

SOCIETY CONDUCTS ANNUAL MUSTER ON JUNE 22, 2024

The Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia conducted its annual muster on June 22, 2024, at the Pilot House Restaurant and Inn at Topping, Virginia. A business meeting of the Board of Direction was held prior to the luncheon from 10am to 11:15. Following the meeting, other members and guests were seated for the luncheon. The annual muster is held usually in June to commemorate the date of the founding of the Virginia Society in June 1982.

At the meeting, new officers for the years 2024-2026 were nominated and approved by the Board. The new officers are as follows: President, Stuart L. Butler; 1st Vice President, Kenneth Hawkins; Secretary, Paul Walden; Treasurer, J. Shane Newcombe; Registrar, Hugh Markham; Counsel and Historian, Peter Broadbent; Chaplain, Thad Hartman; and out-going president, James Green, as Vice President-General. Four Councilors were nominated and approved. They are: Mike Weyler, William Collier, Tim Ahlgrim, Jim Russell. A fifth councilor, Jeremy B. Utt was approved by the BOD on June 26.

The assembled members and guests were addressed by Mr. John Quarnstein, noted historian, preservationist, and TV personality, who gave an entertaining and historical account of the Virginia militia and its victory over the British forces on Craney Island near Norfolk on June 22, 1813. Quarnstein fielded several questions from the audience following his address.

Following Quarnstein's talk, the new officers and new members were sworn in.

Pictures submitted by members Tim Ahlgrim and Rickard Fickling are included below.



Registrar Hugh Markham swears in new members: L to R: Abbas W. Samii; John A. Osborne, Jr. And Arthur D. Lyons.



President James Green swears in new officers: L to R: Hugh Markham, Registrar; Thad Hartman, Chaplain; Paul Walden, Secretary; and Stuart Butler, President



Guests of Honor included Dr. Cheryl Davis, President, U.S. Daughters of the War of 1812 in Virginia (L) and (R) Jo Ann Fickling, President of the Rappahannock Chapter of the U.S. Daughters; In the center is the incoming President of the Society of the War of 1812 Stuart L. Butler.



Portion of room showing members and guests for the annual muster



The featured speaker for the annual muster, John Quarstein

John Quarstein, noted historian and preservationist, and author of twenty-one books on Virginia military history, presented a engaging, entertaining, and informative account of the battle of Craney Island during the War of 1812.