



# The Halifax Dispatch

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

Volume XX, Number 1 - January 6, 2021

2014 & 2016 winner Carl S. Bissent Newsletter Award

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, January 13th at 6:30 pm. This will be a “Zoom” meeting. The link to join the meeting will be sent out by President Pittard. If you have any questions, please contact President Pittard at: 252-532-0664 or [geospittard@gmail.com](mailto:geospittard@gmail.com).**

## ***From the Past -***

### ***“America’s First Family, Powell’s Offer 17 Sons to Revolution”***

by Janie Blankenship

*Published in the September 2012 issue of the VFW Magazine*

When war broke out in 1775 New Jersey became pivotal as some 296 battles were waged there. It earned the nicknames “The Crossroads of the Revolution” & the “Military Capitol of the Revolution”. There were many families who had husbands, fathers and sons who fought for independence, but few, if any family sacrificed like the family of Richard & Charity Chew Powell of Gloucester Co., now Burlington Co. Richard and Charity had 21 children, 20 sons and 1 daughter. Of the 20 sons, 17 fought in the Revolution, 3 paid the ultimate price. Richard Sr. even had a short tour at the beginning of hostilities. He had fought with George Washington during the French & Indian War under Capt. Hider and was an experienced Sergeant.

The 17 sons were: Aaron, Abraham, Arthur, David, Ephraim, Isaac, Isaiah, Jacob, Jeremiah, John, Joseph, Moses, Phillip, Richard Jr., Samuel, Thomas, and William.

Remaining sons: Ishmael, Jonathan, & Zachariah

Daughter: Elizabeth aka Charity

Other sources state that all 20 sons served at one time or another during the Revolution. Five later served in the War of 1812.

The first call for troops in New Jersey came on October 9<sup>th</sup>, 1775 when the Continental Congress requested 2 battalions per colony with 8 companies per battalion. The enlistment was 1 year at \$5 per month. Richard, Jr. was among the first of the sons to join. It was said that he could shoot out the eye of a bird in flight. Legend has it that when the British came to Gloucester Co., Richard overheard a group of them discussing a map. He singlehandedly attacked them and reportedly killed two Redcoats with one shot. Richard served under Capt. John Stokes & later under Col. Joseph Ellis. He helped

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Lt. Ben Bates capture spies Henry Lane and William Giberson. Giberson later escaped by changing places with his sister on one of her visits to him in jail. He fled to Nova Scotia, Canada, which was a Loyalist haven during the war. Richard was captured at the fall of Ft. Washington and imprisoned on the Prison Ship “Jersey” aka “the Hell Ship” anchored in Wallabout Bay off New York City’s East River. He was later released and returned home.

Abraham served with the Pennsylvania troops under Capt. David Lennox. He was very good about writing home and in a letter to his parents dated June 18, 1776, sent from New York he stated: “We arrived last Sunday here from Philadelphia. Now we wait impatiently for our enemies, and we all want now for an engagement soon....Hoping we will overcome our enemies. The town is well provided against them with forts, breastworks, entrenchments and camps.” Abraham never returned home. He was captured at the fall of Ft. Washington and was also confined aboard the Prison Ship “Jersey”. He died of starvation and is buried at the Ft. Green cemetery.

Arthur & John were captured and imprisoned aboard the “Jersey”. Arthur escaped, but drowned in Wallabout Bay. John was later released.

Thomas was a fifer and served with the Continental Artillery under Capt. Watts’ Eastern Company. Thomas was captured, possibly at the fall of Ft. Washington, and imprisoned on the “Jersey”. He escaped and returned home and let the family know what had happened to his brothers.

Very little is known of Moses military service, but the records do indicate that he was killed in action on September 6<sup>th</sup>, 1776 while serving with the Pennsylvania Battalion of the Continental Line.

At least 3 of the sons died during the Revolutionary War. Their names are engraved on the Memorial Bell Tower at Valley Forge, PA.

The Powell Family was well known for its size. When Mother Charity died at age 61, her epitaph read: “Some have children, some have none, here lies the mother of 21.”

