

President's Message

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



NC Compatriots,

Fourth of July is right around the corner. A great American holiday with family outings, parades, barbecues, and fireworks, it is also a time of remembrance. Delegates met in Philadelphia during the hot, sticky summer of 1776 to record a list of grievances against King George III that expressed numerous reasons for declaring our independence from Great Britain.

Thomas Paine's widely read pamphlet *Common Sense* written in January of 1776 persuasively argued for our separation from the King. Roughly 90 local and state documents crafted April through July 1776 supported our independence, including our own Halifax Resolves of April 12, 1776. As you might imagine, there was much political maneuvering and proposed language changes by members of the Continental Congress from May to early June 1776.

As a result, Congress had to appoint a 'Committee of Five' on June 11 to draft a cohesive declaration. This committee consisted of John Adams of Massachusetts, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, Robert R. Livingston of New York and Roger Sherman of Connecticut.

On June 28, a draft was presented to the Continental Congress. For two days it underwent several changes with moderation of language and re-

moval of excessive wording that shortened it by a quarter. On July 4, 1776, delegates from 12 states voted to approve the Declaration of Independence. Only New York abstained, but a week later the New York Provincial Congress voted in favor of independence, making it unanimous.



According to historians, 34 names were inscribed on this inspirational document on July 4, and 21 more would sign it on August 2, 1776. The last signer, Matthew Thornton from New Hampshire, was not seated in the Continental Congress until November. He received the privilege of adding his signature on November 4.

In 2026, we will celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence. The NC Society will host the 2026 National Congress in Greensboro where two signers of the Declaration, William Hooper and John Penn, are buried at the Guilford Courthouse Military Park. We will conduct a gravesite ceremony to honor their contributions to our freedom and liberties.

To support this celebration, we are conducting various fundraising activ-

ities. We will be raffling a reproduction 1748 Long Land (1st Model) Brown Bess musket. This musket was used extensively during the French and Indian War and later was used mainly by Patriot forces at the start of the Revolution. Tickets are \$10 each or \$50 for 6 tickets. The drawing will be held on January 31, 2023 at the NCSSAR Winter Board of Managers Meeting in Huntersville. Purchase tickets at <https://tinyurl.com/udbt5uz8> or text the word "Musket" to 406-302-5086. To purchase by mail, email ncssarfundraising@gmail.com.

Lastly, congratulations to the Raleigh Chapter and to the NCSSAR Editorial Committee. Each earned first place honors in the National SAR Newsletter Contests for best all-around newsletters in 2021.

Yours in Patriotism,
Jay

In This Issue

1. President's Message
2. Membership Update
3. Chapter News—Alamance Battleground; Blue Ridge; Catawba Valley; Gen. George Washington; Halifax Resolves; Lower Cape Fear; New Bern; Raleigh; Sandhills
11. Color Guard Report
12. Book Review
13. Constitution Day 2022
14. NCSSAR Nears Centennial; Webster Wins Photo Contest
15. Maligned Patriot Hero: Maj. Gen. Horatio Gates (Part 1)
16. Purple Heart Day 2022
17. Blue Ridge Hosts Genealogy Workshop; The Washington's Cruisers Flag
18. Musket Rifle Raffle
19. 246th Anniversary of the Halifax Resolves Celebrated
20. Independence Day 2022
21. Reconstruction of a Champion
22. Newsletter Contest Winners; NCSSAR Calendar

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Membership Update

NCSSAR Welcomes 24 New Members (Mar. 12, 2022 Through June 10, 2022)

BENEDICT, Davis 222099
BOSWELL, Noah 222317
BOSWELL, Robert 222318
CRANFORD, Robert Sr. 222319
DEATON, Joseph 222368
FATH, Michael J. 222155
FATH, Michael T. 222156
GREENE, Cody 222097
HERNDON J. William Jr. 222728
JENETTE, Jason 222730
JENETTE, Jeffery 222731
JENETTE Jr, Herman 222729
MAMISCALCO, Jack 222369
McCAUGHERTY, Daniel 222436
PEARCE, Joseph Jr. 222732
PROVINE, Charles 222201
SELLS, Douglas 222328
SHOAF, Benjamin 222200
SIMPSON, William Jr. 222098
SPILLMAN, Giovanni 222096
TOWERY, James 222100
VAN DYKE MURRAY, M. 222435
WILLIAMS, Douglas III 222570
WILLIAMS, Douglas Jr. 222569

NCSSAR Extends its Deepest Thoughts and Prayers to the Families of the Following Compatriots who Passed Away Since Mar. 12, 2022

KELEHER, Michael
SCOTT, George
ELKS, Morris
KEISER, Albert
WALLIN, William

NCSSAR Membership Inquiries

Since March 14, North Carolina has received 43 inquiries about SAR membership. Chapters and inquiry counts include the following: Alamance Battleground -0; Albemarle-0; Bethabara-1;

Battle of King's Mtn.-2; Colson's Mill-1; Blue Ridge-5; Catawba Valley-1; Col. Alex. Erwin-1; Col. Alex. Lillington -1; Gen. Frances Nash-2; Gen. George Washington-1; Halifax Resolves-2; Isaac Carter-0; Lower Cape Fear-3; le Marquis de Lafayette-2; Lumber River-0; Lt. Col. John Phifer-1; Mecklenburg-6; Old North State-1; Nathanael Greene-2; New Bern -4; Raleigh-4; Salisbury-0; Sandhills-2; LTC Felix Walker -1; 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



