

# French & Indian War Foundation

*"Preserving and Interpreting the Colonial History of Virginia's Frontier"*

PO Box 751, Winchester, Virginia 22604

[www.FIWF.org](http://www.FIWF.org)

Volume 16, Issue 3, Summer 2021

## Notes from the President

By David Grosso

Finally, after a tedious and trying year things are reopening and we are able to return to our education and outreach programs. These notes will necessarily be brief since our activities have been constrained until recently.

Our first in-person event this year was Fort Loudoun Day on May 15. Because of a relaxation of outdoor gathering restrictions by the Governor in early May, we were able to hold an in-person event this year after all. As mentioned in our previous newsletter, we had committed to holding FLD in 2021 in some form and were expecting to hold a hybrid digital-in-person event. In the end we were able to hold FLD in our traditional format, again in association with the Col. James Wood II Chapter of the SAR. Due to the uncertainty caused by the pandemic we were conservative in promoting the Day and as a result turnout was modest but greater than we might have expected just two weeks prior.

Our next outreach activity will be at the Annual Colonial Kids Day July 10 hosted by the Clarke County Historical Association at Burwell-Morgan Mill. We will again be joining with the CJWII chapter of the SAR in bringing the history of the late 18<sup>th</sup> century colonial era to the public.

Coloring book sales continue strong. A Daniel Morgan book was published this Spring to accompany the George Washington book released last Fall. We encourage anyone interested in purchasing either or both books to visit our web page, [fiwf.org](http://fiwf.org), to find area locations where these books are being offered for sale. Be aware that the Daniel Morgan book is more expensive than the GW book because it is considerably larger.

The response to our appeal letter for donations to support the Foundation has been very successful. We want to thank everyone who contributed toward our efforts to continue to pay down the \$130,000 loan remaining on the Baker-Hardy House property. We do not have a final accounting yet as donations have been continuing to come in.

It is award recognition time again. Please consider making a nomination (s) for one of the four (4) awards or certificates of appreciation that the

Foundation may confer annually for outstanding efforts to promote the history of the French & Indian War Era or service to, or support of, the Foundation. See the accompanying notice elsewhere in this newsletter for details. Note that nominations along with written supporting information may be submitted anytime up until September 1, 2021 either by USPS or e-mail.

Again, we look forward to your continuing support in 2021 and hope we will be able to meet and continue to celebrate the early history of this Country.

## Call for AWARD NOMINATIONS!

Each year the Foundation may present honorary awards to individuals in recognition of outstanding contributions to the preservation or interpretation of the colonial history of the Virginia frontier during the French and Indian War era. We are currently soliciting nominations for awards for 2021 for the following:

### **Fort Loudoun Award**

This award will be presented in recognition of outstanding contributions in the area of leadership in promoting the colonial history of the Virginia frontier.

### **Judge Robert K. Woltz History Award**

This award will be presented in recognition of outstanding contributions in the area of scholarship which furthers understanding of the French and Indian War Period in American History.

### **Leo Bernstein Award**

This award will be presented in recognition of outstanding contributions in the area of finance for securing major financial support for the French and Indian War Foundation.

### **Foundation Outstanding Service Award**

This award will be presented to a foundation member in recognition of outstanding service to the foundation.

### **Certificates of Appreciation**

Certificates of Appreciation may be awarded to organizations or individuals who have made significant contributions toward educating the public regarding the French and Indian War and its significance to the history of the United States.

Nominations must be made in writing to the Foundation no later than September 1, 2021, for consideration. Nominations may be made by any Foundation member and may be forwarded via e-mail to [fiwf419@gmail.com](mailto:fiwf419@gmail.com) or through the U.S. Postal Service to P.O. Box 751, Winchester, VA, 22604.

Nominations must include a biography and statement of why the individual warrants consideration for an award or Certificate of Appreciation.

# Commemoration and Reenactment of George Washington's Election to House of Burgesses

By Dale Corey



On 24 July 2021, the French and Indian War Foundation, Mercer's Company and the Colonel James Wood II Chapter (CJWII) of the Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) participated in a commemoration and reenactment of the 1758 election of George Washington to the House of Burgesses. The event was sponsored by Mercer's Company reenactment group led by Tony Elar.

