



The Halifax Dispatch

HALIFAX RESOLVES CHAPTER, NCSSAR

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April, 2004

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Comp. Joe E. Harris, Jr.

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Comp. Lee W. Porter

Comp. Randy D. Steele

Comp. Rhoderick Williams

Comp. Clark Wiser



Inside this issue:

Chapter Activities 2

Pictures 3

About the SAR 4

Chapter Meeting Scheduled for April 24, 2004

The April, 2004 meeting of the Halifax Resolves Chapter will be held at Ralph's BBQ in Weldon, on Saturday, 4/24/2004. It will begin at 4:00 p.m. and is expected to end around 5:30 pm, after which all are invited to enjoy the delicious BBQ buffet at Ralph's. On the agenda:

- * a talk by Professor David Ballew, of Chowan College, on the significance of the winter at Valley Forge in the American Revolution.

Members, guests and interested parties are cordially invited. The cost is \$12.00 per person, payable by cash or check only. Please RSVP to Steve Avent by 4/10/2004 at 252-459-9427 or by email at savent@mindspring.com or by the US mail at P.O. Box 221, Red Oak, NC 27868.

Halifax Day, 2004

On Monday, April 12, 2004 the town of Halifax will celebrate the 228th anniversary of the signing of the Halifax Resolves with its "Halifax Day" event. This will be an all day celebration, with tours of historic buildings throughout the day, a commemorative ceremony at 2:00 pm, and a reception and 50th birthday party at 3:00 (this will be the 50th Halifax Day celebration).

At 1:00 the Halifax Resolves Chapter will be sponsoring a wreath laying at the site of the old colonial courthouse (the likely site of the first reading of the Halifax Resolves), followed by the unveiling of a SAR Patriot grave marker at the grave of the Hon. John Sitgreaves, who was an aide to Gen. Richard Caswell at the battle of Camden and was also active in the NC militia. By all indications, attendance at the wreath laying should be pretty good, as RSVP's have been received from SAR and DAR chapters as far away as Maryland. Come on out and bring your family, and show your support for the chapter.

Help Wanted!

One of the most rewarding activities of the SAR is the presentation of the Law Enforcement Commendation Award, in which a medal and certificate are presented to a local law enforcement officer whose activities have gone above and beyond the call of duty. It is all too easy to take these public servants for granted, and too often their sacrifices go unnoticed by the community. We are looking for a member who will volunteer to contact local law enforcement agencies and ask for nominations for the award, and who will then select the most deserving candidate. We will then present the medal and certificate at one of our future meetings. Local newspapers are usually happy to publish photographs and articles of these presentations, which are very rewarding for the officer involved and also provide a good opportunity to publicize our chapter and its involvement in the local community. If you would be willing to take over this important and rewarding duty, please see Steve Avent.

Recent Activities of the Halifax Resolves Chapter

Since our January meeting, there have been many interesting and important SAR-related activities around the state, and the Halifax Resolves Chapter was an active participant in several of them.

On Saturday, January 17th, 2004 the 223rd Anniversary Celebration of Patriot Gen. Daniel Morgan's spectacular victory over British Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton at the Battle of Cowpens was held at the battlefield, near Gaffney, SC. It was a clear but chilly day and attendance was excellent, with participation from many patriotic organizations, including the SAR, DAR, the CAR (Children of the American Revolution) and the Sons of the Revolution. Participants assembled at the visitor's center, and then marched in procession from there to the battlefield monument, escorted by a color guard and fifes and drums. SAR chapters from as far away as Missouri were present, and 72 wreaths were presented. The wreath from the Halifax Resolves Chapter was presented by Comp. Steve Avent.

On Saturday, January 31 the NCSSAR Board of Managers meeting was held at Hopewell Presbyterian Church, located near the battlefield of Cowan's Ford (in which Gen. William Davidson was killed) just outside Charlotte. Here's a summary of some of the committee reports:

-ROTC Committee: NCSSAR chapters presented 135 Jr. and Sr. ROTC awards in 2003. The Halifax Resolves Chapter presented two of these, and in 2004 we will be presenting four to outstanding cadets at area high schools..

-Patriotic Education Committee: Chairman Joe Harris reported that the National Americanism Committee of the SAR has developed professional quality American heritage lesson plans for distribution to teachers of students from K-12th grade. These have been endorsed by the NC Department of Public Instruction, and Comp. Avent has several copies of these plans (which are on CD disks). If you know of a local teacher that can make use of one of these, please see him.

-NCSSAR Secretary: Frank Horton, NCSSAR Secretary, reported a net gain of 7 members for the NCSSAR, including 33 applications pending at the National SAR Genealogist's office in Louisville. (Two of these applicants are prospective Halifax Resolves Chapter members).

-NCSSAR Treasurer: Harry Goodman, NCSSAR Treasurer, reported that the NCSSAR ended 2003 with a net deficit of \$2466.58, and recommended that State dues be increased from \$11 to \$15 beginning in 2005 to rectify this situation. (This proposed increase was approved at the State Convention held March 26-28th – see below for details).