SAR Recruiting Gems

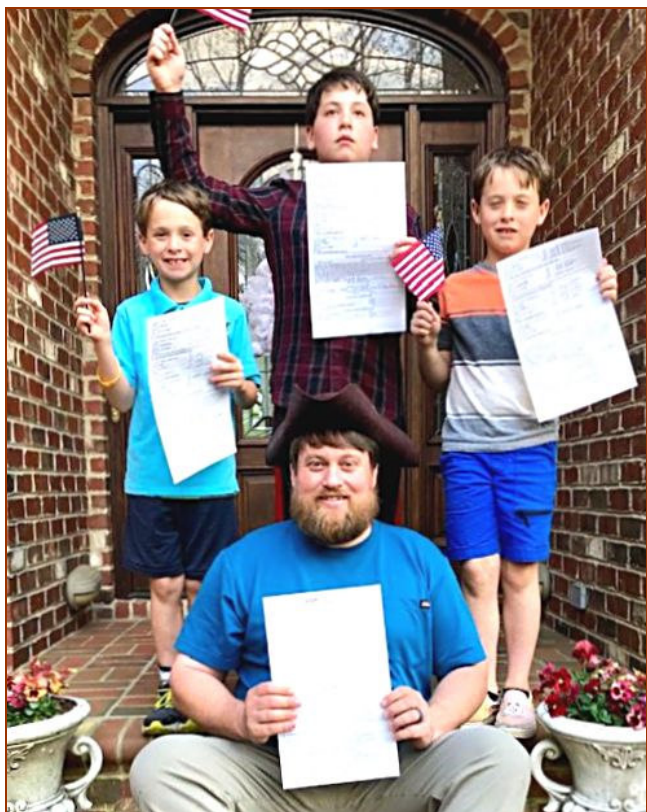
- Develop press releases for each event. Send to newspapers/online news outlets They are always looking for newsworthy articles.
- Reach out to youth through Facebook, YouTube or other social media where they are more likely to find out what's happening and get news and information.
- Present SAR Outstanding Citizenship Award Certificates at school awards programs.

JIM DEGROFF, Chair Recruiting Subcommittee Membership Committee NCSSAR

Chapter News

Alamance Battleground Chapter

Five family compatriots were recently inducted into the SAR on April 7. All are Burlington residents and will be affiliated with the Alamance Battleground Chapter. Pictured below are father Brandon Scott Brewer, eight-year old twin sons Jeptha David Brewer (left) and Jase Benjamin Brewer (right) and older son Jayden Scott Brewer, age 10. Brandon's brother Jamie Lynn Brewer was not available for the photograph.



Brewer ancestors Thomas Lloyd Sr. and his son Stephen Lloyd were both recognized for their patriotic service. The Brewer sons meticulously signed their respective SAR application and enthusiastically embraced their American flags at the ceremony.

Tim Green, Registrar
Alamance Battleground Chapter, NCSSAR

Blue Ridge Chapter

Roland Bissonnette of the National Park Service provided an impressive presentation at the April 9 Chapter meeting. Over 30 members and guests were in attendance to hear his excellent and thorough description of the Battle at Hannah's Cowpens

in 1781. In attendance were several Chapter members who are descendants of Battle Patriots.

Many commented on the information Roland presented and how his enthusiasm brought the circumstances of the conflict to life. The program enriched the knowledge of all in attendance regarding the closest American Revolution battlefield to the Chapter's geographic area.



Roland (pictured above) was presented a certificate and bronze medal recognizing the upcoming 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution. He is the first non-SAR member to receive this recognition in Western North Carolina.

At the same Chapter meeting, Bowen Optical of Hendersonville, NC received the Sons of the A-



merican Revolution American Flag Award. Accepting the award on behalf of Bowen Optical was owner Gary Bowen (pictured center). Bowen Optical

is the eighth Henderson County entity to receive the award in the past three years.

The SAR American Flag Award is given to businesses, institutions, and individuals in the local Blue Ridge communities who consistently display the American flag according to the proper protocol

set forth by the United States Congress. Award recipients ensure that the flag is in good repair, elevate it for proper display and, if flown at night, provide electrical lighting from sunset to sunrise the following day.

Members of the Blue Ridge Chapter Color Guard presented the national colors for the National Anthem at the Memorial Day Asheville Tourists Baseball game on May 29. The six-member team received a large ovation as they paraded off of the field from the nearly 3,000 fans in attendance.



"This is the second opportunity we have had to participate in a Tourists' game in the past three years," commented Chapter President Craig Isaacson. "This year was special because the Tourists Baseball Club specifically requested us for the Memorial Day event." Participating in the Chapter Color Guard (pictured, L-R) were Larry Chapman, Tom Rightmyer, Dave Gunther, Craig Isaacson, Mark Canter, and Garry Linton.

Craig S. Isaacson, President
Blue Ridge Chapter NCSSAR



Catawba Valley Chapter



Chapter President Ben Setser presented the Bronze JROTC Medal and Certificate to U.S. Air Force JROTC Cadet Ryder Phares of Bunker High School Military Banquet on April 9. The event was held at Sapphire Hills Event Center in Conover.



On April 18, the Chapter delivered a proclamation at the Catawba County Commissioners meeting to commemorate the Chapter's weeklong celebration of Patriots' Day. Pictured above (L-R) are Chapter President Setser, Commissioners Kitty Barns and Barbara Beatty, Commissioner Vice Chair Randy Isenhower, Commissioner Chair Austin Allran, and Commissioner Sherry Butler.



Chapter Compatriot Michael Blackburn presented the Bronze JROTC Medal and Award Certificate to Cadet Davis Tucker (pictured left) of Hickory High School on May 4. On the same date, President Ben Setser presented the Bronze JROTC Medal and Award Certificate to Cadet 1st Lt. Kayce Bailey (pictured right) of Bandys High School in Catawba.



On May 21 at his Court of Honor held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Newton, Eagle Scout Charles Lewis Lovelace of Troop 398 was awarded the SAR Eagle Scout Award and Medal. Making the presentation was Chapter President Setser.



Catawba Valley Chapter conducted a grave marking for twelve Patriots buried at St. Paul's Lutheran Church cemetery in Newton on May 21. Witnessed by Compatriots and guests (pictured above), a large stone was erected and dedicated to the Patriots.



A Commemoration of the 242nd Anniversary of the Battle of Ramsour's Mill was hosted by Catawba Valley Chapter on June 4. In attendance were more than 140 people representing five states. Twenty-seven Compatriots (pictured above) participated in the Color Guard.

Ben Setser, President
Catawba Valley Chapter, NCSSAR



Gen. George Washington Chapter

Chapter Past President George Strunk (pictured left), who serves as the State SAR Color Guard Commander, led the processional at the recent NCSSAR Annual Meeting held in Greensboro, April 23. George flew to Orlando, FL on June 13 to the NCSSAR South Atlantic District Conference, where he accepted the nomination for the office of District Vice President General (VPG). NCSSAR National Trustee Gary Green (not pictured) was nominated as Genealogist General at the same meeting. Pictured at the podium with George is current VPG Patrick J. Niemann. The election will be held at National Congress, Savannah, GA in July.



