

# President's Pen

## Virginia Society War of 1812 Defenders

Well it is the middle of March already. This year is flying by like a flash. June will be here before we know it. Please mark your calendars now: June 21, 22 and 23.

June 21<sup>st</sup> is the date of our Society's Annual conference. Please note that this a Friday. Normally we hold our annual meetings on a Saturday, but this year we moved it up a day to piggyback on the celebration of Battle of Craney Island, held the following two days in the same area. The Virginia Society's Annual Conference will be held at the Hampton History Museum and at the St John's Episcopal Church in Hampton, Virginia. This event commemorates the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle there and the subsequent British occupation of the City of Hampton and their use of the St Paul's Episcopal Church during the period June 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> 1812. A year later, The Town of Hampton was burnt and left in ruins by the British as an act of revenge for their defeat at the Battle of Craney Island two days earlier.

The Society will hold its Annual Meeting, followed by a luncheon at noon with a guest speaker at the luncheon. After the luncheon we will have a guided tour of the museum that contains artifacts of the battle. Next at 2:00 PM will be a plaque unveiling ceremony at the adjacent cemetery of the St Paul's Episcopal Church where interred veterans of the War are honored. Finally, there will be a guided tour of the historic church. Preliminary arrangements are being made to share the plaque with the Virginia State Society, U. S. Daughters of 1812.

On Saturday June 22 and Sunday June 23 many elaborate activities and events will be held for the Bicentennial Celebration of the Battle of Craney Island. Months and months of detailed planning have gone into this event. The Battle of Craney Island took place on the Morning of June 23, 1813. In the face of overwhelming forces the Virginia Militia fought off an English Invasion attempting to destroy Norfolk and the Gosport Navy Yard. The Americans scored a major defensive victory, i.e. DEFENDERS. Without question, the commemoration of this victory will be one of the marquee features of the whole War of 1812 Bicentennial. A proposed schedule is in this Newsletter.

I urge members of the Virginia Society to make a concerted effort to be a part of this historic observance. Please plan to be there.

*CAPT John N. Dickie,  
President, Virginia Society War of 1812*

## HIGHLIGHTS OF BOD MEETING (*CONTINUED*)

First VP Fritts reported giving two presentations to DAR groups about the War

Treasurer Nash reported as of the meeting date we had \$13, 613.29 in our checking account and \$9,677.05 in our money market account giving us total assets of \$23,290.34. He indicated that because of planned income and disbursements until the end of the fiscal year ending Jun 30, 2013 our checking account balance would be reduced to \$11,869 giving us total assets of \$21,546

Registrar Howells reported four new members since July 1, 2012 , with four in progress with seven new inquiries. He indicated that our society has 107 members in various categories of dues paying members, dual members and life members.

Graves registration Chairman and editor Lyman of the society's burial book indicated he had identified 142 new burials. He indicated that after two years our contract with the publisher will allow us to publish a CD addendum if we have identified at least 200 additional burials. The current new findings will be furnished our members for their use and review only and will be furnished to them with the current books they purchase. This was voted on and approved.

Grave Marking chairman, Lyman reported the expected cost of the Mt Hebron Cemetery in Winchester, VA of 42 names of War of 1812 veterans to be engraved on a monument there would be \$2284 with one half of this amount paid by the U.S. Daughters of 1812 leaving us with a projected expense of about \$1150 and \$200 more required for handouts and programs. The BOD voted to approve \$1350 for the expense. (*Editor's note: The expected unveiling ceremony is projected for August 2013. See further details that follow* )

J, A need for the Society to select what news, articles, and event coverage that it would like to submit to The War Cry, the national newsletter was discussed.

K. It was noted that our website link (*cont page 3*)