

## President's Message

**FREDERICK D. LEARNED**  
*President, NC SAR*



N.C. Compatriots,  
My one-year term as State President is nearly over. Truly, it has been an honor and a privilege to serve in this role. Unfortunately, my term has been almost entirely overshadowed by the pandemic. Nonetheless, a number of accomplishments occurred over the last year.

The State SAR newsletter, *The Old North State* (ONS), has been revived, thanks to Dr. Joe Sutton. He volunteered to serve as Editor, although he had been a SAR member for only a few months. Another volunteer was one-year member Bryant Trumbly, who became our Webmaster. His technical expertise was invaluable as we began hosting many meetings and events using Zoom this past year. The support and outreach achieved by these two members on behalf of our State Society has been monumental.

Another accomplishment is the chartering of Sandhills Chapter. Compatriots Rod Herbig and newly installed Chapter President Bruce Fensley helped establish this new Chapter. Membership already exceeds 20, and 50% are brand new SAR members.

I also appreciate David Alls, who agreed to become President of the Old North State Chapter. In addition, I offer a heartfelt thanks to my fellow Piedmont Color Guardsmen, Larry and John Brown, John Sullivan, and John Martin who responded to many calls for our Color Guard to muster.

One disappointment is that my best efforts over the last two years to have Bethabara Chapter host a State Convention in Winston-Salem have failed. This Chapter didn't exist five years ago but has since grown to nearly 50 members. They may not get another opportunity to host because NC SAR will be adopting what other State Societies do, which is selecting an acceptable site, and returning to the same place annually.

**"It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God or the Bible."**

~President George Washington

Shortly after my move to Winston-Salem seven years ago, I helped revive Bethabara Chapter. A few months later, incoming State President Tim Berly asked if I would also help revive the annual commemoration of the Battle of Shallow Ford. My ignorance of that historic Revolutionary War battle was understandable, given my former association with FLSSAR. Shortly after that first ceremony, Tim sadly passed away. I wish he were still with us to witness what may soon become the State's newest historic park.

Published in this issue of ONS are two articles about the history of Shallow Ford and the extraordinary efforts to preserve it. The legislative skills of one of our newest SAR members, N.C. Senator Tom McInnis of Sandhills Chapter, have been unparalleled in seeking State assistance to sponsor the acquisition of Shallow Ford property.

Lastly, I thank Dr. Sam Powell who attended the re-organizational meeting of the Bethabara Chapter and

who gave us our only flags. I also thank Gary Green, then-State Secretary. His organizational skills helped me adjust to operational differences as I transitioned from leadership in FLSSAR to NC SAR. Most of all, I would like to thank George Strunk, who has always offered a helping hand. These Compatriots are my superheroes, and they are the backbone of the North Carolina Society.

Incoming State officers—President Jay DeLoach, Senior Vice President Jack Bowman, and Secretary Tony Zeiss—are energetic and ready to keep our State Society moving forward. I wish them well in their leadership. In closing, I look forward to our Society hosting a National Congress in a few years, where we can showcase our incredible State *in person*. Until then, keep your powder dry and volunteer or serve when called upon.

Compatriotly yours, Fred

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## Membership Update

### NC SAR Welcomes 35 New Members (December 18, 2020 through March 5, 2021)

BROCK, James #218473  
BYRD, Jerry #217895  
BYRD, Kent #217896  
BYRD, Larry #217894  
CABLE, Clark #218164  
COOK, Bradley #217748  
FELIX, Heber, II #218470  
FOGLE, Hayden #218079  
GREESON, James #218163  
HODGES, Robert #218219  
JAMESON, William, Jr. #218474  
JOHNSON, Matthew #217946  
LIGHT, David L #218161  
LIGHT, David W. #218162  
LOVELAND, Michael #218160  
LOVIENO, Thomas #217892  
LOWE, John, Jr. #217945  
LUTZ, Jordan K. #217817  
MATTHEWS, Christopher #217816  
McNABB, Jeremy #218472  
PINNIX, John #217944  
PITTENGER, Robert #218159  
RICHARDSON, Ernest III #218218  
RIETSCHER, William #218381  
RIETSCHER, Carl, Jr. #218380  
RHODES, Samuel, Jr. #218475  
STRASSELL, Matthew T. #217815  
TAYLOR, Renny #217947  
TURNER, Richard #218377  
VAN HATTEN, Scott #218471  
WALTON, Stephen #217893  
WEBSTER, Thomas #218158  
WILLIAMS, Bobby #217891  
WILSON, Brian K. #218378  
WILSON, Brian M #218379

### NC SAR Extends Deepest Thoughts and Prayers to the Families of the Following Com- patriots who Passed Away Since December 18, 2020

Thomas Orr, Joseph  
Lutskus, Jim Hash

## NC SAR Membership Inquiries

Since January 1, North Carolina has received 56 inquiries about SAR membership. Chapters and inquiry counts include the following: Bethabara, 6; Blue Ridge, 5; Catawba Valley, 3; Col. Alex. Erwin, 1; Gen. Frances Nash, 2; Gen. George Washington, 1; Lower Cape Fear, 2; le Marquis de Lafayette, 2; Mecklenburg, 10; Old North State, 3; Nathanael Greene, 3; New Bern, 4; Raleigh, 6; Salisbury, 2; Western Waters, 1; and George Dickey, 1.

For SAR applicants who receive any type of assistance from a member of the DAR, be certain to complete a *Finders Form* and attach to the application when it is submitted.

**JOHN O. THORNHILL**  
*Membership Chair, NC SAR*

## Chapter News

### Blue Ridge Chapter

Cadet Ivonne Sorzano, a JROTC participant at T. C. Roberson High School in Asheville, N.C.,



has been awarded the *Outstanding JROTC Cadet Award* by the Blue Ridge Chapter of NC SAR. Ivonne was nominated by Col. Thomas Bell, USAF (Ret.).

