



Falls of the Rappahannock Chapter NSDAR



Chapter Officers: 2025 -2026

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Chapter Website:
www.fotrDAR.org

State website:
VirginiaDAR.org/members
(requires password)

National Website:
Members.dar.org
(requires password)



MEETING

Thursday, October 9, 2025

7pm—8pm

Location: Howell Branch Library, Room 1

Program: Raya Nickerson, Director of Community Engagement,
Friends of the Library

Oct 10 is the chapter's 45th birthday. Come for the cake and participate
in the DAR National Day of Service.

We are sponsoring a book drive at the for Friends of the Library.
Please bring new or gently used books.

Regent's Corner

How quickly fall arrives. As I am packing to return to Virginia, fall is in full force in NW Montana. Reds, yellows, and oranges dot the mountainside and my sweaters and jackets have come out to deal with the 30 degree temperatures in the mornings.

This month DAR celebrates service with its annual Day of Service on October 11. Our chapter will collect new and gently used books to donate to the Friends of the Library, bring your donations to our October 9 meeting at Howell Library. Our speaker at the meeting will be Raya Nickerson, Director of Community Engagement for the Friends of the Library. Come learn how to get involved with our local community. If you are unable to attend, just drop off your donations at your nearest library and let Rachel or I know how many books you donated.

Speaking of service, remember to log your hours in to Service to America. We have a goal of 2,250 hours and we currently have 1,089. Hours do not have to be directly related to DAR service. If you have questions on what is eligible or how to log in your hours please reach out.

At the September meeting the chapter voted to form a 9/11 25th anniversary committee. We will concentrate our efforts locally, but need a few women to serve on the team. If you are interested, please contact Rachel or me. Or if you have any ideas let us know as well.

Speaking of committees, we will be needing a few committee chairs. Be on the lookout for an email with more details. Most committees don't take that much time and are a great way to serve the chapter in areas that interest you.

Let Us Illuminate Our Legacy,

Tracy



President Generals Message

October 2025

Dear Daughters,

October brings change of weather and the color of the leaves, and renewed focus on one of the most important pillars of our mission—service. Thanks to Honorary President General Lynn Young, this year we celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the DAR Day of Service, a milestone that reflects the countless ways Daughters have uplifted their communities—supporting veterans, strengthening schools, caring for neighborhoods, and so much more. I encourage every chapter and member to embrace this anniversary as an opportunity to give back and continue to illuminate Our Legacy.



It was an honor to see how our chapters proudly commemorated Constitution Week, raising awareness of our founding document through proclamations, community programs, and education efforts. This annual observance is especially meaningful to DAR, as it was our organization that petitioned Congress in 1955 to set aside September 17–23 each year to celebrate Constitution Week. What a legacy for Daughters to uphold as we continue sharing the significance of this foundational document with our communities today.

We are still absolutely thrilled from the prestigious honor of co-hosting the Spain and the Birth of American Democracy Symposium with the Queen Sofía Spanish Institute (QSSI) at our beloved National Headquarters! This unforgettable event shined a brilliant spotlight on Spain's essential contributions to America's independence while deepening our appreciation for the international ties that shaped our nation's founding. The excitement was unmatched—and to make it even more extraordinary, Her Majesty Queen Sofía herself joined us. What an absolute privilege and joy it was to welcome her to our cherished House Beautiful for this historic occasion!

October is a full and exciting month for our organization. During this upcoming October Board of Management Week, members will gather at our National Headquarters for important business sessions, workshops, and fellowship as we continue advancing the work of the National Society. In addition, this month begins my own season of travel on behalf of DAR, including special visits to the Kate Duncan Smith DAR School, the Yorktown Victory Celebration, and even across the Atlantic to London, where we will honor the international legacy of our patriot ancestors and strengthen our global bonds of friendship.

We are also thrilled to announce that the DAR's Smithsonian reports have been digitized and are now available online, expanding access to these invaluable records for researchers, members, and the public alike. This step forward underscores our enduring commitment to historic preservation and accessibility.

