

President's Message

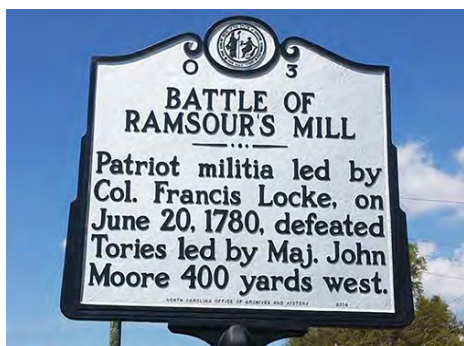
FREDERICK D. LEARNED President, NCSSAR



I hope you enjoy this issue of the *Old North State* (ONS), the first in more than four years. The effort to revive it began prior to the onset of the

national health crisis. So, the July, 2020 issue of *ONS* is something to be proud of. Up until now, *ONS* was a hard copy publication that required printing and mailing costs. It was also a 'one man show,' produced exclusively by a single SAR member. Our new *ONS* editor, Joe Sutton, has empanelled a talented team to develop a digital newsletter. The *ONS* is a free publication, no longer constrained by paper, postage, or the efforts of one individual. Thank you, Joe, and *ONS* editorial committee.

The pandemic has prevented many NCSSAR events and limited photo opportunities. In the midst of the global tragedy, however, a local NCSSAR chapter made national SAR history. On June 20th, State Secretary Jack Bowman



and Catawba Valley Chapter President Ben Setser teamed to co-host a virtual commemoration of Ramsour's Mill, the first of its kind for SAR. The event achieved hundreds of views from at least 12 states through Facebook. Jack and Ben pre-recorded a guest speaker who pointed out actual scenes from the

battleground and masterfully blended other video clips. Congratulations, Jack and Ben, for a job well done.

I ask that you extend thanks to all our sisters who join DAR, who, along with CAR, presented wreaths at the Ramsour's Mill event. Also, remember to submit a DAR *Finder Form* with each new SAR member application. We need to routinely show gratitude to women who join DAR, as they show unconditional help and support to us. It is my desire to honor the NC DAR Society and encourage mutual cooper-

Nothing is a greater stranger to my breast, or a sin that my soul more abhors, than that black and detestable one, ingratitude.

—President George Washington, in a letter to Gov. Dinwiddie, May 29, 1754.

ation between our organizations. After all, we both honor our patriot forefathers.

While still in my Continental uniform from the Ramsour's Mill event, I invited a new applicant to my home so he could sign his and his son's SAR applications. The invitation to my home was really an enticement to encourage him to consider the Color Guard. Joining him was his cousin who also has a son. Their forefather fought at Ramsour's Mill. Efforts like this may inspire others to join SAR.

Now hear this! The Sandhills Chapter of Pinehurst recently submitted its charter application to the State Society. Having exceeded the minimum number of members to establish a charter, they will become the 28th Chapter of NCSSAR. The State Board of Managers is scheduled to approve their charter application at our August 22nd meeting. Everyone is welcome to join the celebration to be held at the 1776 Sporting Club in Burlington.

The Sandhills Chapter will now begin planning for their charter ceremony, tentatively scheduled for mid-September during Constitution week. Since they are not yet collecting dues and do not have SAR or US flags, stands, etc., they will need our help. If you are able, please send them a financial donation to show your support.

With the new Sandhills Chapter in mind, I encourage you to help build SAR membership. Support your local virtual chapter meetings and invite a relative to join you.

Showing Patriot pride comes easy for some of us, but displaying that pride takes effort and is sometimes uncomfortable. I fly a Betsy Ross flag at my home that elicits questions from guests, which then opens the door for a discussion of who I am, the SAR, and the historical compass that created the USA. As affirmed in our SAR pledge, blood and tears were shed for our homes and our country.

Until we meet again in person, please stay safe. Meanwhile, *ONS* invites your articles and photos on anything historic and patriotic.

Compatriotly yours,
Fred

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Membership Update

**NCSSAR welcomes 54
new members (January 1
through May 20, 2020)**

ALLRED, John C. #214667
ANDERSDON, William #215121
AUGUSTINE, Driscoll #214665
AUGUSTINE, Elias H. #214666
BAMFORD, David M. #214801
BLAKESLEE, Harry #215375
BRICK, Scott T. #214521
CHAFIN, Russell #215214
CHILDRESS, John #215213
DAVIS, Theodore #215118
DAVIS, Thomas #215119
DEMPSEY, Patrick J. #214670
DILLON, Brian #215271
DIXON, James #215120
DURLEY, Michael #215467
FLANARY, Carraig #215373
FLANARY, DeClan #215374
FRIEDA, Jr., H. D. #215466
GADDIS, Jr., James #215376
GELORME, Thomas #214390
GOODWIN, Connor W. #214668
GOODWIN, David L. #214669
GWYN, Evans #214235
HAMPTON, Curtis #214238
HANZAKER, Christopher #215219
HAWKS, Harlan J. #214664
HINSON, Eddie #215216
HOWARD, Thomas N. #215468
IX Jr., Gregory #214088
KESSEL, Clark E. #214238
KOLB, Clifton #215611
KOLB, Kelvin #215610
LAFLIN, John C. #215465
LEWIS III, Frederick W. #214236
LEWIS IV, Frederick W. #214237
PALMER, Robert #215377
PARSONS, Weston R. #215470
PITTENGER, Jr., Robert #215217
POTEAT, James #215122
PUTNAM, Travis #215270
RUSH, Thomas J. #214389
SPEAR, Stephen R. #214453
STYLES, Todd #215369
SUTTON, Benjamin W. #215469
SWINSON, Ralph #215612
TAYLOR, Talbott J. #214233
TIMMONS IV, George #215471
TOTH, Douglas S. #214452
WEAVER, Joseph #215125
WEBSTER, Robert #215128
WHITTAKER, Anderson #214232
WHITTAKER, Russell #214231