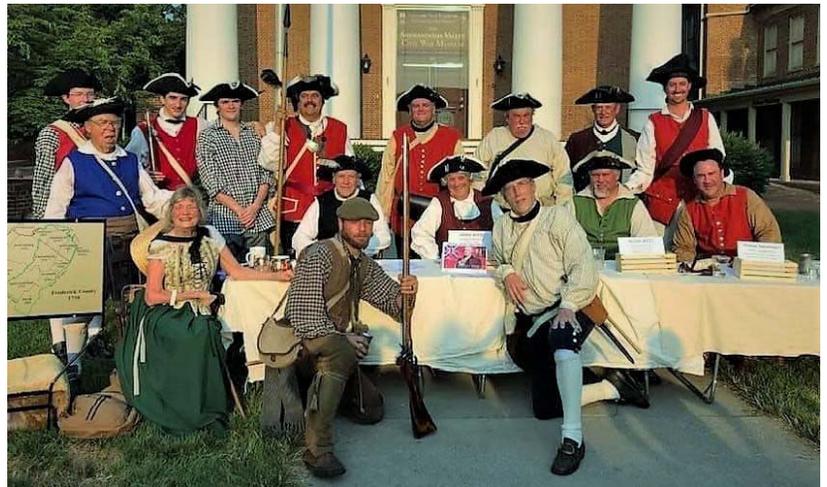
They received support from David Downes and the Virginia Beer Museum. The Museum crafted a beer using the formula George Washington used at Mount Vernon to celebrate the occasion.

The House of Burgesses was created in 1642 as an instrument of government with the royal governor and the Council of State. After Virginia declared independence, the House became the House of Delegates as the lower house of the General Assembly. Elections at that time were conducted by voice vote of landowners. The county sheriff, a clerk and a representative of each candidate would sit at a table. The elector approached the table and openly voiced his vote. Each voter had two votes.

George Washington ran for election to the House of Burgesses from Frederick County in 1755 and lost to Hugh West and Thomas Swearingen. In 1758, Washington ran again. As he was involved in the French and Indian War, Colonel James Wood managed his campaign and represented him at the election. Wood obtained 160 gallons of alcoholic drinks, distributing them free to 391 voters in Frederick County. Running with Washington were Thomas Bryan Martin, Hugh West and Thomas Swearingen. West and Swearingen were the incumbents in the House of Burgesses. Washington and Martin were elected, with Washington successfully gaining reelection in 1761. In 1765, he ran and won a seat to represent Fairfax County, which he held until 1775 when the American Revolutionary War broke out.

At the commemoration event, individuals portraying the four candidates were seated at a table with Jim Moyer of Mercer's Company and the FIWF monitoring the election. Participating from the French and Indian War Foundation were Dale Corey, Tony Elar, Erick Moore, Jim Moyer, Steve Resan and Marc Robinson.

The first photo is the members of the Colonel James Wood II Chapter. Photo courtesy of Phil Hunter. Second photo are the members of Mercer's Company, French and Indian War Foundation and the Colonel James Wood II Chapter at the election desk. Photo courtesy of Tony Elar.



## FIWF Activities



David Grosso speaking with attendees

On 10 Jul, the French and Indian War Foundation participated in Clarke County Historical Associations Colonial Kids Day at the Burwell-Morgan Mill. David Grosso and Scott Straub were present to provide information about the Foundation and the French and Indian War. Mercer's Company provided a campsite, drill and musket presentations.



On 15 May, the French and Indian War Foundation sponsored Fort Loudoun Day at the Baker-Hardy House. David Grosso provided tours of the house and grounds. Mercer's Company gave presentations on drill and musket firing. The Colonel James Wood II Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution showed how drill and musket firing had changed between the F&I and Revolutionary Wars.



On 12 Jul, Board Member Dale Corey conducted a presentation at a History Camp held at the Warren Heritage Society, Front Royal. For the first segment of the program he discussed the French and Indian War and its impact on the lower Shenandoah Valley.