In the *Herald and Gloucester Farmer* in 1821 were the words “Old Powell had 21 children by the same wife, and at one harvest had all 21 in the field, the youngest being old enough to make a hand. And 17 of those sons served in the Revolutionary War at one time”.

Family lore has it that Richard Sr. would meet someone for the first time he would tell them he had 20 sons and each had a sister. When the other person would be in disbelief over 40 children he would say he had one daughter and she was sister to each son.

The only daughter, Elizabeth, died sometime between her 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> year. During a cold winter day when the men were in the woods making charcoal, she was tasked with taking them their lunches. She became lost and was found later that day suffering from exposure. She died shortly after at home. In letters sent to her parents from her brothers during the war there is no mention of “their sister”, so it is assumed that Elizabeth died before the war began.

It’s doubtful that the Powell family will ever be mentioned in the classroom, but I know of no other family who gave more or sacrificed more for Independence.

**Upcoming Events**

16 Jan. - Battle of Cowpens

30 Jan. - (Zoom) Battle of Cowan’s Ford

30 Jan. - (Zoom) NC SAR Board of Managers Mtg.

6 Feb. - Battle of Kettle Creek

13 Feb. - Crossing of the Dan

22 Feb. - George Washington’s Birthday

27 Feb. - (Zoom) -Battle of Moore’s Creek Bridge

4-6 Mar. - (Zoom) NSSAR Leadership Mtg.

15 Mar. - (Zoom) Battle of Guilford Courthouse

12 Apr. - (Zoom) Halifax Resolves Celebration

16-17 Apr - (Zoom) NC SAR Annual Mtg.,  
Winston-Salem

***For further information/updates***

***please visit the NC SAR Calendar at [www.ncssar.org](http://www.ncssar.org)***



*L-R: Lt. Charles Burnette, Ken Wilson and Patrolman John Wind.  
Not Shown: E. C. Bobbitt*

### **Chapter Presents Public Service Medals**

Past President Ken Wilson attended the November 6th meeting of the Roanoke Rapids City Council in order to recognize two officers of the Roanoke Rapids Police Department. Assisted by Compatriot/City Council Member E. C. Bobbitt, Wilson presented the SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Medal to Lt. Charles Burnette and the SAR Life Saving Medal to Patrolman John Wind.

Lt. Burnette's citation read as follows: "Prior to joining the Roanoke Rapids, Police Department in December of 2000, Charles Burnette was employed with the Department of Corrections. He worked his way through the ranks in the department and was promoted to police officer II in July 2003, master officer in October 2003, sergeant in July 2006, patrol lieutenant on August 2012, Patrol Captain on July 2020 and Administrative Lieutenant August 2020. Charles Burnette has always served the citizens of Roanoke Rapids with great pride, honor, and ethics. "

Patrolman John Wind's citation read as follows: "Patrolman John Wind responded to a call on Oakland St. in Roanoke Rapids concerning a female who had overdosed on Fentanyl and was turning blue. Officer Wind quickly administered Narcan and began chest compressions. The subject regained consciousness just as EMS arrived.

The Roanoke Rapids Police Department was notified later by Vidant North of his heroic actions. The female subject wanted to be sure Officer Wind knew she was thankful for saving her life.

**Halifax Resolves Chapter, NCSSAR**  
**Meeting Minutes, November 11, 2020**

The Halifax Resolves Chapter of the NCSSAR met on Wednesday, November 11th, 2020, in a Zoom meeting due to the Covid-19 virus and its subsequent restrictions. President Geoff Pittard called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm. President Pittard gave the invocation. Steve Pittard led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and Treasurer Steve Avent led the SAR Pledge.

President Pittard started the meeting off by explaining why the scheduled meeting at the church was called off at the last minute and why the Chapter went back to the Zoom meeting. Furthermore, he explained that it was due to the resent restrictions by Governor Roy Cooper which made the restriction of capacity of indoor events to 10 people.