WILBER, John F. #214392
WILBER, Joshua A. #214391

**NCSSAR extends deepest
thoughts and prayers to the
families of the following
Compatriots who died since
January 1, 2020**

WARE, Dr. Robert W.
MARTIN, Mark A.
MCDONALD, Alexander K.
GORE, Grover A.
CAMPBELL, Doyle E.
BROWN, Bobby C.

NCSSAR has received 92 member inquiries since January 1. Per Chapter: Alamance Battleground (1); Battle of King's Mountain (2); Bethabara (10); Blue Ridge (6); Catawba Valley (1); Col. Alex. Erwin (3); Col. Alexander Lillington (1); Gen. Frances Nash (6); Gen. George Washington (1); Halifax Resolves (1); Lower Cape Fear (7); Marquis de Lafayette (5); Lumber River (3); Lt. Col. John Phifer (1); Mecklenburg (11); Old North State (9); Nathaneal Greene (3); New Bern (1); Raleigh (13); Salisbury (1); Western Waters (1); Yadkin Valley (1); and Lt. Col. Felix Walker (3).

NCSSAR is growing, thanks to the collective efforts of many. A charter for the new Sandhills Chapter in Southern Pines (see page 6) is



pending State authorization. Chapters also need to be established in Boone and Jacksonville, where we are receiving

numerous inquiries. There are new members in these areas and other prospective members who are seeking assistance with SAR applications.

For SAR applications that use DAR source material or will require DAR member assistance, be reminded that the DAR Finder form should be submitted along with the SAR application.

JOHN O. THORNHILL
NCSSAR Membership Chair

Bylaws Amendments

At the Winter Board of Managers meeting on February 1, several amendments to the NCSSAR Bylaws were introduced. The first change was to Article IV, Fees and Dues, that would relax the exact date for Chapters to submit dues. The modification would revise the language from "by 31 December" to "in December" thereby allowing the State Secretary flexibility in requesting Chapters to submit earlier to meet national deadlines in a timely manner.

The second proposed change was to Article XVI, Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest, that will modify a sentence to be more consistent with current national SAR policy. In addition, the NCSSAR Executive Committee will be tasked with creating a policy for compliance that would be incorporated into the NCSSAR Handbook and not the Bylaws. This is consistent with other non-profit organizations.

The Committee moved that the proposed Bylaw changes be voted on by the general membership for adoption at the Annual NCSSAR Convention. The proposed Bylaws changes can only be approved by a vote of the general membership. Our Annual Convention is the venue set aside for the business meeting attended by our general membership. Since the Annual 2020 Convention was cancelled, however, the deliberation and voting on these Bylaws changes will wait until the next Annual Convention in April, 2021.

Additional changes are expected to be included by that time. One likely change will address an alternative method for voting when an unusual situation such as the current national health crisis prevents the general membership from meeting physically to vote.

A. ROBERT "BOB" SIGMON
NCSSAR NE Region Vice President

Memorial Day Proclamation

From President General John T. Manning, May 21, 2020

Memorial Day is a federal holiday celebrated on the last Monday in May and is designated to honor military veterans who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces.

The history of Memorial Day dates to soon after the Civil War. Many towns began to observe special days to honor those lost in the Civil War. Although several cities claim to be the first to celebrate this national holiday, it is not clear which was the first to do so. In 1868 the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), began marking May 30 as a day to decorate the graves of those lost in war, known as Decoration Day. For the remainder of the 19th century more ceremonies of this type took place and became uniform across the country as the GAR began providing handbooks for local events.

By the beginning of the 20th century, the observance of various days to honor fallen soldiers merged into one day. It wasn't until after World War I, however, that the day was modified to include those that died in all American Wars. After World War II the name "Memorial Day" became more common than "Decoration Day" and it became officially designated so by law in 1967. Memorial Day was observed on May 30 until 1971 when it became a federal holiday under the Uniform Monday Holiday Act.

Memorial Day celebrations often include decorating graves, parades, and reunions. While many traditional Memorial Day activities may be different this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it is still imperative to honor those who passed in the service of our country and made our freedoms possible. From all of us here at the Sons of the American Revolution, may you and your family stay safe and healthy this Memorial Day.

National SAR Headquarters and Library Closed

Due to the declaration of a national emergency regarding the pandemic by the President of the United States and on advice from the World Health Organization, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Kentucky Commissioner of Public Health, the National Headquarters and the SAR Genealogical Research Library were closed to the public beginning Monday, March 16th.

The Library continues to offer a variety of services to family history researchers 24/7 during this time. These include:

- How to research your family history
- Searching our SAR Library Catalog for full-text family genealogies and local histories
- Watching our collection of Video Tutorials to learn new research tips and methods

Headquarters states that merchandise shipments and order processing, application reviews, etc. will be suspended until it re-opens. Most record copy requests and membership transactions can be done on a limited basis.