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# Chapter News

## Blue Ridge Chapter

(Cont. from page 2)

Each SAR Chapter can select an Outstanding JROTC Cadet and enter that cadet into their State Society's Outstanding JROTC Cadet program. The winner of the State competition will be entered into the National Outstanding JROTC Recognition program. The winner of the national program will receive a special award at the SAR National Congress in her/his next-to-last year of JROTC (11th grade, Third Year Cadet in a four-year program).

On July 2, 1776, New York representative to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Continental Congress Philip Livingston voted to declare "That these united Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States..." Two days later, the declaration of freedom by these newly minted *Americans* rocked the world and became known to the masses.



On March 8, 2021, Livingston's 7th great-grandson John Terrance (Terry) Wilkins III (pictured) of Hendersonville, N.C. joined the Blue Ridge Chapter of the NC SAR. As Wilkins took his oath, a copy of the declaration that his great-grandfather signed was in the

background, a part of the *Charters of Freedom* display at the Henderson County Court-house.

CRAIG ISAACSON  
President, Blue Ridge Chapter

## Catawba Valley Chapter

Catawba Valley Chapter had the great pleasure to present Catawba Masonic Lodge #248 with a framed copy of the *Declaration of Independence* on February 23rd, 2021 in honor of Gen. George Washington's 289th birthday. Lodge Master Pro-tem David Brandon (pictured, right) received the document on behalf of the Lodge.



Chapter President Ben Setser and Color Guardsmen Larry Anderson, Roy Lightfoot and Chris Stone made the presentation. A short speech about Gen. Washington in the roles of Patriot, General, and Mason was given by Ben.

The Chapter's youngest member, Will Barton (pictured),



received his Flag Retirement Certificate on March 9, 2021 from Catawba Valley Chapter President Ben Setser. His certificate was initially presented at the end of last year via Zoom. The continuing pandemic prevented presentation of the actual certificate until now.

Will is a junior member of the Chapter, a member of the CAR, and a Boy Scout. He was awarded the certificate for instituting a flag retirement ceremony on Flag Day (June 14, 2020) with his Boy Scout Troop, American Legion Posts and the Marine Corps League. There were 250 flags honorably retired that day.

Chris Stone (pictured), who was inducted in January, received the



first Chapter Membership Certificate at the March 13, 2021 meeting. Compatriots Will and Chris represent the younger generation of NC SAR, and they are the future of our country.

BEN SETSER  
President, Catawba Valley Chapter

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## Chapter News

### Gen. George Washington Chapter

At the February 18, 2021 meeting of the Gen. George Washington Chapter, President George Strunk moderated the induction of new member, Shay Beaman (pictured, right).



President Strunk also presented Chapter Treasurer Kenny Smith (pictured, right) with a certificate



for his participation in the day-long National SAR Color Guard vigil at the Gen. George Washington tomb, Mount Vernon, VA on September 21, 2020.

Chapter members voted to sell NSSAR 250th Sestercentennial Anniversary pins for \$5 each as a fundraiser for the Chapter. Tom Payne mentioned interest in a Chapter scholarship program to be discussed at a future meeting.

**GEORGE STRUNK, SMSgt, USAF (Ret.)**  
*President, General. George Washington Chapter*

## Proposed Bylaw Amendments

### 1. Change Article IX §1 to read as follows:

§ 1. Annual Meeting. The general membership will meet at an Annual Meeting on a Saturday in March or April. Members present will elect Society officers for the coming year and transact such other business that may come before them.

Rationale: The proposed change removes the requirement that the Annual Meeting be held in April and provides scheduling flexibility in case of schedule conflicts (e.g., Easter, other SAR events), venue availability, natural disasters, and/or season rate shifts.

### 2. Add in Article VIII, a new §5 to read as follows:

§ 5. Council of Past State Presidents.

- a. Composition. The Council of Past State Presidents (the Council) comprises all past State Presidents who are active members of the Society. One Council member, elected by the members, will serve as chairman for a term of two years.
- b. Authority. The Council advises the President. The President may refer such matters as he deems appropriate to the Council for its advice.

Rationale: This language formalizes the advisory body of the former State Presidents.

## SAR Patriot Medal



The SAR Patriot Medal is the highest, most prestigious award issued by a State society. It recognizes long, faithful, outstanding and distinguished service at the State and/or chapter level. National service is not a consideration.

NC SAR can award up to three medals in 2022. A committee of previous Patriot Medal recipients judge the entries prior to the winter Board of Managers (BOM) meeting, at which time winners are announced.

Winners are expected to attend the Annual State Meeting to accept their medals. A representative cannot accept the Patriot Medal in the absence of the winner. Instructions and a nomination form are found at the NC SAR website (see Forms).

**JOHN O. THORNHILL**  
*Consulting Editor, ONS*



# Washington, Rochambeau, and Their Trail

by Jeff Canning

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After the Declaration of 1776, the infant United States was struggling to win its independence from the mighty British Empire. The prospects were not bright during the first years of the war. The newly proclaimed country needed help, and France became its first and oldest ally, sending soldiers, sailors, experienced officers, money, weapons and other war materials across the Atlantic Ocean. The fact that aid to the rebellious colonies conveniently afforded France an opportunity to weaken the British in one theater of a global conflict between the two European powers does not diminish the importance of that aid to the United States. Indeed, without that aid, the rebellion might well have failed.

## A Royal Expedition

Thanks to the efforts of U.S. agents in Paris, France quietly began aiding the rebellious colonists in 1776. The U.S. victory over the British at Saratoga, in upstate New York in October 1777 led to the public Treaty of Amity and Commerce and the secret Treaty of Alliance on February 6, 1778. These opened the way to full-fledged French participation in the conflict. An initial French expeditionary force under Vice Admiral Jean Baptiste Charles Hector, Comte d'Estaing fought unsuccessful battles at Newport, Rhode Island, and Savannah, Georgia. A second force was sent under General Jean Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, Comte de Rochambeau, arriving at Newport, Rhode Island in July 1780.

