

# The Old North State



Newsletter of the North Carolina Society of the Sons of the American Revolution • Vol. 25, No. 1 • January 2022

## President's Message

**Jay A. DeLoach, RDML, USN (Ret.)**  
**President, NCSSAR**



NC Compatriots,

The New Year brings both happiness and caution. The start of 2022 looks much like the beginning of last year with the ongoing

pandemic. Please exercise care, and take appropriate measures to protect your family, friends, and Compatriots.

That said, NCSSAR should be very proud of the progress it made during 2021. We executed our six National commemorations, most of our State commemorations, and started two new Chapter-level commemorations: Liberty Point Resolves (le Marquis de Lafayette) and New Bern Resolves (New Bern). We conducted an extraordinary number of Patriot and Compatriot grave marking ceremonies. John Thornhill (Lower Cape Fear) and Jim Wood (Mecklenburg) were presented the prestigious SAR Minuteman Award at National Congress, while Gary Gillette (New Bern) was awarded the Gen. William C. Westmoreland Medal for his veteran volunteer work. Our membership continues to grow with 215 new members, although Chapter leaders need to continue working hard to retain our new and current members.

Last July at the 2021 National Congress, the NC Society was approved to host the 2026 National Congress. This is a huge honor since 2026 is also the U.S. Sestercentennial or 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Declaration of Independence. As such, NCSSAR has an extraordinary opportunity to show-

case the State's contributions to the American Revolution. In November, we kicked off a 2026 National Congress fundraising initiative by forming a NC Minuteman Company to be comprised of 76 members who will be willing to make a tax-deductible donation of \$1,000 lump sum (or four yearly installments of \$250). To date, 27 Compatriots have generously answered the call. This is truly exciting.

The idea for establishing a NC Minutemen Company had its historical origins from the Third North Carolina Provincial Congress that met in Hillsborough in the summer of 1775. This Congress authorized the creation of six battalions of Minutemen. Each

"Liberty must at all hazards be supported. We have a right to it, derived from our Maker. But if we had not, our fathers have earned and bought it for us, at the expense of their ease, their estates, their pleasure, and their blood." ~John Adams, 1765

Minutemen battalion was to consist of ten companies of 50 men and one was to be established in each of the military districts of Edenton, Halifax, Hillsborough, New Bern, Salisbury, and Wilmington.

We need your help to continue our enlistment efforts and to meet our goal of 76 NC Minutemen. Email [NCSARMinutemen@gmail.com](mailto:NCSARMinutemen@gmail.com) for more information, or mail NCSSAR Minutemen Company, c/o David Alls, 2936 South Legacy Park Blvd., Fort Mill, South Carolina 29707. Checks should be made payable directly to 'NCSSAR.'

Your support for this effort is greatly appreciated. Looking forward to another productive year for the NC Society! Yours in patriotism, Jay.

## In This Issue

2. Membership Update; Bethabara Chapter
3. Bethabara Chapter (cont.)
4. Bethabara Chapter (cont.); Blue Ridge Chapter
5. Blue Ridge Chapter
6. Blue Ridge Chapter (cont.); Catawba Valley Chapter
7. Catawba Valley Chapter (cont.); Gen. George Washington Chapter
8. Gen. George Washington Chapter (cont.); Halifax Resolves Chapter
9. Halifax Resolves Chapter (cont.)
10. Halifax Resolves Chapter (cont.)
11. Halifax Resolves Chapter (cont.); LTC Felix Walker Chapter
12. New Bern Chapter
13. New Bern Chapter (cont.); Raleigh Chapter
14. Raleigh Chapter (cont.); Color Guard Report; Musket Firing at 2022 Braves Game
15. Hillsborough Excursion and Gravemarking
16. Hillsborough Excursion and Gravemarking (cont.)
17. Hillsborough Excursion and Gravemarking (cont.); Battle of Kings Mountain Anniversary Commemoration; Joseph S. Rumbaugh Student Oratory Competition
18. President's Day
19. Worthy of the Mantle
20. State Approves Funding for Shallow Ford Historic Site
21. World War II Vet Receives SAR Recognition; Mecklenburg Chapter Hosts Jefferson Descendant
22. Mecklenburg Chapter Hosts Jefferson Descendant (cont.)
23. Winston Family Patriots Honored
24. Canova's Washington 200 Years Old
25. Canova's Washington (cont.)
26. Canova's Washington (cont.); Here We Raise Our Ebenezers!
27. Here We Raise Our Ebenezers! (cont.); General Assembly Eyes Historical Preservation
28. General Assembly Eyes Historical Preservation (cont.)
29. Firearms for Freedom
30. NC Minutemen Company
31. NCNG Museum Expands
32. NCSSAR Calendar

## 2021-2022 OFFICERS

### NC SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

JAY DELOACH, RDML, USN (Ret.)  
*State President & Alternate National Trustee*  
[jaydeloach@aol.com](mailto:jaydeloach@aol.com)

GARY O. GREEN, Lt Col, USAF (Ret.)  
*National Trustee*  
[garyogreen2@gmail.com](mailto:garyogreen2@gmail.com)

JACK BOWMAN  
*Senior Vice President*  
[jack9431@yahoo.com](mailto:jack9431@yahoo.com)

STEVE A. VAN PELT  
*Piedmont Region Vice President*  
[svanpelt@triad.rr.com](mailto:svanpelt@triad.rr.com)

MICHAEL T. AYCOCK  
*SE Region Vice President*  
[dpa65@yahoo.com](mailto:dpa65@yahoo.com)

JOHN L. BOYD  
*Mountain Region Vice President*  
[jlbayd37@gmail.com](mailto:jlbayd37@gmail.com)

CHRIS GRIMES  
*NE Region Vice President*  
[chrisgrimes@embarqmail.com](mailto:chrisgrimes@embarqmail.com)

STEPHEN P. MCKEE  
*Foothills Region Vice President*  
[stephen.p.mckee@gmail.com](mailto:stephen.p.mckee@gmail.com)

GEORGE STRUNK, SMSgt, USAF (Ret.)  
*Color Guard Commander*  
[gkstrunk2@gmail.com](mailto:gkstrunk2@gmail.com)

VAN JONES  
*Chaplain*  
[vanjonsar@gmail.com](mailto:vanjonsar@gmail.com)

A. ROBERT 'BOB' SIGMON  
*Secretary*  
[robert\\_sigmon@yahoo.com](mailto:robert_sigmon@yahoo.com)

SAMUEL C. POWELL, PhD  
*Treasurer*  
[sam@powellent.com](mailto:sam@powellent.com)

BOBBY JAY ERVIN  
*Registrar*  
[bobervin@nc.rr.com](mailto:bobervin@nc.rr.com)

RON BONHAM  
*Genealogist*  
[doctorcobol@hotmail.com](mailto:doctorcobol@hotmail.com)

JOE SAM QUEEN  
*Historian*  
[joesamqueennnc@gmail.com](mailto:joesamqueennnc@gmail.com)

BRYANT TROMBLY  
*Webmaster*  
[btromblysar@gmail.com](mailto:btromblysar@gmail.com)

## Membership Update

### NCSSAR Welcomes 21 New Members (Sept. 16, 2021 through Nov. 19, 2021)

BREWER, Jeffery #221010  
COLVIN, Denny #220800  
COWARD, Andrew #220924  
DONHAM, Brian #220794  
DONHAM, Kyle #220745  
DOW, Steven #220922  
ENTWISTLE, James #220625  
GUEST, Chris #220796  
HANZAKER, Farroll #220923  
HOLBEN, Thomas #220581  
LANIER, Jonathan #220713  
McCONNELL, Cameron #220798  
McCONNELL, Jr., Hardison #220797  
McCRACKEN, William #220582  
McNABB, Samuel #220799  
MARHEFKE, Adam #221011  
NORRIS, Carl #220626  
PARRISH, Camden #220583  
PARRISH, Jackson #220584  
THOMPSON, Jr., Larry #220581  
TUBBS, William #220627

### NCSSAR Extends Its Deepest Thoughts and Prayers to the Families of the Following Compatriots who Passed Away Since Sept. 16, 2021

BURGESS, Thomas  
DEAL, Randy  
FELMET, David  
FRYBERGER, Philip  
HALDERMAN, Bruce  
MILLER, Paul  
PANKEY, Calvin  
YATES, Robert

### NCSSAR Membership Inquiries

Since September 16, North Carolina has received 38 inquiries about SAR membership. Chapters and inquiry counts include the following: Alamance Battleground, 1; Albemarle, 0; Bethabara, 0; Battle of King's Mtn., 0;

Colson's Mill, 0; Blue Ridge, 0; Catawba Valley, 1; Col. Alex. Erwin, 3; Col. Alex. Lillington, 0; Gen. Frances Nash, 2; Gen. George Washington, 3; Halifax Resolves, 1; Isaac Carter, 0; Lower Cape Fear, 2; le Marquis de Lafayette, 1; Lumber River, 1; Lt. Col. John Phifer, 0; Mecklenburg, 3; Old North State, 2; Nathanael Greene, 3; New Bern, 4; Raleigh, 6; Salisbury, 1; Sandhills, 2; LTC Felix Walker, 2; Western Waters, 0; and Yadkin Valley, 0.

Inquiries are forwarded to the President of the closest Chapter. The local Chapter then contacts the potential applicant and offers assistance. The hope is that personal contact will help Chapters recruit active applicants who will be successful in obtaining SAR membership, thereby increasing our overall State membership count. Following through with referred inquiries is the important responsibility of Chapter leaders. Remember that DAR assistance is to be noted on a Finders Form and attached to the SAR application.

**JOHN O. THORNHILL, Chair**  
**Membership Committee, NCSSAR**

## Chapter News

### Bethabara Chapter

The 241st anniversary of the 1780 American Revolutionary Battle of Shallow Ford was observed on October 9, 2021 in Yadkin County at the historic village of Huntsville.

Leading the observance was NCSSAR Immediate Past President Fred Learned and Bethabara Chapter Compatriots at the Huntsville Methodist Church in Yadkinville.

A Dutch treat lunch was available to attendees afterwards at the Battle Branch Cafe, Yadkinville.



Standing in the front of the church following the ceremony were uniformed members of the NCSSAR Color Guard (L to R; front row) George Strunk, Commander; Ben Setser; John Sullivan; Ken Luckey, and (L to R, back row) Sam Powell, Don Somers, and John Martin.



The event also included a special presentation to Catawba Valley Chapter Chaplain Ken Luckey, who was awarded the Von Steuben Medal and Certificate for Sustained Achievement in the National SAR Color Guard. Pictured (L to R) are NCSSAR President Jay DeLoach, Ken Luckey, State Color Guard Commander and Gen. George Washington Chapter President George Strunk, and NCSSAR Immediate Past President Fred Learned.