Many other events at both National and State levels have been either canceled or postponed to later in the year. Our NC Chapters are having the same issues.

For those interested in National Color Guard functions, the annual Naturalization Ceremony which takes place in KY has been postponed until August 2020.



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NC Society Sons of the American Revolution

SAR Museum Collection Gains New Items

Summary of article by Zac Distel published in the Spring 2020 issue of SAR Magazine

SAR is now the proud home of two Revolutionary War era swivel cannons, one iron and one bronze, thanks to donations by SAR members to the Museum Board's Artifact Donor Program. A swivel cannon (or gun) is a weapon larger than a musket and too heavy to fire unsupported. These range in size from a heavy musket to a small cannon with a 1-2 inch bore.



The first item (above) is an American iron swivel cannon with reproduction swivel. It is 17 5/8 inches long with a 1 1/2 inch bore. This was donated by President General John T. and First Lady Sheila M. Manning, New Hampshire Society SAR; President General Warren M. and Nancy Alter, Arizona Society SAR; President General J. Michael Tomme, Sr. and Priscilla G. Leed, Georgia Society SAR; and Kenneth and Marilyn Goodson, Michigan Society SAR.



The second item (above) is an American bronze swivel cannon from the same time frame. It is 20 1/4 inches long with a 1 1/8 inch bore. Donated by President General Joseph W. Dooley, Virginia Society SAR; Dr. Ernest Loran Sutton, MD, Pennsylvania Society SAR; M. Kent Gregory, EdD, California Society SAR; and James Maples, Alabama Society SAR.

NCSSAR Contest for Americanism

Thanks to all the fifth and eighth grade students who entered the NCSSAR Brochure and Poster Contest for Americanism and to the Chapters who sponsored the event this year. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, the event was a success. The first place winners will go on to participate at the national level.

Poster Contest Winners (5th Grade)

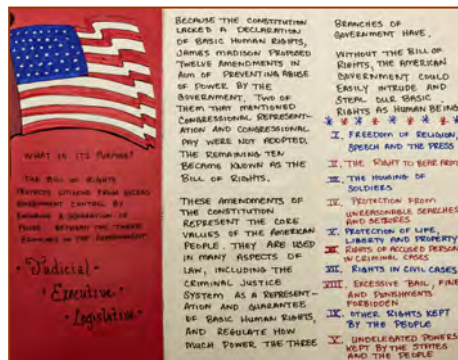


First Place: Battle of Lindley's Mill (Alamance Battleground Chapter); Isabella Murray (\$250.00), River Mill Academy; Sharon Wilson, teacher (\$100.00).

Second Place: Boston Tea Party (Raleigh Chapter); Cadence Ashlyn D'Aurelio (\$150.00), Laurel Park Elementary School; Ashli Hastings, teacher (\$100.00).

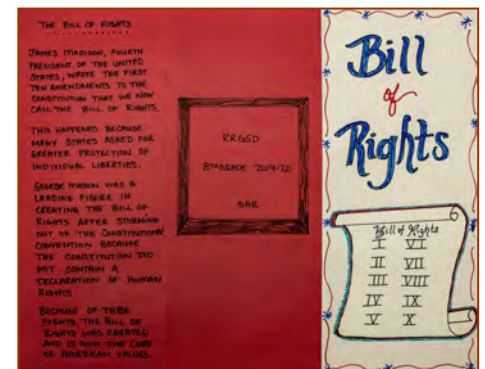
Third Place: Battle of Saratoga (New Bern Chapter); Caroline Wilkins (\$75.00), A. H. Bangert Elementary School; Kimberly Cromer, teacher (\$75.00).

Brochure Contest Winner (8th Grade)



First Place: Bill of Rights (Halifax Resolves Chapter); Jacey L. Carlisle (\$250), Chaloner Middle School; James Rook, teacher (\$100).

State leadership applauds all the efforts made by each participating Chapter, especially the local Contest Chairmen and the students who made the 2020 contest memorable.



Rumbaugh Orator Supports the American Revolution as a 'Just War'

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Ryan Lanford of Chapel Hill, a graduating senior at Woods Charter School, has won the 2020 NCSSAR Rumbaugh Oratory Competition. He will compete in the National SAR Rumbaugh championship in July. There will be no in-person national competition due to the current pandemic. Rather, the competition will be virtual, with judging of the contestants to be accomplished via audiovisual recordings. The results of the national competition will be announced on July 12. Ryan was the NC Rumbaugh winner in 2017 and competed in the national championship in Knoxville, TN.

Ryan took an innovative approach in his choice of topic. His oration, *Was the American Revolution a Just War?* began with the scene in Boston on March 5, 1770, when snowball pelting triggered what became known as the Boston Massacre. Leaving that scene, Ryan reached back to the teachings of Thomas Aquinas in the 13th century, explaining that 'just war' theory explores the moral basis for conflict. Great Britain denied the right of colonists to consent to their government through votes in elections. As they composed their rationale for revolt, the patriot thinkers and leaders of the American Revolution relied heavily upon the expositions of John Locke and Jean Jacques Rousseau. These thoughts justified the actions of patriots and ring true yet today.

This autumn, Ryan will enter the University of Virginia, the alma mater of both of his parents, Michael and Heidi Lanford, and of a grandfather as well. He will major in political science with an objective to earn an advanced degree at the notable Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy.