Halifax Resolves Chapter

By unanimous consent, the Reverend Duncan H. Jones, Chaplain of the Halifax Resolves Chapter NCSSAR, was bestowed the title of Chapter Cha-



plain Emeritus by the membership at their March meeting. Rev. Jones joined the Chapter in 2005, just two short years from the Chapter's charter ceremony. He has served as Chapter Chaplain since 2006 and continues to serve as the spiritual leader of Chapter Compatriots whose

wise counsel has tremendously aided in the advancement of Chapter goals. The certificate was presented by Chapter President Ken Wilson.

The Chapter's annual Americanism Poster Contest focused on Revolutionary War events. Thirty-seven posters were submitted by Manning Elementary School and Halifax Academy. This year's winner was Liam Cooke, a fifth grade student at Halifax Academy. His poster covered the events in Halifax during the War. The presentations were made by Chapter President Ken Wilson. Pictured (below) are Liam and his parents Lindsee and Robby Cooke.



Liam received a winner certificate and a check for \$100.00. His teacher Valerie Henley received a Certificate of Appreciation and a check for \$50.00. Liam's poster advanced to the State level contest held at Alamance Battleground during the Patriots' Day activities on May 14.

The Chapter also sponsored a Brochure Contest recently. Students' original designs could center on one of five topics: Articles of Confederation, Bill of Rights, Constitution, Declaration of Independence or Federalist Papers. A total of 167



entries were submitted this year from Chaloner Middle School and Halifax Academy. The Chapter-level winner this year was Carolina Crumb, an eighth grade student at Halifax Academy. She is the daughter of Mikey and Elizabeth Corum.



For her brochure that compared the positive and negative points of the Articles of Confederation, Carolina (pictured) received a winner's certificate and a check for \$100.00. Her teacher Tracey Lynch received a check for \$50.00. The presentation was made by Chapter President Ken Wilson. Carolina's bro-

chure advanced to the State level contest held at Alamance Battleground during the Patriots' Day activities on May 14.



The SAR Eagle Scout Certificate of Recognition was presented to Alexander Karl Clark (pictured left) of Troop 144 in Roanoke Rapids at his Court of Honor in April. The certificate cited Clark "For outstanding

achievement and exceptional leadership and citizenship evidenced by his attainment of the rank of Eagle Scout." Chapter President Wilson made the presentation.

At the NCSSAR Annual Meeting in Greensboro on April 23, Halifax Resolves Chapter Chaplain Emeritus Rev. Duncan H. Jones was one of two members selected to become Honorary George Washington Fellows. The State society will donate \$1,000.00 in the name of each individual to the National SAR



George Washington Endowment Fund that supports various national and state projects.

Chapter President Ken Wilson presented the award to Rev. Jones at his home with family present. The citation reads: "Duncan Haywood

Jones is awarded the NCSSAR Honorary George Washington Fellow. Acknowledgment is hereby made by the North Carolina Society, Sons of the American Revolution, for selfless dedication and outstanding support of the cause and mission of the SAR. The SAR is indebted to Compatriot Jones for his many contributions, leadership and inspiration to the Society."



During a recent Court of Honor for Troop 144 in Roanoke Rapids, Eagle Scout Aaron James Shaw was presented with an SAR Eagle Scout Recognition Certificate "for outstanding achievement and exceptional leadership and citizenship evidenced by his attainment of the rank of Eagle Scout." The presentation was made by Chapter President Wilson.

A four-day commemoration of Memorial Day was held at River Falls Park in Roanoke Rapids on May 26-29. The culminating event at Cedarwood Cemetery included a presentation of colors, as well as a flag-folding and wreath-laying at the veterans monument. The keynote speaker was Chapter President Wilson (pictured right).

The following remarks from Ken's passionate speech were referenced by the online news journal rrspin.com: "Today we need to stop and reflect, regardless of our political affiliation, race, creed or religious belief, on the sacrifices that have been and are being made by so few for so many. Let us not take our freedoms for granted—these freedoms



that have been purchased by the blood of so many over the past 246 years. Our fallen are buried in cemeteries around the world....There is more ground soaked in the blood of our heroes than we may want to think about, but we must. There is a saying among the veterans: 'All Gave Some, Some Gave All.' I want you to think about that ladies and gentleman. Today we honor the memory of those who gave their all for each of us." See event photos at <https://tinyurl.com/k5mt48nk>.



David Thomas Graeter of Troop 144 in Roanoke Rapids was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout at a recent Court of Honor. His Eagle Scout project was the beautification of Cedarwood Cemetery. Chapter President Ken Wilson recognized Graeter's achievement by awarding him the SAR Eagle Scout Recognition Certificate "for outstanding achievement

and exceptional leadership and citizenship evidenced by his attainment of the rank of Eagle Scout."



Representing the Chapter and the NCSSAR, Chapter President Ken Wilson attended the Memorial Day ceremony in Littleton sponsored by the local American Legion Post 308. Pictured with Ken is Dick Kohl, Commander.

Chapter President Ken Wilson was speaker recently at a gathering of descendants of the two sons of Revolutionary War Patriot Col. John



Whitaker of Halifax County. Col. Whitaker’s two migrated south and west after the Revolution.

The presentation titled “Halifax County: A Glimpse into the Past” informed the group on the formation of Halifax County

and its role in the Revolution. Included were stories about individuals in the County at the time and Cornwallis’ occupation of Halifax in 1781.

In appreciation, Whitaker descendant Betsy Brodie Roberts, a member of the Brunswick Town Chapter NCSDAR, presented Wilson with a first edition copy of the book *Rebel Boast* by Manly Wade Wellman.

Ken Wilson, President
Halifax Resolves Chapter NCSSAR



Lower Cape Fear Chapter

The Brunswick Town Chapter NCSDAR and Lower Cape Fear Chapter jointly sponsored a grave marking ceremony on May 7 in Southport, NC at the residence of Stephen Harney. Steve authorized the placement of a granite footstone on his property at the grave of Capt. John Conyers,



a Patriot Cavalryman in the 1st NC Regiment, who was born and died there.

Chapter President Dr. Jack H. Albert Jr. led the ceremony with Chaplain Tom Waltz presiding over the dedication of the footstone. Other chapter members participated in the ceremony, including singing a rousing rendition of *My Country 'Tis of Thee*. Photograph includes SAR and DAR participants with property owner Steve Harney (pictured far right, back).



