

## **MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTION MEETING JUNE 22, 2024**

The Board of Direction for the Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia met at the Pilot House Restaurant, Topping, Virginia, on June 22, 2024. Present was President James Green, Acting Secretary Stuart Butler, Registrar Hugh Markham, Vice President General Paul Walden, and Councilor Tim Ahlgrim. Chaplain Thad Hartman later joined the meeting during the open session.

Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting of the board was dispensed with and the meeting was called to order by President Green at 10:05 am. Secretary Butler announced that the meeting would be recorded via cell phone.

The Invocation was offered by Paul Walden and a moment of silence was observed for all the Society members who had passed away since last muster in June 2023. The pledge of allegiance was led by President Green.

### **Officers reports**

President James Green announced that he had attended several meetings of the General Society of the War of 1812 Triennial meeting at Plattsburg and also at the Philadelphia meeting. He announced that the next General Society meeting would be held at Baltimore in September 2024. Since the last meeting in February he had represented the Society at the presidential wreath laying ceremonies at the James Madison home in Montpelier and at the James Monroe birthplace (Westmoreland) and Hollywood Cemetery ceremonies as well as at Norfolk State University (see below).

There were no reports from the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Presidents.

Although Treasurer J. Shane Newcombe was not present, he had previously circulated his usual thorough and concise reports on the financial health of the Society before the meeting for all members to read. President Green pronounced that the Society was in sound financial shape due to Treasurer Newcombe's astute accounting and solid investment strategy of the Society's money to pay good dividends. By a voice vote the financial report was unanimously approved.

Registrar Hugh Markham reported that seven new members had joined since last muster and President Green complimented Hugh on his hard work and his willingness to remain as registrar once more for the next two years. Three of the new members he mentioned were present for the induction ceremony to be concluded later in the day.

Stuart Butler, who had been acting as secretary in the absence of James Russell, said that the minutes for the last several meetings had been posted to the website.

There were no reports submitted by the Counsel or Historian. It should be noted that Peter Broadbent has agreed to act as Counsel and Historian for the next two years.

Vice President General, Paul Walden, announced that he had also attended the General Society meeting in Plattsburg and the James Monroe presidential wreath ceremony in Westmoreland.

## **Committees**

### Grave marking chairman & publications

Chairman position is vacant for the time being. A discussion of the possibility of continuing Mike Lyman's continuing published lists of War of 1812 veterans burials was undertaken by several members to include Paul Walden, James Green, Stuart Butler, and Tim Ahlgrim. The consensus appears to be that continuing a published list based on future uncovering of unknown burials would not be in the best financial interest of the Society. James Green stated that he had a thumb drive with what appears to be the latest information concerning burials in Virginia as of September 2022. He said he would send the thumb drive to the incoming president to determine what to do about it and burial lists. Paul Walden said that such a revision of the burials lists could be placed on the Society's website blog or also on Google Drive. It is unclear if a new Grave marking or publications chairman will be appointed anytime soon. Walden said that he had about a half dozen burial markers that attach to the gravestone which were ordered by Mike Lyman and picked up from his house.

Website manager Stuart Butler announced that he had posted ten entries onto the Society's web blog mostly having to do with meetings, ROTC events, and upcoming events.

Acting ROTC chairman, Stuart Butler, announced that there had been four ROTC in-person events where Society members were on hand to present the certificate of achievements award to deserving ROTC students from Virginia universities. These events were held at Norfolk State University in Norfolk, University of Virginia, Christopher Newport, and University of Richmond. This was one more than last year. Butler said he wanted to increase the number of in-person events such as at Virginia Tech, and VMI but needed persons to volunteer who live in those areas.

## **Awards**

Paul Walden announced that there were no entries from Virginia schools for the Society's War of 1812 essay contests this year (closing June 2024). See Butler's comments below.

## **Old Business**

President Green announced that no further progress has been made concerning a grave marking in Southampton County because he is waiting for the owner's consent to have the Society mark the grave site, in this case, President Green's ancestor.