President Pittard mentioned the minutes that were e-mailed out with the monthly newsletter. Compatriot Ken Wilson motioned that we approve the minutes. Michael Cooper seconded the motion. All approved.

President Pittard spoke of Halifax Day 2020. He then commented that all the accommodations and other preparations are in order for Halifax Day 2021.

Compatriot Ken Wilson spoke of the recent awards that he presented and that they were posted on the state website.

President Pittard again spoke of our new members that were joining and of our recent additions.

President Pittard spoke to Compatriot Ken Wilson about our involvement Wreaths Across America. Ken Wilson then said that yes, we were doing it and that it was \$15 a piece and the deadline was November 30th.

Compatriot Ken Wilson then informed the Chapter that there will be no Christmas parade this year. He spoke of the past years in which the Chapter participated.

President Pittard then led the SAR recessional.

Compatriot Steve Pittard then led the benediction.

The Halifax Resolves Chapter's meeting was called adjourned at 6:59.

*Geoff Pittard*

Chapter President

*Michael A. Cooper*

Chapter Secretary



***Updates from the Editor***

I have been informed that the NC SAR Executive Committee met via Zoom on 16 December and voted to hold all NC SAR Commerations, the Board of Mangers Meeting and the Annual Meeting via Zoom. This encompasses all events from 1 January through 30 April 2021.

Plans are being made to send a video copy of the Americanism Poster Contest to the three schools who have been participating in the contest. In addition to the video, a copy of the rules, the entry form and some instructions to the teachers would be sent via email. Hopefully, we will be able make the awards to the students in person.

**Wreaths Across America**

Compatriot Ken Wilson attended the Wreaths Across America ceremony at Cedarwood Cemetery in Roanoke Rapids on December 19th and presented the U. S. Air Force Wreath. He also picked up delivered the 23 wreaths purchased by chapter members.



**Chapter Officers**

**President: Geoff Pittard**  
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**Vice President: currently vacant**

**Secretary: Michael Cooper**  
701 North Main Street  
Louisburg NC 27549  
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michael@michaelaaroncooper.com

**Treasurer/Registrar: Steve Avent**  
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**Chaplain: Rev. Duncan Jones**  
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**Chapter Website**

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

**Treasurer's Report**

**Halifax Resolves Chap-**

**ter, NC SAR**

**12/28/2020**

Ending Balance as of November, 2020 meeting: \$3,763.24 De-  
posits: \$1,900.00

Checks: \$1,705.00

Current Checking Acct Balance: \$3,958.24

General fund balance: \$2,495.74

Youth fund balance: \$1,462.50

12/21/20 CHECK # 2161 \$1705.00 2021 Chapter Dues (not yet  
cleared)

12/18/20 DEPOSIT \$75.00 Dues payments

12/16/20 DEPOSIT \$790.00 Dues payments

12/10/20 DEPOSIT \$75.00 Dues payments

12/09/20 DEPOSIT \$150.00 Dues payments

12/03/20 DEPOSIT \$85.00 Dues payments

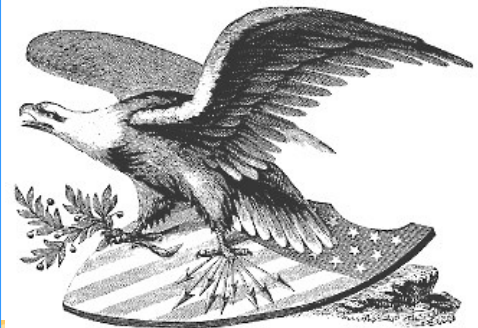
11/30/20 DEPOSIT \$150.00 Dues payments

11/18/20 DEPOSIT \$350.00 Dues payments

11/02/20 DEPOSIT \$225.00 Dues payments

**"If freedom of  
speech is taken  
away, then dumb  
and silent we  
may be led, like  
sheep to the  
slaughter."**

**- George Washington**



**Welcome New Members**

**At National Awaiting Approval**

Renny Harold Taylor





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121 Northside Dr.  
Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870

