

Society Participates in a Dual Grave Marking Ceremony Jun 20, 2015

The Society of the War of 1812 in the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Thomas Nelson, Jr Chapter Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution conducted jointly a grave marking ceremony at the Ware Episcopal Church in Gloucester County. Individual grave markers for two Revolutionary War patriots and two War of 1812 veterans were unveiled. Below are selected photos taken and information about the ceremony and the veterans that were remembered and honored.



Ceremony to mark 4 patriots' graves

Soldiers from Revolutionary War and War of 1812 will be honored with bronze markers in historic cemetery

By **FRANCES HUBBARD**
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GLOUCESTER — Reverend Armistead Smith was a minister, a leader and a patriot. As the head of Ware Episcopal Church in Gloucester County, he served during the Revolutionary War, providing material and aid to units serving in the county.



After the war, according to the Thomas Nelson Jr. chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, Smith labored intensely to keep his church, which had lost its favored status with the Church of England, together during those years.

On Saturday, Smith will be one of four patriots honored — one more from the Revolutionary War and two soldiers from the War of 1812 — in a grave-marking ceremony at Ware Church, 7825 John Clayton Memorial Highway.

"What is important with this ceremony, and many others like it, is that we honor ordinary, little-known patriots who massed together and sacrificed for a cause they deeply believed in and whose support was critical to the successful conclusion of the war effort and the establishment of a new

democratic form of self-government," said Gerald Runyan, who organized the ceremony. "This is a small act but an important one, to recognize the 'everyday' patriots who gave us our freedom and to encourage our current generation to carry on the traditions of our constitutional government."

In addition to Smith, who was a College of William and Mary student and grew up at his family farm of Hesse near the mouth of the Flankatank River, Lieutenant Thomas Muse Yeatman will also be recognized at the ceremony.

According to the Sons of the American Revolution, Yeatman served in the American Revolution and commanded a company in Westmoreland County. After fulfilling his military service, he supported the war effort by providing beef to feed the soldiers stationed near his homestead. Local historians believe his farm, Isleham, also provided lumber for shipbuilding.

Ensigns Thomas Smith and Thomas Robinson Yeatman will be honored for their service in the War of 1812. According to the organizers of the ceremony, Thomas Smith was with the 21st Virginia Militia. His commanding officer was Captain Thomas Cary of Gloucester County.

Thomas Robinson Yeatman served as an ensign in the 115th Mounted Infantry Company and was commanded by Captain



The graves of four soldiers buried in Ware Church's historic cemetery will receive markers. **DAILY PRESS FILE PHOTO**

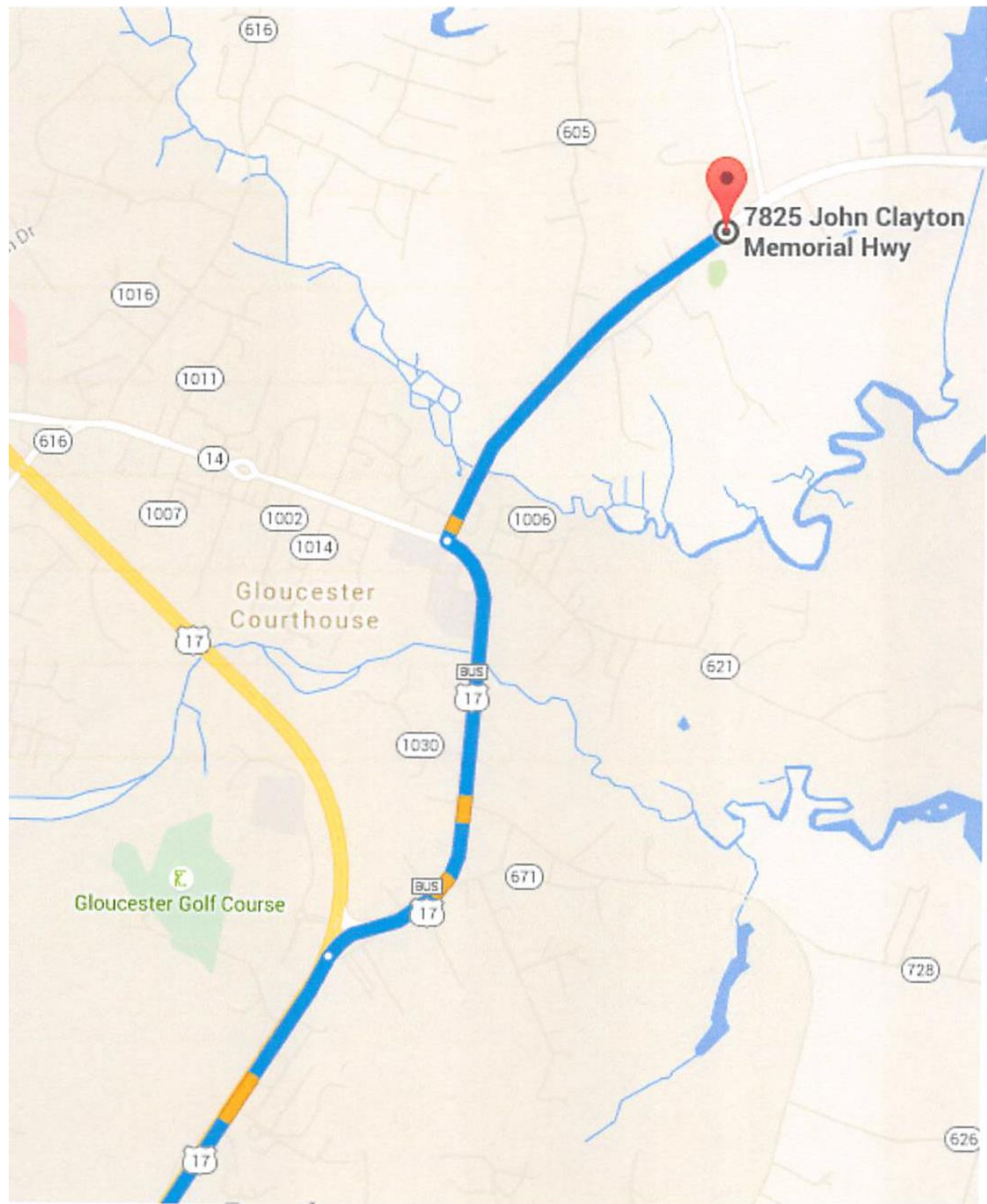
John Armistead.