# Membership

YES, I wish to become a member of the French and Indian War Foundation and play an important role in supporting the educational goals and preservation of the sites associated with this conflict on the American frontier.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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### Annual Dues

- Student \$ 15
- Individual / Family \$ 30
- Patron \$ 100
- Sustaining \$ 250
- Benefactor \$ 500

### 100 Soldiers—Lifetime Memberships

- Soldier \$ 1,000
- Captain \$ 5,000
- Colonel \$ 10,000

*The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization*

### Mission

*"The French and Indian War Foundation preserves and interprets the colonial history of the Virginia frontier."*

### Goals

- Raise public awareness about the war and its consequences through public lectures and tours, as well as publication in the media.
- Collect and conserve primary documents relating to the war.
- Identify, document, preserve and interpret French and Indian War era landmarks in the backcountry of the mid-Atlantic colonies.
- Cooperate with privately and publicly owned French and Indian War fort sites in research, promotion and preservation activities.

*We encourage high school and college History students to participate with all activities.*

- I will volunteer my services
- I would like to make a Donation \_\_\_\_\_

Please forward this form to:

**The French and Indian War Foundation**  
P.O. Box 751  
Winchester, VA 22604

www.FIWF.org

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**Membership,** David Grosso

**Newsletter,** Dale Corey

### **Call for Committee Members!**

If you have ideas, time or resources we need your help. If you could serve on any of the above committees, please email [fiwf.dsg@comcast.net](mailto:fiwf.dsg@comcast.net).

The Board of Directors currently meets at 3:30 p.m. on the 1st Thursday of the month. Meetings are conducted via Zoom and will continue in this manner until further notice.

# Meet Board Member Dale Corey

by Dale Corey



Dale Corey was born and raised in Tooele, Utah in 1949. His family has a long history of military service beginning with the early Indian Wars and continuing through the Vietnam War. He grew up in a family of six kids, three boys and three girls.

Dale became interested in history and family at an early age as there were annual family reunions with discussions of ancestry and history in Utah. He had family that crossed the plains with the Mormons in 1847 on his Mother's side, with descent from Mayflower families. His Father's family had originally come to the American colonies in 1630 and eventually migrated to Canada after fighting as British Loyalists during the Revolutionary War.

He left in 1970 to join the Army, serving a tour in Vietnam and staying for 20 years. While assigned to the US Army Military Personnel Center, he met his wife Deborah to whom he has been married 47 years. They have one son who builds prosthetics and lives in King Georges County, Virginia.

When he retired from the Army, the family moved to Springfield, Virginia where he started a home construction business and Deborah worked as a Department of the Army civilian.

When they retired, they moved to Front Royal, with both becoming members of the Warren Heritage Society. Dale was an active musician, playing guitar, bass guitar, keyboards and singing from a very early age until circumstances prevented him from playing the instruments. He has been a member of the Sons of the American Revolution since 2013, serving as President for two years and is the Virginia State Committee Chair for both the Revolutionary War Patriot Graves Committee and the Veterans Affairs Committee.

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Anonymous

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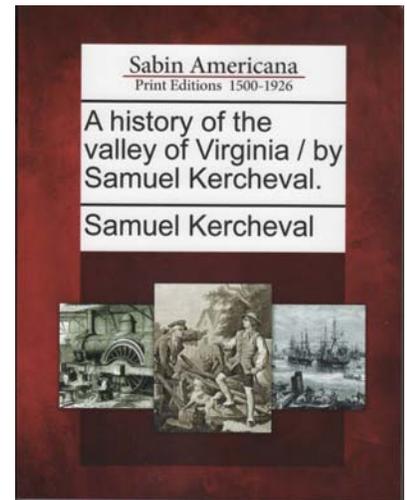
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**Editor's note:** *Friends and members of the French and Indian War Foundation. I was reading through a book by Samuel Kercheval, first printed in 1833 and found a couple of chapters of interest to the French and Indian War. It is interesting in see how an individual who grew up in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century described the events that led up to and included the war. Samuel was born in 1767, Frederick County, Virginia. Throughout his life, he was enamored with history. He married Susannah Chinn in 1787 and became a lawyer and noted author. Additionally, he interviewed long time residents of the lower Shenandoah Valley, collecting first hand accounts of the customs and accounts of the life during the Indian Wars and the Revolution. He compiled this information into a highly regarded volume, "A History of the Valley of Virginia", published in 1833 in Winchester. Chapter VI of the book is titled "Breaking out of the Indian War" about the start of the French and Indian War. Here is another excerpt from the book.*