## Allies Meet in Hartford

General George Washington and General Rochambeau met initially in September 1780 in Hartford, Connecticut, and again the following May in nearby Wethersfield, focusing on a prospective attack on the British stronghold of New York City. The French army marched to join the Continental Army in the Dobbs Ferry-Ardsley-Hartsdale area of Westchester County, New York, in July 1781. There the leaders considered their options while they awaited word from Admiral François Joseph Paul, Comte de Grasse, commander of a French fleet in the Caribbean, as to his destination on the American mainland.

While Washington favored an attack on New York, his French allies had reservations. The city had been well fortified during five years of British occupation, and French naval commanders were wary of the waterways in the area, with their shifting sandbars and strong currents.

## Rendezvous at Yorktown

Meanwhile, an attractive alternative developed at a newly established British base in Yorktown, Virginia, off Chesapeake Bay. Battle-hardened but exhausted British forces commanded by General Charles Cornwallis, were awaiting reinforcements and supplies after months of campaigning in the southern states. They could be successfully attacked or besieged if the allies could gain naval superiority there. Admiral de Grasse, in a message received Aug. 14, 1781 at the Odell House in Hartsdale, New York, (Rochambeau's headquarters), effectively settled the matter by informing Washington and Rochambeau that he was going to the



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# Washington, Rochambeau, and Their Trail

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Chesapeake Bay. Since his fleet was the key to any successful military operation, the army commanders promptly prepared to march to Virginia. Most of the Continental Army, followed by the French, all totaling 8,500 people and 4,500 large animals, crossed the Hudson River from Verplanck to Stony Point between Aug. 18 and 25. Other units traveled from West Point to Stony Point or crossed the river from Dobbs Ferry to Sneden's Landing. Most of the troops were bound for Philadelphia and then Yorktown.

The main armies split into several columns to reduce wear and tear on inadequate roads, limit demand on insufficient local supplies, and enable Washington's troops to screen the French from spies and prospective British attackers. Meanwhile, 3,000 Continental troops remained in New York to protect the Hudson River Valley, and Washington left 600 Continentals in New Jersey to tend large bakery ovens and campfires that successfully deceived the British into thinking that New York City was the target of the massive troop movement.

The allied armies reached Baltimore, Maryland, in early September 1781. Some of the troops were able to board vessels at various points along Chesapeake Bay for the remainder of the journey to Williamsburg, Virginia. Meanwhile, in a foreshadowing of things to come, de Grasse's fleet defeated a British fleet on September 5 in the Battle of the Capes, where the bay meets the Atlantic.



At Williamsburg the allied armies joined French forces who came with Admiral de Grasse and were commanded by the Marquis de Saint Simon. The combined forces marched to Yorktown to supplement the Virginia militia and Continental forces already at Yorktown under General Lafayette. The total land forces, numbering some 17,000 men, laid siege to Yorktown beginning on September 28. Heavily out-numbered, and with the French fleet preventing British assistance by sea, General Cornwallis surrendered his army of 8,500 three weeks later, on October 19, 1781.

The Continental Army returned north immediately after Yorktown. The French wintered in Virginia and headed north in July 1782, reaching the Hudson River two months later. The French spent a week in the Cortlandt-Peekskill area with the Continentals, celebrating the bonds forged during the previous year. Then the French headed to Boston, from which they sailed away at the end of 1782.

While Yorktown was the last major operation of the war, smaller encounters continued during the ensuing months. The war formally ended with the signing of the Treaty of Peace in Paris on September 3, 1783.

**Map Credit:** In 2009 the U.S. Congress designated the corridor of routes taken by the French Expeditionary Force from Newport to Yorktown in 1781 as the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail. See <https://w3r-us.org/> for more about the organization that advocated for the trail and is helping to develop its potential as a national resource.

**Stamp Credit:** A circa 1931 stamp printed in the U.S.A., issued for the 150th anniversary of the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown showing Generals Rochambeau and Washington, and Admiral de Grasse. See <https://www.dreamstime.com/>

**Editorial Note:** This article was adapted for a North Carolina audience by Ralph D. Nelson, Jr., PhD, *Consulting Editor, ONS*, with permission. Original article published in the quarterly newsletter of the Van Cortlandtville Historical Society, Inc., *The Historical Key*, Vol. 20, No. 4, December 2020, pp 5-6.



# Chapter News

## Halifax Resolves Chapter

NC SAR presented Rev. Duncan H. Jones (pictured, center) with the Society's Patriot Medal. The award was presented by NC SAR Past President Ken Wilson (pictured, left) and NC SAR Immediate Past President James Becker (pictured, right). Ken and James are previous recipients of the Patriot Medal and are members of the Patriot Medal Selection Committee.



The Patriot Medal is the highest award presented to a Compatriot by a State Society and recognizes long, faithful, outstanding, and distinguished service at the State and/or chapter level. It is awarded only by a State Society and may be presented only to an individual. Service at the national level is not considered in this award. Leadership traditionally presents the award at the annual NC SAR State Meeting, but it was delegated to the Chapter due to the ongoing pandemic.

Rev. Jones joined the NC SAR in 1996 as an at-large member before joining the newly formed Halifax Resolves Chapter in 2006. He has served as the Chapter Chaplain ever since. His dedication and service to the Chapter and to the NC SAR includes serving as Chapter Chaplain continuously for over 15 years, assisting the National Chaplain-General and the NC SAR Chapter at the April 12<sup>th</sup> Halifax Resolves ceremonies,

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# Shallow Ford Preservation

NC SAR State President, Fred Learned, is proud to announce that the 246-acre Messick Farm on the Forsyth County side of the Shallow Ford has been acquired for purposes of developing a historic park. This land acquisition is an unprecedented and significant achievement for NC SAR and for our State.

As first reported in the *Winston-Salem Journal* in early January, 2021, seven tracts of the Messick farm were recently purchased for \$2.8 million by The Conservation Fund, Arlington, VA. The Fund is serving as a bridge loan, thereby allowing time for philanthropic groups, including the Lewisville Historical Society and the NC SAR, to raise funds to acquire the property.

