



## NSWFD Dispatch

*connecting with cousins*

### Happy New Year to the Washington Family!

Hoping that you enjoyed a warm and wonderful Christmas holiday, surrounded by family and friends! Moving into 2024, I am excited about our Society and the opportunities we have to **learn more** about our nation's founders, especially our Washington family ancestors, and to **do more** to educate ourselves and others about the true history of the founding of our United States. Please make a 2024 New Year's resolution to encourage your eligible family members to join as members, participate in our annual reunions, and/or serve on a committee. We need your intentional participation to ensure the future of NSWFD! Contact me or John Blair for more information or questions about membership.

Barbara Short, President General - [mrsbarbaraashort@gmail.com](mailto:mrsbarbaraashort@gmail.com)

John Blair, Registrar - [jblair66@aol.com](mailto:jblair66@aol.com)

### 2024 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion Announcement

There has been a change of location for our 2024 Reunion.

After researching the previously announced location – Savannah, Georgia – the board decided that a better choice for our 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion will be **Williamsburg & Yorktown**. Additional research and work has confirmed this choice. Mark your calendars to join us as we gather on Thursday, October 17 – 20, 2024 at The Woodlands Hotel & Suites, in Williamsburg Virginia, spending time in Colonial Williamsburg and nearby Yorktown. Our time includes participation in the Yorktown Day Celebration and Parade on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. The planning and organizing is ongoing, and the hotel reservation link and other details will be forwarded to all members via the society website, Facebook and email as soon as possible.

### Welcome Our Newest Members

The Society has recently been receiving an average of 155 inquiries about membership from our website each year. Since our gathering in Philadelphia, we have gained eleven new life members/associate members/annual members. Please welcome them!

National Number 1432 Life Member

**Elizabeth Kearsley Wysong**

2076 Fairwood Lane, NE

Atlanta, Ga 30345

Date Accepted: 20 December 2023

Ancestor: Colonel William Ball

Telephone: 404-545-2596

Email: [ekwysong@bellsouth.net](mailto:ekwysong@bellsouth.net)

D.O.B.: 13 December 1963

Associate Member: N/A

National Number 1431 Life Member

**John Fielding Lewis, Jr.**

46 Agate Drive

Florissant, Colorado 80816

Date Accepted: 16 November 2023

Ancestor: Colonel John Washington

Telephone: 719-687-4214

Email: [jflewisjr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jflewisjr@sbcglobal.net)

D.O.B.: 30 July 1952

Associate Member: **Debra Cothren Lewis** 1431-A\* Life

Telephone: 719-687-4214

Email: [lewideb@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lewideb@sbcglobal.net)

National Number 1430 Annual Member

**George Kearsley Wysong, III**

345 Northeast 100<sup>th</sup> Street

Miami Shores, Florida 33138-2420

Date Accepted: 16 November 2023

Ancestor: Colonel William Ball

Telephone: 305-216-5820

Email: [gkwysong@gmail.com](mailto:gkwysong@gmail.com)

D.O.B.: 22 June 1966

Associate Member: N/A

Telephone: N/A

Email: N/A

Associate Member: **Arne Holger Eliasson** 1205-A (Annual) Husband of Tudy Peyton Morris Moncure N.N. 1205 Annual Member

Telephone: 301-906-5861

Email: [aheliasson@aol.com](mailto:aheliasson@aol.com)

National Number 1429 Annual Member

**Allison Dallas Burgett**

20980 Lava Flow Lane,

Bend, Oregon 97701

Date Accepted: 30 October 2023

Ancestor: Augustine Warner I

Telephone: 503-784-5963

Email: [adburgett@gmail.com](mailto:adburgett@gmail.com)

D.O.B.: 20 December 1956

Associate Member: **James Alan Burgett** (Annual)

Telephone: 503-708-7446

Email: [jaburgett@gmail.com](mailto:jaburgett@gmail.com)

National Number 1428 Annual Member

**Trudy Lynn Wright Brisendine**

10319 N. Sinclair Circle,

Fresno, California 93730

Date Accepted: 28 October 2023

Ancestor: Col. John Washington

Telephone: 559-906-0052

Email: [Trudy.brisendine@gmail.com](mailto:Trudy.brisendine@gmail.com)

D.O.B.: 15 August 1953

Associate Member: **Rodney Burke Brisendine** (Annual)

Telephone: 559-579-0816

Email: [rod.brisendine@gmail.com](mailto:rod.brisendine@gmail.com)

National Number 1427 Annual Member

**Jacqueline Turney Halpin**

2071 Lewis Avenue

Altadena, California 91001  
Date Accepted: 27 September 2023  
Ancestor: Col. John Washington  
Telephone: 626-354-3840  
Email: [jackiejoh@live.com](mailto:jackiejoh@live.com)  
D.O.B.: 07 Feb 1960  
Associate Member: **Peter Lawrence Halpin**  
Telephone: 626-826-5216  
Email: [peterlhalpin@gmail.com](mailto:peterlhalpin@gmail.com)

### **Interested in Supplementals?**

For The NSWFD, a supplemental is an application that is based on your approved NSWFD application which at some point, either extends or branches off to another NSWFD Qualifying Ancestor. You will only need to supply the proofs for the additional genealogy. The fee for a supplemental application is currently \$45.00 and includes a certificate. If you would like more information about supplemental applications, please email the Registrar, John Blair at [jblair66@aol.com](mailto:jblair66@aol.com).