The Bethabara Chapter presented a SAR Flag Certificate to the Lewisville West Bend Fire Station on December 3, 2021 in recognition of their efforts to fly the American flag for patriotic purposes. Pic-



tured above (L to R) are Joshua (house fireman) with Compatriots Fred Learned, Bill Ewalt, and Larry McRae.

The Bethabara Chapter once again participated in a moving *Wreaths Across America* ceremony, held under a mild but ever threatening sky at the Pilgrim Church Cemetery, Lexington, NC. Interred in the historic cemetery are fifteen Revolutionary War Veterans, including a stone marking the common grave of five. "This historic cemetery is rich with patriots," relayed Fred Learned, "Located midway between Bethabara and Salisbury Chapters, the cemetery is underserved by both."

Hosted by Regent Susan Weaver and spouse of Bethabara Chapter Compatriot Dr. Joe Weaver, the event was hosted by members of the Leonard's Creek DAR Chapter of Lexington, NC (pictured below with Fred). The DAR Chapter purchased over 100 wreaths for the ceremony which were placed at each of the graves of interred veterans along with a U.S. flag.





Bethabara Chapter Compatriots Dean and Jason Faulkner, Fred Learned, and Veteran Dr. Joe Weaver also participated in the ceremony. They are pictured below (L to R) in front of a square of one hundred wreaths prior to the ceremony.



Special music for the ceremony was provided by trumpeter Steve M. Sutton of Winston-Salem (pictured below, attended by Fred).



**ALLEN J. MELLORE, III**  
Bethabara Chapter, NCSSAR

### Blue Ridge Chapter

During Constitution Week, the Blue Ridge Chapter and the Abraham Kuykendahl Chapter of DAR co-hosted a program for fifth graders (pictured, right) at the Boys and Girls Club in Hendersonville on September 24. DAR Chapter President Penny Summey proposed the idea to Chapter



Five members of the Blue Ridge Color Guard (pictured below) took part in the program and sported an array of uniforms. Students initially thought that Color Guard members represented 'pirates' rather than Patriots, which prompted an instructional moment for the presenters.



The audience was fascinated by the variety of Patriot uniforms and some of the stories behind them. Young ladies in the audience also had the opportunity to dress in the layered clothing that Colonial period women had to wear.

One of Buncombe County's first settlers, Patriot James M. Alexander, was honored by the Blue Ridge Chapter at a grave marking ceremony on October 9. Attended by more than 30 guests, the solemn ceremony was held at the Piney Grove Cemetery in Swannanoa.

Taking part in the event was Patriot Alexander's fifth great-grandson Bill Alexander, officers of the Blue Ridge Chapter, the Chapter Color Guard, and members of three area Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Chapters, including the Henderson County Abraham Kuykendahl DAR Chap-

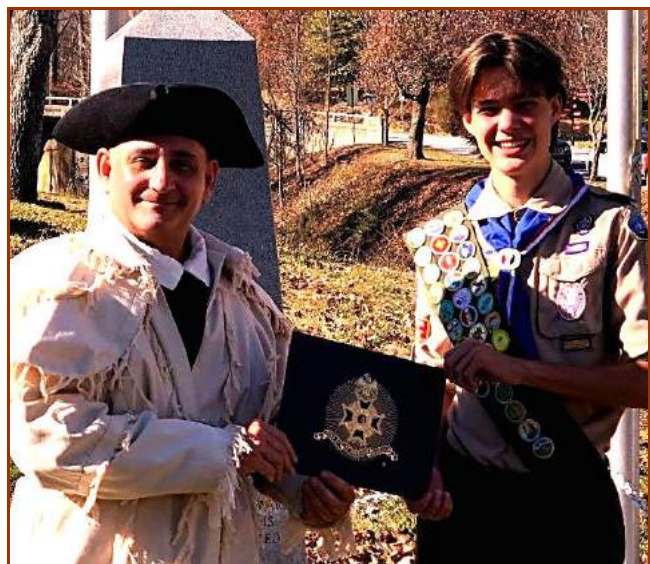


ter, the Buncombe County DAR Ruth Davidson Chapter, and the Madison County DAR Rebecca Sevier Waddell Chapter (representatives pictured below).



Private James Alexander, whose parents migrated to North Carolina from Maryland, actually enlisted in the Patriot forces five separate times. He was one of the Patriots and heroes of the Battle of Kings Mountain where he was wounded by Tory troops. Three months later, he fought under the leadership of Brigadier General Daniel Morgan at the Battle of Cowpens, a critical American Patriot victory.

Eagle Scout Jonathan Lakeman (pictured below) received the SAR Eagle Scout Award on November 22 in a ceremony held at Saluda Memorial Park in Saluda. Lakeman, a resident of Charlotte, was presented the certificate by Blue Ridge Chapter Compatriot and Color Guardsman Garry Linton. The Eagle Scout Award is given to deserving Eagle Scouts in recognition of high ideals of character, leadership, and citizenship.



At the 2021 Blue Ridge Chapter Annual Awards Meeting and Luncheon, two Gold Medals were awarded to Chapter Compatriots (pictured L to R)

Lance Dickinson and Tom Long, who qualified for the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of America's Independence recognition. Presenting the Gold Medals was Chapter President Crag Isaacson (pictured far right), a 2020 gold medal recipient himself. All medal holders are members of the Chapter Color Guard, and all are Chapter committee chairs.



Revolutionary War Patriots were individuals of valor. Most Compatriots are also men of valor. This quality was evidenced at the recent 2021 Annual Awards meeting and luncheon held by Blue Ridge Chapter.

Fifteen months ago, Detective Ryan Phillip Hendrix was taken from his family and the community that loved him in a pre-dawn altercation with a gunman in north-central Henderson County. Often times, a tragedy like this is swept away to the pages of history as routine life resumes for those least affected. For the family and those closest to the one who was lost, the horror of the tragedy fades slowly, but the memory of their life never fades.

So it is with Ryan's memory and the 77 members of the Blue Ridge Chapter. His death will not be in vain, and his service, integrity, and dedication will never be forgotten.

Ryan was posthumously awarded the 2021 *Law Enforcement Officer of the Year* medal at the Chapter's annual gathering. Accepting the award on behalf of Ryan were his parents Don and Heidi Hendrix of Hendersonville.



"We have given this award annually to deserving law enforcement officers in Western North Carolina," proclaimed Blue Ridge Chapter President Craig Isaacson, "but this terrible event involving Ryan Hendrix affected our members to their collective cores. Every time our Color Guard presents our Nation's Colors, we remember and honor the unselfish heroes who have given their lives for this country and its citizens. Fittingly, Ryan will always be our hero." Pictured below (L to R) are President Isaacson, Don and Heidi Hendrix.



**CRAIG ISAACSON, PRESIDENT**  
Blue Ridge Chapter, NCSSAR

### Catawba Valley Chapter

Catawba Valley Chapter held its regular monthly meeting on September 11, 2021. The focus of the meeting was a remembrance of the attack on America on September 11, 2001 (9/11). Two speakers, Lynne Smith of the William Gaston Chapter, NSSDAR and Brent Wallace, presented first-hand knowledge of that terrible day and some of the ways our world has changed as a result.

Both Lynne and Brent are American Airlines (AA) Flight Attendants who were employed with AA at the time of the attack on America. Brent was in Manhattan, NY that day. Included in their presentation was an audio recording of Betty Ong and the hijacker (name intentionally omitted).

Chapter members stood and gave honors to those who perished in the planes and on the ground on 9/11. An emotional and highly moving program, Lynne and Brent reminded the audience that the

NYPD and FDNY were not the only, or the first, heroes on that horrible morning.



Catawba Valley Chapter Chaplain Ken Luckey was presented with the Von Steuben Medal for continued service in Color Guard. The presentation occurred at the Commemoration of the 241st anniversary of the Battle of Shallow Ford in Huntsville (See story and picture on page 3).



The November 13 Chapter meeting included presentation of awards and installation of officers. Six Compatriots were awarded the Bronze 250th Anniversary Medal.

Present to receive their award were Larry Anderson, Rhod Reep, Roy Lightfoot and John Jay Cline (pictured next page, L to R; Chapter President Ben Setser, center). Chris Stone and Will Barton were in absentia. Although a small Chapter, more than 25% of the Chapter membership has earned the Bronze 250th Medal.





The Bronze Chapter Distinguished Service Medal was presented to Chapter Past President and current State Senior VP Jack Bowman (pictured below, left).



Officers installed included Ben Setser as President, John Jay Cline as VP, and Derrick Walker as Treasurer, all in second terms. Roy Lightfoot was installed as Secretary. Induction of new member John Love concluded the meeting (pictured below, left).



On December 8, Chapter President Ben Setser presented Robby Bennett (pictured left) of Bennett Funeral Service, Newton with the SAR Flag Certificate, in recognition of the Funeral Home's exemplary patriotism in the consistent, proper display of the flag.

Chapter Compatriots participated in Western Carolina Veterans Cemetery for *Wreaths Across America* on December 18. Compared to last year, many more people were present and more wreaths were placed, despite the rain.

Interviewed by Staff from ABC News affiliate WLOS Channel 13, Asheville, Chapter President Ben Setser said, "This is important to me because these men here gave their last great effort—many of them—in service to their country, and to their brothers in arms, and it's a very small thing we can do to honor them here today."



Photo courtesy WLOS Staff.

**BEN SETSER, PRESIDENT**  
**Catawba Valley Chapter, NCSSAR**



## Gen. George Washington Chapter

The National SAR Color Guard traveled to Mt. Vernon on November 28 for the wreath-laying tribute at the tomb of Gen. George Washington where they stood vigil. Pictured are NCSSAR Color Guardsman John Elliott (pictured next page, left) of the le Marquis de Lafayette Chapter and George Strunk of the Gen. George Washington Chapter. En route to the tomb, the Color Guard stopped at the Washington mansion.





Compatriot Doug Williams (pictured below, background) provided a presentation at the October meeting. His topic was Gen. Jethro Sumner in NC, 1780-1781. Listening attentively was Compatriot Holden Spain, recently installed as the Chapter Vice President for 2022.



On November 13 guests assembled at the Gov. Richard Caswell (1729-1789) Memorial Cemetery in Kinston to mark his son William's grave and to memorialize Compatriot Robin Wooten. The highlight of the ceremony was a spirited address



by Morris Bass (pictured bottom left), who knew the subject well.

Brigadier General William Caswell's (1754-1785) contribution to the Revolutionary War effort as a commanding officer is without question, yet his unmarked grave at the family cemetery had not been previously recognized by the SAR. The prospects are good for a cooperative annual event for the Chapter and DAR Chapters in Kinston and Raleigh.