To date, about \$750,000 has been raised, according to Mike Leonard, retired partner with the Womble Bond Dickinson Law Firm, now senior associate with The Fund. Leonard relayed that The Fund "is buying the land so it can be protected and interpreted in connection with the upcoming 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the American Revolution."

The timeline of the unfolding of this seemingly insurmountable initiative is important to share. From the outset, the impact of one SAR chapter and one Compatriot has kept the dream alive. The diligent efforts of Bethabara Chapter and its member, Compatriot Andy Kelly, deserve special recognition.

Andy's passion and leadership, in particular, are noteworthy. Much of the time he could not discuss the issue with his fellow compatriots, but he would provide advice and updates at nearly every Chapter meeting.



The contribution of Bethabara Chapter and Andy toward the preservation of Shallow Ford for future generations began three years ago. It was discovered at the time that the Great Wagon Road (pictured) on the Yadkin County side had been recently bulldozed by its new landowner immediately prior to that year's Commemorative ceremony. Subsequently, Chapter members voted at their November, 2017 meeting to seek protective covenants for the land.

Fast forward to the February, 2021 Bethabara Chapter meeting. Aware of the *Winston-Salem Journal* article, members made a motion to contribute \$1,000 earmarked for the efforts to purchase the Shallow Ford property. A discussion followed in which members expressed interest to add personal contributions to increase SAR exposure. Chapter President Ed Hosmer promptly sent out

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## Chapter News

### Halifax Resolves Chapter

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presiding over an Annual State SAR Meeting, fulfilling chaplain duties at multiple Patriot and Compatriot grave markings as well as flag retirements, and serving as a member of the Chapter Board of Managers since 2006. He has represented the chapter at numerous Memorial Day, Veterans Day and Wreaths Across America ceremonies. Rev. Jones has provided wise council and spiritual guidance to the members of the Chapter and is greatly appreciated by all.

**KEN WILSON**

*President, Halifax Resolves Chapter*

### Col. Alexander Lillington Chapter

The Col. Alexander Lillington Chapter has been meeting and planning events for 2021. A first item of business was to set goals for the year that follow the State guidelines including membership growth and Youth Programs (JROTC and Eagle Scout).

The second event for the year will be the grave marking of Patriot Daniel Teachey. Daniel was an early settler in the area who had a large family. Many current people in the area trace their ancestry to the Teachey family. The grave marking is planned for the fall.

Four members of the Chapter provided the Color Guard for the Moore's Creek Celebration in February. All are from the same family: David, Michael, Eric and Mark Murphy. They have only been in the SAR for two years. They purchased uniforms and have participated in two other

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## The Battle of Shallow Ford, October 14, 1780

*Travis Copeland*

In September 1780, writing from Hillsborough, North Carolina, just one month after the disastrous defeat at Camden, Maj. Gen. Horatio Gates penned a disconcerted letter to Thomas Jefferson, the then-governor of Virginia, broadly sketching the situation in the colonial South: "Should Wilmington in this State and Portsmouth[ut] in Yours, be the posts they intend to take, I conceive the Southern Army would be entirely misplaced at Charlotte Salisbury and the Ford upon the Yadkin." [1]

The situation in the Carolinas had deteriorated for the Patriots after Camden. Gates not only suffered a rousing defeat in battle, but thoroughly embarrassed the Continental Army when he fled the scene. Dual British victories at Charlestown in May and Camden in August 1780 put the patriot cause in the South on a meager



footing. The presence of the Crown's army in the South sought to further incite Loyalists to curb the rebellion.

Although Gates reminded Jefferson that the British remained vulnerable at times, British strength had been increasingly fortified. On September 26, Gen. Charles, Lord Cornwallis and the British Army overran the Patriot militia defending the small backcountry town of Charlotte, North Carolina, near the Catawba River. British cavalry pushed the Patriot militia from the small courthouse at the center of town, and secured another rout of the Whigs

in the South. Charlotte was now in British hands. Since the transition by British leadership to a Southern campaign, they had seen demonstrable victories throughout the Carolinas and Georgia, further emboldening British commanders and their backcountry allies.

The Carolina backcountry was the hotbed of civil war as Cornwallis captured Charlotte. Difference of sentiment concerning British oversight boiled over in towns and cities to wholesale violence. Neighbor turned on neighbor with suspicion and ferocity. Tories and Whigs fought a constant campaign of unbridled violence. Although the British held Charlestown and Charlotte, the backcountry had no distinct loyalties. Militia mustered in various towns. Towns even rose in division, as one portion declared for Parliament and the other Congress. Tensions and emotions catalyzed into actions. Loyalist militia marauded the countryside as far as the Appalachian Mountains, while Patriot militia pushed to regain their losses north of Charlotte and in the central Carolinas. An increase in British strength and presence emboldened a particular group of Tories from Surry County to move to support Cornwallis.

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# Chapter News

## Col. Alexander Lillington Chapter

(Cont. from page 8)

events. Being in the Color Guard in this event that was viewed across the country, was an experience they will not soon forget.

Also in February, the Chapter presented a Fire Safety Medal and Certificate to Dwight Dixon. Mr. Dixon retired as the Fire Chief of the Greenevers Fire Department after 42 years of service.

The third annual celebration of the Battle of Rockfish to be held on July 31 will be a shared event with the Battle of Rockfish Chapter of NCDAR. In the past, Wallace Scout Troop 35 has also participated with a Flag Retirement as part of the program.

## New Bern Chapter

On February 17, the NC SAR New Bern Chapter Color Guard attended the Habitat for Humanity Home Dedication at the residence of Jeffery Jones of New Bern, a U.S. Army veteran. During the dedication Lee Purcell, New Bern Chapter Flag Chairman, presented an American Flag and a copy of the U.S. Constitution to Mr. Jones.

