

*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 119-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

### **SAR Pledge**

“We descendants of the heroes of the American Revolution who, by their sacrifices established the United States of America, reaffirm our faith in the principles of Liberty and our Constitutional Republic, and solemnly pledge ourselves to defend them against every foe.”



### **Chapter Officers**

**President: Ron Jones**

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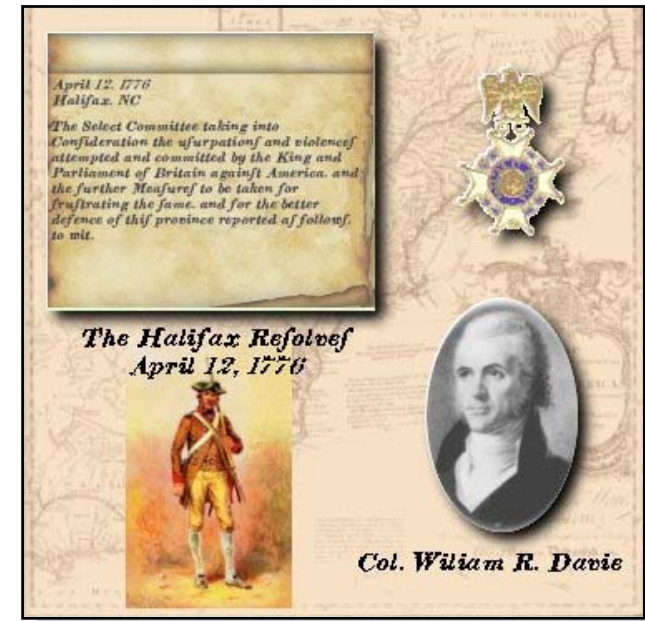
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our website:

Go to: [www.ncssar.com](http://www.ncssar.com), “NC Chapters”  
Click on our chapter name on the NC map.



## **The Halifax Dispatch**

*November, 2008*



**The Halifax Resolves Chapter  
North Carolina Society  
Sons of the American Revolution**



## From the President...

Compatriots,



It is almost that time again for us to meet again. I sent an email a couple of days ago with an update and status report on chapter activities. I'm not going to repeat what was in that email except to say, remember the Nathaniel Macon Ceremony Saturday November 8 and our next meeting November 12.

Although I have lived elsewhere for the last 38 years I did live my first 27 years in Roanoke Rapids. I can remember the many fine and strong civic minded organizations that did so much for the community. It has saddened me in the last year to discover the poor state of these organizations. Many groups, such as the Jaycees are now defunct and out of existence and others such as the Kiwanis have shrunk considerably.

I have never understood why the people in Roanoke Rapids must pay more for less than the surrounding communities in Eastern North Carolina. Civic organizations are not able to meet and have a meal at a reasonable price and that may be the reason they are going away. It may be a lack of competition that allows the few restaurants to be so independent. In surrounding communities restaurants are expected to provide a meeting room, a podium, overhead viewer and storage for the groups' flags, etc. Most will work with a group that meets regularly to develop a good meal at a less than menu cost. Ralph's has gone up on the prices for meals the second time in 12 months. (now \$15)

I believe if free enterprise can not provide at a reasonable price a place for civic organizations to meet then it is important enough for local government to step in and accept that responsibility. This probably will not happen because the City of Roanoke Rapids probably feels a budget crunch. They have put all "the eggs in one basket" and they have not hatched. I believe the cost of the meals is discouraging visitors, new members and attendance in our chapter. I encourage all of you to use your imagination to find a

## From the President (cont.)

solution for this situation. If you have ideas please bring them to the next meeting and share them with the group.

*Ron Jones*  
Chapter President

## From the Secretary's Desk...

Compatriots,

The November meeting will be held on **Wed., November 12, 2008 at 6:30 pm at Ralph's BBQ**, in Weldon. The cost of the meal will be \$15, and guests are cordially invited.

On the agenda:

- Betsy Hudgins, from the Halifax Co. library, will give a talk on the 1790 US census
- we will discuss the possibility of meeting at another location, since Ralph's has increased their prices
- don't forget that 2009 dues (\$50) are now payable

Looking forward to seeing you on the 12th—

*Steve Avent*, Secretary/Treasurer

## Flag Certificate Presentations

On August 19th Chapter VP Ken Wilson presented the SAR Flag Certificate to J.R. and Gloria Merritt of Roanoke Rapids, and on September 15th he presented one to Mike Askew, of Askew Funeral Home in Roanoke Rapids. This certificate can be presented by the chapter to any individual or business that properly displays the US Flag for patriotic purposes.



(above) J.R. and Gloria Merritt  
(right) Mike Askew



## Patriot Samuel Johnston



Samuel Johnston was born in Dundee, Scotland in 1733 and settled in NC in 1736. In 1754 he moved to Chowan Co. and established his home, Hayes Plantation, there. An early supporter of independence, he served on the Colonial Assembly's Committee of Correspondence beginning in 1773 and was elected to the first four Provincial Congresses, presiding over the third in 1775 (in Hillsborough) and the fourth in 1776 (in Halifax), the latter of which produced the Halifax Resolves.

He also served as the Colonial Treasurer, District Paymaster of Troops (1775), State Senator (1779, 1783 & 1784) and a Delegate from NC to the Continental Congresses of 1780 and 1781. He was elected the first "President of the United States in Congress Assembled" in 1781, under the Articles of Confederation, but declined the office for health and financial reasons. After the Revolution, he served as Governor of NC from 1787-1789 and presided over the 1788 and 1789 State Constitutional Conventions. He was an active and respected Freemason, as well, serving as the 1st Grand Master of Masons in NC 1787-1788 and 1789-1792. He died on August 17, 1816 and was buried at his home, Hayes Plantation.

On Sat., 12/13/2008 at 2:00 pm the Northern Albemarle Chapter of the NCSSAR will be placing a Patriot grave marker at his grave in Edenton in a joint ceremony with the Grand Lodge of Masons in NC, which will also be placing a marker. Come on out if you can to show your support for the NCSSAR and to honor this important Patriot. See Steve Avent for more details or directions.

## Upcoming Events

- \* Nathl. Macon grave marking - 11/8/2008, 2:00 pm
- \* Grave Marking Ceremony for Patriot Samuel Johnston, Edenton, NC - 12/13/2008
- \* Battle of Cowpens Commemoration - 01/17/2009
- \* Battle of Cowan's Ford Commemoration - 01/31/2009
- \* Crossing of the Dan Commemoration, South Boston, VA - 02/14/2009
- \* Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge Commemoration, Curry, NC - 02/28/2009