The General Francis Nash Chapter of NCSSAR inaugurated participation in the Rumbaugh Oration Contest in 2017. Its local winner has also won the NC State Championship in each of these years. Last year's winner, Ms. Riley Shaner of Northwoods High School in Pittsboro, earned second place at the SAR National Congress in Costa Mesa, CA. She is now enrolled as an education major at UNC Charlotte.



Local and NC State Rumbaugh Chairman, Lowell Hoffman, is a believer in the value of public speaking skills and the ability to rise, speak up, and communicate effectively in support of an idea. On this basis, new initiatives are underway to broaden participation across the State with support of additional allies and additional SAR chapters.

This year, three contestants were home schooled and competed in the public speaking and debate competitions sponsored by National Christian Forensics and Communication Association (www.ndfca.org). Additional and broader participation in the Rumbaugh Oration Contest is expected in coming years through collaboration with local groups who support and participate in this program. English and speech teachers in public schools have also been valued supporters as they offer Rumbaugh participation as additional incentive to their motivated students.

American Legion's honored and effective Constitutional Oratory competition will hopefully become an additional ally. Discussions with NC American Legion's chair of this program have begun. Publicity through the Legion's committees and posts will begin this fall.

The Rumbaugh Oration Contest is open to all high school students in grades 9-12 including public, private, parochial and home schools. The subject may be any event, personality or document pertaining to the Revolutionary War showing the relationship of the topic to the present day. Judging factors include composition, delivery, significance, historical accuracy and relevance. Each oration must be memorized and 5 to 6 minutes in length.

Ryan earned a \$250 cash award for winning the General Francis Nash Chapter competition, an additional \$750 for winning at the state level, and is competing for a \$6,000 first place award at the national level.

Rumbaugh Chairman, Lowell Hoffman will be pleased to respond to questions and expressions of interest. He may be contacted at lmhglobal927@gmail.com.

LOWELL HOFFMAN
NCSSAR Rumbaugh Chairman

NC Society Sons of the American Revolution

New Chapter Birthing

The new Sandhills Chapter of the Pinehurst, Southern Pines, and Moore County area is in the birthing center, as it were. The official birth has not yet occurred, but State leadership has been notified it is imminent. Sandhills will be NCSSAR's 28th Chapter. Bruce Fensley will become Chapter President.

The Sandhills Chapter was conceived several years ago with the help of Rodney (Rod) Herbig. Rod moved from Illinois to North Carolina in 2016 to retire closer to his family in Pinehurst. An active member and past President of the NCSSAR Fox Valley Chapter, he led the Boy Scout and Eagle Scout recognition program. Rod began looking to re-engage in a local SAR Chapter in his new community and contacted the NCSSAR State office for assistance.

Upon advice, he decided to attend a Raleigh Chapter meeting. The one and a half hour drive (one way), however, resulted in him getting lost along the way and caused him to arrive late. The distance to the Raleigh Chapter and unfamiliarity of the area was not a good fit for someone in retirement. Rod then attended a meeting at the Marquis de Lafayette Chapter in Fayetteville. There he also found the commuting distance in the evening hours and the strange territory a deterrent to continuing as an active SAR compatriot.

Next, Rod attended a NCSSAR Meeting in Raleigh and met John Thornhill and other compatriots at the meeting. Rod was still looking for a SAR Chapter where he could continue to actively participate. He concluded there were no existing SAR Chapters that were close enough for him to actively attend. John Thornhill provided him a list of current SAR compatriots in and around Moore County. Rod decided to contact them to see if there was any interest in starting the work of establishing a new SAR Chapter in the Sandhills.



Rod began reaching out to each SAR compatriot using John Thornhill's list. He was able to get about ten existing compatriots to attend his first meeting. He explained his experiences serving at the Fox Valley SAR Chapter and how a new local SAR Chapter could better serve the community and educate the public about the sacrifices of our Revolutionary War Patriots.

Rod continued to conduct monthly meetings for more than two years. He attracted a number of men (SAR and non-SAR) by posting SAR meeting notices in the local newspaper, *The Pilot*, and invited all to attend on a Saturday. Some of these men believed that they had ancestors that served in the Revolutionary War and didn't know how to begin the genealogy search for documenting the SAR application process.

Several members worked together to get the prospects started on their family searches and provided sources of supporting documentation for their applications. John Thornhill provided tremendous help and encouragement by attending some of our weekend meetings and advising how to complete applications and genealogy searches.

Over the past two years, community visibility was increased by participating in an SAR wreath presentation at the Veterans Day ceremony at the Moore County Veterans Park in Carthage. Veterans and members of the public greeted Rod in his full Revolutionary War military uniform and took many pictures with him. This was a very successful public outreach opportunity which included a picture of the celebration in *The Pilot* newspaper and resulted in an increased interest with our SAR Chapter efforts. Because of Rod's tireless work and encouragement, nearly 25 men are on the communications roster.

In order to charter a new SAR chapter, national guidelines require a minimum of 10 members to sign an *Application for a Charter* form. Members who sign are honored historically as charter members. State leadership identified 16 existing SAR members who live in the Moore County area, ten of whom have signed, as of the publication of this newsletter. Final approval of the charter by the Board of Managers is slated for August. The anticipated charter date of the new Sandhills Chapter will be around Constitution Day in August, 2020.