Mr. Jones' home was damaged as a result of Hurricane Florence, and the repairs were completed as a joint effort between Habitat of Humanity, Purple Heart Homes and AmeriCorps. Chapter members in attendance were Bob Rigg, Bruce Martin, Lee Purcell, Rob Webster, Ed Perkins, Dr. Bob Ainsley, Jay DeLoach and Gary Gillette. Also in attendance was Jodi DeLoach, from the Richard Dobbs Spaight DAR Chapter.

**GARY GILLETE**  
New Bern Chapter

# Shallow Ford Preservation

(Cont. from page 7)

an email informing members that they could send a check directly to Chapter Treasurer Gary Fraysier or to The Conservation Fund. The Bethabara Chapter contributed a combined amount of nearly \$4,000 to the Fund.

Momentum and public support for this endeavor has increased exponentially over the last couple of months. More will be shared in a Part II article to follow in the upcoming June, 2021 issue of ONS, including the N.C. General Assembly's enthusiastic support of the seminal effort to preserve the Shallow Ford of the Yadkin River.

For more information, readers are directed to two articles published in the *Winston-Salem Journal* at the following links:

[https://journalnow.com/gallery/news/photos-the-conservation-fund-acquires-land-along-the-yadkin-river/collection\\_be0ec19a-4fa9-11eb-bb80-77b6a35c4b4a.html#16](https://journalnow.com/gallery/news/photos-the-conservation-fund-acquires-land-along-the-yadkin-river/collection_be0ec19a-4fa9-11eb-bb80-77b6a35c4b4a.html#16)

[https://journalnow.com/news/local/bill-would-provide-1-8-million-to-shallow-ford-preservation-project-in-lewisville/article\\_b56c084c-8111-11eb-a282-37881f4c3e87.html](https://journalnow.com/news/local/bill-would-provide-1-8-million-to-shallow-ford-preservation-project-in-lewisville/article_b56c084c-8111-11eb-a282-37881f4c3e87.html)

**FRED LEARNED**  
President, NC SAR

## AmRevNC Website

Compatriots may be interested in visiting *The American Revolution Tour of North Carolina* website ([www.AmRevNC.com](http://www.AmRevNC.com)). Trademarked by AmRevNC, LLC, the website is administrated, researched, written and designed by David Morgan, M.A. of Durham, N.C. It focuses specifically on the role of North Carolina in the Revolution.

The website (homepage pictured) is described as a "step into reality history.... The emphasis is on stories and people, not facts and dates." In addition to well-documented information and resources,



the website offers a shop with unique gear related to the Revolutionary War, including mugs, hats, tote bags, and tee shirts. Morgan and his team are not know-it-alls. The 'Contact Us' link enthusiastically invites viewers to submit other evidence, "If you think we got the history wrong," a real plus for Compatriots and historians who are seeking valid documentation about our country's founding.

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## Chapter News

### New Bern Chapter

(Cont. from page 9)

On March 11, Rachel Webster (pictured) of Troop 219 became her troop's first Eagle Scout during an Eagle Board of Review held via Zoom in the Southern District of the East Carolina Council.



Rachel's brother, Joseph, also achieved Eagle Scout at the same Board.

Joseph and their father, David Webster, Scoutmaster of Troop 1884, are both applying for SAR membership through the New Bern Chapter. Members of the Eagle Board were Chairman Jay DeLoach, NC SAR Senior Vice President, and Ed Perkins and Ed Stinson, New Bern Chapter members, both recent recipients of the Robert E. Burt Boy Scout Volunteer Medal. The fourth Board member was Dobert Owsley who is also applying for membership in the SAR.

On Saturday, March 27, 2021, members of the New Bern Chapter Color Guard honored one of their own members, Richard Walker Flynn. Compatriot Flynn was presented with a 15-year Service Pin with Certificate and a War Service Medal with World War II Bronze Bar. In addition, he was inducted into the National SAR World War II Veterans Corps for his service as a Infantryman Cannoneer with the 88<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in Italy during 1944-1945.

Chapter members present for the event included the following: Jay DeLoach, Senior Vice President,

*Continued on page 11*

## The Battle of Shallow Ford, October 14, 1780

(Cont. from page 8)

Surry County, North Carolina, was a large territory reaching into the Yadkin Valley. Its breadth and width allowed it to stretch into the thick and beautiful backcountry of the Appalachian Mountains and its great rolling foothills. The backcountry was thickly forested and laced with creeks and streams meandering between rolling foothills. As the British pushed into this southern backcountry, Surry county Tories formed a militia and moved south following the path just east of the Appalachians. As they moved, rumors spread. The rumors were filled with tales of violence, and yet without confirmation or hindrance.

On October 4, testifying to the rumors, Gen. Jethro Sumner informed Major General Gates of the approaching Tory throng. A party of Tories, only recently known to him by enclosed letters from Col. William Preston, had begun burning and pillaging. Marauding through the countryside violently, the Tories apparently had gone largely unnoticed until now. Even Col. Martin Armstrong had heard nothing of the matter as he left Surry County the evening of Saturday, September 30. Nevertheless, the next morning after Armstrong left town, "this rising to embody began." Sumner included in his letter to Gates the information known about the Tories: "we have accounts of the Tories embodying in Surry County, in the fork of the Yadkin river, & had actually killed one Hedgspeth, the sheriff of the county." With the weak and seemingly absent command of Gates, concern fell on cold and deaf ears throughout the countryside, as the violence spreading in North Carolina grew. Given the vastness of his responsibility, General Sumner had other concerns at the time. However, the general improvement and possible strengthening of Cornwallis's forces put the Surry County militia at the forefront of coming confrontation. Stopping the Tories would be almost unreasonable, for "the extent of the Country between this & Charlotte is too great." [2] Sumner concluded that, although they were near the fork of the Yadkin river, they could also cross near McGoon's Creek as they moved south to reach Cornwallis and Charlotte. Sumner's concern was muffled by the extension of Tory and Whig conflict across the country under his command. *To be continued.*

### References

- [1] <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Jefferson/01-03-02-0718>
- [2] <https://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.html/document/csr14-0565>

**Editorial Note:** Adapted with permission, this article is the first in a multi-part reprint of the original article published in the *Journal of the American Revolution*, September 29, 2020. Travis Copeland holds a B.A. degree and is pursuing a postgraduate degree in history. In addition to the Revolutionary War, he has particular research interests in military conflict, political-social integration, and local history. A professional educator, Travis lives and teaches in North Carolina.



