



# The Halifax Dispatch

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

Volume XIX, Number 5 - November 1, 2020

2014 & 2016 winner Carl S. Bissent Newsletter

The Halifax Resolves Chapter meets at 6:30 pm the second Wednesday night of January, March, May, July, September and November at the Fellowship Hall of the Halifax United Methodist Church, 150 S. King St., Halifax, NC .

## ATTENTION COMPATRIOTS

**Our next meeting will be Wednesday, November 11th at 6:30 pm. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, NO MEAL will be served, MASKS will be required, as well as social distancing. If you have any questions, please contact President Pittard at: 252-532-0664 or [geospittard@gmail.com](mailto:geospittard@gmail.com).**

### Chapter Officers

**President: Geoff Pittard**  
307 Jackson St.  
Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870  
(252) 532-0664  
[geospittard@gmail.com](mailto:geospittard@gmail.com)

**Vice President: currently vacant**

**Secretary: Michael Cooper**  
701 North Main Street  
Louisburg NC 27549  
(919) 702-4055  
[michael@michaelaaroncooper.com](mailto:michael@michaelaaroncooper.com)

**Treasurer/Registrar: Steve Avent**  
42 Fox Grape Ln.  
Southern Shores, NC 27949  
(252) 715-3902 [savent917@gmail.com](mailto:savent917@gmail.com)

**Chaplain: Rev. Duncan Jones**  
PO Box 338  
Jackson NC 27845  
(252) 862-6441  
[duncanhjones@yahoo.com](mailto:duncanhjones@yahoo.com)

---

### Chapter Website

Go to: [www.ncssar.org](http://www.ncssar.org),  
click on "Chapters"

### *From the Past -*

**Whitmel Hill**, (12 Feb. 1743-12 Sept. 1797), Revolutionary officer and government official, delegate to the Continental Congress, state senator, and member of the Council of State, was born into a wealthy family in Bertie County. Little is known of his early life or when he moved to what is now Martin County. He was graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1760. Hill married Winifred Blount, great-granddaughter of James Blount of Chowan County, and they had four children, two of whom died in infancy. Their son was Thomas Blount, their daughter, Elizabeth. The extent of Hill's landholdings is not known though his estate, Palmyra, at Hill's Ferry, was undoubtedly large. In the census of 1790, his 140 slaves was the largest number held by anyone in Martin County.

At the beginning of the American Revolution, Hill, already a justice of the peace, was elected lieutenant colonel of the Martin County militia. He was second in command to William Williams, for whom Williamston was named. Hill remained lieutenant colonel from September 1775 to April 1778, when Williams' "infirmities" forced his resignation and placed Hill as colonel of the regiment. Previously he had held several important positions in the Revolutionary government. In August 1775, Hill was elected to the Assembly which met at Hillsborough and established the provisional government in the "absence" of the last royal governor of North Carolina, Josiah Martin, is the man, ironically, for whom Hill's county was named. In April 1776, Hill was a delegate at Halifax where the provisional government changed its name to the Council of Safety and declared its independence from England. When the next Congress assembled in Halifax in November 1778 and established the state constitution and the bill of rights, Hill was once again a member. Previously, Hill had represented Martin County in North Carolina's first General Assembly in 1777. At the following session of the General Assembly in New Bern in April 1778, Hill now a senator, was elected speaker of the Senate. *(cont'd on page 2)*

(cont'd from page 1)

In July 1777, Hill had uncovered a Tory plot "to assassinate all the leading men" of the Revolution in North Carolina on "some certain night." As a result of this information Governor Richard Caswell was able to circumvent the plans of the "traitors," most of whom were arrested. Shortly before Hill's discovery of the Tory conspiracy, his name had been placed in nomination as a delegate to the Continental Congress, a position won by Cornelius Harnett. Nevertheless, he was named a delegate to the Congress meeting in Philadelphia shortly after he was chosen speaker of the Senate. Hill served in the Congress from 1778 to 1781.

In a letter to Dr. Thomas Burke, his roommate in Philadelphia, fellow delegate to the Continental Congress, and future governor of North Carolina, Hill wrote that he had made the 350-mile journey to Philadelphia in only seven and one-half days, "a ride scarcely performed before in so short a time." With apparent pride, Hill later wrote that he had covered 65 miles in one day! In another letter from Philadelphia, Hill expressed his irritation with South Carolina's refusal to accept the paper money of North Carolina troops serving in the Palmetto State or adequately to provide for the Tar Heels. "Our distressed militia," he wrote, "have been obliged to rescue that Country from the Dominion of Britain" and had been met with constant affronts. He hoped that the North Carolina troops would therefore "claim to themselves some compensation for their services, which compensation they will seize and bring home to their ruined families."