Alexander Lillington Chapter

Prior to the national health crisis this spring, the Col. Alexander Lillington Chapter was active. In February, Michael Murphy was installed as the new Chapter President. Michael is the second President of the Chapter and follows David "Henry" Campbell, the organizing President. Henry then took on the position of Chapter Secretary.

The first activity for the new President was to represent the Lillington Chapter and lay a wreath at the celebration of the Battle of Moores Creek.

At the February Chapter meeting, Carlyle Herring was presented with the Military Service Medal. He also received his certificate for the SAR Veterans Corps. David Murphy and David Campbell both were presented the War Service Medal. Mr. Murphy also received a Korea bar for his medal. David Campbell was presented a Vietnam bar for his medal.

Benjamin Gonzales was the Chapter winner for the Boy Scout Award program. This was the first time that a Scout from Duplin County has entered the Boy Scout Award program. Benjamin is the grandson of John Thornhill.

Clayton Herring, the Chapter Awards Chairman, presented three Fire Service medals. Gill Escobar and Blake Sanderman, both members of the Rose Hill Fire Department, were Fireman of the Year. Mr. Escobar actually won the award last year but was delayed in receiving the medal. Taylor Johnson, Fireman of the Year for the Wallace Fire Department, was presented his medal at a Fire Department meeting in March.



JOHN O. THORNHILL
Consulting Editor, ONS

Family of Six Takes SAR Oath Together

SPARTANBURG, SC—Three generations of Sutton descendants from the Bucklesberry community of La Grange, NC were inducted into the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (NSSAR) on Sunday, October 6, 2019. Witnessed by relatives and friends, the ceremony was held at the Marriott Courtyard in Spartanburg, SC at the SAR South Atlantic District leadership meeting.

Inductees included Dr. Joe Sutton of La Grange, NC, his three sons, Jeremy Donald Sutton of Pelzer, SC, Jason Wesley Sutton of Duncan, SC, Jared Paul Sutton of Simpsonville, SC, and his two grandsons, Jonah David Sutton and Braden Josiah Sutton, both sons of Jared. The Suttons will be affiliated with the Gen. George Washington Chapter.

The oath was administered by ranking officer, William Allen Greenly, Vice President General of the SAR South Atlantic District, assisted by SMSgt. George K. Strunk, USAF (Ret.), NC Trustee for SAR and President of the local Gen. George Washington SAR Chapter of eastern North Carolina.



Pictured, left to right: Jared, with son, Braden; Joe, with grandson, Jonah; Jason; Jeremy; and Vice President General, William Allen Greenly (far right).

Joe submitted his application to SAR in March, 2018 after verifying his fourth-great-grandfather, Benjamin Sutton, Sr. (ca. 1752-1837) enlisted as a Private during the Revolutionary War. The original document confirming Benjamin's enlistment is housed at State Archives in Raleigh, NC.

Benjamin was one of 49 men who joined the Dobbs Regiment of the North Carolina Militia on May 26, 1780. The Regiment was named for Dobbs County, established in 1758, which eventually subdivided into Greene, Lenoir, and Wayne Counties.

"We know little about Benjamin, but he was probably an interesting character, as Bucklesberrians are known to be a peculiar bunch," jokingly remarked Dr. Sutton. "What we do know is that he was willing to fight for freedom and liberty, and that speaks to his impeccable character as a man. We proudly claim our birthright from Benjamin as a family patriarch, and we honor his legacy as an American patriot."

[Note: Subsequent to the original publication of this article, Dr. Sutton was blessed to have a third grandson born on December 24, 2019. Benjamin Wesley Sutton was named after his sixth-great-grandfather. Ben's SAR application was recently approved.]

Excerpted from *The Weekly Gazette, La Grange, NC, 10.6.19*

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NC Society Sons of the American Revolution

Catawba Valley Chapter

Patriots' Day 2020

The national health crisis and social distancing prevented Catawba Valley Chapter from celebrating the Day in groups as we have done in the past. Chapter Past President and current State Secretary, Jack Bowman and current Chapter President, Ben Setser each ventured out individual-ly. Jack asked his lovely wife, Vickie, to handle the camera, but Ben tried doing it alone with a tripod and timer, as his lovely wife, Charlaire, was busy caring for her aging parents.

Ben's photographic efforts were rather humorous, since he had never used a tripod-timer configuration. At his first stop, Old St Paul's Cemetery in Newton, his tripod fell apart from the beginning, which required that he re-shoot several pictures of individuals whose heads were cutoff.

The second stop was Weidner-Robinson Cemetery. Ben trekked all the way up the hill, this time only to discover his camera battery was dead. Back to the truck for another! The day was enjoyable, just the same, and the Chapter was able to place flags on 15 or so Patriot graves.



Pictured: Left, Jack Bowman honors William Braswell on Three Mile Road in Avery County. Center, Ben Setser honors a 5th great-grandfather, Heinrich Weidner at Weidner-Robinson Cemetery in Newton. Right, Ben honors another 5th great-grandfather, Maj. George Wilfong at Old St Paul's Cemetery in Newton.

Memorial Day Should Recognize All

Many SAR members honor a Patriot ancestor who did not die while in service during the Revolution. As such, we honor them daily. The last Monday of May each year is Memorial Day, a national holiday set aside to honor all who died in service to their country. But are we really honoring *all* of those who died while serving in the Revolution?

