



2014 & 2016 winner – 1st Place Nationally (single sheet)—Carl F. Bessent Newsletter Award

Message from the President



Compatriots,

Memorial Day is one of those times that makes us proud to be Americans. Our chapter has recently been involved with the Memorial Day ceremony in Roanoke Rapids, and also conducted its last flag retirement.

Thanks to Ken Wilson for heading up those activities, and thanks also to Duncan Jones, Geoff Pittard, Rives Manning, and Ernest Bobbitt for attending and assisting.

Because of an early press date for this newsletter, the September newsletter will describe activities from Independence Day.

And a special thanks to all the members who took the time to respond to our unofficial poll about the possible closure of our chapter. We have 29 members, and as of the writing of this article, we have heard from 23 of the 29 members. Of those, we have 18 votes to remain open, 3 votes to close, and two abstentions. And while this poll is unofficial, it tells us something important – although there will soon be a number of changes in our chapter, most of our members don't want to close because of the those changes. They want to keep going, even if some things are different.

It's at this point that I usually tell you some story from my rather colorful family to make a point. Bear with me.

This is a story I have heard countless times from my mother. It happened in 1939, soon after my parents began dating. My future parents had a date to attend a formal dance. My father drove his old Ford across Fishing Creek to Scotland Neck to pick up my mother, and off they went for the evening. She said she felt especially stylish and pretty because she had made her own gown, which had a halter top. Bare shoulders – quite a daring fashion statement in those days. Unfortunately, since the Depression was still recent, she had no fur or other jacket to wear over it, but it was a

warm night and she probably felt a little devil-may-care.

Suddenly she realized my father had taken a turn onto a side road, and was driving through the dark night on sandy roads in the country. She was lost, and the landscape was pitch black around them. She exclaimed “Good grief, what sort of people live this far from civilization?”

And then the car rounded a curve, and suddenly there was a large house with lots of lights. My father cheerfully announced, “Well, this is where I live, and I want you to meet my parents. We're going to stop here on our way to the dance.”

She sank down into her seat and figured all was lost. There she was, with her bare shoulders and no jacket. She was sure her date's parents would think she was a loose woman or worse. She summoned up her courage and went in the house to meet her fate.

My father introduced her to his parents. She said her future mother-in-law looked her up and down and said “Becky, you have lovely shoulders!”

(cont. on next page)

The next meeting of the Halifax Resolves Chapter will be held on Wednesday, July 10, at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall of the Halifax United Methodist Church in Halifax NC. Instead of a guest speaker, we will be discussing plans for our future, as well as possible changes in our activities.

As you know, the ladies of Methodist Church always prepare us a delicious dinner, and we appreciate all their efforts. To help them plan better, they would like to have the head count no later than Friday afternoon before our meeting the following Wednesday. Because of this, we will need to know if you are attending the meeting no later than noon on Friday, July 5. Please respect this deadline!

You may email President Gammon at thepinnacle@ec.rr.com, or call him at 252-732-6476. You only need to contact him if you plan to attend. The cost of the dinner will be \$10 per person.

My mother said that at that moment, she decided she would love that lady the rest of her life, for being so kind and complimentary, and for putting such a positive spin on things.

So here's my point – my grandmother took what could have been an awkward or negative situation and viewed it through a positive lens. The result was a long and loving relationship between her and my mother.

Likewise, our chapter is currently faced with a situation that some people might view as negative, but we also need to view it in a positive way. We are not going to be able to do all the things we have been doing. I believe our chapter needs to look ahead and think about redefining itself. What things do we do well? What things do we enjoy doing? Is there something we can add, perhaps a little at a time? For example, I have noticed at state-level meetings that certain chapters have strong reputations in certain areas, year after year. Some always seem to have oration contest winners, and others put a lot of effort into Color Guard activities. They don't do everything, but they do a few things well. And they like it!

So I hope we will all look ahead to a bright future. We might be leaner, but we can also be keener. I will look forward to seeing our chapter progress in the days to come.

David

Highlights from the Minutes of May., 2019, Meeting

The Halifax Resolves Chapter of the NCSSAR met on Wednesday, May 8, 2019, at the Halifax United Methodist Church in Halifax, NC. President David Gammon called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Our Chaplain Rev. Duncan Jones gave the invocation. Compatriot Ernest Bobbitt led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and Compatriot Carl Witt led the SAR Pledge. The following guests were introduced: Traci Thompson, our guest speaker, and Bob Bittner, prospective member.