## Halifax Resolves Chapter

Chapter member Ken Wilson was invited to speak in October to the Roanoke Rapids High School (RRHS) Advanced Placement (AP) History class by RRHS social studies Chair Edward Gardner. Two presentations were made.

In the first, Ken outlined the requirements and expectations of the National SAR George S. and Stella M. Knight essay contest. The second presentation focused on the Battle of Kings Mountain, including the events leading up to the battle, the battle itself, and how the battle affected the morale of the Patriots and the British.



At the invitation of teacher Renny Taylor, Ken also shared the essay contest information with the North Central High School AP history class. Ken's presentation included a discussion of the Colonial Militia and their hardships when called upon to fight and their contribution to the War effort.

The Chapter hosted a grave marking ceremony on October 16 at Oakwood Cemetery, Louisburg to honor five members of the now defunct Harrison Macon SAR Chapter. Chartered in 1928, the Chapter purportedly ceased operations around 1960, although there are no records to substantiate that date. The honorees were Dr. Daniel Turner Smithwick, DDS; his son Macon Glen Smithwick; his grandson Daniel Wayne Smithwick; Colonel



Donald Vann Holliday, USA (Ret.); and Dr. Hodge Albert Newell, MD. A brief biography of Dr. Daniel Smithwick, his son and grandson was presented by State SAR Treasurer Dr. Samuel C. Powell. Dr. Smithwick and Dr. Powell both previously served as National trustees for the NCSSAR and Vice President General for the SAR South Atlantic District. Brief biographies of Col. Donald Vann Holliday and Dr. Hodge Albert Newell, MD were presented by Mr. William H. Riggan, III who noted each of their contributions to the nation, state and local community.

Compatriot Wilson and Compatriot Steve Avent, Halifax Resolves Acting Chaplain dedicated the markers, which was followed by a musket volley provided by Compatriot William Schwetke of the VASSAR.

Wreaths were presented by the State SAR and the following NCSSAR Chapters: Halifax Resolves; Alamance Battleground; Gen. George Washington; Lower Cape Fear; Mecklenburg; and New Bern. Wreaths presented by out-of-state groups included the GASSAR and the Piedmont Chapter, and the VASSAR and the Culpeper Minute Men Chapter. Additional wreaths were presented by the NCSDAR and the Shocco Creek and Warren Chapters. The Boy Scout Troop 555 and the American Legion Post 105, both of Louisburg, also laid wreaths. Representatives from these groups are pictured below:



NCSSAR President Jay DeLoach then presented Ken Wilson with a Compatriot Grave Marking Medal. The SAR recession followed, after which the Colors were retired by the combined NCSSAR Color Guard. The benediction was given by Mark Anthony of the GASSAR, and Compatriot Wilson dismissed attendees.

The Halifax Resolves Chapter returned to Oakwood Cemetery, Louisburg at a later date to honor five more members of the former Harrison Macon Chapter. The honorees were Marion Stuart Davis, Samuel Perry Boddie, Samuel Perry Burt, William Ballard Barrow and Jones Fuller Malone. At this subsequent event, President Jay DeLoach presented State Color Guard Commander George Strunk with a Compatriot Grave Marking Medal, which represented only the third of its kind presented in the nation and the third presented in North Carolina.

On October 23, the Chapter collaborated with the NCSDAR Shocco Creek Chapter on yet another grave marking for Patriot Francis Timberlake. The ceremony was held at the Timberlake Family Cemetery, Youngsville. Family representative Marsha Collier, fourth great-granddaughter of Francis Timberlake, spoke briefly about the Patriot and his accomplishments. The SAR Patriot marker was dedicated by Ken Wilson and Renny Taylor.

The Shaw-May American Legion Post 38 in Roanoke Rapids hosted a Veterans Day ceremony in conjunction with the Am Vets Post 101, the VFW District Commander, the Roanoke Rapids High School Army JROTC and the Halifax Resolves Chapter. President Ken Wilson (pictured next page, center) presented the Chapter wreath in remembrance of all veterans past and present. Also in attendance were



Chapter VP Geoff Pittard (pictured, left) and Compatriot Wes Tripp (pictured, right).



The Nash Central High School (NCHS) Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) unit participated in the Veterans Day ceremony at Jack Laughery Park in Rocky Mount. Accom-



panying the unit was Chapter Compatriot Renny Taylor, advanced placement (AP) history teacher at NCHS. Pictured are NJROTC Cadet Commander Kathleen Bailon (left) and Compatriot Taylor.

Nash Central High School eleventh grade student Camryn Eley is the winner of the Halifax Resolves Chapter Knight Essay contest. This contest requires the student to write an 800 to 1,200-word essay about a person, event, philosophy or ideal associated with the American Revolution, Declaration of Independence, or framing of the United States Constitution.

Camryn is a student in the advanced placement (AP) history class taught by Compatriot Renny Taylor. For her efforts, she received an Olympic style medal, a chapter-level winner's certificate and a check for \$100.00. Two additional students in the class, Christina Huynh and Shanna Howell, received honorable mention certificates. Camryn's entry now advances to the State SAR competition.

Mr. Taylor received a Knight Essay Certificate of Appreciation for his participation and support of

the contest. The North Carolina Knight Essay winner will be announced during the April 2022 NCSSAR Annual Meeting in Greensboro. Pictured (L to R) are NCHS Principal Victor Ward, Renny Taylor, NCHS student contestants, Christina Huynh, Camryn Eley, Shanna Howell, and Chapter President Mr. Ken Wilson.



BSA Troop 555 of Louisburg assisted the Chapter with both of its grave marking ceremonies on October 16 in Youngsville and Louisburg. The scouts helped with setting up the flags and the sound system before passing out the programs and directing participants in placing wreaths. The troop also rendered honors to the Patriots and Compatriots being honored. Scouts pictured (L to R) are Dan Ellis, Assistant Scoutmaster; Charles Fenske, Scoutmaster; Bill Riggan, Chapter Registrar; Scouts Stephen Falkner, Ethan Graham, Matt Strickland, and Rylan Brantley; and Ed Strickland, Scout Leader.



Photo courtesy of Owen Leapley.

The Halifax Resolves Chapter participated in the *Wreaths Across America* program at Cedarwood Cemetery in Roanoke Rapids on December 18. BSA Troop 144 sponsored the event. Accompanied by Compatriot J. Rives Manning, Chapter President Ken Wilson presented the wreath representing the U.S. Coast Guard and the POW wreath. Following the ceremony, wreaths were placed on 32 additional veteran graves in Cedar-



wood Cemetery and Crestview Cemetery, both in Roanoke Rapids, the Church of the Savior Cemetery in Jackson, Garysburg United Methodist Church Cemetery, and Calvary Methodist Church in Littleton. Pictured below, Chapter President Wilson offers a salute after placing wreaths.



Strickland Funeral Home was recently awarded the SAR Flag Certificate for correctly flying the U.S. flag at their business in Louisburg. The certificate, awarded to Tom Clancey (pictured, right) by Registrar Bill Riggan on behalf of the Chapter, reads: "In Recognition of Exemplary Patriotism in the display of the Flag of the United States of America."



**KEN WILSON, PRESIDENT**  
**BILL RIGGAN, REGISTRAR**  
Halifax Resolves Chapter, NCSSAR

## LTC Felix Walker Chapter

In observance of Veterans Day 2021, members of the LTC Felix Walker Chapter, NCSSAR and Ruth Davidson Chapter, NCSDAR met in downtown Asheville at the Revolutionary War Boulder to honor U.S. military veterans. Chapter President Mike Arnott welcomed the members and guests to the Ceremony. Sharon Conner, Regent of the Ruth Davidson Chapter, gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Compatriot Roy Plemmons. Pictured below (L to R) are Sharon Conner, Regent, Ruth Davidson Chapter, NCSDAR, Becky Wood, NCSDAR, Compatriots Roy Plemmons, Mike Arnott and Tom Vernon.



Red poppies were distributed to individuals gathered at the ceremony as Regent Connor presented the origin of the red poppy tradition of Veterans Day. After World War 1, red poppies flourished in France and Belgium among the ruins of war. Following the publication of the wartime poem, *In Flanders Fields*, red poppies came to symbolize the bloodshed in battle.

Inspired by that well-known poem, American professor, humanitarian and DAR member Moina Michael penned the poem, *We Shall Keep the Faith*. The red poppy, she wrote, "Grows on fields where valor led. It seems to signal to the skies that blood of heroes never dies." In 1920 the red poppy became the official flower of the American Legion.

President Arnott laid a wreath at the Revolutionary War Boulder and expressed gratitude to veterans for their sacrifice of time, energy and strength. Regent Conner closed the ceremony with a reading of *Washington's Prayer for our Nation*.



## New Bern Chapter

In collaboration with the Richard Dobbs Spaight Chapter, NCSDAR, the New Bern Chapter co-hosted a grave marking ceremony for Patriot Major Isaac Guion at the Cedar Grove Cemetery, New Bern, on October 30. The Hon. Ken McCotter, Jr. (sixth great-grandson of Patriot Isaac Guion) delivered a biographical presentation of his ancestor.

In particular, he noted that Maj. Guion served as a Revolutionary War Surgeon, Commissary to Gen. George Washington, Representative to the Third NC Provincial Congress, Legislator and Councilor of State and a Master Mason of St. Johns Masonic Lodge #3.

The ceremony was well-attended by members of the SAR, DAR, CAR, Masons, Questers and a combined NC Society Color Guard led by Commander George Strunk, President of the Gen. George Washington Chapter. Other attendees included President Jay DeLoach, President, NCSSAR; Sims Wayt, Regent, Richard Dobbs Spaight Chapter, NCSDAR; Kathleen Benedict, Senior President, NCSCAR; Davis Benedict, President, NCSCAR; Nancy Mansfield, President, Earl of Craven Chapter, Questers; and Tim Harris, St. John's Masonic Lodge #3. A video of the ceremony is available at <https://shorturl.at/cyzDH>. Representatives of the societies and groups in attendance are pictured below.



Flanked by their families and other Compatriots, five new SAR members were inducted into the NCSSAR and their affiliate New Bern Chapter on October 30 at the Pollock Street Gate of Tryon Palace, Newbern. New members (pictured right, L to R) included Brian Dillon, Bob Mull, Don Eglinton, Michael Scott and Carleton Webster. Also attending the ceremony was Kathleen Benedict, Senior President, NCSCAR and Davis Benedict, President, NCSCAR (pictured far left).