# Chapter News

## New Bern Chapter

(Cont. from page 10)

NC SAR and Immediate Chapter Past President; Dr. Bob Ainsley, Chapter President; Rob Webster, MSgt USMC (Ret.), Chapter Vice President; Bob Rigg, Chapter Color Guard Commander; Scott Brick, Chapter Secretary; Bruce Martin; Ed Perkins; and Lee Purcell.



Doffing his hat in respect to Compatriot Flynn (pictured, left) is Chapter President Dr. Ainsley. Also in attendance to pay tribute were members of the Richard Dobbs Spaight Chapter of the DAR, Jodi DeLoach and Bobbi Webster.

**DR. BOB AINSLEY**  
*President, New Bern Chapter*

## Sandhills Chapter

On January 30, 2021, Sandhills Chapter was honored to present the National SAR World War II, War Veteran Corps Medal and Certificate to Compatriot William (Bill) L. Rose of Southern Pines. Bill served in World War II in the Pacific Theater as an Aviation Radio Technician in the Naval Air Corp from 1943-1946. Highly decorated, Bill received various service awards, including the Victory Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Area Campaign Medal, the Philippine

*Continued on page 12*

# No Stone Unturned

**Ronald Bonham**  
*NC SAR Genealogist*

Historical records are like a field of stones. Every stone must be unturned in search of the genealogical nugget you need. Genealogy is proving the lineage of an individual. Sometimes more than one document is needed to establish parent-child relationships. U.S. Census records are a vital resource for genealogical researchers and historians.

Census information with indices from 1850 to 1940 (excluding 1890) can be found for free on [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org). All that is required to access these records is an account username and password. The indices have a few mistakes, misinterpreted names, etc. Nonetheless, Censuses can be searched by county/state for ancestors. One caution is that not all citizens participated in the Census, so some individuals may not be found.

Censuses are an easy way to begin a pedigree chart. In addition to gender, marital status, etc., some Censuses indicate family relationships, including heads of households, sons, daughters, and boarders. The SAR national genealogist readily accepts Census records as source material for new member applications.

Be aware of limitations, though. For example, the 1790 to 1840 Censuses list only the names of the heads of households with a raw count of others living in the household, thus preventing the ability to establish family relationships. In the 1840 Census, when a Revolutionary War soldier is in the household, his name is listed on the second page.

### How to Search Census Records

- ▶ Search all Censuses for "John Doe" or "Jane Doe" when s/he is younger than 20 years of age. This can be done on all Censuses from 1850 to 1940 and will show households.
- ▶ When multiple records are found and the location of the individual is known, narrow the search to a county/state.
- ▶ Realize that listed ages are approximate, so an age within a couple of years is acceptable.
- ▶ When an individual is identified in one Census, capture all household information, then initiate a search in the previous Census, and look for the head of household.

The 1850 to 1870 Censuses list members in the household, but do not list relationships. These records have to be accompanied with other supporting documents and/or a Genealogical Proof Argument (GPA). These Censuses allow for the search of more documents because household members are listed. Some states like New York that had mid-decade Censuses list relationships that are generally accepted by the SAR national genealogist.

The steps outlined in the accompanying figure should generate beginning information about ancestors. Future articles in ONS will discuss GPA, death certificates, other records, and issues to be aware of.

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## Chapter News

### Sandhills Chapter

(Cont. from page 11)

Liberation Ribbon, and the American Campaign Medal. Compatriot William Rose is truly a member of America's "Greatest Generation."

Through his family's Revolutionary War Veteran, James McCarty, Bill (pictured, center) became a Charter Member of the Sandhills Chapter of NC SAR in 2020. The SAR award he received would typically have been presented at a Chapter meeting with support from other compatriots. Regrettably, the ongoing pandemic precluded a public gathering for this important patriotic presentation.



Pictured are President Bruce Fensley (left), Compatriot Rose (center), and Vice President Rod Herbig (right).

**BRUCE FENSLEY**  
*President, Sandhills Chapter*

### le Marquis de Lafayette Chapter

At the online meeting of le Marquis de Lafayette Chapter on March 11, Compatriot David Morrow of the Sons of Liberty Chapter in Los Angeles, CA, presented a program entitled,

*Continued on page 13*

## NC SAR Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 17, 2021 | 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM EST

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82125358719>

### DRAFT Agenda

#### 8:30 - 9:00 AM

- Memorial Service – Mike Aycock/Van Jones, State Chaplain

#### 9:00 - 10:00 AM

- Call to Order the 92<sup>nd</sup> NC SAR Annual Meeting – Fred Learned
- Invocation – Mike Aycock
- Presentation of Colors – Pre-recorded George Strunk
- Pledge of Allegiance – Joe Culik, Mecklenburg Chapter President
- SAR Pledge – Craig Isaacson, Blue Ridge Chapter President
- Opening Remarks – Fred Learned
- Welcome/Greetings of Guests – Fred Learned
- Appoint a Parliamentarian – Fred Learned
- Quorum – Fred Learned and Jack Bowman
  - Approval of 2020 Summer and 2021 Winter BOM minutes – Jack Bowman
- Required/Updated Reports
  - Trustee Report – George Strunk
- Unfinished Business
  - Bylaw Amendments – Charles Adams
  - 2026 National Congress Motions – Jay DeLoach
- New Business
  - 2021-2022 Budget Approval – Sam Powell
  - Election of Officers – Jim Becker