All four men are buried in Ware's historic cemetery. Runyan said bronze markers will be placed on the graves to acknowledge their service.

The ceremony, which will be conducted by members of the Thomas Nelson Jr. SAR Chapter and its president, R. Bruce Meyer,

begins at 10 a.m. For more information on the ceremony or to present a wreath at the ceremony, please contact Gerald Runyan at 757-223-4920 or email gerald@aercorp.com.

Hubbard can be reached by phone at 757-298-5834.





Thomas Nelson, Jr. Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution
and the
Society of the War of 1812 of the
Commonwealth of Virginia

Joint Grave Marking Ceremony

American Revolutionary Patriots
Armistead Smith
Lieutenant Thomas Muse Yeatman

Veterans of the War of 1812
Ensign Thomas Smith
Private Phillip A. Smith

Ware Episcopal Church Cemetery
Gloucester, Virginia
10:00 AM June 20, 2015

10:00 AM Call to Order	President Bruce Meyer SAR Thomas Nelson, Jr. Chapter
Invocation	The Reverend T. Grant Ambrose Rector Ware Episcopal Church
Posting of Colors	The Society of the War of 1812 Fifes & Drums of York Town Thomas Nelson, Jr. Chapter 7 th Virginia Regiment
Pledge of Allegiance	President Bruce Meyer
National Anthem	Fifes & Drums of York Town
SAR Pledge	Graves Chairman Gerald Runyan
Opening Remarks	President Bruce Meyer

GREETINGS

The Society of the War of 1812 in the Commonwealth of Virginia	Past President Mike Lyman
Life and Service of Honored Patriots and Veterans	President Bruce Meyer Past President Mike Lyman

UNVEILING OF THE MARKERS

Patriots	Immediate Past President Ken Wood Graves Chairman Gerald Runyan
1812 Veterans	Past President Mike Lyman Charles Belfield

PRESENTATION OF WREATHS

Musket Salute	7 th Virginia Regiment VASSAR Compatriot Jeffery Brown The Society of the War of 1812 Charles Belfield
Taps	Thayer Meyer
SAR Recessional	Immediate Past President Ken Wood
Benediction	Chaplain Gary Hodges Thomas Nelson, Jr. Chapter

Revolutionary War Burials Ware Episcopal Church

SMITH, Armistead: He was born in Mathews County in 1757 and died September 12, 1817. As a patriot he gave material aid to the cause. He became the eighth Rector of the Ware Episcopal Church. His gravestone was moved from Toddsbury in Mathews County to this cemetery in 1924.



YEATMAN, Thomas Muse: He was born in 1762 in Mathews County and died on September 14, 1812. In the rank of Lieutenant he commanded a company in Westmoreland County. He married Mary Tompkins who was born in 1765 and died in Oct 1796. She was the daughter of John Tompkins. His gravestone was moved from Toddsbury in Mathews County to this cemetery in 1924.



War of 1812 burials Ware Episcopal Church Cemetery

SMITH, Phillip A. was a son of Reverend Armistead Smith and his wife Martha Tabb of Mathews County. He was born in 1788, and died Oct 1, 1813 at age 25. He served for twenty nine days as a private in a troop of cavalry under the command of Captain Robert Saunders at Yorktown during the period February to September 1813. Although the British ships controlled the Chesapeake Bay and the Hampton Roads area and were coming ashore in several places, there is no evidence of an encounter with the British in the Yorktown area during this period. The inscription on his gravestone indicates he died from a lingering illness. His gravestone was moved from Toddsbury in Mathews County to this cemetery in 1924.



SMITH, Thomas: a son of Reverend Armistead Smith and his wife Martha Tabb of Mathews County. He was born on Mar 05, 1785, and died Apr 13, 1841. He served as an ensign in Gloucester County's 21st VA Militia Regiment in Captain Catesby Jones Company from May 1st to Aug 28th 1813, and in Captain Thomas Cary's Company from March 24th 1814 to 08 January 1815. His gravestone was moved from Toddsbury in Mathews County to this cemetery in 1924.



Above Mike Lyman and Bruce Meyer giving greetings and discussing the patriots being honored