-Historian and Editor: John Thornhill, editor of the NCSSAR newsletter, "The Old North State" reported that he came in under budget for 2003, and urged Chapters and members to send in reports of Chapter activities and articles. If any member of the Halifax Resolves Chapter would like to submit an article to this excellent publication, please see Steve Avent for more information.

-Historic Sites and Celebrations: Bryan McBane, Chairman of the Historic Sites and Celebrations Committee reported on State events planned for the first half of 2004. Upcoming events will be listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

-NCSSAR VP Joe Harris reported on a bill pending in the US Congress, HR 2237, the 225th Anniversary of the American Revolution Commemoration Act. This bill would provide the National Park Service with \$500,000 each year between 2004 and 2009 to enhance public awareness and understanding of the impact of the American revolution. The bill is currently in committee, and Comp. Harris urged all SAR members to contact their elected representative to urge passage of this bill.

On Saturday, March 13th the 223rd Anniversary Celebration of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse was held at the battlefield, located in Greensboro. It was a beautiful Spring day, and attendance was excellent, with representatives present from the SAR, DAR and CAR as well as a large number of spectators. The Halifax Resolves Chapter was represented by Steve Avent and Secretary/Treasurer Cleveland Hawkins (and his wife Doris). About 40 wreaths were presented, including one from the Halifax Resolves Chapter.

From Friday, March 26 through Sunday the 28th the State Convention was held in Winston-Salem, hosted by the Bethabara Chapter (Alamance Co.). This turned out to be an interesting and enjoyable event, and our chapter was represented by Steve Avent and Cleveland Hawkins, and their wives. The event was kicked off on Friday evening by the President's Reception at the Historic Bethabara Park, after which participants were escorted by a Moravian band to the Gemeinhouse, where a candle-light tour was held. Saturday morning was open for tours of Old Salem and other sightseeing and shopping. Lunch was held at the Hawthorn Inn (site of the convention), where the keynote speaker was Rod Meyer, Ph.D, Director of Historic Bethabara Park, who gave an interesting presentation on the Revolutionary War in the Wachovia Tract. An afternoon business meeting was held, in which the State dues increase from \$11 to \$15 was discussed and approved. An informative talk on leadership and methods of increasing participation and membership was given by Comp. Larry Guzy, VP-General of the South Atlantic District. A black tie banquet was held that evening in which the keynote speaker was NSSAR

President-General Raymond Musgrave, who expressed his appreciation for all the Tarheel hospitality he had enjoyed. This was the first SAR convention for Compatriots Avent and Hawkins, and we found it to be a very worthwhile and enjoyable experience and would urge all members to consider attending future conventions.

Upcoming events:

April 12th: Halifax Day

May 15th: Alamance Battleground Commemoration

June 6th: Ramseur's Mill Battlefield Commemoration

See Steve Avent for more details on these events.



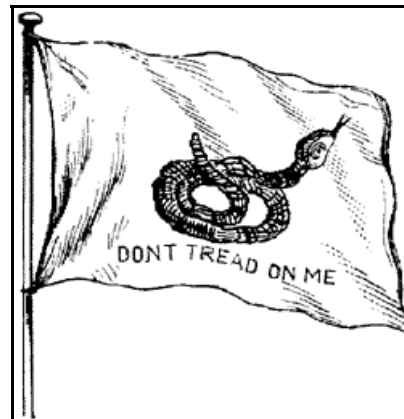
The presentation of the Halifax Resolves Chapter wreath at the battlefield of Cowpens, SC, on 1/17/04.



The presentation of the chapter wreath at the battlefield of Guilford Courthouse on 3/13/04.



Steve Avent and Cleveland Hawkins at the battlefield of Guilford Courthouse on 3/13/04.



**The American's Creed
By William Tyler Page**

I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic; a sovereign nation of many sovereign states; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its Constitution; to obey its laws; to respect its flag; and to defend it against all enemies.

HALIFAX RESOLVES CHAPTER, NCSSAR

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The Sons of the American Revolution is a patriotic organization formed in 1889 and chartered by the United States Congress in 1906, with more than 25,000 living members from all 50 states and 23 foreign countries. Throughout its 115-year history, the SAR has admitted more than 155,000 members. Among them are 16 Presidents of the United States, including George W. Bush and his father George H. W. Bush, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Harry Truman and Theodore Roosevelt. The SAR also has had among its members Sir Winston Churchill and King Juan Carlos I of Spain, both of whom trace their ancestry to Revolutionary War patriots. Membership requires proof of descent from a person who aided in the Patriot cause. Some of the activities we engage in are:

- * commemoration of patriot graves and monuments
- * educational programs in the schools and elsewhere on the ideals of our Patriot ancestors and the American Revolution
- * recognition of outstanding law enforcement officers and JROTC cadets
- * sponsorship of Boy Scout troops



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