

Message from the President



Compatriots,

Another year is flying by and even with a reduced schedule, I have been relatively busy. A lot of events are going on at the same time or close to the same time.

Following our last meeting I had the privilege of attending three Eagle Scout Courts of Honor and presenting the SAR Eagle Scout Recognition Certificate to each individual scout.

If you have never attended one of these ceremonies you need to do so.

Last November I was approached by Historic Halifax inquiring about the possibility of the chapter sponsoring the way-side sign at the Owens House in Halifax. The cost of \$1000 exceeded the chapter's ability to sponsor, so it was passed up to the state level for consideration. At the February 4th Board of Managers meeting the motion for NCSSAR to sponsor the sign passed by a narrow margin. As it stands now, the sign will be dedicated by the State Society during our events on April 7th. The schedule now is a Flag Retirement at 10:00, the Owens House dedication at 11:00, a Luncheon at 12:00 and the Halifax Resolves Celebration at 2:00. This will be the busiest day of events that I can recall. The chapter officers will need as much assistance from the membership as possible to preclude any problems.

Our guest speaker for the Halifax Resolves ceremony will be Mr. Gary Hackenburg, of Roanoke Rapids. Gary was born in Morris County, New Jersey, near Morristown, home of George Washington's headquarters. He attended Tarkio College, a Presbyterian school in Tarkio, Missouri and graduated with a BA in Theatre in 1982. He has been involved with the Lakeland Theatre since 1989 and he and his wife of 24 years, Denise have lived in Roanoke Rapids since 1988 and have one son, Jacob who is an Eagle Scout. Gary is the Scout Master of BSA Troop 411 and is employed as the Station Manager of GoMix Radio in downtown Roanoke Rapids. Gary will be presenting a program on Thomas Jefferson.

Chapter Sec.-Treas. Steve Avent and I were asked by Compatriot Dr. Sam Powell if we would like to attend a meeting

of the Outer Banks Chapter, which we accepted. A quick flight down and back allowed time for food, fellowship and a great program on the Invasion of Edenton that was presented by Peter Rascoe, III. Kudos to the Outer Banks Chapter for a great time and many thanks to Dr. Powell for the flight down and back.

I was fortunate enough to attend the Crossing of the Dan ceremony in South Boston, VA this year with Chapter Registrar Allen Brahin and Compatriot Lee Scouten. This event gets better each year. Due to the reduced schedule, I will not be attending any other events until the Guilford Courthouse ceremony on March 17th.

Our Americanism Poster contest for the elementary school students is in full swing and the chapter membership will be selecting the winner at our March meeting. There are three schools participating at this time. The officers plan to select posters from each school to be judged by the membership. This selection is tentatively planned for the week prior to the chapter meeting.

Ken Wilson

The March chapter meeting will be held on **Wed., March 14**, at the Halifax United Methodist Church on **152 S. King Street (Main Street) in Halifax at 6:30 pm**. The cost of the meal will be \$10. **Reservations are required**. Please contact Ken Wilson or Steve Avent if you're coming. Sec.-Treas. Avent will be presenting a program on the Battle of Guilford Courthouse.

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President Wilson reported on the following chapter activities since our November 2011 meeting:

- He participated in a veteran’s recognition ceremony at the Roanoke Valley Adult Daycare.
- He participated in the “March of Patriots” Veteran’s Day parade.
- He conducted the grave marking ceremony for Patriot Nathan Boddie. Following the ceremony NCSSAR President Steve Pittard inducted new member Tim Rackley into the Society and awarded Chaplain Rev. Duncan Jones the SAR War Service Medal and Bronze Good Citizenship Medal.
- He participated in the December and January Veteran’s Ceremony at the Roanoke Valley Veteran’s Center and Museum.
- He participated in the Roanoke Rapids Christmas Parade.
- He conducted a Flag etiquette class for cub Scout Pack 238, Den 2 in preparation for their Citizenship Merit Badge.
- Currently there are 66 flags awaiting retirement.

Sec-Treas Avent reported that Chapter member Carlton Garner is recovering well after recent surgery, and President Wilson reported that Chaplain Duncan Jones is doing well also after recent surgery. NCSSAR President Steve Pittard was present and he gave a few brief remarks to the Chapter, emphasizing the importance of communication between the chapters across the state. Carl Peoples then gave a most interesting presentation on blacksmithing in colonial days.

Chapter Activities

President Wilson presented three Eagle Scout Recognition Certificates since our last meeting— to Scouts Jacob Hackenburg and Kyle Acree on January 23, and Justin Curtis Wynn on February 2.



Jacob Hackenburg



Justin Curtis Wynn

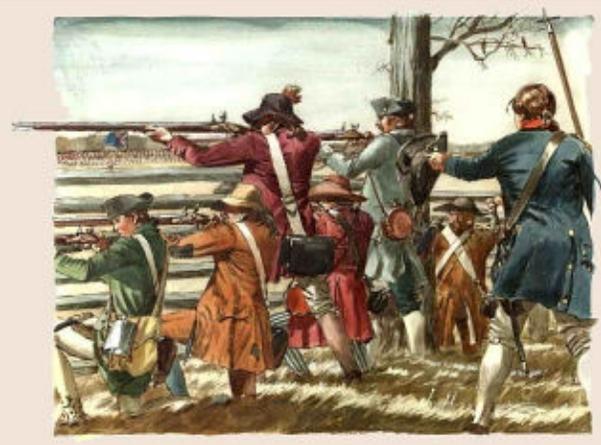


Kyle Acree

In February Ken served as the Master of Ceremonies at the monthly veteran’s recognition ceremony at the Roanoke Valley Veteran’s Center and Museum in Roanoke Rapids (below left), and he was a participant in their ceremony in March (below right).