On June 20, 1780, about 400 Patriot militiamen under the command of Col. Francis Locke attacked a Tory force estimated as high as 1,400 men commanded by Lt. Col. John Moore. The intent here is not to give a full account of the Battle of Ramsour's Mill. Rather, we focus on the aftermath.

Near the end of the battle, the Tories had been driven from the field and gathered to mount another counterattack. The Patriot force had been decimated. Many of the Captains had been either killed or wounded. Seeing the Loyalists beginning to return to the field, the Patriots were only able to form a line of 86 men. Badly wounded men struggled in until finally the line grew to no more than 110 men. The Tories decided not to attack these men who were determined to fight to the death.

The *Journal of the American Revolution* states that 170 men died (both Patriots and Tories). This figure is consistent with that of Gen. Joseph Graham, who, in *His Revolutionary Papers* indicated that at least 70 died with an equal number of Loyalists. So, from 140 to 170 men died that day. Some men who died had their bodies claimed by family or friends, and, subsequently, were taken away to be buried. Most of those who died were buried in a mass grave towards the top of the hill.

Over the years, the exact spot of the mass grave was lost. The property was given to the Lincoln County School Board who did not reverence it as hallowed, deciding instead it was a suitable site to build three schools. In the mid 1900s, one of the school principals noticed that the land on one side of the school was sinking. With the knowledge that local historians and family histories had approximated the mass grave near the Tuckaseegee Road that came close to the top of the battle hill, the sinking ground was examined closely and determined to be the logical spot of the burial. Thus, the mass grave had been identified again.

Today, the mass grave area, near the former F. D. Kiser Intermediate School in Lincolnton, has been marked-off with blocks. There is a small plaque on a small monument noting that this area contains the "remains of many of the seventy brave and true citizen-soldiers, names unknown, loyalists and patriots, their bodies unclaimed."

Some hold the view that no greater honor can be given to a soldier who dies in battle than for his remains to be buried on the battlefield. SAR recognizes battlefield burials. At last year's Commemoration of the Battle of Ramsour's Mill, the main speaker, Ann Dellinger, direct descendant of Joseph Patton, spoke of how Patton died at the battle and that he was probably buried in the mass grave, but certainly on the battlefield. There is proof of several more men buried at the Ramsour's Mill Battlefield. However, most of their names are not noted on any stone or marker.

The Catawba Valley Chapter proposes to place a monument on the Battlefield in a suitable location that will commemorate the deaths of these unnamed men. They must never be forgotten. Moreover, it is only right that they be properly honored for giving the ultimate sacrifice for the liberties we enjoy today. Memorial Day should recognize all who died in service of their country, both named and unnamed.

Bethabara Chapter

Learmond "Buddy" Ardell Hayes, Jr. made history by becoming the first black American inducted into the Bethabara Chapter of NCSSAR this past February. Joining him in celebration at the induction ceremony were his two sisters, his daughter, two grandsons, and a cousin.



Pictured: Learmond "Buddy" Hayes, Jr.

Discovery of Buddy's ancestor, John Blanks, Sr., a free man of color who fought in the Revolutionary War, began when Buddy had DNA testing done. He then conducted his own Internet research and combined it with genealogical research from a distant cousin. Buddy is uncertain how John Blanks, Sr. became a free man of color. Possibly he arrived in America by way of Europe from Africa, or he may have been born the son of a sailor.

For certain, though, John Blanks, Sr. saw action in the War of Independence. Buddy has a copy of the pension check issued to John in 1784. Captain Blanks served with the Craven County Regiment of a North Carolina militia authorized by the provincial Congress in 1775. In addition to the Battle of Moore's Creek, the Regiment fought at New Bern and other battlegrounds near the South Carolina border.

A complete account of Buddy's application to SAR and discovery of his ancestor, Patriot John Blanks, Sr. was featured in the February 9, 2020 issue of the *Winston-Salem Journal*

**Photograph courtesy of the
Winston-Salem Journal**

Gen. George Washington Chapter

Secretary-Historian Ron Bonham presented Cadet Thurman Axson (pictured left) of D. H. Conley High School with the Bronze JROTC Award on May 15. On May 18, Ron presented



the Bronze JROTC Award to Sgt. Moore (pictured below) of Ayden-Grifton High School for Cadet Jayce McClung. On June 2, Sgt. Overby of J. H. Rose High School received the



Bronze JROTC Award on behalf of Cadet Michael Carey (pictured below).

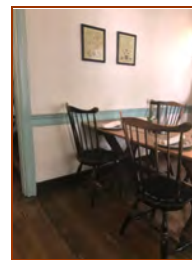
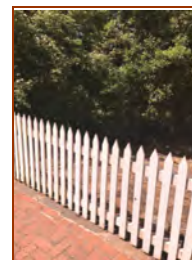


On May 30, Chapter President George Strunk participated in the Color guard for the Wayne's Crossing event that was held via Zoom at Leesburg, VA.

Three new members were inducted at a meeting on the 18th of June at 7:00 PM, Greenville Church of God, 3105 S. Memorial Drive in Greenville.

German Moravian Settlement

North Carolina contains vitally important colonial sites, many of which border neighboring VA and SC. One of the most important sites, the German Moravian settlement of Old Salem, is along the Great (Philadelphia) Wagon Road path. Near the VA border in Winston Salem and north of important colonial settlements in Salisbury and SC, George Washington spent two nights here during his tour of the southern states. It was a favorite stop of his along the tour.