Gary O. Green, Lt. Col., USAF (Ret.)
Vice President
Lower Cape Fear Chapter NCSSAR



New Bern Chapter

Newest members Trey Tyson III and Jerry Porter were inducted into the New Bern Chapter NCSSAR on April 2 at the Pollock Street Gate, Tryon Palace, New Bern.



Joining Trey (pictured above) for the ceremony were his parents Chuck and Jeannie Tyson, wife Ashleigh, daughter Ava and sister Leanna. Jeannie and Leanna are members of the Richard Dobbs Spaight Chapter NCSDAR. Jerry (not pictured) was joined by his wife Naomi, a member of the Joseph Montfort Chapter NCSDAR.

On March 30, Chapter President Dr. Bob Ainsley visited with Mrs. Williams' and Mrs. Gaskins' fourth grade students of The Epiphany School of Global Studies, New Bern, to discuss the SAR Americanism Poster Contest.

Dr. Ainsley's presentation began with an overview of the purpose, rules, details and some sample event ideas for the contest. He then introduced students to the Rudyard Kipling poem, *I Keep Six Honest Serving Men*, and the importance of Kipling's men. He emphasized the "What, Why, When, How, Where and Who" of conducting research on a chosen topic, then storyboarding the poster concept to tell their individual event or story.



The students were well-versed on American Revolution events. They enthusiastically peppered Dr. Ainsley with many questions, a credit to their parents and teachers and to the effectiveness of their school curriculum.

Billy Franklin Gordon Jr. and Kyle Robert Donham were inducted into the New Bern Chapter NCSSAR on April 9 at the William Hollister House in New Bern. Billy's Patriot Ancestor was Francis Hester who provided Patriot service at Granville. Kyle's Patriot Ancestor was Nathaniel Dunham who served as a Private in the 1st N.J. Regiment, Continental Line. Pictured (L-R) are Chapter Secretary Scott Brick, Billy Gordon, Jr., Chapter President Dr. Bob Ainsley, Kyle Donham and Chapter Flag Committee Chair Lee Purcell.



In a Partners in Patriotism event, the New Bern Chapter Color Guard presented the Colors at the National Flag Day ceremony at the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, New Bern Lodge No. 764 on June 11. Seven historical flags were highlighted and presented individually by the Color Guard during the hour-long ceremony.

Pictured (below L-R) are members who participated in the event were Jeff Perkins (National Ensign Flag), Bruce Martin (48 Star Flag), Color Guard Commander Bob Rigg (Star-Spangled Banner Flag), Aiden Skeens (New Bern Chapter Standard); Lee Purcell (Betsy Ross Flag), Dr. Bob Ainsley (Grand Union Flag), Rob Webster (Gadsden Flag), and Danny Hilton (Washington Cruiser Flag) of the Andrew Jackson Organizing Chapter NCSSAR.

Other New Bern Chapter members attending the ceremony were Dr. Bob Mull and his wife Sally. Bobbi Webster, wife of Rob Webster and member of the Richard Dobbs Spaight Chapter NCSDAR was also present. Over 100 people attended the ceremony.



**Dr. Bob Ainsley, President
New Bern Chapter NCSSAR**



Raleigh Chapter

On April 7, the Raleigh Chapter NCSSAR Color Guard presented the Colors at the ribbon cutting and dedication of the new North Carolina National Guard Museum (NCGM). They were accompanied by State SAR Color Guard Commander George Strunk of the Gen. George Washington Chapter NCSSAR.

The Color Guard was invited to participate by the museum Curator and Chapter Vice President Gary Spencer. The museum opening was attended by North Carolina National Guard Adjutant General Maj. Gen. M. Todd Hunt and other North Carolina State government officials.

The NCNGM represents the Army and Air National Guard. It collects, preserves and displays artifacts, documents and memorabilia that have historical significance. The museum also includes a research library, interactive displays and a theater. The mission of the Museum is to preserve and explain the military heritage of North Carolina and enhance public understanding of how armed conflicts and military institutions have shaped our



Photo courtesy WTVD-TV Raleigh-Durham, ABC11 News, April 7, 2022.

state and national experience. Located on Blue Ridge Road across the from NC Museum of Art, NCNGM accepts donations of North Carolina National Guard artifacts dating back to 1663. Learn more about the NCNGM and its operations at <https://tinyurl.com/bddpku8h>.

Through the Flag Award, the National SAR recognizes demonstrated respect for our nation's flag as one of its principles and ideals of patriotic service. On April 20, 2022, the Raleigh Chapter presented the Flag Award to cadets of North Carolina State University Air Force ROTC Detachment 595 for continuous participation in the Color Guard through their senior year. The awards were presented by Chapter Vice President Gary Spencer to Cadets Bennet A. Houston, Kaitlyn R. Laney, Nicholas Z. Zajd, Keith M. Fetzner, Ian T. Lamb, and John R. Parrish at the unit's annual awards ceremony.

Color Guard Commanders go above and beyond their duties by assuming the responsibility for leading events which demonstrate respect for our national flag and inspire patriotism in others through ceremony. Vice President Spencer was also pleased to present Cadets Matthew R. Howard (pictured right) and Rebecca L. Daniels (pictured right) with the SAR Taunton Challenge Coin for service as this year's NCSU AFROTC Color Guard Commanders.



The Taunton flag was the first one raised during the Revolution. Hoisted on a liberty pole by the Sons of Liberty in Taunton, MA, on Oct. 21, 1774, it read "Liberty and Union", reflecting the colonists' desire to protect their rights as Englishmen (see <https://tinyurl.com/ydkrnawx>).

Another principle of patriotic service promoted by the National SAR is support for the volunteer citizen-soldier, as represented by those who answered the call to service during the American Revolution. On Apr. 23, 2022, the Raleigh Chapter presented the Outstanding Cadet Medal and Award to JROTC Cadet Hunter Vance Wood of South Johnston High School in Johnston County, NC, for



superior leadership qualities, military bearing, and excellence in volunteer service that exemplifies the high ideals and principles which motivated and sustained our patriot ancestors.

The award was presented by his Senior Aerospace Science Instructor, Lt. Col. Eric Brewington (Ret.) and retired CSM Thomas Pigford (Ret.).

At the same ceremony the Raleigh Chapter presented the SAR Flag Award to cadets of South Johnston High School Air Force JROTC for continuous participation in Color Guards through to their senior year. The awards were presented by the cadre to Cadets Alexia Alonso-Careterro, Amy Beltran, Kody Butler, Armando Delgado, and Katherine Fair, Theresa Jones, Kacee Owens at the unit's annual awards ceremony.