Excitement continues to build for America 250!, DAR stands ready to lead the celebration. Together, we are not only honoring the sacrifices of our patriot ancestors but also shaping the future through service, education, and preservation. Be on the lookout for more and more America 250! events and resources as we continue to build momentum toward this once-in-a-lifetime commemoration.

Wherever you live, I hope you take time this season to enjoy the crisp air and the beauty of fall. Thank you for all that you do to advance the mission of our beloved Society.

Faithfully,

Ginnie Sebastian Storage : President General

“Illuminate Our Legacy”

Why are we celebrating cherry blossoms and cherry trees?

*Illuminating
Our Chapters*

The celebration of cherry blossoms and cherry trees is highlighted by the President General's commitment to contribute \$2 million to the Cherry Tree endowment for the Trust for the National Mall. Since 1912, the Japanese Cherry Blossom has symbolized Washington, D.C., and the National Society aims to preserve this legacy.

To promote awareness of this project within states, chapters, and among members, consider the following activities:

- Share a “Cherry” minute at meetings.
- Bring cherry-themed desserts to meetings.
- Distribute a quiz about cherry trees in D.C.
- Host a centerpiece competition using cherry themes.
- Present a program on the significance of cherry trees and why they are significant to our President General.
- Share cherry recipes.
- Organize a cherry cookie contest.
- Bring unique cherry-themed items to meetings for prizes.
- Conduct a school program on cherry trees' significance.
- Hold a school essay contest about cherry trees in D.C., with cherry-themed prizes.

*Illuminate
Our Legacy*



Chapter Historian—Donna Courtney

A letter from George Washington to his wife, Martha Washington. General Washington wrote this letter in Philadelphia, June 18, 1775 after being elected to lead the American forces against the King and Great Britain.

This letter is a continuation from our September Newsletter.

"...my unhappiness will flow from the uneasiness I know you will feel from being left alone. I therefore beg, that you will summon your whole fortitude, and pass your time as agreeably as possible. Nothing will give me so much sincere satisfaction as to hear this. And to hear it from your own pen. My earnest and ardent desire is, that you would pursue any plan that is most likely to produce content, and a tolerable degree of tranquility; as it must add greatly to my uneasy feelings to hear, that you are dissatisfied or complaining at what I really could not avoid.

As life is always uncertain, and common prudence dictates to every man the necessity of settling his temporal concerns, while it is in his power, and while the mind is calm and undisturbed. I have, since I came to this place (for I have not the time to do it before I left home) got Colonel Pendleton to draft a will for me, by the directions I gave him, which I will now enclose. The provision made for you in case of my death will, I hope, be agreeable.

I shall add nothing more, as I have several letters to write, but desire that you will remember me to your friends, and to assure you that I have the most unfeigned regard, my dear Patsy, your affectionate, &c.

G. Washington



American Heritage Committee Chapter Chair

Greetings Ladies!

The American Heritage Contest details have been released, and it looks to be an extra special one as we enter the USA's 250th birthday!

The Theme this year is The Road to Independence – Acts of Rebellion and Treason.

The American Heritage Committee was established to preserve our rich and diverse American heritage through artistic endeavors. There are numerous ways our talented and creative Daughters can participate in the committee as we Illuminate Our Legacy.

Celebrate your art through contests in art & sculpture, crafts, fiber arts, literature & drama, music, jewelry, and photography. The Evelyn Cole Peters Award may be awarded at the judge's discretion for excellence in any of the contest categories when an exceptional entry is presented.

Please find below some of the details about the contest. If you would like to read all the details, please visit <https://www.dar.org/members/committees/service-committees/american-heritage/committee-overview> and log in as a member to access the page. The required form is the AHE-100.

The Fiber Arts category is unique in that the entries do not go directly to the National Chair. Those should be sent to our State Chair. The deadline for Fiber Arts submissions to the State Chair is January 31, 2026.

All other categories should be submitted to the National Chair as identified on the American Heritage website. Please note that entries that go to the National Chairs will only be accepted between January 2 and February 15.