DAVID L. MANN
Consulting Editor, ONS



OLD
NORTH
STATE

JULY
2020

NC Society Sons of the American Revolution

Alamance Battleground Chapter

Patriots' Day Event

The annual Patriots' Day event for the Alamance Battleground Chapter commemorates three Revolutionary War events: Battle of Pyle's Defeat; Battle of Clapp's Mill; and Battle of Lindley's Mill. The pre-revolutionary Battle of Alamance is also remembered.

The 24th observance of Patriots' Day occurred Saturday, May 16. Due to the national health crisis, attendance was limited to 10 individuals. The ceremony was attended this year by the five members of the Alamance Battleground Color Guard, Chapter President Steve A. Van Pelt (see picture below) and Chaplain Norman Whitney (not shown). Also in attendance were members of the Battle of Alamance DAR.

Of special note is that the observance this year was on the 249th anniversary of the Battle of Alamance fought May 16, 1771. Next year



will be the 250th anniversary, and we are expecting a large crowd. Everyone will be invited. The Battle of Alamance ended the 1766-1771 War of Regulation.

NC Governor

William Tryon raised about 1,000 of his NC militia and marched from New Bern to the area of the Haw River in then-Orange County to quell the Regulator revolt.

He was met by about 3,000 poorly armed and disorganized Regulators. In the brief battle, there were some 80 casualties with Gov. Tryon taking the field. Thirteen prisoners were captured with one hung on the spot. Twelve were put on trial in Hillsborough and convicted of treason. Gov. Tryon pardoned six and ordered six of the Regulators to be hung. This action ended the War of Regulation, returning order to the colony of North Carolina. Gov. Tryon left North Carolina in July to become Governor of New York.

The Battle of Alamance was featured this year in the fifth season of the *Outlander* television series. In the TV version, there were British Red Coats at the battle, and it was portrayed as the "spark that led to the American Revolution." In actuality, there were no British soldiers at the Battle of Alamance, and in 1771 there was no organized effort for independence. Even so, the Battle of Alamance was fought for many of the same reasons as the American Revolution, and it was the first large-scale armed rebellion against royal authority in the colonies.

Battle of Ramsour's Mill Virtual Event

Sponsored by the Catawba Valley Chapter and NCSSAR, the 240th commemoration of the Battle of Ramsour's Mill was held on June 20th. An incredibly special hallmark event like none other to date, attendees connected with the history of the Battle through the modern technology of Zoom conferencing. This year's event marked the very first SAR national virtual battle commemoration.

Streamed to a global audience via Facebook, participants were taken live to the Ramsour's Mill Battleground. Many SAR, DAR, and CAR dignitaries streamed live from around the country to bring special greetings. Color Guard members, 93 total, in full Revolutionary War uniform and militia attire from across the nation were also in attendance.

The stats speak to the extraordinary success of the event. Through Facebook, the ceremony reached almost 1,200 people in at least 12 states with 665 viewing the event directly. A total of 66 virtual wreaths were presented by SAR, DAR, CAR and other patriotic organizations.