The Raleigh Chapter presented the National SAR Bronze ROTC Medal and to Cadet Ensign Logan Doody at the U.S. Navy JROTC annual awards

program at Clayton High School in Clayton, NC, on May 13. The medal was presented by his Senior Naval Science Instructor Lt. Col. David Garnish USMC (Ret.) who noted the following in his comments: "Cadet ENS Doody is a young leader in the



program and due to his stellar performance has earned the billet of Platoon Commander in just his second year in the program. Cadet ENS Doody is a leader in community service and is always available to help teach and train the other cadets." Doody is planning on a military career after graduation from college.

Karl G. Feld, Communications Director
Raleigh Chapter NCSSAR



Sandhills Chapter

Chapter Compatriot Maj. Charles (Chuck) Spelman U.S. Army (Ret.) of Seven Lakes, NC, designed and built two containers (pictured) for the public to

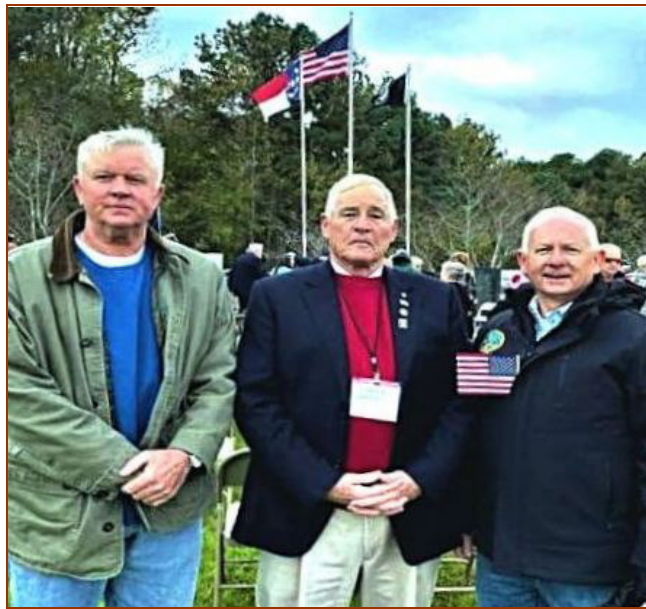


use to retire weather worn U.S. Flags. Chuck is also Chapter Veterans Recognition Committee Chair. One of these containers was placed in the lobby of the Moore County Public Offices building near the Veterans Services Office.

The other container was placed at the entrance to the Veterans Memorial Park in Carthage.

Worn U.S. Flags should never be disposed of in trash collections. Per the Flag Law, "The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning," (*U.S. Code, Title 4, Chapter 1, The Flag, Section 8, Respect for the Flag, Para. [k]*).

The public response to this Flag Retirement program has been outstanding. In only a few months,



74 weather worn flags have been folded and deposited. These flags are provided to local funeral parlors and crematoriums and made available to the families of our fallen Veterans. Compatriot Spelman is pictured (above center).



Color Guard Report

The NCSSAR Color Guard was well represented at the recent 81st Annual NCSCAR State Conference and Debutant Presentation in Wilmington on March 26. Four Color Guardsmen presented, posted and retired the Colors.



Pictured (L-R) are Danny Hilton, Lower Cape Fear Chapter; State SAR President Jay DeLoach, New Bern Chapter; Gary Green, Lower Cape Fear Chapter; and State SAR Color Guard Commander George Strunk,

Gen. George Washington Chapter. Debutantes pictured (L-R) are Bethany Bickett Westbrook, Savannah Belle Ikner, Jayden Bray Strum and Daisy Kehres Dolicker.

GEORGE STRUNK, Commander
Color Guard NCSSAR

BOOK REVIEW

The Right that Rules the Rest

by Ralph D. Nelson Jr., PhD

Keyssar, Alexander. (2009). *The right to vote: The contested history of democracy in the United States* (revised ed.). New York: Basic Books. 494 pages.

This book provides a detailed exploration of how the states have defined suffrage (the right or privilege to vote) as the nation has changed since 1789, when the U.S. Constitution was approved. Voting is the primary way that the average resident can influence the government. Widespread voting by citizens is clearly necessary if a nation is to be governed by the consent of the governed. Still, there are ongoing debates about (a) whether the vote is a right or a privilege, (b) who should determine which individuals may vote, and (c) what issues those individuals may vote on.

During the pre-Revolution era, colonists chose their representatives to the colonial legislatures through votes conducted by the county sheriff at a local meeting. Since the costs of being a representative were borne by the individual, counties elected affluent men. In the mid-1770s, delegates to the Continental

Congress were mostly men of property, with experience in managing their own businesses as well as state business. A few less wealthy men, for example, Sam Adams, were sent by wealthy supporters who favored independence.

The delegates to the 1789 Constitutional Convention had many issues to settle. They defined the number of representatives and senators for each state. The selection of people to fill those offices was left up to each state as each had done for the Continental Congress.

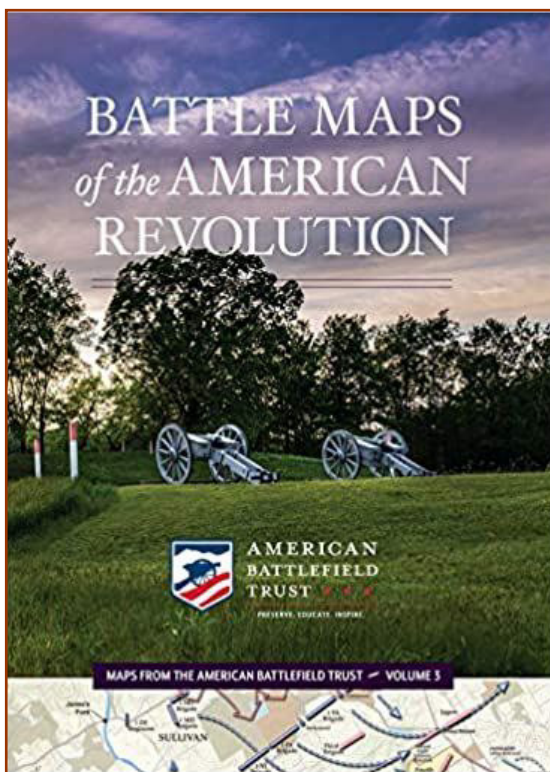
From the start there were differences between the states in allocating suffrage. Only New Jersey allowed women to vote. Only Delaware required residency for two years. Only New York required Quakers to sign a pledge of allegiance to the state. Those in power wished to remain there, so they passed laws and wrote statutes to preserve their control by denying the vote to those groups that might oppose them.