Stuart Butler reported that after three attempts to contact the James Madison Foundation's Montpelier to obtain its permission for the Society to place a plaque at the Madison family cemetery to mark the grave site of Gen. William Madison, President Madison's brother he has failed to receive an answer from the Foundation. Paul Walden suggested that the Society contact the William Pomeroy Foundation for possible help with an historical highway marker to indicate General Madison's final resting place. He provided the website information to incoming president Butler.

Paul Walden announced that he had printed and distributed for the Society the newest Society brochure listing its purpose and ways to join the Society along with a new email address for prospective members to address questions concerning the Society and membership requirements. Walden and Treasurer Newcombe have arranged for at least 1000 new brochures to be printed through Newcombe's contact in his local area to obtain a lower cost for the Society.

Stuart Butler announced that he had attended the Virginia History Day on April 28, 2024, at the Virginia Museum of History and Culture, as a judge for the senior history paper level. He said that it may be possible for the Society to become a sponsor for the Virginia History Day and in doing so could offer a top prize of \$1000 or more to a student who enters the contest with a War of 1812 theme relating to Virginia or Virginians or on a topic of a political, cultural, or economic nature for the War of 1812 period, i.e., 1811-1815. He has written a letter to the events manager for Virginia history day on this subject (June 25) but has not heard back from him.

### **New Business**

President Green asked the BOD to report to him or the incoming president about any flags and wreaths that they had in their possession. Hugh Markham stated that he had picked up all the flags and poles that Charles Belfield had collected from Mike Lyman's house. However, he said that the American flag was missing, and that he had only two flag stands. A discussion about acquiring the American flags and stands as well as wreaths should be in order. Green thought that a wreath in the possession of BOD members in the Northern Virginia area, Richmond area, and Tidewater area would be ideal.

A discussion of the Society's handbook was opened. Paul Walden suggested that the revisions he made in the handbook up to 2022 could be placed on the Society's website. Stuart Butler said he would look into the matter and see if this could be done.

A discussion concerning where and when the next annual muster should be held was opened. Incoming president Stuart Butler stated there might be a possibility that the annual muster could be held in Richmond at the Commonwealth Club. Shane Newcombe had contacted Butler with a name of a member in Richmond who is also a member of the Commonwealth Club. As a member, the Society might receive a discount in the use of the room, but that is not certain. The cost of the luncheon and a meeting room would be about \$70, but the Society may wish to subsidize those members who may want to come to bring down the price so that more members could attend. It was thought that having the meeting in Richmond as a more central location, would enable more members to attend from throughout the state. By voice vote, the BOD authorized the incoming president to pursue this alternative.

The benediction was delivered by Paul Walden and the meeting was adjourned by President Green at 11:05am. Sine die.

### **Luncheon and speaker**

Following the BOD meeting, the meeting was open to all other members and guests for lunch at 11:45. There were 31 guests. Honored guests include Dr. Cheryl Davis,

President of the Virginia Daughters of the War of 1812 and Jo Ann Fickling, Chapter President of the Rappahannock Chapter of the Daughters of the War of 1812.

Halfway through the meeting, the Society's featured speaker, John Quarstein, spoke about the Virginia militia victory over the British forces in the Hampton Roads area on June 22, 1813. Mr Quarstein is a noted historian and preservationist, and expert on military and naval affairs in the Hampton Roads area. His talk was very informative and entertaining, and fielded numerous questions following his talk.

The proceedings of the BOD and information and photos about the luncheon and speaker have been put on the Society's blog.

### **New Officers sworn in**

Hugh Markham swore in three new members at this time: Abbas William Samii, John Alan Osborne, and Arthur Dodwick Lyons. President James Green sworn in the new Society officers for the years 2024-26: Stuart Butler, president, Paul Walden, Secretary, Hugh Markham registrar, and Tim Ahlgrim, Councilor. As new president, President Butler sworn in James Green as Vice President General.

The benediction was delivered by Chaplain Thad Hartman and the meeting was adjourned about 1:45pm.