In October 1779, Hill and Burke received special recognition from the North Carolina General Assembly for "their able, faithful and diligent and public spirited services" in Philadelphia. Hill was then appointed to the prestigious Council of State. In 1783 he was elected senator from Martin County, and in 1787 and 1788 he was reappointed to the Council of State. In the latter part of 1788 Hill was reelected to the Senate, and in 1789 he was appointed to the state commission on Indian affairs and public revenue and to the committee on propositions and grievances. These were the last public offices he would hold.

Meanwhile, Hill had spent considerable effort attempting to develop Martin County. In 1785 he successfully petitioned the state to incorporate a town on the Roanoke River on property he donated "to promote the trade and navigation of the said river." No trace now exists of this town, Blountsville, though it was probably located to the east of Williamston. Hill also encouraged the building of a canal to open the Albemarle Sound to the Atlantic Ocean near Roanoke Island. Nothing else is known of his life except that he died on his plantation. He was buried in the family cemetery on his estate; re-interment in 1887 in Trinity Cemetery, near Scotland Neck, N.C.

### **Quotes of Thomas Jefferson:**

"A wise and frugal government, which shall leave men free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement, and shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned - this is the sum of good government."

"For a people who are free, and who mean to remain so, a well-organized and armed militia is their best security."



Compatriots Donald Oakes and Ken Wilson at the 9-11 Ceremony in Roanoke Rapids



National Brochure winner Jacey Carlisle accepts the award from Halifax Resolves Chapter Compatriot Ken Wilson

## Roanoke Rapids Fire Dept. Life Saving Medal Awards

Incident 1: On Dec. 25, 2019 firefighters Dylan Clark and Vincent Mollicone responded to an unresponsive patient not breathing on 14<sup>th</sup> street. Upon arrival both firefighters began administering life-saving procedures. Clark conducting chest compressions while Mollicone provided ventilation. Both continued while EMS arrived and assisted. After a few minutes of continued compressions and ventilations the patient regained respirations and a strong pulse. The patient was then transported by EMS to Vidant North Hospital in Roanoke Rapids.

Incident 2: On May 21, 2020 Lt. Brandon Shearin and Jeffery Brown were dispatched to Monroe street in reference to a female which unconscious and not breathing. Upon their arrival the patient had no pulse and no respirations. Firefighters immediately started CPR. After minutes of CPR and administering a shock to the patient, she regained and sustained a pulse. Once the patient was stable EMS transported her to Vidant North Hospital in Roanoke Rapids.



Ken Wilson, Vincent Mollicone, Dylan Clark, E. C. Bobbitt



Ken Wilson, Lt. Brandon Shearin, Jeffery Brown, E. C. Bobbitt

## Halifax County Sheriff's Deputies Recognized

Halifax County Sheriff's Department Deputies Lt. Steven Casey and Sgt. Harold Phillips were presented with the Sons of the American Revolution Life Saving Medal recognizing their efforts in saving the life of a town of Halifax resident.

The incident for which these two deputies are being recognized occurred on May 4, 2020 the Halifax County Emergency Call Center received a 911 call from a male requesting help, who stated he couldn't breathe and then finally stated "Help". Dispatchers determined he was calling from D & D Garage in the town of Halifax and dispatched a deputy and EMS. Lieutenant Steven Casey was closer and immediately responded to find the gentleman unresponsive and lying on the ground outside of the garage. After providing an update to Central Communication to inform this was a "Code" and to step-up EMS, he began CPR. Shortly thereafter, Sergeant Harold Phillips arrives and assisted Lt. Casey with CPR until EMS arrived and took over CPR. After being loaded into the ambulance, EMS determined the gentleman had a pulse and was transported to Vidant North Hospital in Roanoke Rapids. This gentleman survived this life-threatening incident largely due to Lieutenant Casey and Sergeant Phillips' quick actions and training.

The presentations were made by Halifax Resolves Chapter members Ken Wilson and Sheriff Wes Tripp.