NCSCAR leaders Kathleen Benedict and Davis Benedict each were presented with a Sestercentennial 250th Anniversary Recognition Medal Award by State SAR President Jay DeLoach on October 30. The medals were awarded for their continued participation in local chapter, state, and national 250th Anniversary events throughout the State of North Carolina during the last three years. Both have been actively involved in publicly educating, recognizing, honoring, and celebrating heroes of the American Revolution.



On November 19, the New Bern Chapter presented the NCSSAR Heroism Medal Award to Officer Gust Rose for outstanding bravery in the line of duty. Through his exemplary quick-thinking ability and use of a taser, Officer Rose was able to disarm a ten-inch knife-wielding assailant who was threatening the lives of several people including Officer Rose by subduing the assailant.

Officer Rose's self-sacrifice in the face of imminent danger saved multiple lives including himself and the assailant, which brought great credit upon himself, the New Bern City Police Department and the Citizens of New Bern.

Accompanied by his wife Rebecca at the ceremony, Officer Rose was presented with a second award, the Police Department Medal of Commendation by New Bern City Police Chief Patrick



Gallagher. Also in attendance were New Bern Mayor Dana Outlaw (fellow SAR compatriot); Alderman Jeffrey Odham, Ward 6; Foster Hughes, City Manager; Marvin Williams, Assistant City Manager; Colleen Roberts, City Public Information Officer; Capt. David Daniels, Operations, New Bern Police Department, along with numerous other staff officers.

Pictured (L to R) are Rick Layton, Chapter Public Service Recognition Programs Committee Chair; Dr. Bob Ainsley, Chapter President, Officer Gust Rose; The Hon. Ken McCotter; and Rolf Maris, Past Chapter President.



**DR. BOB AINSLEY, PRESIDENT**  
New Bern Chapter, NCSSAR

## Raleigh Chapter

Over the last six months the Raleigh Chapter presented Flag Certificates to three recipients. All have demonstrated respect for their flags by carefully following the requirements of US Code Title 4 Chapter 1.



The Chapter awarded Jesus Morales (pictured above, right) the Flag Certificate on November 14

for his consistent and correct display of the U.S. flag. Supported by his wife and veteran father, Mr. Morales proudly displays a US flag in front of his home in Clayton. On September 30, the Chapter



awarded the Flag Certificate to two other Clayton residents, Jon and Jeannie Christiano (pictured above, right) who display their flag in front of their home. Both households offered assurance that they fly an all-weather lighted flag when displayed at night, as required by the code.

Chapter Compatriot Karl Feld also awarded both Morales and the Christianos the SAR Taunton Flag challenge coin in recognition of their commitment and challenged them to continue flying their flags as long as the families live at their current residences. The New England Historical Society reports that the Taunton flag was first raised on a liberty pole by the Sons of Liberty in Taunton, MA on October 21, 1774. It reads "Liberty and Union," reflecting the colonists' desire to protect their rights as Englishmen.



On October 11, Chapter Treasurer Bob Sigmon presented a Flag Certificate to Signalscape CEO Jhan Vannatta (pictured above, right) for the Company's display of the U.S. flag in the main lobby



of their headquarters in Cary. The flag was a gift to the employees of Signalscape from the Guns of 4-227 Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, First Air Cavalry Brigade, First Cavalry Division. It was flown in combat for more than five hours on December 29, 2006 over Baghdad, Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom.



On December 15, members of the Raleigh Chapter Color Guard (pictured above) participated in the annual *Wreaths across America* celebration at Historic Oakwood Cemetery in Raleigh. They presented the colors and placed wreaths at the graves of Patriots Colonel John Hinton II, Major John Hinton III, and Lieutenant Malachi Hinton. Afterwards, Chapter members assisted in placing wreaths on the more than 2,000 graves of veterans buried throughout the cemetery.

**KARL FELD, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR**  
**ROBERT 'BOB' SIGMON, TREASURER**  
**Raleigh Chapter, NCSSAR**

## Color Guard Report

President Jay DeLoach addressed the Elks annual business meeting in Atlantic Beach on October 30. The NCSSAR Color Guard presented the Colors at the opening ceremony. Pictured (L to R) are Commander George Strunk (Gen. George Washington Chapter), Jay DeLoach (New Bern Chapter), Lee Purcell (New Bern Chapter), and Danny Hilton (Lower Cape Fear Chapter).



## Musket Firing at 2022 Braves Game

At the direction of National SAR, the GASSAR Color Guard will recruit 50 Compatriots to fire a musket/rifle volley as part of the opening ceremonies of the Braves-Cardinals baseball game on Monday, July 4, 2022. In the past, the Braves Organization has allowed a second volley at the end of the National Anthem, but this is still being negotiated for the upcoming year.

The firing will be held on the Braves home baseball field at Truist Park in Atlanta. K. Scott Collins ([scottcollins1775@gmail.com](mailto:scottcollins1775@gmail.com)), incoming GASSAR Color Guard Commander and First Adjutant National SAR Color Guard, will serve as Commander of the event.

An additional 13 Compatriots are being invited to serve as back-ups. Participating Compatriots must bring their own musket/rifle. The time when Compatriots will report for any rehearsals prior to the July 4 game day, the time they are to report to the stadium prior to game time, and other details are still being determined. Final instructions will be disseminated at a later date.

Interested Compatriots sign-up through the following link, which ensures email updates and further instructions: <https://bit.ly/3edJJE1>

In conjunction, President Jay DeLoach is urging the NCSSAR Color Guard to consider replicating a similar event or presenting Colors at a Carolina Panthers game. The last time Colors were presented at one of these games was in 2010 by the Mecklenburg Chapter.



# Hillsborough Excursion and Gravemarking

by Lowell M. Hoffman

Among the Revolutionary War sites in The Old North State, Hillsborough offers a unique opportunity to explore and experience multiple sites which span the period. One can walk using the street map of 1766. Within the town is the largest concentration of historic site markers in the State. Abundant restaurants, shops offering crafts, books, art and Colonial-era structures make this a worthy day trip.

On a beautiful autumn morning on November 13, the Gen. Francis Nash Chapter enjoyed a walking excursion covering several sites of historic Hillsborough. While the highlight was an observance at the gravesite of Signer William Hooper, Compatriots learned a great deal of associated history. In 1770 Hillsborough was not only the county seat of the expansive Orange County, but it also served as an ad hoc 'western capital' of the Colony.



The story of the Regulators and the Battle of Alamance on May 11, 1771 is well known to NCSSAR members. Our tour began at the lesser-known site of the hanging of six of the fourteen men taken prisoner on the battlefield by Governor William Tryon. These prisoners were brought back to Hillsborough for trial by Judge William Henderson. Twelve were found guilty; six were given relief. Six were sentenced to death by hanging. Local historian Scott Washington (pictured left) shared the story as we gathered around the stone slab that marks the site.

The North Carolina Society of the Cincinnati (marker pictured below) was organized at the home of James Hogg in 1783. This site and its markers are found just a short walk down a woodland path.

As with all Southern towns, the strife of the Civil War left its mark. Our next two stops provided perspective and a glimpse of history.

To meet the urgent need for weapons, churches were asked to contribute their bronze bells to be cast into cannon. Our group gathered at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church (ca. 1825) at the gravesite of Dr. William Cameron with markers for his family surrounding him alongside. Excursion leader Lowell Hoffman read a poem penned by Cameron as his company at Camp Lee, VA received the cannon cast from the bells of this church and others. Later in the day we would view the original document on display at the Orange County Museum.

A garden glade located in the historic Alexander Dickson House (ca. 1790) adjacent to the Hillsborough Visitor Center offered a lovely spot for additional briefings. This house, although in another location in 1865, served as the headquarters of Gen. Joe Johnston, Gen. Wade Hampton and other officers as negotiations between Gen. Johnston and Gen. William Sherman negotiated an end to hostilities a few miles to the south at the Bennett farm.

Just down the street is William Courtney's 'Yellow House,' then an inn in which Gen. Cornwallis lodged during his brief stay in Hillsborough in 1771 as he re-gathered his troops in preparation for the coming Battle of Guilford Courthouse.

We marveled at the significant occurrences within 94 years of history in a short walk of 400 yards. And there was more to come. We resumed our walking tour down King Street, turned right on Churton to



OLD  
NORTH  
STATE

JAN  
2022

NC Society Sons of the American Revolution



the next corner, and we stopped at the Orange County Museum, where we once again were immersed in 18<sup>th</sup> century events and people.

On this site in a long-ago removed structure, the N.C. Constitutional Convention of 1788 was held. Despite the news that both Virginia and New York had ratified the Constitution, bringing approvals to eleven and the certainty of its full adoption, the gathered delegates chose not to ratify as there was no inclusion of a Bill of Rights. Compatriot Scott Washington, expert historian on this seminal gathering, shared the story and called out the names of the key members of this meeting.

Hillsborough Presbyterian Church now stands on a portion of this site. Dedicated in 1816, this church is purportedly the oldest Presbyterian structure in continuous use in the State. Its first pastor was John Knox Witherspoon, a grandson of a Signer, the Rev. John Witherspoon of New Jersey. John and others of his family are buried in the adjacent Old Town Cemetery.



Our group then followed two flag bearers for the short walk to the gravesite of William Hooper, one of three Signers of the Declaration of Independence for North Carolina. This gravesite is within steps of his home. A brief ceremony was led by Gen. Francis Nash Chapter President Albert Segars (pictured, left) and included appropriate remarks by State SAR Regional VP Steve Van Pelt. The biographical story of Hooper was then shared, which added to our appreciation of his times, his leadership, and his accomplishments.

Born in Boston, Hooper graduated from Harvard with citations for oratory at age 18. He studied the law under James Otis, and he moved to Wilmington, NC where he became Assistant Attorney General of the Salisbury District. He carried out the King's Law often in opposition to the growing Regulator movement.

Following the events of 1771, the Battle of Alamance and the hanging of the Regulators, Hooper made a change of direction toward liberty and eventually toward independence. He was chosen as one of nine members of North Carolina's Committee of Correspondence. He directed the sending of two shiploads of provisions and 2,000 pounds to Boston in support of the citizens of the town after the closing of the port by the King.

In Philadelphia at the Continental Congress of 1774-1776, Hooper was cited by John Adams as one of the top three orators in attendance along with Richard Henry Lee and Patrick Henry. Hooper served with Benjamin Franklin on a committee for espionage and security. On August 2, 1776, he affixed his name to the Declaration of Independence, securing a place in the history of America's founding.

We then began a walk to lunch at the recently restored Colonial Inn. Our route took us past the Nash-Hooper House, built by Francis Nash in 1762. Following his mortal wounding in 1777 by a British cannonball while leading North Carolina's nine regiments at Germantown, PA the home was acquired by William Hooper when he relocated his family from Wilmington to Hillsborough.