Your entire entry package must contain the entry from (page one of the form), narrative (page two of the form) and six photos. If you are entering a group entry, your package will contain one additional page with printed names, signatures, national numbers of all members of the group and how each of them contributed to the project. Group entries are not judged separately from individual entries. There is no "group" category. Please note the narrative is extremely important as it has been used to break a tie.

Never send your artwork. You will be judged exclusively by the photos sent of your entry. Photos do NOT need to be sent for Literature & Drama, or Music. For Photography, only send the photo to be judged. Photos must be of good quality, but not too large to send by email. Photos must be clearly labeled. Please do not use zip files to send photos. One photo MUST show the entire entry, with four showing details and one photo of item construction. Please do not use children or models in the photos. If you are sending photos of Historic Dress, please use a mannequin, if using a model only from the neck down.

American Heritage Committee Chapter Chair

Music must have four items: the entry form, the narrative, a manuscript or computer-generated copy of the composition, and an mp3 or similar recording capable of being played on the computer. As a courtesy, please send a duplicate of your signed, completed contest entry form (page one and two of the entry form) to your state chair.

Every entry must incorporate the theme for the contest. All entries must be the original work of the person(s) entering the contest while a DAR member.

Patterns and kits may NOT be used. Please see Fiber Arts for their specific information.

Only one entry per member may be submitted in our American Heritage contest as an individual entry. (For example, you cannot enter something in Literature & Drama and also in Fiber Arts. Choose one contest only.) You may enter one item as an individual AND one item as part of a group. An entry is one item or collection of not more than three. Entries will not be returned.

A past national winning piece (1st, 2nd, or 3rd place) may not be reentered into future contests.

Posthumous entries are not eligible, even if the deceased member was part of a group.

Best of luck to all you very talented ladies!

In DAR friendship,

Elizabeth Heitz

American Heritage Committee Chapter Chair



Chaplain, Debbie Henning

Our Chaplain is requesting stamps, birthday, get well and sympathy cards.
She sends out over 100 cards a year.



Happy October Birthdays

Tessa Marie Raybuck
Jennifer Lee Curtis Upton
Melissa Grey Dunn Schillero
Charlotte Rose Mulder
Allison Marie Moore Gatrone
Lauren Elizabeth Marshall
Dianne Marie Jung Sothoron

Happy Anniversary

Martha Harding	56
Pamelia Mayne	29
Heather Marshall	18
Emilie Kracen	15
Susan Harvin	14

A good woman is hard to find, and worth far more
than diamonds.
– Proverbs 31:10, MSG

Literacy Promotion, Sonja Johnson VA State Chair

National Book Month is a yearly celebration observed in October to encourage reading and highlight the importance of books and authors. It was created by the National Book Foundation in 2003 and provides opportunities to discover new genres, support diverse authors, and foster family reading time.

What is its purpose?

Promotes reading: The main goal is to encourage people of all ages to read more.

Highlights diverse literature: It helps recognize books across various genres, including fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and YA literature, promoting the importance of diverse authors and stories.

Encourages family connection: It encourages families to spend time together reading, discussing books, and creating a cozy reading environment.

How can you celebrate?

Start reading: Pick up a new book, revisit a favorite, or try a different genre.

Support authors: Explore books by new or lesser-known authors, or look for award-winning titles.

Visit the library: Check out the Leisure Reading section, attend special events, or participate in library programs like Storytime Strolls.

Create a reading environment: Set up a comfortable reading nook and make reading a daily routine.

Engage with others: Discuss books with friends and family or share your thoughts and reviews online.

Missing in America Project

On 24 October 2025, at 1100hrs, at Culpeper National Cemetery, the Missing In America Project – Virginia will lay-to-rest the previously unclaimed cremains of a veteran and four spouses of veterans. Flyer is attached.

The Dignified Transfer of Cremains will depart the Hill and Wood Funeral Home, Greene Chapel facility, at 15075 Spotswood Trail, Ruckersville, at 1000hrs. You must be present for the safety briefing at 0945hrs to participate in this LEO escorted procession.