### **George Washington Teacher Institute Scholarship Program**

Along with the other annual donations made by the Society, we are pleased to add our participation in funding a partial scholarship at The George Washington Teacher Institute at Mount Vernon. Members are welcome to add to this fund by visiting our website and navigating to the page with instructions to contribute. Your personal donation will be added to the contribution made by the society, and hopefully fund a whole scholarship for a teacher to participate in this continuing education opportunity that highlights the important historical contributions of George Washington and our Founding Fathers.

### **Philadelphia Reunion Report**

80 cousins gathered for the 69th Annual NSWFD Reunion weekend at the Marriott Philadelphia Old City Hotel. On a late September afternoon, registrants were greeted by the Ambassador Committee who supplied them with maps and snacks, a list of registrants, an itinerary, and a blue tumbler embossed with the gold crest of George Washington's family. "Sacrifice, Struggle and Succession" were written beneath the Washington coat of arms. The motto served as a theme for the weekend's activities. These three qualities were referenced, explicitly or implicitly, through the weekend's tours and presentations.

The Hospitality Room and Buffet Dinner at the hotel gave members an opportunity to enjoy the company of "cousins" old and new. The Executive Board held its annual meeting. The minutes of this meeting are available each year in Washington Words.

Brisk and "non-brisk" walkers alike, set out early Friday morning with guides to tour the iconic sites of the Old City: Carpenter's Hall, Independence Hall, the nation's first Treasury, and the Liberty Bell. Philadelphia's early colonial homes, the Max Parrish/Louis Comfort Tiffany collaboration, "The Dream Garden," and the Merchant's Exchange building were unexpected treats.

Ready for lunch, the groups boarded buses for Valley Forge. A hearty array of salads and sandwiches was provided by the Freedoms Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to public education. Its focus is centered on the spirit and philosophy of our nation's founding charters and ideals; the embrace of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship; and preservation and advancement of our freedom. On the grounds is a monument commemorating the sacrifices of General George Washington and his army at Valley Forge. The 9-foot-tall bronze depicts the General kneeling in prayer, head bowed, and hands clasped.

A bus tour of the grounds of Valley Forge ended at the Washington Memorial Chapel with a docent presentation on the hundreds of beautifully crafted stained-glass windows that detailed our nation's history.

A bountiful Buffet Dinner on Friday evening was a short walk across the street to the Library of the Olde Bar in the historic Bookbinder's Building.

On Saturday, the buses departed for New Jersey. We were welcomed at the Visitor's Center at the site of the "Crossing of the Delaware River." In 1776 George Washington's small army crossed the river on Christmas Eve and marched another nine miles to fight at the Battle of Trenton. An excellent video, "Ten Crucial Days," detailed the unfathomable challenges with which Washington and his band of patriots had to contend. The improbable victory at Trenton was of immense importance. It boosted the flagging morale of the American troops and set the stage for another huge success at Princeton.

Returning to the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware River, we enjoyed luncheon at the Washington Crossing Inn. The charming Inn was most welcomed on a rainy, cool fall afternoon. Most of us were amazed at the width of the river at this site of the Crossing!

The last stop of the day was the Museum of the American Revolution. A highlight was being able to view Washington's Headquarters' Tent. This original tent was used by Washington both for sleeping and as his office during many military campaigns.

The Gala on Saturday evening, held at our hotel, began with an elegant Beef Tenderloin dinner. David Price, a noted historian, and author of dozens of books was the featured speaker. One of his latest books is entitled: "The Road to Assunpink Creek: Liberty's Desperate Hours and the 10 Crucial Days of the American Revolution." Price gave a most engaging account of the battle at Assunpink and its fascinating, yet unappreciated, significance.

A short business meeting ended with the members' traditional singing of "Blest Be the Tie That Binds." The conclusion of our trip found us, on a bright, crisp Sunday morning, at the historic Old Pine Church. Reverend Jason Ferris, an excellent homilist, and a member of the Society, presided over the service. Members enjoyed box lunches and a tour of the church and cemetery before heading back to the hotel for check out. Click here to browse the photos taken by our talented member Karen Saunders:

<https://gallery.karensaundersphotography.com/washingtonfamilyinphiladelphia/>

#### **[Visit washingtonfamilydescendants.org](https://www.washingtonfamilydescendants.org)**

Explore our new & improved website! You will find information on our Society, Membership, Events and much more. Click on the Members Only button to register for access to the private area of the website. Once we confirm your membership, you will be able to access the following pages:

- Leadership
- Member Directory
- Merchandise
- Reunion 2024
- Reunion 2023
- 2022 Charleston Reunion Presentations
- Member Photos

Keeping a website up to date, relevant and interesting is a big job, and we welcome anyone who is interested in working with us on this project. Your suggestions and questions may be forwarded to our webmaster and member, Linda Horstmeyer. [Linda@SeaShellDigital.com](mailto:Linda@SeaShellDigital.com), who deserves our gratitude for her expertise in the digital world!

#### **[Visit our Facebook Page](#)**

Communicate with other members through our private site – for members only. Members post interesting articles and comments relative to our shared heritage. If you are not currently connected on Facebook, use this link to gain access:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/40812519127/>

**The National Society of the Washington Family Descendants**