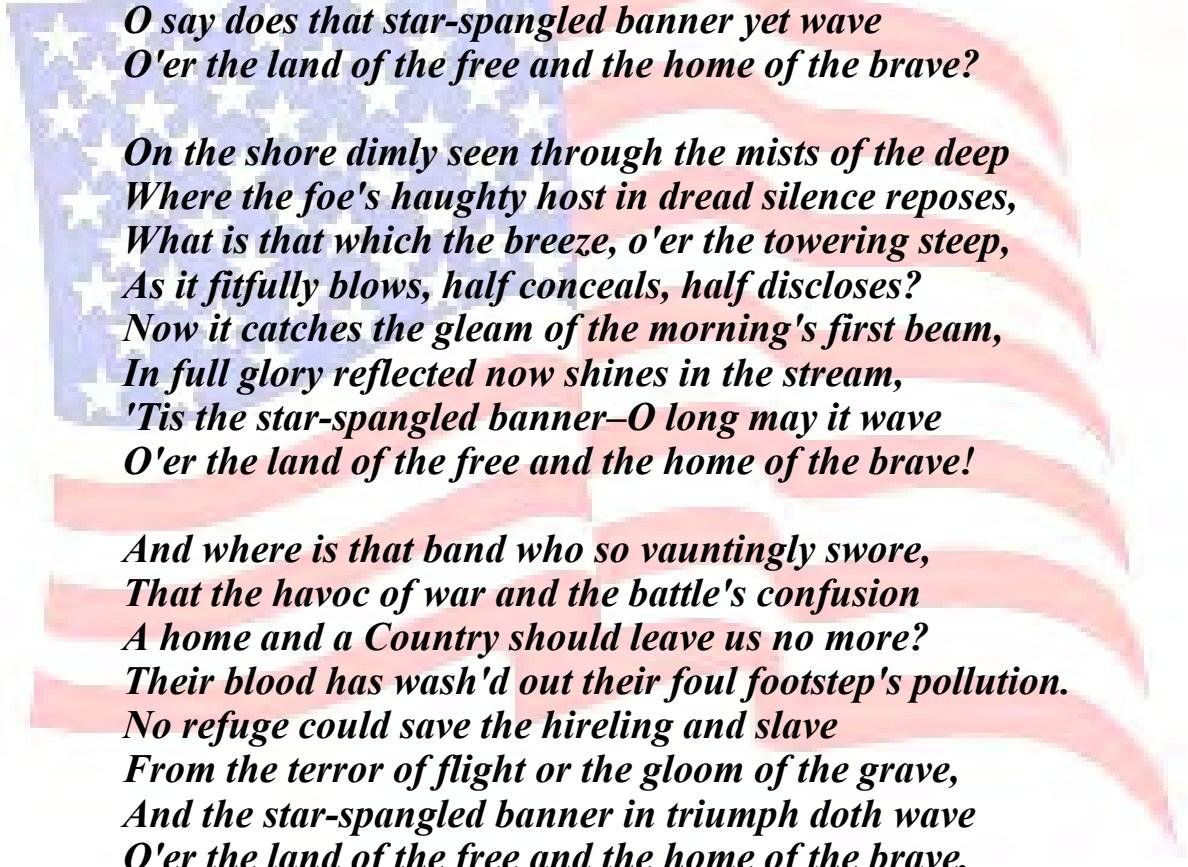


Pictured: Darrell Harkey, speaker at the event.

NCSSAR leadership extends special thanks to Ben Setser, President of the Catawba Valley Chapter, and Jack Bowman, NCSSAR State Secretary, for their leadership in helping organize the event, and to Bryant Trombly for technical assistance.

Compatriots Celebrate and Embrace our Country's National Anthem

With great pride, we present the complete version of the
The Star-Spangled Banner
showing spelling and punctuation from Francis Scott Key's
manuscript in the Maryland Historical Society collection.



*O say can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight
O'er the ramparts we watch'd were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare, the bomb bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there,
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?*

*On the shore dimly seen through the mists of the deep
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
In full glory reflected now shines in the stream,
'Tis the star-spangled banner—O long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!*

*And where is that band who so vauntingly swore,
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion
A home and a Country should leave us no more?
Their blood has wash'd out their foul footstep's pollution.
No refuge could save the hireling and slave
From the terror of flight or the gloom of the grave,
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.*

*O thus be it ever when freemen shall stand
Between their lov'd home and the war's desolation!
Blest with vict'ry and peace may the heav'n rescued land
Praise the power that hath made and preserv'd us a nation!
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto—'In God is our trust,'
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.*

NCSSAR Calendar

July 4: July 4th Naturalization Ceremony, Raleigh, 11:00 AM-4:00 PM

July 4: July 4th Naturalization Ceremony, Mecklenburg Chapter, Charlotte, 12:00-1:00 PM

July 18: Battle of Colson's Mill 240th Anniversary, Norwood, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM

Aug. 1: Battle of the House in the Horseshoe 239th Anniversary, Sanford, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Aug. 15: Signing of the Tryon Resolves 245th Anniversary, Bessemer City, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Aug. 22: Summer Board of Managers Meeting, Burlington, 11:00 AM-3:00 PM

Aug. 29: New Bern Resolves 246th Anniversary, New Bern, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM

Sept. 5: Battle of Eutaw Springs 239th Anniversary, SCSSAR, Eutawville, SC

Sept. 17: Youngest Two Generals of the Revolutionary War, Mecklenburg Chapter, Charlotte, 6:00-8:00 PM

Sept. 19: Raleigh Chapter Lunch Meeting, Golden Corral, 12:00 PM-1:30 PM

Oct. 17: Raleigh Chapter Lunch Meeting, Golden Corral, 12:00 PM-1:30 PM

Nov. 7: Benjamin Sutton Grave Marking, Gen. George Washington Chapter, La Grange, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM

Nov. 12: Capt. Jack Sculptor Visits Mecklenburg, Mecklenburg Chapter, Charlotte, 6:00-9:00 PM

Nov. 21: Raleigh Chapter Lunch Meeting, Golden Corral, 12:00 PM-1:30 PM

Dec. 12: Raleigh Wreaths Across America at Oakwood, Raleigh Chapter, 11:30 AM-1:00 PM

Dec. 19: Raleigh Chapter Lunch Meeting, Golden Corral, 12:00 PM-1:30 PM

Benjamin Sutton, Sr. Marker Dedication

The Gen. George Washington Chapter of the North Carolina Sons of the American Revolution invites you to attend a grave marker dedication for Patriot Benjamin Sutton, Sr. and beloved wife, Sarah Hardy Sutton on Saturday, November 7, 2020, 11:00 AM at the Hardy Sutton Family Cemetery, Bucklesberry Community, Sutton Shortcut Road La Grange, NC 28551.

Over 150 years old, the Hardy Sutton Family Cemetery is situated in the heart of Bucklesberry, a pre-Revolutionary War community established in the mid-1700s in part by John Sutton, Sr., and sons, Benjamin Sutton, Sr., John, Jr., and William.

Join us in honoring Benjamin and Sarah, two brave Americans of the Christian faith who sided with the Patriot cause. Pig pick'n BBQ meal served after ceremony at the local Ruritan Building. All are invited. RSVP at the Events page at the NCSSAR website.



Directions to cemetery: From US Hwy 70, exit right at the La Grange overpass. Turn right on Jenny Lind Rd. and drive approximately 2 miles. Turn left on Kennedy Home Rd. and drive approx. 1 mile. Turn right on Sutton Shortcut Rd. (gravel). Cemetery is on the right about 0.3 miles off of a dirt path.

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