You're welcome to meet at the new section of the cemetery (501 E Chandler St., Culpeper). We ask that you line up at the cemetery NLT 1040hrs.

****For up-to-date information please visit our Facebook page: Missing In America Project-Virginia**

American Indians



Lineage & Liberty

Honoring
American Indians
who served in the
American Revolution

November 1, 2025

9:30am - 12:00pm

CRRL Library

1201 Caroline Street

Ground Floor, Rooms 1 & 2

A Genealogy Workshop For American Indians Featuring:

Rico Newman of the Choptico Band of Indians Elders Council

Trustee of the Accokeek Foundation,
State Commissioner at Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs,
and retired Cultural Information Specialist
with the National Museum of the American Indian.

An America250 Event Sponsored by:

Washington-Lewis Chapter, NSDAR
Colonel Fielding Lewis Chapter, SAR
Fredericksburg Regional Genealogical Society
Central Rappahannock Regional Library (CRRL)
Virginia DAR District IX
FXBG250



Registration

Genealogy Workshop Series Presented
In Honor and Memory of
John Frederick Dorman, III (1928-2021)
who ranks among
the most influential genealogists
of his generation.

DAR Museum

Virtual Tuesday Talk— Moving Mountains: Black Craftspeople on the Shenandoah Valley Landscape

Tuesday, October 14, Noon

Speaker: Nick Powers, Curator of Collections, Museum of the Shenandoah Valley

Complimenting the inclusion of a work by free Black Valley potter Abraham Spencer in Fighting for Freedom, this program further expands the context of Black craft in the Valley by examining the lives, labor, creativity, and resilience of other documented makers across a wide spectrum of trades.



Virtual Tuesday Talk— Clay and Conviction: Thomas Commeraw's Legacy in Post-Revolutionary New York

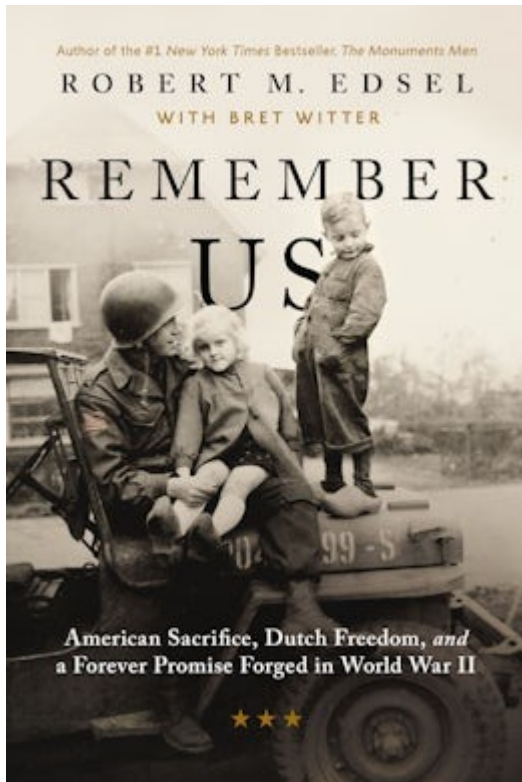
Tuesday, December 9 at Noon

Thomas Commeraw was a highly-skilled master stoneware potter (active ca. 1797–1819), a family man, a community leader, a patriot, and an abolitionist in New York City in the decades just after the American Revolution. Though his work has been collected since the turn of the 20th century, Commeraw's life remained mysterious to curators and collectors until 2010, when a partner in a stoneware auctioneer house announced his findings that Commeraw was a free Black man. The surprised reaction of many to this information brings into view assumptions about race and craftwork and demonstrates the power of maker stories and craft to shape historical narratives.

This talk explores Commeraw's agency and impact as a Black craftsman during an era of gradual emancipation and continued oppression in New York. Using Commeraw's work as a case history, this presentation examines ways objects acquire meaning through exhibition, scholarship, and market forces. Speaker: Jill DiMassimo, Independent Researcher This event is taking place online only. The speaker will not be present at the DAR Museum.