Our excursion concluded with a pleasant lunch on the streetside porch of the Colonial Inn. Among our favored conversation topics was the biography of Gen. Francis Nash, namesake of NCSSAR Chapter.

Additionally, we pondered much and shared our own theories about how brilliant men and leaders such as Hooper and Nash made that decision of 'Liberty or Death,' ending their allegiance to the King and the government of the Colony and accepting leadership of a rebellion. It is a reminder that a commitment to Liberty can transcend daily life and rise above adversity and the way that things have been done in the past.

As the excursion adjourned, thoughts of our courageous Patriot ancestors remained with us, deeply buried in our hearts and souls.

## Battle of Kings Mountain Anniversary Commemoration



The 241st Anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain was held October 7 at the Kings Mountain Military Park, Blacksburg, SC. Delegates from the SAR were joined by representatives from the NSCAR, the NSDAR, and the Overmountain Victory Trail Association to mark the commemoration. Pictured (L to R) are SCSCAR President David Smith; SAR South Atlantic District VP General Pat Niemann; National SAR President General Davis Wright; GASSAR David Jessel; NCSSAR President Jay DeLoach.

The opening ceremony included a welcome from Park Superintendent Diana Bramble along with a reading of the names of the Patriots killed and mortally wounded at the Battle. A video of the ceremony is available at <https://shorturl.at/dmMT9>.

## Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest

January marks the start of the 2022 National SAR oratory competition process. All high school students in ninth through twelfth grades enrolled in public, charter, or home schools are invited to apply. Contestants prepare and memorize an oratory of five to six minutes on a topic related to the Revolutionary War. The competition begins at the local Chapter level. Students progress to the State competition and finally to the National SAR oratory finals.

Cash prizes are awarded to winners for use toward college tuition costs and expenses. The State-level prize is \$750. The recipient goes on to compete at the National SAR level for a \$6,000.00 cash prize.

Be aware of the timeline of events. The registration deadline is January 31. Local competition ends March 20. A video of the oratory must be submitted by April 4. The NCSSAR state competition will be held April 23. The National SAR oratory finals occur in Savannah, GA at the National SAR Congress on July 10-12.

For more information and additional details, contact Lowell Hoffman, NCSSAR Oratory Committee Chair at 919.656.9955 or email [lmhglobal927@gmail.com](mailto:lmhglobal927@gmail.com).



# President's Day

February 21, 2022

**Honoring the  
Memory of America's  
Founding Fathers**

**NCSSAR**

Image by riogirl9909 from [www.pixabay.com](https://www.pixabay.com)



# Worthy of the Mantle

By Russell H. McCullough

OLD  
NORTH  
STATE

JAN  
2022

In the summer of 1775, risking life, limb, health, and safety, Capt. James Jack (1731-1822) heroically rode from Charlotte Town (as it was known then) to Philadelphia with copy in-hand of the recently signed *Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence* ('The Mec-Dec') of May 20, 1775. Upon arrival, Capt. Jack presented the document to the Second Continental Congress that was in-session debating the national Declaration soon to come.

In remembrance of this brave Patriot, the Mecklenburg Chapter gathered in uptown Charlotte on July 17, 2021 at the base of the statue that honors him. It was fitting on that warm mid-July day to recall Capt. Jack's legacy to pass the baton of Liberty to a new generation of Compatriots who could carry it into the future. Standing at his statue, we pondered the stirring words of the Declaration, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, and they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness."

We gathered as a SAR Chapter not only to remember Capt. Jack, but all our Patriot ancestors, and to encourage new compatriots to continue to pledge solidarity with the deeds and convictions of those brave men who preceded us. By word of oath, the newest members of the Mecklenburg Chapter became



one with other Chapter members as well as with a long line of late Sons of the American Revolution.

The SAR exists to remember our past, to promote our core values, and to shape young minds. Thus, Chapter members charged each other at this gathering to **connect** with our Revolutionary past to build a bridge to a patriotic future, to **combine** patriotism and love of country with the tapestry of our life's work, and to **communicate** the mission of the SAR to other men of character, conviction, and courage.

Despite the many cultural and societal changes in our country over the last 245 years, it can be difficult, although not impossible, to accomplish these three tasks. Fully grasping what "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" meant to the brave Patriots who signed the Declaration on July 4, 1776, though, is essential.

*Liberty* is not a new concept, dating back to the very dawn of time. Moses, the Old Testament lawgiver, declared in Leviticus 25:10 the words, "Proclaim Liberty Throughout All the Land Unto All the Inhabitants thereof," that are engraved on the Liberty Bell. *Liberty* was also a primary mission of Christ Himself as recorded in Luke 4:18, "He [God] has sent me to...set at liberty them that are bruised."

Finally, in Acts 17:28, the Apostle Paul articulated the very core principles of freedom as he boldly declared, "For in Him [God] we live, and move and have our being." Rearticulated in the Declaration as "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," these seven powerful words were, and continue to be, the summation of unalienable or natural God-given rights of all men.

As descendants of our Patriot Ancestors, we are charged with preserving these rights so that liberty will not fade or vanish. Compatriots worthy of the mantle, then, should commit to **connect** with our Revolutionary past, **combine** Patriotic convictions and values with our daily vocation, and **communicate** this legacy to a new generation of Americans.

**Editor's note:** Russell McCullough is a Consulting Editor, ONS. Photo courtesy of Trail of History, Charlotte, NC. For more information on the life of Capt. James Jack, see <https://shorturl.at/jtJN2>.



## State Approves Funding for Shallow Ford Historic Site

More than three years ago, Mike Leonard, former board member of the Conservation Fund, met Bethabara Chapter Compatriot Andy Kelly at an Appalachian Trail Conservancy event hosted by Mike at his home. Following the event, Andy contacted Mike to inquire if he would be interested in helping to acquire property on Shallow Ford for conservation, should it become available for purposes of development into a historic site. Mike affirmed his interest, after which he, Andy and others initiated a plan for the Conservation Fund to purchase the 245-acre farm property, formerly owned by the Messick family, for \$2.8 million.

The Conservation Fund successfully acquired the property in January 2021. Their acquisition provided a bridge-loan of money with donations from individuals and conservation foundations that helped to protect the land until such time as the State could purchase it. It also afforded State Rep. Jeff Zenger of Lewisville (District 74) and others in the State Legislature time to debate and justify the purchase of the property.

On Thursday before Thanksgiving 2021, Fred Learned, NCSSAR Immediate Past President and a Past President of the Bethabara Chapter was advised by Rep. Zenger that the General Assembly had just authorized funding in the 2022 State Budget for the purchase of the Shallow Ford property from the Conservative Fund. The State Historic Site for Shallow Ford of the Yadkin would become a reality.

Sen. Paul A. Lowe, Jr. (D) and Rep. Zenger (R) worked together to help ensure that acquisition of the Shallow Ford property was approved in the 2022 State Budget. They mutually helped to obtain \$1.8 million of State Funding that will enable the State to purchase the former 245-acre Messick farm from the Conservation Fund. Included in Rep. Zenger's legislation is an additional \$450,000 needed to construct a parking lot at the site. Rep. Zenger had authored and presented the initial House Bill 242 on March 9, 2021, which was expanded in scope thirty days later in House Bill 463 and Senate Bill 295, sponsored by State Sen. Tom McInnis of Pinehurst, himself a SAR member.

The final Bill included funds for six other historic State properties from Edenton to Franklin. The total appropriation of funds approved by the Legislature was approximately \$10 million. Gov. Roy Cooper, also a SAR Member, advised that he would sign the Bill. Noteworthy has been the role of Bethabara Chapter, whose Compatriots contributed nearly \$5,000 in this worthwhile endeavor.



Fred promptly organized a photo session on December 3 to extend gratitude by presenting SAR Certificates of Appreciation to Sen. Lowe (pictured left) and Rep. Zenger (pictured right) on behalf of the NCSSAR and the Bethabara Chapter for their efforts to obtaining State funding for the purchase. The event took place on the ground that may soon become known as the Shallow Ford of the Yadkin State Historic Site. Also present were Bethabara Chapter Associate Member Van Williams, Chapter President Bill Ewalt, and Chapter Registrar Larry McRae.

To those attending, Fred remarked, "On this day in North Carolina history, December 3, 1780, Gen. Nathanael Greene took over the command of the Southern Army in Charlotte. Here we all gather today, exactly 241 years later, to offer our thanks," after which he provided a brief account of Gen. Greene and the Southern Army.

Fred advised that this was only the second step towards creating a much needed, State-based Revolutionary War interpretive site, whereby North Carolina can tell the story of its key role in the American Revolution during the Race to the Dan. The event that began 240 years ago when Gen. Greene came to Charlotte and directed the Southern Campaign that eventually led to the surrender of British Gen. Cornwallis'



army a year later at Yorktown. During the historic Race to the Dan, Cornwallis had marched his British Army across the Shallow Ford on February 8-9, 1781, while trying to capture Gen. Greene's escaping American Army. This is the same Shallow Ford where the Battle of October 14, 1780 had previously taken place, resulting in a Patriot victory.

**Allen J. Mollere, III**  
Bethabara Chapter, NCSSAR

OLD  
NORTH  
STATE

JAN  
2022

## World War II Vet Receives SAR Recognition

They are all that remain of 'The Greatest Generation,' those veterans of a war that re-shaped the political landscape of the world. Of 16 million men and women who served in the Armed Forces of the United States in World War II, fewer than 500,000 are still alive today. Among them is veteran Jim Brush of Mills River.

Blue Ridge Chapter Past President Jim Brush and his wife Evie are nestled away in their home in the shadows of the Pisgah National Forest. To see this unassuming, humble man, a stranger would be surprised to know what his military background consisted of and how it affected our nation's future. You see, Jim was one of the men entrusted with the secrecy and security that surrounded the *Manhattan Project* at Los Alamos, NM during the Second World War.

At the 2021 Blue Ridge Chapter Annual Awards and Luncheon held on December 4, Jim was recognized by his fellow Compatriots for his role in America's victory in the war. The *SAR War Service Medal* awarded to Brush by Chapter Color Guard Commander Col. Larry Chapman, USMC (Ret.) and Vietnam Purple Heart recipient Lance Dickinson. "Recognizing Jim for his efforts and dedication was long overdue," said Chapter President Craig Isaacson.

The 97-year old veteran and American Revolution descendent still participates in most of the Blue Ridge Chapter events and meetings. He also serves as Chapter Genealogist-Historian.