#### 10:00 - 10:10 AM

- Comfort break

#### 10:10 - 11:00 AM

- Awards Ceremonies
  - Youth Awards [Pre-recorded Oration/Essays by State winners] – Treasurer General C. Bruce Pickette (Moderator)
  - Eagle Scout Scholarship Contest – Ed McBride
  - Outstanding JROTC Cadet Contest – Mike Aycock
  - Rumbaugh Oration Contest – Lowell Hoffman
  - Knight Essay Contest – Stephen Morris
  - American History Teacher Contest – Jim Wood

#### 11:00 - 11:10 AM

- Comfort break

#### 11:10 - 12:30 AM

- NC SAR Society Awards – Jay DeLoach (Moderator)
  - Chapter Awards
    - Electronic Yearbook Streamer – Gary Green
    - Flag Certificate Streamer – Jay DeLoach
    - Membership Retention Streamers – John Thornhill
    - New Membership Growth Streamers – Bob Ervin

*Continued on page 14*



## Chapter News

### le Marquis de Lafayette Chapter

(Cont. from page 12)

“Black Patriots, Untold Stories: African American Genealogy.” Compatriot Morrow detailed his experiences in tracing his family history and his discovery of a substantial number of Black, Native American, and mixed race Patriots from the northern Piedmont of North Carolina.

Compatriot Morrow highlighted four individual patriots. The first was a mixed-race patriot named Saunders “Sandy” Burnett (1750-1820), who enlisted in 1775 with the New Bern District Brigade in Johnston County at age 25 and went on to serve in thirteen known battles in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, including the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. Patriot Burnett later settled in Orange County.

The second mixed race patriot was John Boudy/Bowden (1756-1843) who enlisted in Harford County, Maryland around September 3, 1776 at age 20 with the Second Maryland Regiment. Patriot Boudy went on to serve in a number of battles and campaigns up and down the East Coast, including notably crossing the Delaware with General Washington. In his pension application he mentioned the severity of the weather that night and recorded that several men froze to death in the course of the operation. Patriot Boudy later settled in Orange and Chatham Counties.

The third patriot was Thomas Archey/Archer (1764-1850) who was identified as a Revolutionary War soldier in his son-in-law’s Chatham County free papers. When the “free papers,” required

Continued on page 14

## SAR Americanism Competitions

The Americanism Scoresheets for the NC SAR and its 28 chapters were all submitted to National on February 28, 2021. Details were released to chapter leadership on March 7. With the challenges of the pandemic, there are some surprising results, although it is hard to make full comparisons without knowing how other state societies coped under the same conditions.

From an internal state perspective, the total Americanism points for the NC SAR have declined over the last three years (2018-2020) while President General’s Streamer points actually went up this past year, mainly due to a great year of membership growth.

The pandemic has had an impact on a number of areas but the use of Zoom has helped in one noticeable area—special observances and ceremonies for commemorations and events. Zoom and other virtual tools allow us to participate in more commemorations, especially those performed by other state societies. Takeaways for chapter leaders this year include the following:

- Keep up the great work on recruiting and retention. Send new members a *New Member Guidebook* while they are waiting approval of their membership application, assign them a mentor, go through the fundamentals of SAR training, and then plug them into a chapter committee.
- Keep attending the virtual commemorations and making wreath presentations.
- Look for opportunities to give American Revolution presentations to schools and other organizations via Zoom.
- If awards cannot be presented in person, then mail or drop off JROTC/ROTC medals at the schools. Also, consider Zoom presentations.
- Start planning now for holding grave markings later in the year, especially since many public restrictions pertaining to the pandemic are lifting. Involve the DAR in the grave marking event, but be aware they require six months for their approval from the DAR headquarters.
- As a special challenge, present as least one Flag Certificate to a business, government agency, school, organization, or individual who is flying the U.S. Flag properly.



## NCSCAR Donation

NC SAR President Fred Learned recently presented a \$1,000 check to the N.C. Society of the Children of the American Revolution (NCSCAR). He met with Abby Page (pictured), NCSCAR Chaplain and her mother, Sarah, State CAR Treasurer on March 19 in Winston-Salem on the eve of the kick-off of the State CAR Convention to present this year's NC SAR donation.

## Chapter News

### le Marquis de Lafayette Chapter

(Cont. from page 13)

of all persons of color, were issued in 1823, Thomas had been a resident of Chatham County for 23 years but had recently moved to Orange County. Amazingly, at least nine men from this one free family were Patriots.

All are ancestors of Compatriot Morrow, who has identified a total of at least 31 free Patriots of color in the Northern Piedmont of North Carolina. Among them was patriot Holiday Haithcock (1756-1800) who served in the North Carolina Continental Line but whose pension was initially denied because, according to his pension file, "his services and identity are fully proven by three witnesses, and that his case has been suspended merely because he was a free man of color." Patriot Haithcock's heirs were later able to collect his pension through the intervention of a pension officer who insisted that he be treated fairly.

Homegrown in North Carolina, Compatriot Morrow attended high school in Fayetteville. He attended Elon University for his undergraduate degree and law school. An accomplished professional, he is a practicing attorney in Los Angeles.

**RODERIC MULLEN**

*President, le Marquis de Lafayette Chapter*



## NC SAR Annual Meeting

### DRAFT Agenda (cont.)

#### 11:10 - 12:30 AM

- NC SAR Society Awards – Jay DeLoach (Moderator)
  - Chapter Awards (cont.)
    - Americanism Streamers – Ken Wilson
    - Presidents Streamers – Ken Wilson
    - Thomas 'Nat' Clark Outstanding Chapter Streamers – Ken Wilson
    - USS Stark Memorial Streamers – Gary Gillette
  - Member Awards
    - Letters of Appreciation – Jack Bowman
    - Silver Color Guard Medals – George Strunk
    - Lafayette Medals – Gary Green
    - Patriot/Compatriot Grave Marking Medals – Gary Green
    - Silver Roger Sherman Medals – Bob Ervin
    - State Meritorious Medal – Jay DeLoach
    - State Distinguished Service – Fred Learned
    - Ladies Awards – Fred Learned
    - Patriot Medals Class of 2021 – John Thornhill
- Installation of Society Officers
  - Installation of 2021-2022 Society Officers –PG Jack Manning (tentative)
  - Installation of 2021-2022 Society President
  - Closing Remarks of the Outgoing and Incoming Society Presidents
- SAR Recession – Rod Mullen, le Marquis de Lafayette Chapter President
- Benediction – Van Jones
- Adjourn – Jay DeLoach