Book Club



Book Club
TBD via Zoom
Link will be sent out later

Remember Us, by Robert Edsel—#1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Monuments Men*—begins in the pre-dawn hours of Hitler's invasion of Western Europe on May 10, 1940, when his forces rolled into the small rural province of Limburg in the Netherlands shattering more than 100 years of peace. Their freedom gone, the Dutch lived through four-and-a-half years of occupation until American forces reached Limburg in September 1944, the last portion of Western Europe liberated by the Allies before their advance on Nazi Germany slammed to a halt.

Like *The Monuments Men*, *Remember Us* is an ensemble piece that follows twelve main characters over a six-year span, zeroing in on ordinary people including Frieda van Schäik, a teenager who falls in love with an American soldier; Lieutenant Colonel Robert Cole, the first member of the 101st Airborne to receive the Medal of Honor; and Sergeant Jeff Wiggins of the 960th Quartermaster Service Company, who escaped the poverty and racism of Alabama for yet another indignity—digging graves.

Drawing on never-before-seen letters, diaries, and other historical records, Edsel shows the painful price of freedom, on the battlefields and inside American homes. In this rich, dramatic, and suspenseful story, he captures both the horrors of war and the transcendent power of gratitude, showing the extraordinary measures the Dutch have taken to thank their liberators. *Remember Us* is exactly the book we need—a reminder that grief is universal, that humanity knows no national or racial boundaries, and that we all want to be remembered, somehow, someday, by somebody.

Committee Leader Course—Susan Harvin

Learn what it takes to be a more effective committee leader, from the chapter level all the way up to national chair.

Coursework focuses on aspects of committee leadership and helps chairs learn all about how to become an effective leader, set goals and plan events, as well as work effectively with your team.

Like the Members Course, content consists of self-paced, online webinars, in addition to completing three (3) committee workbooks.

ABOUT THE COURSE	
DURATION	About 25 - 40 total hours spent
PACE	Self-Paced
REQUIRED MODULES	17
ELECTIVE MODULES	16 (3 must be completed)
REQUIRED ACTIVITIES FOR CREDIT	No
INDEPENDENT PROJECT REQUIRED FOR CREDIT	Create a fictional chapter service project or event only
GRADUATION FINAL REQUIRED FOR CREDIT	Yes
PLATFORM	Video Webinars, Worksheets, PDF Handouts

The DAR Leadership Training Committee is proud to be the home for the Member Training Courses. The courses provide an opportunity for members to learn more about DAR and how to become active and engaged participants in DAR at all levels — chapter, state, and national. The courses have been designed to fit into anyone's busy schedule of work, family, and play, through mostly online self-directed learning. Currently, the following courses are available:

- **Members Course** – Explore the many aspects of DAR and what it means to be a Daughter.
- **Committee Leaders Course** – Learn what it takes to be a more effective committee leader, from the chapter level all the way up to national chair.
- **New Horizons Course** – Build confidence and leadership skills as an aspiring or current DAR leader.

Conservation Minute—Donna Courtney

Eco-friendly ways to deal with autumn leaves:

As fall arrives, trees shed their leaves, painting landscapes with vibrant hues of red, orange, and gold. While raking and bagging might be the go-to response, these fallen leaves offer opportunities for sustainable practices that benefit both the environment and your yard.

Rather than sending them to landfills, eco-friendly alternatives like mulching, composting, creating leaf mold, and fostering wildlife habitats can transform this seasonal task into an act of stewardship.

Mulching involves shredding leaves and spreading them over soil, enriching it with nutrients as they decompose. Composting blends leaves with kitchen scraps, producing a rich fertilizer for gardens. Leaf mold—a simple pile left to break down over time—yields a natural soil conditioner that boosts moisture retention. Leaving some leaves untouched provides a habitat for wildlife, sheltering insects, amphibians, and small mammals through winter.

These methods reduce waste, cutting the volume of organic matter dumped in landfills, where it would release methane. They also support local ecosystems by nurturing soil health and biodiversity. By adopting these practices, you enhance your garden's vitality while savoring fall's beauty. This mindful approach turns a chore into a contribution to a healthier planet.