The Constitution calls for a decennial census to determine a state's representatives based on state population [Article I, Section 2, clauses 2, 3]. The first specification for taking

a census occurred in the 1790 Census Act. That census counted free white males and females, all other free persons (excepting Indians not taxed), and slaves. Per the Constitution only three-fifths the number of slaves would count toward representation. The Constitution does not specify who among these counted persons could vote or for what.

The prevalent theory of who has a right to vote was that the person should be a freeman whose views were not dependent on an employer or spouse AND who had contributed money (via taxes) or time (as an elected or appointed official or volunteer) to community projects approved by the government. This dismissed the contributions of such "dependents" as young militia members (who were expected to help defend the town), women (who raised and taught the youth and fed and clothed the men), and farm workers (who built the wealth of the farms).

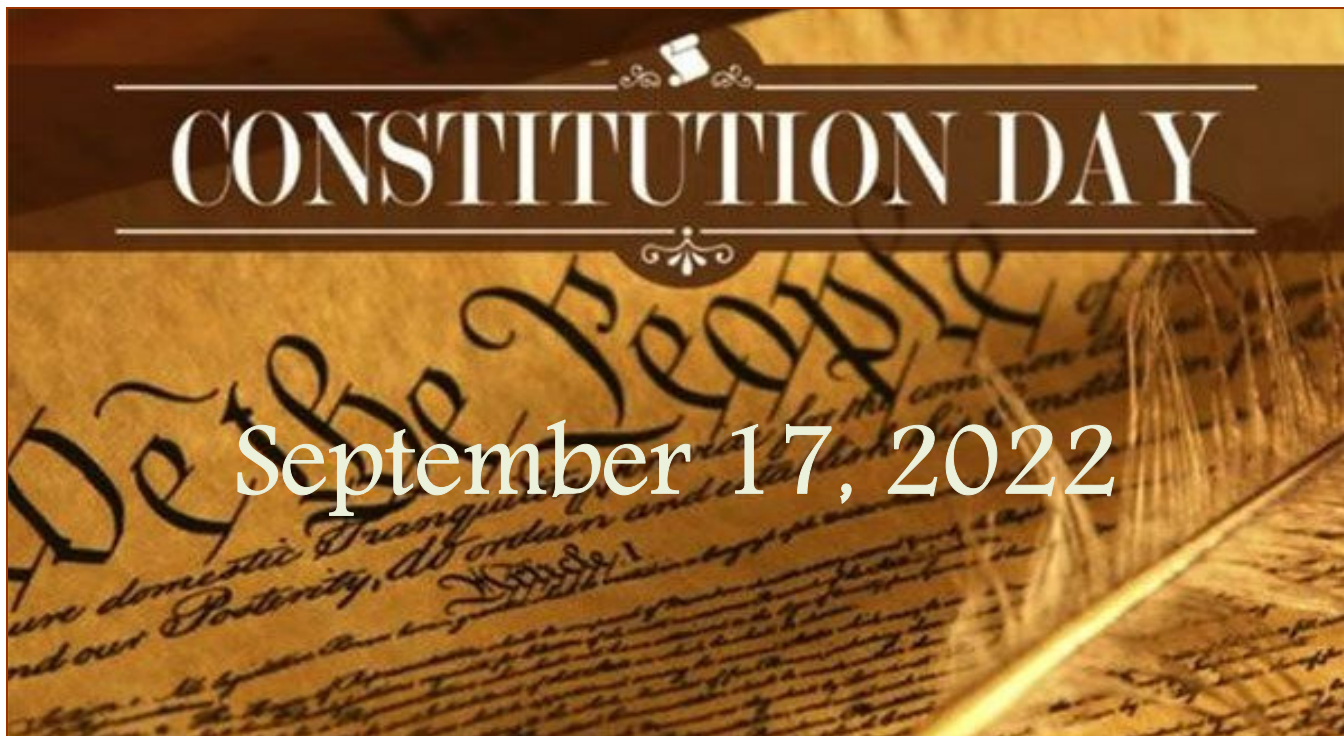
The author provides a comprehensive set of tables and endnotes comprising one-third of the book. Also included are interesting narratives of the social and political negotiations covering decades as perceived



threats to the established order arose and were resolved or deferred. Major themes determining suffrage are treated in separate chapters: property and taxes; length of residence; pauper status (or receiving support from government); race; citizenship; criminal record; occupation; literacy; gender; Native American status; national origin; age (lower, upper); and mental capability.

The phrase "one man, one vote" sounds good, but many people in the U.S. are denied the vote, for example, children. What we really have is "several people, one vote." In North Carolina the population in 2020 was 10.4 million, while the number of votes cast in the 2020 Presidential election was 5.5 million. Mathematically, then, one voter represented the concerns of 1.9 people.

Beyond the vote is the question of who decides what choices are available to us to vote on? A small minority of people actively participate in the political party meetings that nominate candidates and decide what positions to support on major issues. Those few active local party members may be influenced by an even smaller group of state party members and lobbyists who have much to gain or lose by government actions, taxes, and expenditures. Therein lies the true power driving governance.



Such special interests can arrange to have rules established and barriers erected to allow control by a small number of officials. They can then block passage of legislation favored by a large majority of voters and their representatives and senators. The election of a Senator from California (population 39 million) requires roughly 39 times as many votes as the election of a Senator from Delaware whose population is one million. The U.S. Senate filibuster rule, which has no Constitutional basis, allows 40 percent of the Senate to block most major proposals, so a nay vote has 1.5 times the power of a yea vote. On several occasions, the Electoral College has certified as President a candidate who received significantly fewer popular votes than his opponent.

Keyssar's conclusion is that, although the Declaration of Independence asserted that "all men are created equal" and that the goal of governance was "liberty and justice for all" or "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," the power of an individual's vote varies widely among states and in the passage versus defeat of legislation.