**Craig S. Isaacson, President**  
Blue Ridge Chapter NCSSAR

## Mecklenburg Chapter Hosts Jefferson Descendant

The Mecklenburg Chapter hosted another large community dinner event on Veterans Day this year featuring a well-known media professional from Washington, DC, Gayle Jessup White. Gayle is also a descendant of our Nation's third President, Thomas Jefferson, and his enslaved mistress, Sally Hemings.

"An integral part of our Society's charter is to present unique and interesting community programs on all aspects about the people, places and events of the Revolutionary War," said Tom Phlegar, Chapter Program Chair. "When Ms. White accepted our speaking invitation, we were thrilled at the opportunity to bring such an influential and important American Patriot to Charlotte."

NC Society Sons of the American Revolution



Currently Gayle is the public relations and community engagement officer at the Thomas Jefferson Foundation that owns and operates Monticello in Charlottesville, VA. Trustee on several non-profit boards, she is a former award-winning TV reporter and anchor, a journalist with *The New York Times* and a show host and producer at her undergraduate alma matter, Howard University. With a passion for U.S. history, research, writing, community outreach, and education, Gayle holds the profound honor to be the first African American employed at the Thomas Jefferson Foundation.

“When Ms. White walked into the room, she was immediately surrounded by DAR ladies who wanted to meet her and take photos with her,” said Phlegar. “She was an instant success before the evening began!”

Ms. White spoke about the long-heard stories passed down from her father’s family, that they were direct descendants of Thomas Jefferson—lore she firmly believed, although others did not. For four decades the acclaimed journalist and genealogy enthusiast researched her connection to Thomas Jefferson, to confirm its truth once and for all.

She knew of the roots of enslaved people through the history linked to Mr. Jefferson, whom she had long admired from when she was just a small child. But when

she arrived at Monticello and walked through the doors, the emotions of the reality of how many enslaved people had been associated with Mr. Jefferson and Monticello literally let the wind out of her sails.

“Her presentation was emotional, inspiring and humorous,” added Phlegar. “We could really feel her passion and struggle with wanting to find the truth about her family’s connection to Mr. Jefferson and Ms. Hemings. It was such a long journey for her, and thus the reason for her keeping journals to write her book.”

Ms. White’s new book, *Reclamation: Sally Hemings, Thomas Jefferson and a Descendant's Search for Her Family's Lasting Legacy*, has just been released by HarperCollins. In *Reclamation* she chronicles her remarkable journey to definitively understand her heritage and reclaim it and offers a compelling portrait of what it means to be a black woman in America, to pursue the American dream, to reconcile the legacy of racism, and to ensure the nation lives up to the ideals advocated by her legendary ancestor.

Sally Hemings (1773-1835) is one of the most famous, yet least known, African women in U.S. history. For more than 200 years, her name has been linked to Thomas Jefferson as his “concubine,” obscuring the facts of her life and her identity.

Sally Hemings was able to negotiate with her owner, Thomas Jefferson. In Paris, where she was free, the 16-year-old agreed to return to enslavement at Monticello in exchange for extraordinary privileges for herself and freedom for her unborn children. Over the next 32 years Hemings raised four children fathered by Thomas Jefferson, viz., Beverly, Harriet, Madison, and Eston. Further, she prepared them for their eventual emancipation.

Never did she negotiate for, or ever receive, legal emancipation or freedom in Virginia. Eventually, she was unofficially freed, or rather ‘given her time’ by Jefferson’s daughter Martha after Mr. Jefferson’s death.



# Winston Family Patriots Honored

A grave marking ceremony hosted by the Halifax Resolves Chapter and the NCSDAR Shocco Creek Chapter occurred on October 16 at the Winston Family Cemetery near Youngsville. The event honored Anthony Winston and his son John Winston and recognized their contributions to the fight for freedom.

Master of Ceremonies Ken Wilson welcomed attendees and participants. Compatriot Mark Anthony of the Georgia SAR Society delivered the invocation. The colors were presented by the Combined NCSSAR Color Guard, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led Ms. Wynn Smith, Regent, Shocco Creek Chapter. Color Guard Commander George Strunk then led the NCSSAR Chorus, and all gathered in singing the National Anthem.

Compatriot Wilson followed with recognition of officers and members of the various societies and organizations present. Those bringing greetings included Geoff Pittard, President of the Halifax Resolves Chapter; NCSSAR President Jay Deloach; Mark Anthony of the GASSAR Piedmont Chapter; William Schwetke, National SAR Trustee on behalf of the VASSAR; Ms. Wynn Smith, Regent, Shocco Creek Chapter; NCSDAR State Regent Anna Choi; and Mitch Godfrey, Commander of American Legion Post 105, Louisburg, NC.

Linda Winston Jones, fourth great-granddaughter of Anthony Winston, spoke briefly about the family's journey from the Colony of Virginia to settle in what is now Franklin County, NC. She told about the hardships the family faced before, during and after the War of Independence and the sacrifices of Anthony and John Winston during the War. She conveyed the family's thanks to the SAR and DAR for recognizing their ancestors.

Compatriot William H. Riggan, III introduced Mark Pace, who, in the persona of John Penn, spoke about the era leading up to Revolutionary War. He also discussed events that contributed to the break from Great Britain and some of the local history pertaining to the Revolutionary War. Compatriots Wilson and Steve Avent, Halifax Resolves Acting Chaplain, then dedicated the markers. This was followed by a musket volley provided by Compatriot William Schwetke of the VASSAR.



Wreaths were presented by the State SAR and the following NCSSAR Chapters: Halifax Resolves, Alamance Battleground, Gen. George Washington, Lower Cape Fear, Mecklenburg and New Bern. Wreaths presented by out-of-state groups included the Piedmont Chapter, GASSAR and the Culpeper Minute Men Chapter VASSAR. Additional wreaths were presented by the NCSDAR and the Shocco Creek, Micajah Pettaway-Halifax Resolves, and Warren Chapters. The Scout Troop 555 and the American Legion Post 105, both of Louisburg, also presented wreaths. Representatives from these various groups are pictured above.

President DeLoach presented NCSDAR State Regent Anna Choi with two awards that the NCSDAR had received at the National SAR Congress. Compatriot Frank Hall led the SAR Recessional, after which the Combined Color Guard retired the Colors. Compatriot Mark Anthony gave the benediction.

**KEN WILSON, PRESIDENT**  
**Halifax Resolves Chapter, NCSSAR**

OLD  
NORTH  
STATE

JAN  
2022

NC Society Sons of the American Revolution

23

# Canova's Washington 200 Years Old

by Stephen Rantz

The year 2021 marked the 240<sup>th</sup> anniversary for many of the Southeastern battles that wore down Cornwallis and subsequently brought an end to the Revolutionary War. That year was also the bicentennial of one of the earliest commemorations of George Washington, commissioned by the State of North Carolina, and “the first great national tribute to the memory of the Hero of our Revolution.” [1]

It was a Fourth of July, 1815, toast to George Washington in Raleigh which turned into a discussion over a full length statue of our first president. [2] A resolution was proposed and then quickly accepted by the NC Legislature later the same year. Because the fervor for the statue preceded any authoritative plan, it allowed many prominent U.S. citizens to enter the discussion. The most important of the many open questions was who the artist should be. Some thought it should be an American artist, but others advanced the name of Antonio Canova who was considered among the greatest sculptors of the era.

Only the best sculptor would suffice for George Washington, and certainly for the State House of North Carolina. At least that was the advice of Thomas Jefferson: “Who should make it? There can be but one answer to this. Old Canova of Rome. No artist in Europe would place himself in a line with him; and for 30 years, within my own knowledge, he has been considered by all of Europe as without a rival. He draws his blocks from Carrara, and delivers the statue compleat (sic) [and] packed for transportation at Rome from thence it descends the Tyber (sic); but whether it must go on to Leghorn or some other shipping port I do not know.” [3]



Despite the fact that the Jefferson's home State of Virginia had chosen the French sculptor, Jean-Antoine Houdon, North Carolina heeded Jefferson's advice and arranged for Canova to create what many would call one of his finest works. Working from various sources such as portrait busts rendered when Washington was still alive, Canova created a cast model and proceeded to chisel out of the best Carrara marble the statue that would grace the Capitol rotunda in Raleigh.

Early glimpses of the statue in Europe only made Americans more anxious to have the sculpture of Washington brought to his native land. The sculpture was eventually shipped from Gibraltar Bay on the war vessel *Columbus*, for which the Governor of NC had to receive special permission. The sculpture set sail in May of 1821 and arrived in Boston harbor in July with the ship *Columbus*' sails

“furled in a manner that added much credit to the skill of her officers and the discipline of her seamen. On coming to anchor, the crew gave three cheers that were cordially responded to by the numerous spectators who lined the wharves and vessels.” [4]

Having been sufficiently lauded, the sculpture was sent on yet another vessel to Wilmington, NC: “The schr., *Mary Ann*, arrived at this port last night, from Boston, having on board the statue of Washington. It will be transported to Fayetteville by water, and from thence to Raleigh by land. Contracts for its conveyance, we understand, have already been made. It was much desired that the statue should be put up, in the place destined for its reception, previous to the session of the legislature, but the shortness of the time will render it impossible.” [5]

After an arduous journey over sea and land, the statue finally arrived in Raleigh on Christmas Eve of 1821, only six years after the initial Independence Day toast which inspired the idea. Raleigh welcomed the statue with much fanfare: At 3:00 PM a procession was accompanied by a band and 24 rounds of artillery fire right on the Capitol grounds. The order of the procession was described as “1. The Band, 2. Military, 3. Citizens, 4. Clerks and Assistants, 5. Heads of Departments, 6. Judges, 7. Members of the Assembly, 8. Speakers of both Houses, 9. The Governor of the State, 10. Revolutionary officers, 11. Statue, with the State Architect.” [1] After this seemingly mass migration to the State Square, Col. William Polk delivered an address, in which he honored the memory of George Washington: “Nature



made him great—he made himself virtuous. Called by his country to the defense of her liberties he triumphantly vindicated the rights of man; and laid, in the principles of freedom, the foundation of a great Republic.” [6]

Polk also hailed the artistic virtues of Canova, calling him the new Michelangelo or Praxiteles, and ‘Prince of Ischia;’ however, newspaper reporters were not intimidated by all the hyperbole. There was some general derision over Washington’s Roman couture finding it entirely inappropriate for an American, although still others found it resembled ‘very much that of an American Indian.’ [7]