The Battle of Guilford Courthouse



On March 15, 1781, British forces under Lord Cornwallis clashed with a Patriot army led by Gen. Nathanael Greene at Guilford Courthouse, in modern day Greensboro, in one of the most important battles of the Revolutionary War.

Taking a lesson from Daniel Morgan's spectacular victory at the Cowpens in January, Greene set up three lines of battle, with NC militia in the first line, including William R. Davie and Nathaniel Macon (whose grave the Halifax Resolves Chapter marked a few years ago) and 850 VA militiamen in a second line several hundred yards to the rear of the North Carolinians, and battle-tested Continentals in a third line.

Cornwallis's men advanced on Greene's first line after a thirty-minute artillery barrage by both sides. The British broke through the first and second lines relatively quickly, but suffered severe casualties in the advance, particularly along the Virginia militia line. One American noted that, after his regiment

fired a volley, the British "appeared like the stalks of wheat after the harvest man passed over them with his cradle." Despite their losses, Cornwallis's army pushed on to the American third line, where they engaged the Continental regulars in both small arms fire and hand-to-hand combat.

Unwilling to risk the destruction of his army, and realizing that he had inflicted massive casualties on the British, Greene withdrew his army to Troublesome Ironworks nearly fifteen miles away. The battered British army did not pursue. Although Cornwallis's army held the field, the Americans had punished them severely. Twenty-seven percent of Cornwallis's army lay dead or wounded on the field. The Foot Guards battalions, considered the finest troops in the entire British army, suffered fifty-six percent casualties, including nearly all of their officers. By comparison, Greene lost only six percent of his force, the majority of whom were North Carolina and Virginia militiamen who had fled shortly after the battle began and been counted as missing in action. In a letter to Samuel Huntington, the president of Congress, Greene described the engagement as "long, obstinate and bloody."

The British Army then marched to Wilmington to lick its wounds, and soon after moved to Yorktown to obtain much needed supplies. Washington, of course, trapped Cornwallis there and forced him to surrender, but this would not have been possible without the battle at Guilford Courthouse.

On March 17 the NCSSAR will be commemorating the battle in a ceremony with speakers and a wreath laying on the battlefield. This is always one of our biggest and most impressive ceremonies, and one that is well worth attending. There will be a large encampment of reenactors and many special programs presented throughout the day.

(much of the above account was taken from an article written by Josh Howard, of the NC Dept of Archives and History, 2009)

2012 NCSSAR State Convention

The Lower Cape Fear Chapter invites you and your guests to the NCSSAR Annual State Convention, to be held in Carolina Beach, NC March 30-31, 2012. The Convention Hotel is the Courtyard by Marriott on the beach. Room rate is \$119 per night. Call the hotel at 910-458-2617 for reservations and be sure to tell them you are a member of the Sons of the American Revolution.

The events will begin Friday night with a 2-hour Cape Fear River Cruise for the President's Reception, complete with hors d'oeuvres. The registration form can be downloaded from the NCSSAR website, www.ncssar.com, or obtained from your Secretary-Treasurer. For questions, please call John Thornhill at 910-284-0232, thornhill@embarqmail.com, or William Holt at costlbks@coastalnet.com.

This is a great opportunity to meet SAR members from around the state, and all members are encouraged to attend.

Upcoming NCSSAR Events

Mar. 17 - Battle of Guilford Courthouse Commemoration - Greensboro, NC

Mar. 30-31 - NCSSAR Convention - Carolina Beach, NC

Apr. 7 - Celebration of the Adoption of the Halifax Resolves - Halifax, NC

June 23 - 232nd Anniversary of the Battle of Ramsour's Mill - Lincolnton, NC



The Halifax Dispatch

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Steve Avent, Editor

P.O. Box 221, Red Oak, NC 27868



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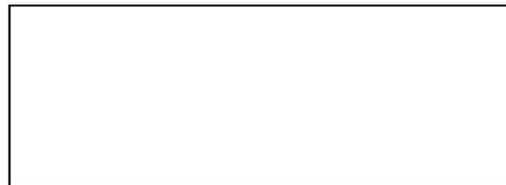
Steve Avent, Editor

P.O. Box 221

Red Oak, NC 27868

(252) 459-9427

savent917@gmail.com



The Sons of the American Revolution is a **PATRIOTIC** organization formed in 1889 and chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1906, with more than 25,000 living members from all 50 states and 23 foreign countries. Throughout its 120-year history, the SAR has admitted more than 155,000 members. Among them are 16 **PRESDENTS** of the **UNITED STATES**, including George W. Bush and his father George H. W. Bush, Jimmy Carter, 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 in which we engage 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

Chapter Officers

President: Ken Wilson

121 Northside Dr., Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870
(252) 537-5406, boxcar27870@embarqmail.com

Vice President: Acting VP: Steve Avent

Secretary/Treasurer: Steve Avent

P.O. Box 221, Red Oak, NC 27868
(252) 459-9427, savent917@gmail.com

Registrar: R. Allen Brahin, Waynesboro, VA
starline@ntelos.net

Chaplain: Rev. Duncan Jones

our website:

Go to: www.ncssar.com, "NC Chapters"
Click on our chapter name on the NC map.