#### Zoom Information

URL: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82125358719>

Meeting ID: 821 2535 8719

Dial in: (301) 715-8592

Registration: <https://www.NC SAR.org/event/zoom-nc-sar-annual-meeting-winston-salem-cg/>

**JACK BOWMAN**

*Secretary, NC SAR*

## NC SAR Chapter Eternal

NC SAR President Fred Learned recently asked Secretary Jack Bowman to explore the possibility of establishing a Chapter Eternal for the NC SAR. The primary purpose is to honor and memorialize former NC SAR members who have passed away. The directory for Chapter Eternal will be posted at the NC SAR website. The format of the directory will be determined by Leadership. It may include, but is not limited to, the former member's name, year of death, associated State chapter, photograph, etc. Honoring former Compatriots may serve the dual purpose of fostering member retention.



# North Carolina Historic Site

## St. Phillip's Anglican Church

Brunswick Town, N.C. is an early colonial settlement along the Lower Cape Fear River. It began after a 1,500 acre plot was granted by the Lords Proprietors to Col. Maurice Moore. Lots were sold to early settlers, the first to Cornelius Harnett.

The settlement was a bustling commercial and residential center consisting of town homes, shops and taverns. St. Phillip's Anglican Church (the ruins of which are pictured) was constructed on the site in 1768. Governor Arthur Dobbs designated St. Phillip's Church as *His Majesty's Chapel in North Carolina*.



Dobbs, one of the governors who represented the British Crown, resided along the settlement. Another British-appointed governor was William Tryon. He lived in the governor's home in Russelborough prior to his move to what became known as Tryon Palace in New Bern.

Important events transpired in Brunswick Town after The Stamp Act of 1765. Resistance to the Act developed in Brunswick Town that year. Demonstrations erupted in Brunswick Town and Wilmington. Organized Patriot forces led by John Ashe, Cornelius Harnett, Hugh Waddell, and Robert Howe resulted in the arrest of British officials. It was one of the earliest armed revolts against British rule in American history.

Brunswick Town proved to be vulnerable to attack by outside forces. It was raided by the Spanish in 1748. After the Stamp Act revolt, the town was raided by the British, and most of the town structures were burned. St Phillip's Church is believed to have been destroyed then.

The town became a shadow of the more developed, northerly town of Wilmington. It was mostly abandoned after the raid by the British and Gov. Tryon's relocation of the governor's headquarters to New Bern.

In the 1950s, an effort was made to perform an archeological study of Brunswick Town. Maintained by the State, the site currently contains significant marked graves and restored crypts of numerous early colonists.

DAVID L. MANN  
*le Marquis de Lafayette Chapter*

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# NC SAR Calendar

**All events will be held via Zoom, unless otherwise indicated**

**\*Signifies Color Guard**

**Apr. 12\*:** 245th Commemoration, Halifax Resolves, 10:00 - 11:00 AM

**Apr. 15:** Raleigh Chapter meeting, 7:00 - 8:00 PM

**Apr. 17\*:** 92nd Annual NC SAR Meeting, 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

**Apr. 19\*:** 246th Annual Patriot's Day

**Apr. 29 - May 1:** Annual NCSDAR Conference

**May 16\*:** 250th Commemoration of Patriot's Day, Alamance Battleground

**May 20\*:** 246th Commemoration of Mecklenberg Declaration; Raleigh Chapter meeting, 7:00 - 8:00 PM

**May 31:** Memorial Day

**June 5\*:** 241st Commemoration of Ramsour's Mill

**June 19\*:** 246th Commemoration of Liberty Point Resolves-Lafayette

## National SAR Recognizes DNA

The journey to SAR membership began recently for an individual who knew he was adopted. Because his adoption records were sealed, he did not know his biological parents. He subsequently obtained a DNA analysis from which a match to his biological mother was identified. His mother was a DAR member, which allowed him to use her source material for his SAR application.

With assistance from Robert Whitehead, Registrar for the Raleigh Chapter, his application

was submitted to national SAR. At the time, SAR was not accepting DNA proof for lineage, so a statement from the applicant's mother certifying his birth was also included. Nonetheless, his application was rejected due to insufficient proof of lineage.

In November, 2020 the NSSAR implemented a policy that now recognizes DNA evidence as a genealogical tool for applicants who need to prove lineage to their parents. The policy was utilized for the first time in North Carolina with this Raleigh Chapter applicant. After consultation with Susan Julien, DNA subject matter expert at the NSSAR, Bob Erwin conveyed instructions to Robert, who advised the applicant to collaborate with his mother to complete additional forms. Along with a copy of the DNA evidence, the forms were added to the individual's application and re-submitted to the SAR.

Persistence paid off this time. Upon review, Ms. Julien approved the application. Raleigh Chapter picked up a new SAR member, and the State gained a new compatriot.

DNA evidence can only be used to prove lineage of the applicant (Generation 1) to his parents (Generation 2). DNA of others in the family, including step-siblings, uncles, and cousins may also be submitted.

An explanation of the process for applicants who are adopted and the required forms have been placed in the Registrar section of Sharefile. Bob ([bervin001@nc.rr.com](mailto:bervin001@nc.rr.com)) is available to assist Chapter leaders and sponsors who are working with applicants where DNA evidence might be used.

**COL. BOB ERVIN, USA (RET.)**  
*le Marquis de Lafayette Chapter*

## THE OLD NORTH STATE

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### SUBMISSION DEADLINES

January Issue: December 10  
April Issue: March 10  
July Issue: June 10  
October Issue: September 10