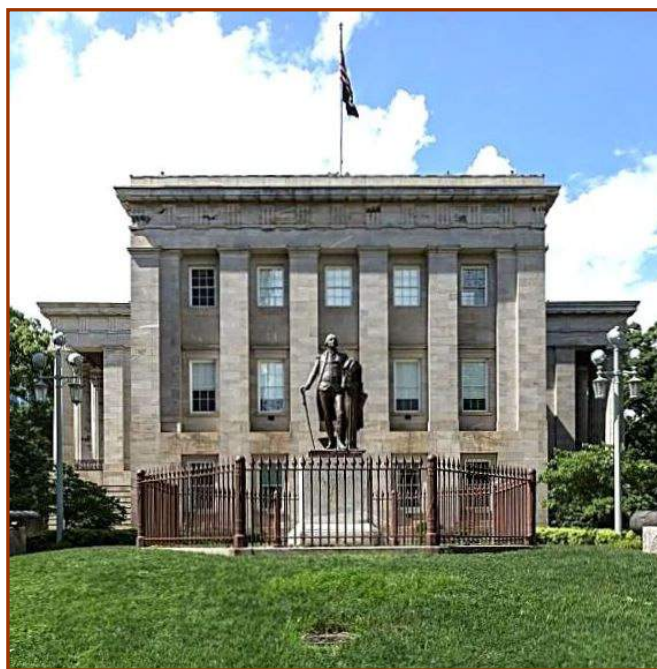
The paper further claimed that ‘sculpture is history and should therefore be faithful in its descriptions, and true to its purpose.’ While some early speculators guessed that Canova dressed Washington in ancient garb because it was to his own Roman tastes, Thomas Jefferson reasoned that the colonial military fashion of the day was not suited to higher artistic ideals: “As to the style or costume, I am sure the artist, and every person of taste in Europe would be for the Roman, the effect of which is undoubtedly of a different order. Our boots [and] regimentals have a very puny effect.” [8] No matter Virginia’s George Washington sculpture was dressed in the familiar colonial costume of the day.

Although criticisms varied wildly, those who knew Washington personally such as the Marquis de Lafayette, were quoted as saying that it was a good likeness. Lafayette saw the sculpture in Rome before it left for the United States, and then again later when he made his American tour in 1825. Lafayette was even said to have a sketch of the statue hanging on his own walls. [9]

However, as fashion is prone to changing tastes from era to era, so too are our buildings to the elements. When the Raleigh Capitol burned in 1831, North Carolina’s Roman General George crumbled under the heat and survived only in fragments. The sculpture was duly mourned by all. Even ten years later an anonymous writer to the Raleigh Register lamented: “When the Capitol was burnt in 1831, and the walls entirely destroyed I remember well the flash of hope as the Statue rose like an unscathed warrior above the ruins. But I remember with equal fidelity the corresponding disappointment when it was ascertained that the material of which it was composed was entirely destroyed and that, like its great prototype, it would soon return to dust.” [10]

Several generations later, the burning sensation over the loss of George had not yet subsided, and North Carolina arranged for a copy of Virginia’s Washington, where it was placed on Capitol grounds facing Fayetteville Street, where it “is passed daily by the thousands and should be an inspiration alike to young and old.” [11]

Additionally, in the same year (1910), Italy sent the state of North Carolina a replica of Canova’s Washington, and headlines proclaimed: “Through Italy’s Liberality, a Cast of Canova’s Washington Has Been Placed in the Capitol.” [12] Yet it was only a plaster cast and the citizens of North Carolina kept thinking of its original marble statue; such an enduring memory needed a more solid foundation. So like a phoenix from the ashes, North Carolina would bring back its marble statue, recreated by sculptor Romano Vio from Canova’s prototype found in a museum in Possagno, Italy.



In 1970, the new sculpture traveled from Italy to the US on the *USS Neosho*. Again, there was a great procession, this time up Fayetteville Street from Memorial Auditorium to the State Capitol: "Parade participants will include the 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Band of the NC Army National Guard stationed in Raleigh. The colors will be escorted by a platoon of Battery A of the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the 113<sup>th</sup> Artillery NC Army National Guard stationed in Zebulon... The official party—including members of the George Washington Statue Commission and members of the Council of State will ride in individual cars. The Hillsborough Colonial Fife and Drum Corps will also be present and will participate in the event." [13]



Even Col. Polk's old 1821 address was dusted off and recited by the NC State Treasurer Edwin Gill, preceded by an invocation and a brief history of the sculpture, along with comments by Sen. Hector Maclean of Lumberton.



At Christmastime in 1970, the sight of George seated between two Christmas trees (usually just one tree graced the rotunda), led one David Murray to comment, "I always wondered what George was doing. He's making out his Christmas list." [14] Santa had answered North Carolinian's Christmas letters...twice.

#### References:

[1] "The Statue of Washington," *Weekly Raleigh Register*, December 28, 1821. [2] Connor, R. D. W., *Canova's Statue of Washington*, 6, <https://tinyurl.com/k6btwv7y>, (accessed October 25, 2021). [3] "Thomas Jefferson, Monticello, January 22, 1816, to Nathaniel Macon," Digital NC, <https://tinyurl.com/bdzxyurz>, (accessed October 25, 2021). [4] "Arrival of the Columbus and Spark," *National Gazette*, July 26, 1821. [5] "Statue of Washington," *Hillsborough Recorder*, November 21, 1821. [6] "The Statue of Washington," *Western Carolinian*, January 7, 1822. [7] Ibid. [8] "Thomas Jefferson, Monticello, January 22, 1816, to Nathaniel Macon" [9] "Latest of La Fayette," *Western Carolinian*, November 13, 1821. [10] "Canova's Washington," *The Raleigh Register*, January 12, 1841. [11] "Houdon's Statue of Washington," *The News and Observer*, March 6, 1910. [12] "Recovery of a Famous Statue: Through Italy's Liberality, a Cast of Canova's Washington Has Been Placed in the Capitol," *The News and Observer*, February 5, 1910. [13] "Parade Set to Welcome New Statue," *The News and Observer*, May 26, 1970. [14] "Santa Tells Scott to Diet," *The Charlotte Observer*, December 18, 1970.

**Editor's Note:** Stephen Rantz is a Research Associate with the Heritage Research Center at the High Point Public Library. He may be reached at [ncroom@highpointnc.gov](mailto:ncroom@highpointnc.gov) or 336.883.3637.

## Here We Raise Our Ebenezers!

by Russell H. McCullough

My fifth great-uncle died, along with his two brothers, Robert and David, at the Battle of Hanging Rock on August 6, 1780, during the most pivotal year of the American Revolution. His name was Ebenezer Gaston. Ebenezer is a name rarely used today, as the name Ebenezer Scrooge was forever tarnished in Charles Dickens' 1843 *A Christmas Carol*. Before Dickens' caricature of the name, Ebenezer was both a popular and revered name in Revolutionary America.

Aside from the Dickens Christmas story, the only other familiarity with Ebenezer for many of the Christian faith is from the old hymn, *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*. The second stanza includes the phrase, 'raise my Ebenezer.'

Like other common names, Ebenezer originated in the Bible. In the Hebrew language, it means "stone of remembrance of help." To ensure that Israel would in future times recall where their help had come that resulted in the defeat of the Philistines, the prophet Samuel referenced the name in I Samuel 7:12, "Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen and called its name Ebenezer, saying, Thus far the LORD has helped us."

In the Old Testament Ebenezer was a physical town and a battlefield monument. Thus, Samuel's 'Ebenezer' became the stone monument reminding every citizen that passed by of the "help of God" on the



day of battle. Eventually the stone of remembrance of help came to be used as a given name as well. It was a name that reminded both child and parent of the help that God rendered through that unique personage. Ebenezer was a name that caused others to remember the contributions of both the living and the dead. Ebenezer, then is a monument, a name, and a memorial, for no man is truly dead if he is remembered by the living.

In times past, but slowly fading in current society, family and friends would 'raise up Ebenezers' to remind posterity of the help the deceased rendered to family, community, state, and nation. These Ebenezers would literally be carved into stone for all to read, appreciate, and contemplate of the loved one whose life on earth was over.

As some in society are rapidly seeking to place the past into the trash heap of history, our many Ebenezers are being abandoned, forgotten, or neglected. Sadly, some are being violated and destroyed. It is incumbent on the living to rediscover and restore the Ebenezers of our ancestors, especially the Patriots of the Revolution whose sacrifices brought us the blessings of today.



Consider the 'Ebenezer' of Capt. Peter Forney (stone pictured). It reads, "A Patriot soldier of the Revolution, who was born April 21, 1756, Died Feb. 1, 1834. In public life the deceased acquitted himself with reputation as a useful and efficient member of Congress, as an elector from the people for President of the United States. He carried out the Republican principles upon which he acted through life by voting successfully for Mr. Jefferson, Mr. Madison, Mr. Monroe, and General Jackson and in all the relations of private life he acquired the love and esteem of all who knew him."

One of the missions of the SAR is to find, mark, and memorialize the graves of Patriots now long gone. This work is done primarily through the Grave Marking Committee. We 'raise our Ebenezers' with a stone of remembrance in solemn ceremony once a Patriot's bona fides are verified. Not only is a physical stone buried in front of the headstone, a digital record of the Patriot's Revolutionary service is archived in the Patriotic Research Service (PRS) of the SAR website for a permanent record.

## NC General Assembly Eyes Historical Preservation

As the 2021 calendar year came to a close, it was abundantly clear that the North Carolina General Assembly had refocused its fiscal attention on historical preservation in the State. Elected State officials came to the realization that legislators had done little, if anything, in the past half-century to preserve historic battlefield properties throughout North Carolina. The NCSSAR applauds this new-found spirit among State leaders.

As we approach the seminal year of 2026—the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution and the birth of our great nation—and with a surplus of federal funds at their disposal, the General Assembly with bi-partisan support telegraphed their intent to preserve important historical lands and properties in

the State. The magnitude of appropriations approved in the 2022 State Budget for the acquisition of 680 acres of historic properties valued \$13.8 million was nothing short of breathtaking. A summary of these acquisitions follows:

- 194 acres for \$6.1 million, to acquire Hayes Manor and the Samuel Johnston Historic Farm in Chowan County, to be added to the Edenton State Historic Site.
- 48 acres for \$125,000, to expand the Moore's Creek Bridge National Battlefield.
- 2.35 acres for \$37,000, to expand the Alamance Battleground State Historic Site.
- 100 acres for \$1 million, to expand the Charlotte Hawkins Brown State Historic Site.
- 245 acres for \$ 1.8 million, to purchase land at the Shallow Ford of the Yadkin, where there is a 100-year old DAR marker denoting the Daniel Boone Trail.
- 40 acres for \$100,000, to at the site of the Cherokee settlement of Watauga Town in Macon County.
- 3.3 acres for \$713,400, for two parcels at the site of the Cherokee settlement of Nikwasi Town in the Town of Franklin in Macon County.
- 46.65 acres for \$90,000, for acquisition of the Wyse Ford Battlefield, the second largest Civil War battle site in the State.
- \$1,020,000 for the purchase of six tracts situated in Johnston and Wayne Counties related to the Bentonville Civil War Battlefield.
- \$1,000,000 to be used for Horne Creek Historic Farm.
- \$467,500 to purchase two tracts of Averagesboro Civil War Battlefield site.
- \$425,000 for construction of a parking lot at the Shallow Ford of the Yadkin.
- \$50,000 to fund the Road to Freedom.
- \$42,000 to be allocated to stewardship endowment for the Moore's Creek National Battlefield in Pender County, the Cherokee settlements of Watauga Town in Macon County, and Nikwasi Town in the Town of Franklin in Macon County.