Lt. Steven Casey and Ken Wilson



Sheriff Wes Tripp, Sgt. Harold Phillips, Chief Deputy Scott Hall

## Halifax Resolves Chapter, NCSSAR

### Minutes – September, 9, 2020

The Halifax Resolves Chapter of the NCSSAR met on Wednesday, September 9th, 2020, in a Zoom meeting due to the Covid-19 virus and its subsequent restrictions. President Geoff Pittard called the meeting to order at 6:42 pm. President Pittard Jones gave the invocation. Michael Cooper led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and President Pittard led the SAR Pledge.

President Pittard addressed the minutes and that we have no quorum to approve the minutes. He then spoke of our need to meet in November regardless of the ladies at the church.

President Pittard discussed his and Mr. Ken Wilson's attendance at the Board of Managers meeting. Special meeting of the state society was announced and the dates will be emailed by President Pittard.

Ken announced that we won national brochure contest, and spoke briefly about our life saving awards that were presented. We spoke of our performance on the 2019 Americanism report.

President Pittard spoke of a need for a reference guide for new individuals.

Looking to reschedule the Charters of Freedom on April 10th starts at 10:00am.

At the March meeting we approved the purchase of a 250th Anniversary Flag. 250th Anniversary flags have no date of arrival at this point.

There will be a 9/11 ceremony at Roanoke Rapids. Judge and Ken Wilson will represent the Chapter.

Ken Wilson spoke in more detail about the life saving awards that were recently awarded. He spoke of why they were awarded and to whom.

Our annual meeting will be on March 26 and 27 in Winston Salem, per Mr. Ken Wilson.

Ken Wilson spoke of many grave markings that can be done, many in Louisburg.

Bill Schwetke spoke of future protections in monuments and relocation area for the removed statue in George Clark Statue at UVA. President Pittard spoke again of our monuments.

Compatriot Ken Wilson then lead the Chapter in the SAR recessional.

President Pittard led us in the Benediction.

President Pittard then adjourned the meeting.

*Geoff Pittard*

Chapter President

*Michael A. Cooper*

Secretary

### Treasurer's Report

**Ending Balance as of July, 2020 meeting: \$3,221.37**

**Deposits: \$1,010.00**

**Checks: \$468.13**

**Current Checking Acct Balance: \$3,763.24**

**Youth fund balance: \$1,437.50**

**General fund balance: \$2,325.74**

10/21/20 DEPOSIT \$760.00 Dues payments + \$125 GF donation

10/13/20 CHECK # 2160 \$66.88 LE & LS Award medals

09/28/20 CHECK # 2159 \$64.20 4 Rosettes

08/13/20 CHECK # 2158 \$208.65 6 Lifesaving Medals

08/03/20 CHECK # 2157 \$128.40 8 Rosettes & 2 folders

07/14/20 DEPOSIT \$50.00 Donation for youth fund

07/09/20 DEPOSIT \$200.00 Donation for youth fund

*Steve Avent*

Treasurer





## ***Wreaths Across America***

The Annual Wreaths Across America ceremony will be held Saturday, December 19th, 2020 at 9:30 am in the Veterans section of Cedarwood Cemetery in Roanoke Rapids. This ceremony honors all veterans who have served at nation. If you would like to purchase a wreath to place on a veterans grave, please contact Ken Wilson for the order forms.

**Welcome New Members**

Robert Franklin Hall

James Robertson Rook, Jr.

James Robert Rook

James Hinton Qualls

Ian Davis Qualls

William Hubbard Riggan

Benjamin Wayne Riggan

**At National Awaiting Approval**

Renny Harold Taylor

## **Attention All Members**

### **Annual Dues Notice**

Compatriots, your annual chapter dues for 2021, in the amount of \$75.00, needs to be in the hands of Chapter Treasurer Steve Avent **NLT December 1, 2020** in order for the Chapter Reconciliation Report to be submitted to the NC SAR Secretary prior the state deadline.

*Right:* The Veterans Day display at the Halifax County library honoring all veterans past and present. The library has requested the display be setup for the last 6 years. Compatriot Ken Wilson was responsible for designing and setting up the display.



**Upcoming Events**

**Nov. 3: Presidential Election**

**Nov. 7: Grave Marking for Patriot Benjamin Sutton**

**Nov. 11: Chapter Meeting - 6:30 pm, Halifax UMC**

**Nov. 8: Veterans Day Ceremony - 3:00 pm at Veterans Park in Roanoke Rapids**

**November 11: Chapter Meeting**

**Dec. 5: 245th Anniversary of the Battle of Great Bridge**



The Halifax Dispatch  
121 Northside Dr.  
Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870