Our ancestors rejected the attempts of King George to deny colonists representation in determining taxation and to invalidate the elections of legislatures. Today we should work to eliminate similar barriers to equal representation under the law. If we lose the right to cast an effective vote, we may soon have no other rights.

Editor's Note: Dr. Nelson is a contributing author and consulting editor for *The Old North State*.

SONS REVOLUTION FORMED IN STATE

Organization Perfected in Rocky Mount; Last In Union To Organize

Rocky Mount, Feb. 6.—Organization of the North Carolina Society of the Sons of the American Revolution was perfected at a largely attended meeting of Tar Heel citizens from various cities and towns of the State here this afternoon and tonight. The organization, which made North Carolina the final State of the Union to come into the patriotic society, started off with 87 charter members, with the charter membership list to remain open until March 1. Local chapters are expected to be organized in Rocky Mount, Raleigh, Greensboro, Tarboro, Lincolnton, Asheville, Durham and Charlotte.

Officers for the State society, as chosen here today, included:

President, J. Harrison G. Otis, of Rocky Mount; vice-presidents, Park Matheson, of Raleigh, E. W. Wilson, of Asheville, H. E. Coleman, of Greensboro, J. E. Willoughby, of Wilmington, J. E. Ward Ailen, of Warrenton, Wiley M. Pickens, of Lincolnton, W. G. Bramham, of Durham, and Eugene Holt, of Burlington; secretary-registrar, I. D. Thorp, of Rocky Mount; historian, William T. Whitsett, of Whitsett; treasurer, Thomas A. Avera, of Rocky Mount; national trustee, Dr. D. T. Smithwick, of Louisburg; chaplain, Rev. F. H. Craighill, of Rocky Mount.

The city at which the first annual convention of the State society is yet to be selected, with invitations expected from Rocky Mount, Raleigh and Greensboro. Following the organization meeting this afternoon, attended by representatives from a number of North Carolina cities and towns, and prominent officers of the national organization, the members of the society were honor guests at the weekly meeting of the Current Topics Club at which Frank B. Steele, secretary general of the national organization, of Washington, and A. R. Newsome, secretary of the North Carolina Historical Commission, were speakers.

NCSSAR Nears Centennial Anniversary

The NC Society of the SAR has a rich history. Many Compatriots may not be aware of its beginnings. Formally established in the early decades of the twentieth century, NCSSAR will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2028. The State SAR charter meeting was held on February 6, 1928 in Rocky Mount. The story (pictured left) was reported and published in *The News & Observer* of Raleigh, the State's leading newspaper at the time.

**Gary Spencer, Historian
NCSSAR**

Webster Wins Photo Contest

Announced on April 6 by SAR Historian General Jim Lindley, the winner of the 2021 Thomas Jefferson Bond Jr. Memorial Photo Contest is Compatriot Robert Webster of the New Bern Chapter NCSSAR. Robert snapped the winning photo (pictured) on August 28, 2021 at the Chapter's observance of the 247th Commemoration of the First North Carolina Provincial Congress and the resulting New Bern Resolves of August 27, 1774.



The photo captures the two-block march down Middle Street, flanked by 50 Scouts with U.S. Flags. The procession comprised more than 30 NCSSAR Color Guardsmen, the Christ Episcopal Church minister, the Tryon Palace Fife and Drum Corps, and Richard Dobbs Spaight Chapter NCSDAR representatives.

This annual SAR award recognizes the Compatriot whose photographic entry is most representative of the spirit of patriotism. The contest is judged by the SAR Historian General, Historic Sites Chair and the *SAR Magazine* Editor. Presentation of the award that includes a certificate and check for \$1,000 will be made at National Congress in Savannah, GA in July. Robert's photo along with a citation of his award will appear in an upcoming issue of *SAR Magazine*.

Maligned Patriot Hero: Major General Horatio Gates Part 1

By Stephen P. McKee

THE
OLD
NORTH
STATE
JULY
2022

NC Society Sons of the American Revolution

One of the unfortunate things about history is our tendency to follow the more popular and fanciful versions of events rather than the way they actually unfolded. In turn, many heroes are declared villains from half- and distorted truths or outright falsehoods.

Maj. Gen. Horatio Gates is certainly a case in point. Historical views of him are typically informed not only by unsupported declarations from historians, but drawn from narrow Hollywood portrayals of the man. The end result is a great exaggeration of his faults while intentionally minimizing his commendable traits.



By examining period sources, including letters both public and private, we see a different man. Rather than finding him an antagonistic schemer against George Washington or one who possessed little or no military talent, we instead find a man who was an ardent Patriot. He was a modestly gifted military officer and an unparalleled military administrator, a man without whom the Continental Army may very well have not succeeded.

Historical documents provide a more genuine picture of the man who easily demonstrates his contributions to the Cause of Liberty and to the Continental Army that would ultimately secure it. The documented facts on record greatly outweigh any of his pernicious qualities.

So, what is known about Maj. Gen. Horatio Gates? Consider a few popular, unfounded assertions about him.

Assertion One: *He claimed credit for the victory at Saratoga, but it was really Benedict Arnold who won the day!*

At best, Benedict Arnold's leadership forced the capitulation of Johnny Burgoyne's Army a few days earlier than it would have been otherwise. The events in the weeks and months leading up to the Battles of Saratoga had all but secured the inevitability of British surrender.

Throughout the summer of 1777, Gen. Burgoyne had pushed deep into Upstate New York, capturing Fort Ticonderoga and driving towards his objective—the capture of Albany. This stretched his lines of communication and supply desperately thin, and Burgoyne looked for opportunities to replenish his army from the surrounding countryside.

In August, Burgoyne sent a detachment of around 1,000 men to seize horses and supplies at Bennington, VT. Local militia, as well as a detachment of Continentals under the overall command of General John Stark, soundly defeated this force, killing 200 and capturing 700.

On September 19, 1777 Gen. Benjamin Lincoln began a campaign to assault Fort Ticonderoga and its surrounding environs, directly threatening the tenuous supply line remaining to Burgoyne. Although Fort Ticonderoga remained in British hands, the surrounding countryside was easily seized and controlled by the Americans, cutting off Burgoyne's only line of retreat. During the raid, it was also learned that Burgoyne had, at most, three to four weeks of rations and supplies remaining. This information was immediately sent to Gen. Gates.

