

## George Washington Chapter SAR History

The NATIONAL SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION was formed on April 30, 1889, and was chartered (incorporated) through an Act of Congress (signed by President Theodore Roosevelt) on June 9, 1906.

Originally Oregon and Washington comprised a single society. When it was determined sufficient members were located in Washington, the two societies separated, with the Washington SAR being officially established June 17, 1895. More can be found on the Washington SAR website.

In Washington State, the Spokane Chapter was organized February 1, 1894, and Seattle followed September 25, 1894. In Tacoma, the Alexander Hamilton Chapter was founded February 20, 1896. Yakima Compatriots formed the George Washington Chapter in April 21, 1914. These Chapters were soon followed by Hoquiam in 1915, Captain Robert Gray (Olympia) 1916 and the General George Washington Chapter in Mount Vernon circa 1927. Active as early as 1927 it added "General" to the name since Yakima already was established as the "George Washington" Chapter. Disbanded in 1954, it was reestablished as the "General Washington Chapter" October 20, 1979. Sometime during the 1980's it, again, disbanded.

Other chapters have come into existence and then after a while, due to the inactivity of the members, have ceased to exist. They are: the Hoquiam Chapter organized February 22, 1915, the Captain Robert Gray Chapter of Olympia, organized April 19, 1916 and the Marcus Whitman Chapter. The only information available for the Marcus Whitman Chapter, Walla Walla, is contained in the April 1947 issue of the SAR Magazine. At this time, the Chapter was active and remained so until on or about 1991, when it ceased to exist.<sup>1</sup> There are currently eight Chapters in Washington State.

During the October 19, 2012 meeting it was agreed the new Chapter would be christened the "George Washington" Chapter as proposed by Chair John Ernest. There was unanimous agreement after extensive debate.<sup>2</sup> The George Washington Chapter was re-formed with initial meetings in October and November 2012 providing Skagit, Island, San Juan and Whatcom County compatriots a more convenient gathering opportunity rather than traveling to Seattle.

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<sup>1</sup> WA SAR History, James Lindley, Rev 2006

<sup>2</sup> GWC Meeting Minutes 10/27/2012

Official recognition was bestowed on January 12, 2013 at Calico Cupboard Old Town Cafe & Bakery in Mount Vernon, WA.<sup>3</sup> Compatriots forming the chapter were long time SAR members who felt there would be more opportunity for growth as a number of WASSAR members lived in the area who were “at large” or affiliated with another chapter. The Charter is signed by the founding members.

Initial meetings were held at the Calico Cupboard Restaurant in Mount Vernon (October 2012 - March 2013). In attendance in October were Compatriots Dale Harshman, Brian Bork, Tom Peloquin, Eric Howard, Ralph Nichols, John Ernest (chair), his lady Margaret Ernst, who acted as Secretary pro tem, and prospective member Bob Huson (now deceased). Interim officer's chosen were Eric Howard President, Brian Bork Vice President and Secretary, Tom Peloquin Treasurer, Dale Harshman Historian and Web Designer, John Ernest Genealogist and Ralph Nichols Trustee.

The November 2012 meeting was highlighted with a petition circulated requesting the State Society to establish the George Washington Chapter. Signers of the petition were Compatriots Eric Howard, Dave Vandaveer, Dale Harshman, Tom Peloquin, Ralph Nichols, Albert Bingham, Larry Miller, James Lindley, Brian L. Bork, John E. Ernst and prospective member Robert Huson.

The January 12, 2013 meeting officially commemorated the establishment of the George Washington Chapter, Washington State Sons of the American Revolution. WA SAR President Jim Lindley swore in Chapter officers chosen in October. Compatriot John Ernest presented the Chapter with a full-sized U.S. Flag that had been flown over George Washington's home in Mount, Vernon, VA. Lady Teri Lindley, on behalf of the National Ladies Auxiliary, presented an engraved gavel to Chapter President Eric Howard.<sup>4</sup>

In February it was decided to move meetings to an alternative location that allowed for a better acoustics<sup>5</sup>. The March, April and May meetings were held at Denny's Restaurant in Mount Vernon. Meeting moved back to Bob's Burger and Brew September 2013 until April 2014 when it was decided to move to the Farmhouse Restaurant in Mount Vernon,<sup>6</sup> where meetings are currently held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday each month September through May (2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in December).

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<sup>3</sup> GWC Meeting Minutes 1/12/2013

<sup>4</sup> GWC Meeting Minutes 1/12/2013

<sup>5</sup> GWC Meeting Minutes 2/16/2013

<sup>6</sup> GWC Meeting Minutes 4/19/2014