In 1755 the British government sent Gen. Braddock, at the head of two regiments, to this country. Col. Washington had previously resigned the command of the Virginia troops. Braddock invited him to join the service as one of his volunteer aids, which invitation he readily accepted, and joined Braddock near Alexandria (then called Bellhaven). The Army moved on for the west, and in their march out erected Fort Cumberland. (Fort Cumberland was built in the year 1755, in the fork between Wills Creek and North Branch of the Potomac. It was about 55 miles north west of Winchester, on the Maryland side of the Potomac.) The circumstances attending the unfortunate defeat of Braddock, and the dreadful slaughter of his army near Pittsburgh, are too generally known to require a detailed account in this work, suffice it to say that the defeat was attended with the most disastrous consequences to our country. The whole western frontier was left exposed to the ravages of the forces of the French and Indians combined.

After the defeat and fall of Braddock, Col. Dunbar, the next in command of the British army, retreated to Philadelphia, and the defence of the country fell upon Washington, with the few troops the colonies were able to raise. The people forthwith erected stockade forts in every part of the valley, and took shelter in them. Many families were driven off, some east of the Blue Ridge, and others into Maryland and Pennsylvania.

Immediately after the defeat of Braddock, Washington retreated to Winchester, in the county of Frederick, and

in the autumn of 1755 built Fort Loudoun. The venerable and highly respectable Lewis Neill, who was born on Opequon, about five miles east of Winchester, in 1747, stated to the author, that when he was about eight years of age, his father had business at the fort, and that he went with him into it. Mr. Thomas Barrett, another aged and respectable citizen, states that he has often heard his father say, that Fort Loudoun was built the same year and immediately after Braddock's defeat. Our highly respectable and venerable general, John Smith, who settled in Winchester in 1773, informed the author that he had seen and conversed with some of Washington's officers soon after he settled in Winchester, and they stated to him that Washington marked out the site of the fort, and superintended the work; that he bought a lot in Winchester, erected a smith's shop on it, and brought from Mount Vernon his own blacksmith to make the necessary iron work for the fort. These officers pointed out to Gen. Smith the spot where Gen. Washington's huts or cabins were erected for his residence while in the fort. The great highway leading from Winchester to the north passes through the fort precisely where Washington's quarters were erected. It stands at the north end of Loudoun street, and a considerable part of the walls are now remaining. It covered an area of about half an acre; within which area, a well, one hundred and three feet deep, chiefly thro a solid limestone rock, was sunk for the convenience of the garrison. (The water in this well rises near the surface, and in great floods of rains has been known to overflow and dis

charge a considerable stream of water.) The labor of throwing up this fort was performed by Washington's regiment; so says Gen. Smith. It mounted six eighteen pounders, six twelve pounders, six six-pounders, four swivels, and two howitzers, and contained a strong garrison. (Gen. John Smith stated this fact to the author. The cannon were removed from Winchester early in the war of the revolution. Mr. Henry W. Baker, of Winchester, gave the author an account of the number of cannon mounted on the fort.) No formidable attempts were ever made by the enemy against it. A French officer once came to reconnoiter, and found it too strong to be attacked with any probability of success. (William L. Clark, Esq., is now the owner of the land including this ancient fortification, and has converted a part of it into a beautiful pleasure garden.)

For three years after the defeat of Braddock, the French and Indian combined carried on a most destructive and cruel war upon the western people. The French, however, in about three years after Braddock's defeat, abandoned Fort Duquesne, and it was immediately taken possession of by the British and colonial troops under the command of Gen. Forbes. Washington soon after resigned the command of the Virginia forces, and retired to private life. A predatory warfare was nevertheless continued on the people of the valley by hostile Indian tribes for several years after the French had been driven from their strong holds in the west; the particulars of which will form the subject of my next chapter.

# ***SAVE THE DATES:***

Saturday, Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>

Warren Heritage Days, Warren Heritage Society, Front Royal, VA

Sunday, Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>

Carl Eckberg Lecture "The Jefferson Soul of Winchester", Handley High School,  
Winchester, VA

Saturday, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>

Clarke County Heritage Days, Burwell-Morgan Mill, Millwood, VA

Saturday, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>

FIWF Annual Meeting, guest speaker Randy Crane of Fort Ashby

**2022**

May 14<sup>th</sup> - 20th Anniversary of FIWF

*All events will be held in accordance with the Governor's requirements for adhering to COVID-19 precautions in place at the time. All attendees will be expected to adhere to these guidelines.*

