch Tomb and York Village Archeological Site

Birth: 1626, England
Death: Oct. 29, 1655
Yorktown
York County
Virginia, USA

The following is a historical summary of Founder Major William Gooch

Born in Lincolnshire, England in 1625, Gooch settled in Yorke Village with his wife, Ann (Goodwin). They had one child, named Ann for her mother. Major Gooch served as a Justice of the Peace and was a member of the House of Burgesses, representing York, from 1652 until 1655. On March 31, 1655, he was made Councilor by the General Assembly. However, his life was cut short (for reasons unknown) on October 29, 1655. He was the brother of Henry Gooch and the presumed uncle of 18th century acting governor of the Virginia Colony, Sir William Gooch, who served from 1727 to 1749. This is where the (somewhat credible) facts about Major Gooch's life end.

Gooch served as a Justice of the Peace and a Member of the House of Burgesses from York County. He was also appointed to the Governor's Council shortly before his death.

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His tombstone is the second eldest legible tombstone inscription to survive in Virginia. According to the George P. Coleman Bridge York River Crossing Study, York/Gloucester Counties: Environmental Impact Study (1990) lists Major Gooch's limestone slab as the *first* documented decorated tombstone in the English Colonies

The William Gooch Tomb and the York Village Archeological Site is a historic site located near Yorktown, York County, Virginia. It is the site of York Village established on the York River near Wormley Creek before 1635. A church was constructed at York about 1638. In 1655, Maj. William Gooch, uncle of Sir William Gooch, 1st Baronet, was buried within the church walls. His armorial slab is one of the oldest interpretable tombstones in Virginia. The village was abandoned by the end of the 18th century. The site is located on the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve Training Center and marked by a small park.

His Tombstone reads:

"Major William Gooch of this Parish
Dyed October 29 1655

With in this tomb there doth interred lie no shape but substance true nobility it self though young in
yeares just twenty-nine yet grac'd with vertues morall and divine The church from him did good partic-
ipate in cousell rare fit to adorn a state [sic]"

On Thursday October 19, 2017, Virginia Society OFPA members, along with Governor General Warren, presented a Virginia Society wreath and an OFPA Order wreath at Grace Episcopal Church located in Yorktown, Virginia. Both wreaths were placed at the gravesite of Patriot--Brigadier General Thomas Nelson Jr.



Nelson was appointed Colonel of the 2nd Virginia Infantry Regiment. In mid-1775 he was elected to fill George Washington's seat in the Second Continental Congress when Washington left to assume command of the Continental Army. And on June 12, 1781, Nelson was elected to succeed Thomas Jefferson as Governor of Virginia and was instrumental in the defeat of Cornwallis at Yorktown, on October 19, 1781.

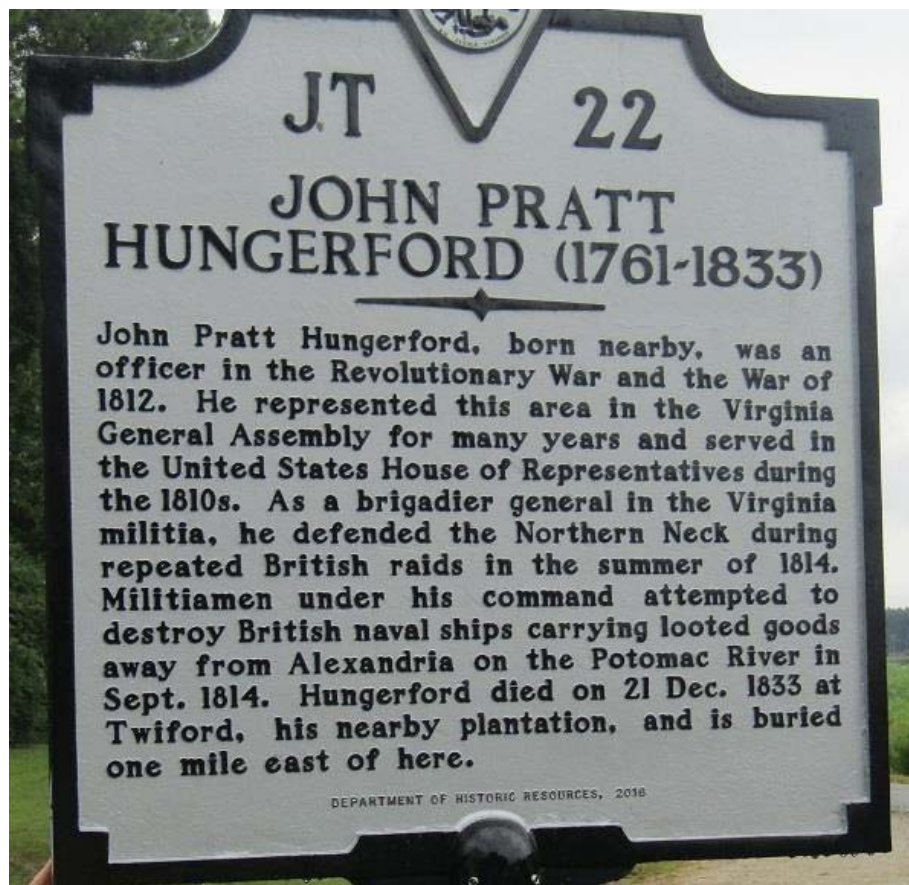
(l-r) Governor General Dan Warren, Associate Mike Weyler, Angel Robertson (guest), Governor Shane Newcombe, and former Governor Mike Lyman. Not in the photograph was Deputy Governor Walt Sheffield.

