

Our Society Colors were carried in the VASSAR Multi-Chapter Meeting Color Guard at Graves Mountain Lodge in Syria, Madison County, on April 14 2012. Below shows Mike Lyman with the Society flag.



Honoring a veteran

Thad Hartman looks on as Bill Broadus of the Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution lays a commemorative wreath Saturday at the grave of War of 1812 veteran William James Weir at Liberia, the home Weir built in 1825.

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Liberia Plantation connected to War of 1812 with marking of Weir grave

FROM STAFF REPORTS

A grave-marking ceremony on Saturday, April 21 at Liberia Plantation in Manassas signified Liberia's connection to The War of 1812. The commemoration honored Liberia's original owner, William James Weir, and his service in the

War of 1812.

The Society of the War of 1812 cosponsored the event with the Manassas Museum. The group unveiled a marker on Weir's grave, and fired a musket salute during the ceremony. Weir served in the infantry as a private in Shackleford's Company of the 41st Regiment of

the Virginia Militia. A surviving payroll record shows Weir received \$8 per month for his service. His widow, Luisa Ball Weir, later received a pension for his service.

Thadeus Hartman, a board member of The Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia who conducted the ceremony, says remembering

these veterans is important. In a news release he was quoted as saying, "We try to honor and memorialize these soldiers so they're not forgotten. When people see their graves they will recognize that they are soldiers. We have a project here in Virginia to find and mark the graves of all the veterans and know of 4,000 graves."

The Society was formed as a nationwide organization even before the war's end in 1814.

Events marking the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 are scheduled throughout the mid-Atlantic area this year for a war that is best known for inspiring the Star Spangled Banner national anthem.

According to Lisa Sivel-Otten, historic interpreter and public information officer for Manassas Museum, "the war began when the U.S. declared neutrality in wars between Britain and France and the two countries attempted to interfere in U.S. trade."

"The 31-month-long war was fought at sea, along the Canadian border, on the western frontier, and in the Chesapeake. Virginia troops

served in Virginia, in the Canadian campaign, and in the defense of Baltimore."

"Virginia was defended almost entirely by a part time local militia which was poorly trained, armed, and equipped. Complaints from militia officers about their bedraggled troops at the start of the war prompted Virginia governor James Barbour to issue new formal uniform requirements..."

Hartman says the often overshadowed war is significant to the nation's history. "It took the War of 1812 to implant the idea in other countries that the United States was a sovereign country. Not even the Revolutionary War did that."

William James Weir is among 47 War of 1812 veterans buried in Prince William County, and five veterans buried in the City of Manassas, including his brother Robert Weir. John Hooe, another veteran who is buried in his family cemetery Mayfield, now the site of a restored Civil War Earthwork Fort, was commemorated with a grave marking in 2009.

Past President Thadeus Hartman and Councilor, Bill Collier of the Society and with the assistance of the members of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter, VASSAR conduct a ceremony marking the grave of William James Weir on April 21, 2012. Newspaper articles on the left describes the ceremony. Attending was the City of Manassas Major of Hal Parish who spoke about the the veteran.