Chapter Daughters Celebrate Constitution Week







MARY'S
RIBBONS

Breast Cancer
Awareness Month

MARY
WASHINGTON
HOUSE

1200 Charles Street
Fredericksburg, VA

A photograph of the Mary Washington House, a historic building with white siding and dark shutters. A white picket fence runs along the sidewalk in front of the house, decorated with numerous pink ribbons. A sign on the fence reads 'HOUSE OF MARY WASHINGTON 1772-1791'. The house has a set of stone steps leading to the entrance, with a black metal railing.

Service To America

It is with great pleasure and heartfelt gratitude that I write this after-action report for the Micah Homeless Community meal that was held on 9/30/2025. Several DAR members donated food items, funds to purchase items, and/or their time helping to serve at the event.

We fed a total of 110 meals. In attendance were 8 children, 2 disabled, families, elderly, military veterans, women and men who were being provided nutritious food in addition of being provided a welcoming space of dignity, compassion, and human connection.

Your generosity fed bodies and uplifted spirits. Many of the unhoused guests commented on the smiles, patience, and respect that they experienced. Your efforts turned a simple meal into a moment of community, hope and hospitality. All qualities that DAR is known to support as their service was a living example of the values and missions they uphold every day. The DAR volunteers and/or donations embodied their missions, turning their stated values of service and stewardship into action that directly touched lives in our community.

The community meal for the homeless was a success because of you- our dedicated volunteers. Serving 110 guests was no small feat, but together we accomplished it with grace, efficiency, and compassion. Thank you for embodying the spirit of service that makes our community stronger.

The next homeless community meal will be held on Tuesday December 30, 2025. I hope that my DAR sisters will again assist with this worthwhile event.

As always,

Carrie Morton Combs

Do you have an idea for Service in Seconds that our Chapter could participate in?

Please send those ideas to our Regent.



SERVICE to AMERICA!

Our Chapter hours donated total as of October 7, 2025

Chapter goal is :2,250

1215.50

Please remember to log your hours!

<http://services.dar.org/members/committees/ServiceToAmerica/>

The Service to America! Committee encourages community service by **all** members on **all** levels as a means of honoring our heritage. You may now count your DAR hours!

If you don't want to (or can't) enter your service hours, please send them to one of the officers and we will do it for you! Emails for officers are on the front page of the newsletter.

Dates to Remember

- October 10 Chapter Meeting Location: Howell Branch Meeting Room 1, 7-8 PM
- October 11: DAR National Day of Service.
- November 4: National Defense Luncheon at Stratford Hall.

20th Annual Genealogy Workshop

Sponsored by:

Fauquier Court House Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution
With the Culpeper Minute Men Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution

November 1, 2025, 9:00~3:30



FREE and Open to the Public

Registration ~ Contact: anniepcamp@outlook.com

What to bring to the Meeting

Your Self!	Plastic Bags
Coupons	Coke Caps
Stamps for our Chaplain	Get Well/Birthday Cards
Aluminum Tabs	Donations for the Piggy Banks
Thank you Cards for Service Members	Paperback Books

Contest

Be VISionary Campaign & Contest!

Increase membership engagement and participation in the VIS Community on the Daughters Online Community (DOC)



The Virginia VIS team is looking for at least 2 members per chapter to join the VIS Community on the DOC by December 31, 2025.