On August 12, 2017 former Virginia Society Governor, Mike Lyman, participated in the dedication of a Virginia Historical Highway Marker ceremony. The event was located at the entrance to the Leedstown Campground on the Rappahannock River in Leedstown Westmoreland County, Virginia.

The program was conducted by the officers and members of The Society of the War of 1812 in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Additional organizations involved were the James Monroe Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution using the Knight Patty Fund, and the Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution (VASSAR). The Virginia Historical Highway Marker sign was authorized by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and was sponsored by the Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Society.

Former VA Society Governor Lyman presented the Virginia Society OFPA wreath, led the guests in the Pledge of Allegiance, and was a "guest speaker."

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Below are representatives from the various organizations, in front of the dedicated Virginia Department of Historic Resources Historical Highway Marker.

Former Governor Mike Lyman is on the far right, in period dress



2018 Dues notices have been mailed out.

Please return your dues to Shane promptly.

Thank you.



Above—Monument commemorating the Battle of Yorktown.

Below—Past Governor Jerry Hubbard is giving a talk on the “*Colonial Sheriffs* of Culpeper County, Virginia.”



Ancestor Memorials

Associate-James M. Bayne
Founder-William Hatcher
Patriot-Edward Hatcher

Associate-A. Brian Cowardin
Founder-Peter Cowardine
Patriot-John Cowardine

Associate-L. Taylor Cowardin
Founder-Peter Cowardine
Patriot-John Cowardine

Associate-Asa Wesley Graves, VI
Founder-Thomas Graves
Patriot-Thomas Graves

Associate-Douglas M. Graves
Founder-Thomas Graves
Patriot-John Graves
Patriot-Thomas Graves

Associate-Michael T. Halterman
Founder-Christopher Wadsworth
Patriot-Joseph Wadsworth

Associate-Liam Jackson Hubbard
Founder-George Hubbard
Patriot-Peter Hubbard

Associate-Roger P. Jones
Founder-Rev. Richard Jones
Patriot-Peter Jones

Associate-George W.B. Elder
Founder-Robert Abernathy
Patriot-John Abernathy

Associate-Myron "Mike" E. Lyman
Founder-Richard Lyman
Patriot-Ozias Lyman

Associate-Eugene A. Walker
Founder-Capt. Samuel Walker
Patriot-Sgt. Timothy Walker

Associate-Cranston Williams, Jr.
Founder-Ambrose Cobbs
Founder-Robert Cobbs
Associate-Cranston Williams, Jr.
Patriot-Capt. Robert Lewis Cobbs

Associate-Lewis Turner Cowardin, II
Founder-Peter Cowardine
Patriot-John Cowardine

Associate-Zachary N. Hall
Founder-Thomas Graves
Patriot-John Graves
Patriot-Thomas Graves

Associate-Christopher L. Hubbard
Founder-George Hubbard
Patriot-Peter Hubbard

Associate-Donnel J. Hubbard
Founder-George Hubbard
Patriot-Peter Hubbard

Associate-Walter Jervis Sheffield
Founder-Col. Robert Wynne, II
Patriot-John Winn and son Peter Winn

Associate-Asa Wesley Graves, VIII
Founder-Thomas Graves
Patriot-Thomas Graves

Associate-Robert S. Marks
Founder-Robert Abernathy
Patriot-John Abernathy

Associate-Hugh E. Fraser, III
Founder-John Barker
Patriot-Henry Barker, Jr.

Associate-Asa Wesley Graves, VII
Founder-Thomas Graves
Patriot-Thomas Graves

Associate-James Lewis Wheeler
Founder-George Wheeler and son William
Patriot-Sgt. Timothy Wheeler, Sr.

Associate-Charles B. Fegan
Founder – Robert Moulton & son Robert Moulton
Patriot – Freeborn Moulton
Elijah Moulton

Associate-Wade Howard Osborne Kirby
Founder - Thomas Kirby
Patriot - Captain William Kirby

Associate-Charles Edward Phebus
Founder - Gov. Leonard Calvert
Patriot - Obediah Calvert

Associate—Jeffrey Dean Thomas
Founder - Thomas Burton
Patriot - Joseph Burton

(Continued on the following page)

Ancestor Memorials

(Continued)

Associate– Walter A. Sheffield
Founder– Col. Robert Wynne, II
Patriot– John Winn, Sr. & son Peter Winn

Associate–Robert B. Kendall
Founder–Francis Kendall
Patriot–Josiah Kendall

Please Remember

VA OFPA has several wreaths, a parade banner and an OFPA flag which can be used by any VA OFPA Associate at an event. It is a good way to let people know you are an OFPA member. And, the VA OFPA has two magnetic signs that can be placed on cars if you are in a parade that allows autos. Contact Bob and Vicki Kendall. (email next column)

If you participate in an activity where you are identified as an OFPA Associate, please advise the Governor and Secretary. Save a copy of the program, and a photograph of your participation if possible. If you write an article, save a copy and send to Governor Sheffield and Secretary Graves to be included in the annual Governor's report.

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The Order of Founders and Patriots is now on Facebook. Like at:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Founders-and-Patriots-of-America/212618818770058>

The VA OFPA web site is www.vaofpa.org. Donald Moore is our webmaster and has recently updated it. Take a look at a great web site!

This is how the OFPA Handbook describes the OFPA flag.

"SECTION 3. COLORS. The colors of the Order shall consist of the National Colors or Flag as prescribed by an Act of Congress, and the colors of the flag of the Order. The latter shall be cross, Gules, on a field, Argent, with canton, Azure, a constellation of thirteen stars, Argent."



Above—OFPA Flag