Compatriots all across America heard the voices of our forefathers kicking and screaming, as it were, over shameful acts of cowardice that unfolded over the last few years. Not the least of which was the defacement and destruction of historic statues. It made the State's acquisition this year of historic battlegrounds, where brave men fought and died to protect our freedom, all the more monumental and priceless. Once again, the NCSSAR salutes our General Assembly.

The specifics that explain how or why each of these historic properties was included in this year's Budget for State acquisition are unclear. Nonetheless, the intent of our Legislators to preserve the legacy of the

American Revolution and Civil War battlefields in North Carolina is well intended and long overdue. Our prayer is that we can all enjoy these historic properties in the near future and for generations to come.

State Leaders worthy of special recognition are two of our very own SAR members, Gov. Roy Cooper of the Raleigh Chapter and State Sen. Tom Mc Innis of the Sandhills Chapter. The NCSSAR extends heartfelt gratitude to these two fellow Compatriots. Their leadership and undaunted dedication to the mission of the SAR has been a blessing to countless North Carolinians who cherish the founding of our great nation.



# FIREARMS FOR FREEDOM

## What is a Firelock, You Say?

Dr. Michael Arnette, DDS

A firelock is a military term for any weapon (rifle) that is fired by sparks, caplock, flintlock, wheel lock, or matchlock. The old description of a black powder rifle still holds relatively true—lock, stock, and barrel.

The lock is a mechanism embedded into the stock, a side plate attaching the trigger to sears, springs, and screws that allows the weapon to be half-cocked and then fully-cocked. Trigger pressure, then, fires the gun. More amplified descriptions are helpful.

A **caplock** allows the hammer to fall on a percussion cap on a nipple that causes the loaded barrel to fire. A **flintlock** variation has a modified hammer that holds a piece of flint to generate sparks that fall in the pan causing ignition. A **matchlock** allows a modified hammer to hold a 'rope,' a long burning cord, that the matchlock holds on the burning end and drops into the pan filled with priming powder; however, the burning rope is a 'trickster,' much like kokopelli, in that it often does not ignite when it should.

Upon careful reflection, some of the world's greatest inventions and discoveries were associated with rifle function. Fire was discovered by early hominids. Flint knapping was discovered and modified by early Americans, Asians, Europeans, and African natives. Black powder was invented by Chinese and/or Arab peoples as metal work to construct barrels and locks. Frankly, without the flintlock rifle, much of our early culture may not have survived.

The fantastic combination of charcoal (carbon), 15%; salt peter (potassium or sodium nitrate), 75%; and sulphur, 10% into such an adaptable source of combustion is an all-time great invention, yielding black powder.

The science of flint knapping can also be considered an art form. Consider the beauty of points and spear points of prehistoric and ancient times, for example, the Folsom point, obsidian Shawnee arrowheads, and many more from Europe, Asia, and the Americas.



So, by joining black powder (still used in the military to prime long-range guns on a battleship) with metal working knowledge, and adding the genius of engineering a lock with a flint to strike a frizzen for sparks, rifle fire ensues. The amazing, accompanying image shows a sparking flintlock.

Rifle enthusiasts should beware and exercise caution, though. In a sense, black powder shooting has the potential to be more addictive than any chemical you may ingest.

**Editor's Note:** Author and Compatriot Dr. Michael Arnette is member of the Gen. George Washington Chapter. He is a practicing oral and maxillofacial surgeon in Kinston, NC. Image courtesy of professional photographer Thomas Henly of New York. He holds an international world champion record in firing an original military smooth bore flint musket.

## Be Among the Proud, the Few. Join the Premier NC Minutemen Company.



### WANTED!!!

*76 Compatriots, Men Stout & True*



*In support of the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary National Congress in 2026, hosted by our North Carolina Society, we are committed to raising a Company of North Carolina Minutemen, men willing to pledge to contribute \$1,000 either in a lump sum or in 4 annual contributions of \$250. Participation in this program will be limited to the first 76 compatriots to enlist.*

*As befits generosity of this magnitude, enlistees in the Company of Minutemen will be appropriately recognized by the State Society. Enlist at [NC SAR Minutemen@gmail.com](mailto:NC SAR Minutemen@gmail.com).*

**The NC Minutemen Company is a Fundraising Program Approved by the NCSSAR. All Money Raised will be Used to Host the 2026 SAR National Congress in North Carolina.**



# NCNG Museum Expands

The North Carolina Department of Agriculture recently transferred a 15,559 square foot building (pictured below) to the North Carolina National Guard (NCNG) Museum. Located at Blue Ridge Road across the street from the NC Museum of Art, it is just a stone's throw from the NC National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters.



Tracing its history back to the signing of the Carolina Charter by the Eight Lords Proprietors in 1663, the NCNG has a tremendous history that spans not only wartime, but periods of civil unrest, natural disasters and serving the citizens of North Carolina in every way imaginable.

The NCNG Museum has been operating for only seven years. But during that time, it has amassed a large collection of items of every description from civilians and service members all over the world. The Museum's footprint had been limited to the atrium area of the Joint Force Headquarters building, and its reach has been amplified through the use of *The History Machine*, a small mobile museum. With the building just obtained, the Museum can create a much more compelling, interactive and comprehensive way to showcase and explore the long and rich history of the NCNG, starting with its Militia roots.



Compatriot (Sergeant) Gary Spencer of the Raleigh Chapter NCSSAR and curator of the NCNG Museum, stated "There's much work to be done to make the building ready to be a museum. Plans are being made for an opening ceremony on March 24, 2022. It is my sincere hope to build a strong partnership between the Museum and the North Carolina Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. I think there will be many ways we can boost both organizations in a mutually beneficial manner."

With the 2026 Sestercentennial kicking off in only a few years, it is the goal of the NCNG Museum to pay particular attention to the role that our State played in the period of the American Revolution. Exhibits for that period will have to be graphically appealing, as the museum has no artifacts in its collection yet from that timeframe.

## THE OLD NORTH STATE

*A Publication of the  
North Carolina Society  
Sons of the American  
Revolution*

Vol. 25, No. 1  
January 2022

### EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

#### Editor

JOE P. SUTTON, PhD  
Gen. George Washington Chapter  
[jpsutton56@gmail.com](mailto:jpsutton56@gmail.com)

#### Consulting Editors

DAVID L. MANN  
le Marquis de Lafayette Chapter  
*Historic Sites*  
[DavidLMannCPA@gmail.com](mailto:DavidLMannCPA@gmail.com)

RUSS H. MCCULLOUGH  
Mecklenburg Chapter  
*Board of Manager Minutes*  
[russellspeaksandwrites@gmail.com](mailto:russellspeaksandwrites@gmail.com)

RALPH D. NELSON, JR., PhD  
Gen. Francis Nash Chapter  
*General Contributions*  
[depatriot@aol.com](mailto:depatriot@aol.com)

GEOFFREY S. PITTARD  
Halifax Resolves Chapter  
*National & State News*  
[geospittard@gmail.com](mailto:geospittard@gmail.com)

BEN L. SETSER  
Catawba Valley Chapter  
*Officer Updates & Chapter News*  
[lennon\\_0102@yahoo.com](mailto:lennon_0102@yahoo.com)

A. ROBERT "BOB" SIGMON  
Raleigh Chapter  
*Bylaw Updates & Events*  
[robert\\_sigmon@yahoo.com](mailto:robert_sigmon@yahoo.com)

JOHN O. THORNHILL  
Lower Cape Fear Chapter  
*Membership*  
[thornhill@embarqmail.com](mailto:thornhill@embarqmail.com)

### SUBMISSION DEADLINES

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



Compatriots are invited to help. The Museum is actively seeking donations of artifacts or high quality reproductions from the period of the Revolution. When donated items are displayed, the descriptive placard always shows the donor's name as a small tribute to that person's investment in our mission. For more information about making a donation, contact Curator Gary Spencer at [gspencer1861@hotmail.com](mailto:gspencer1861@hotmail.com).

**Gary Spencer, Vice President**  
Raleigh Chapter, NCSSAR



## NCSSAR Calendar

**All anniversaries, commemorations and events will be held on-site, unless otherwise indicated.**

See [https://ncssar.org/ecwd\\_calendar/calendar/](https://ncssar.org/ecwd_calendar/calendar/) for updates.

**\*Color Guard**

**^On-site & Virtual**

**#Virtual only**

**January 16\*:** 241st Anniversary Battle of Cowpens, Cowpens National Battlefield, Gaffney, SC, 1:00 PM.

**January 22\*:** Compatriot Grave Marking, NCSSAR President William Alexander Graham, II, Machpelah Presbyterian Church, Iron Station, NC, 10:00 AM, Catawba Valley Chapter.

**January 29#:** NCSSAR Winter Board of Managers Meeting, 1:00-3:30 PM.

**January 29\*:** 241st Anniversary Battle of Cowan's Ford, Hopewell Presbyterian Church, Huntersville, NC, 10:00 AM, limited outdoor commemoration, Mecklenburg Chapter.

**February 11:** Heroes of the Hornet's Nest, TBA.

**February 12:** George Washington Birthday Celebration, Halifax United Methodist Church, Halifax, NC, 11:00 AM, Halifax Resolves Chapter.

**February 12:** Battle of Kettle Creek, TBA, all day.

**February 17:** Letters from Home President's Day Community Dinner, Hilton Charlotte Executive Park Hotel, Charlotte, NC, 6:00 PM, Mecklenburg Chapter.

**February 19:** Crossing of the Dan, TBA, all day.

**February 21:** George Washington's Birthday

**February 26\*:** 241st Anniversary Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge, Moore's Creek Battlefield, Currie, NC, 10:00 AM, Lower Cape Fear Chapter.

**March 3-5:** NSSAR Spring Leadership Conference, TBA.

**March 11:** NSSAR South Atlantic District Meeting, TBA.

**March 12\*:** 240th Anniversary Battle of Guilford Courthouse, TBA.