The Virginia Society ‘Welcomes’ Four Youth Associates and Inducts Four Associates

At the Virginia Society Fall Membership Meeting held on Yorktown Day (October 19, 2018), in Yorktown, Virginia, the Society ‘Welcomed’ four Youth Associates and inducted four Associates. Including the newly installed members, current members and guests, a total of 24 individuals were in attendance.

The newest Youth Associates (all brothers), and perhaps the future of The Order, ranged from ages 2 years to 6 years of age! Their names and years of age are: Henry-2 years, Otto-3 years, Erik-5 years, and Christian-6 years. Their proud parents are Steven and Ashley Powers and their Founder was Symon Symonse Groot who arrived in 1645. Their Patriot was Simon Cornelis Groot who served with the 2nd Albany County Militia, NY.

The below photograph is of their ‘Welcoming’ ceremony; (l-r) Historian Jerry Hubbard, Mr. and Mrs. Steven Powers, the four Youth Associates, and Governor Shane Newcombe.

Inducted into the Virginia Society as Associates were: Thomas Alfred Gibson, Kenneth Levon Hawkins, Nicholas John Jewett, and Richard Morgan Wright, Jr. (our present Governor General-dual membership with DC).
Below is a photograph of Mr. Kenneth Levon Hawkins (center), receiving his Virginia Society Certificate from Governor Shane Newcombe (r) along with our Historian Jerry Hubbard on the left.

In addition to the above ceremonies, those in attendance were treated to a guest speaker Mr. Thomas Wolf, who represented the Northumberland County Historical Society. Mr. Wolf provided a presentation pertaining to Col. Richard Lee I (1618-1664—who was later nicknamed, “The Immigrant”). Col Lee was the first member of the Lee family to reside in America. He emigrated from Shropshire, England to Virginia in 1639 and sailed to Virginia “as the private secretary to the colony's new governor, Sir Francis Wyatt.”

Below is a photograph of Mr. Wolf during his presentation.
October 19, 2018 is officially Yorktown Day which is the yearly remembrance of the surrender of Cornwallis on October 19, 1781. As a result, many festivities and/or events occur in the immediate area. One such event is the annual Yorktown Day Parade.

The below photograph shows three of our newest Youth Associates, along with their father (Mr. Steven Powers), proudly marching in the parade carrying the Virginia Society Banner. Also with them, is Virginia Society Associate Zander Sheffield:

![Proudly displaying our Colors in the parade are (l-r) Mike Weyler, Ben Fegan, and Shane Newcombe](image)

Another yearly event is providing a wreath at the gravesite of Patriot-Brigadier General Thomas Nelson Jr who was appointed Colonel of the 2nd Virginia Infantry Regiment. In mid-1775 he was elected to fill George Washington's seat in the Second Continental Congress when Washington left to assume command of the Continental Army. And on June 12, 1781, Nelson was elected to succeed

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Thomas Jefferson as Governor of Virginia and was instrumental in the defeat of Cornwallis at Yorktown, on October 19, 1781.

The below photograph shows wreaths being presented at the gravesite of Governor Thomas Nelson, Jr by members of the Virginia Society namely: (l-r) former Governor General Dan Warren, Josh Wilberger, Chaplain Ben Fegan, Zander Sheffield, Mike Lyman, Governor Shane Newcombe, and Dep Gov. Walt Sheffield

The final event of the day and at the conclusion of the Fall Membership Meeting, members of the Virginia Society initiated a second grave marking ceremony just a short distance from Yorktown.

The second location was at the Smith Cemetery located adjacent to 918 Yorktown Rd, Yorktown, VA. The burials are in the Smith Cemetery (Charles River Co), located adjacent to the ruins of the 17th century Charles Church of Charles Parish-Yorke County, VA (Yorktown, VA). There, Founders Thomas and John Prewitt were honored with the placement of the Virginia Society wreath.

(l-r) Governor Shane Newcombe, Jerry Hubbard, Josh Wilberger, Doug Graves, Mike Weyler, and Mike Lyman

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