After the meal, Traci Thompson, Certified Genealogist and Librarian at the Braswell Library in Rocky Mount, gave a presentation entitled "John Evans: A Case of Mistaken Identity." Afterwards, President Gammon presented her with a certificate of appreciation.

In the absence of Secretary/Treasurer Steve Avent, President Gammon briefly discussed the minutes from the previous meeting, which were approved. The Treasurer's report indicated a total balance of \$2,886.36, of which the subcategories include the Youth Fund with a balance of \$1190.00 and the General Fund with a balance of \$1,696.36 The Treasurer's report was approved.

Under old business, the following topics were discussed:

- President Gammon summarized the success of Halifax Day 2019, and thanked all those who helped with it. He especially thanked Compatriot Ken Wilson, who did many tasks, including stepping in at the last minute to deliver the keynote address.
- President Gammon reminded everyone that Halifax Day 2020 will be April 18, 2020.
- Compatriot Ken Wilson, prospective member Joe Pearce, and Compatriot Michael Cooper all gave updates to the search for Patriot Harrison Macon's grave.
- President Gammon mentioned that a slate of officers is being developed, but there is still a need for a Vice President. He urged everyone to consider serving as an officer, and reminded them that a chapter without officers cannot continue.

Under new business, the following topics were discussed:

- As a continuation of the discussion from old business about the need for officers, Compatriot Geoff Pittard, who is on the slate to be our next President, reminded everyone that he works full time and has three children, and asked for assistance next year. There were no volunteers.
- Compatriot Ken Wilson reminded members that the preparation for Halifax Day 2020 should have already begun, and would need the assistance of everyone. He also reminded the members that he would not be heading up the Halifax Day preparations as in the past.
- Compatriot Wilson also reminded the members that if we do not have participation and officers, the chapter might have to close. President Gammon reminded the members that the state society does not want to see the chapter close, but without assistance, we would have no choice.
- President Gammon asked members to think about how they might help the chapter, and to contact him either by phone or email.

President Gammon then led the members in the SAR Recessional, Rev. Duncan Jones gave the benediction, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00.

The Colson's Mill Chapter of the Society of Sons of the American Revolution is celebrating the 239th Anniversary of the Battle at Colson's Mill.

Date: Saturday, July 20, 2019 at 11 am, Norwood Community Building, 247 W Turner Street, Norwood, North Carolina 28128

Guest Speaker: John Misenheimer, President, Lt. Colonel John Phifer Chapter, SAR. Mr. Misenheimer will share his presentation portraying General Nathanael Greene

Tentative Schedule of Events:

- 10:30 am Registration for Attending Chapters
- 11:00 am NCSSAR Color Guard Presentation of Colors
- Welcome and Recognition of Guests
- Battle of Colson's Mill Memorial and Wreath Laying
- 11:30 am Lunch Buffet: A supper buffet of various Southern dishes will be prepared by Dwight S. Eudy, Member, Colson's Mill Chapter
- Guest Speaker: John Misenheimer, portraying General Nathanael Greene
- Dismissal and Recession

To participate, contact Dan Bureson, President, Colson's Mill Chapter, at email dbnut8@yahoo.com or phone 704-438-1531.

Recent Chapter Activities



(top to bottom, l-r) Geoff Pittard, Ernest Bobbitt, Ken Wilson & J. Rives Manning at the RR Memorial Day ceremony; Ken with Brochure Contest winner Connor Johnson and his teacher; New Eagle Scout Austin Logan of Troop 144; Pres. Gammon awarding Ms. Traci Thompson a Certificate of Appreciation; Ken at the Patriot's Day ceremony at Alamance CH; All participants at the Alamance ceremony; Participants in the June 8 Flag Retirement ceremony, held with BSA Troop 144. Chapter participants: J. Rives Manning, Rev. Duncan Jones, Ken Wilson.



The Halifax Dispatch

*The Newsletter of the Halifax Resolves Chapter, NCSSAR,
Steve Avent, Editor*



The Halifax Dispatch

A publication of the

**Halifax Resolves Chapter
of the**

NC Sons of the American Revolution

Volume 18 — Number 4

July, 2019

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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 PRESIDENTS 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

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Go to: www.ncssar.org, click "Chapters"