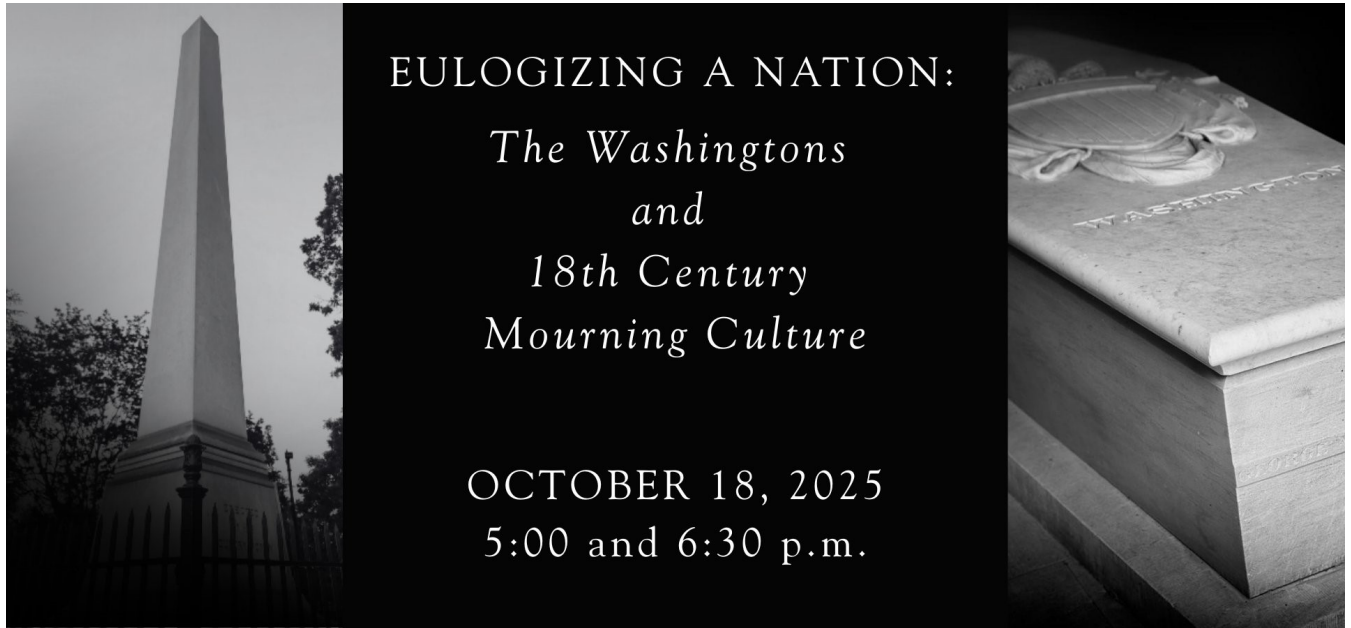
If your chapter already has members on the VIS DOC, look to find more members who would like to join!

How do I get started? I want to access the Daughters Online Community too!

It's just a few quick steps:

- Reference tutorials here: <https://community.dar.org/help/tutorials>
- - Reference full Quick Start Guide (DOC-1000) here: <https://community.dar.org/help/quick-start>
- Once you're set up to access the DOC, this is a link for the VIS DOC: <https://community.dar.org/vis>

Fredericksburg Happenings



Death and Mourning in the 18th Century: The Final Hours of George Washington

Step into history as we explore 18th-century mourning traditions and the final hours of George Washington's life, inside the home where his mother spent her last years.

Kevin Anderson and Michelle Hamilton will guide you through the mourning culture of the 18th century, the illness that led to George Washington's death, and the passing of George Washington's mother, Mary Ball Washington. Held in the very house where Mary spent the last 17 years of her life, you'll be surrounded by history and stories of those long gone.

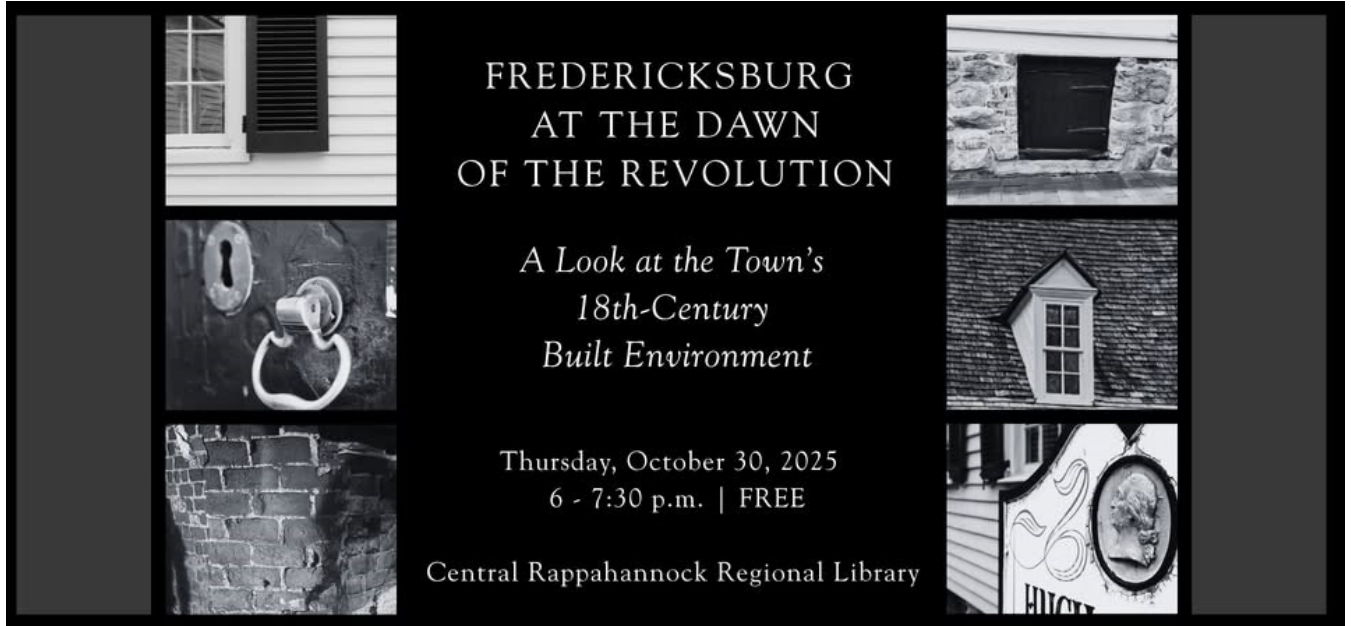
Kevin, WHM's Manager of Museum Operations and Interpretation, will begin the night with a detailed look at the last 48 hours of George Washington's life. From sudden illness to his final breath, Kevin will provide insights into the death of our nation's first president.

Michelle, an interpreter at the Mary Washington House and a local author, will continue the discussion by examining Mary Ball Washington's death and the mourning customs of the 18th century. Her extensive research and years of experience will help to reveal how families and communities honored those they lost.

Two seatings are offered, but tickets are limited! Light refreshments will be served following each program.

[Washington Heritage Museums - Eulogizing a Nation: The Washingtons and 18th-Century Mourning Culture](#)

Fredericksburg Happenings

A poster for an event titled "FREDERICKSBURG AT THE DAWN OF THE REVOLUTION". The poster features a central black rectangle with white text. To the left and right of this rectangle are vertical strips of three small, square, black-and-white photographs each. The left strip shows a window with shutters, a door handle, and a brick wall. The right strip shows a stone wall, a dormer window, and a sign with a portrait. The central text reads: "FREDERICKSBURG AT THE DAWN OF THE REVOLUTION", "A Look at the Town's 18th-Century Built Environment", "Thursday, October 30, 2025", "6 - 7:30 p.m. | FREE", and "Central Rappahannock Regional Library".

FREDERICKSBURG
AT THE DAWN
OF THE REVOLUTION

*A Look at the Town's
18th-Century
Built Environment*

Thursday, October 30, 2025
6 - 7:30 p.m. | FREE

Central Rappahannock Regional Library

Join us for an informative look at the Washington Heritage Museums' sites, featuring the Mary Washington House, Hugh Mercer Apothecary, and the Rising Sun Tavern, and other significant 18th-century structures in Fredericksburg. This lively conversation features Associate Professor Michael Spencer from the University of Mary Washington's Historic Preservation Department and Danae Peckler, Preservationist & Architectural Historian with the Historic Fredericksburg Foundation, Inc. FREE EVENT