NATIONAL PURPLE HEART DAY

*"A time for Americans
to pause to remember and honor the brave
men and women
who were either wounded on the battlefield or
paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives."*

August 7, 2022



Also on September 19, Burgoyne was within 15 miles of Albany. There he encountered the entrenched American force under Gates, and won a small tactical victory at Freemans Farm, though at extreme cost to his army. Even in victory, the British were effectively surrounded by multiple American forces.

Throughout the rest of September and into October 1777, daily clashes between sentries and pickets of the two armies took place. Burgoyne held a desperate correspondence with Sir Henry Clinton, requesting immediate relief from the British Army in New York City. Gates received constant intelligence on the condition of Burgoyne's force from British deserters, and had intercepted Clinton's letter informing Burgoyne no relief force was coming. All Gates had to do was keep the pressure on Burgoyne until his supplies ran out in two weeks' time. Victory was all but assured.

Burgoyne knew there was no way out, his supplies were diminished, and it was just a matter of time until he had to surrender. He decided to give battle on October 7. His attack was unsuccessful, and the American counterattack, led by a possibly drunk and angry Benedict Arnold, succeeded in capturing British redoubts and placed the British camp in great danger. Burgoyne then decided to retreat to Saratoga.

The popular myth that Arnold secured the victory and that Gates took the credit is just that, an unsupported myth. The British were effectively beaten, and all that was required to repulse the attack and tighten the noose. Had Arnold's antics failed, Burgoyne may have been able to exploit that failure and breakout of the American encirclement. Thus, Arnold's action at that battle took an unnecessary risk and really did not contribute anything but drama to the ultimate American victory.

Editor's Note: Stephen P. McKee is the NCSSAR Foothills Region Vice President. He is Past President and Past Color Guard Commander of Mecklenburg Chapter. Part 2 of this article will appear in the upcoming October issue of *ONS*.

Blue Ridge Hosts Genealogy Workshop

Guests from Western North Carolina received genealogy guidance and instruction from five speakers at the SAR Genealogy Workshop sponsored by the Blue Ridge Chapter NCSSAR on April 2. With a burgeoning interest among people who want to identify their ancestral roots, many devotees find road blocks to documenting family lineage.

Held at the East Asheville Library, the workshop provided documentation materials and resources to trace an individual's ancestors as well as insight from retired NCSSAR Genealogist David Gammon



(pictured). Other speakers included Kathleen Cutshall of the Asheville Pack Library, Marilee Ossip of the LDS Genealogy Library, Brenda Canter of the NCSDAR, and Chapter Vice President Steve Greene of the Old Buncombe County Genealogical Society. The event organizer and spokesman was Chapter Registrar Michael Burkhardt.

“We have seen a steady increase in membership interest from residents in Western North Carolina over the past year,” commented Chapter President Craig Isaacson. “Our Chapter alone has seen an increase in membership from 62 members in January 2020 to 80 in April 2022. Twelve additional individuals who will be affiliated with our Chapter have membership applications pending approval by National SAR in Louisville, KY. Scores of people have found a hidden desire to learn more about their heritage.”

With over 20 attendees in the initial audience, the Blue Ridge Chapter is considering hosting a fall event in the Henderson County area so that additional residents can be accommodated.

CRAIG ISSACSON, President
Blue Ridge Chapter, NCSSAR

FLAGS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

The Washington's Cruisers Flag

By Robert Webster

Under the “Mast Preservation Clause” in the 1691 Massachusetts Charter, Great Britain laid claim to any white pine measuring greater than 24 inches in diameter. A law enacted by the New Hampshire Parliament made it illegal to cut any white pine tree measuring 12 inches or more. The “mast pines,” as they were called due to their suitability for use as a single-stick masts or booms, were identified by a Surveyor of the King's Woods, and marked with a broad arrow for export to England.



Not surprising, Colonial Americans resented the restrictions on timber, as it was vital for their own livelihoods. Despite this law, many continued to harvest the marked trees. Interestingly, this law caused more anger and backlash than either the Stamp Act or the Tea Tax, and eventually resulted in the Pine Tree Riot of 1772.

Rooted (forgive the pun) in this history, the pine tree became a symbol of independence. Its image was used on several different flags throughout the Revolutionary War time period. Probably the most famous of these flags was the Washington's Cruisers Flag.

In his attempt to drive the British from New England waters, Col. Joseph Reed, an aide to General Washington, suggested that the Washington Cruisers Flag be flown from the seven ships personally outfitted by George Washington. These ships were sailing before the Continental Navy was formed by Congress in late 1775, making them the de facto first Navy of the United States.

Editor's Note: MSgt. Robert Webster, USMC (Ret.) is the New Bern Chapter Vice President. newbernars@gmail.com



MUSKET RAFFLE

to support the
2026 SAR Congress in North Carolina



Don't miss your chance to add this beautiful and functional reproduction to your collection whether for display or to complete your trappings as a Colorguardsman. And not only that, but all proceeds will go to support the SAR's 2026 Congress which will be held in North Carolina

This reproduction 1748 Long Land (1st Model) Brown Bess, manufactured by Veteran Arms LLC, is faithful to the original in design and functionality. It features a .74 caliber barrel, brass hardware, and double bridle lock. The metal ramrod and cast brass nose cap distinguishes the musket as a later variation of the long-lived Long Land muskets. The weapon has proper lock markings, aprons, and brass furniture. It comes with a limited warranty. The musket's hammer has been adequately hardened and comes with a lifetime re-hardening guarantee.



Tickets are \$10 or 6 for \$50

To purchase online, go to <https://go.eventgroovefundraising.com/ncssar2023>
or text the word "Musket" to 406-302-5086.

To purchase by mail, email ncssar.fundraising@gmail.com for instructions.

You must be at least 18 years of age to purchase raffle entries.

Tickets will be available until January 31, 2023 @ 12:55 PM.

The drawing will be held on January 31, 2023 @ 1:00 PM.



246th Anniversary of the Halifax Resolves Celebrated

The Halifax Resolves Chapter NCSSAR hosted the celebration of the 246th Anniversary of the Halifax Resolves on the site of the Colonial Courthouse in Halifax, NC. SAR South Atlantic District Vice President-General (VPG) Patrick J. Niemann represented the National Society. NSSAR Vice-Commander of the Color Guard Brooks Lyle directed the Color Guard.

Historic Halifax Site Manager Carl Burk welcomed everyone to the ceremony. Chapter President Ken Wilson served as Master of Ceremonies. Greetings were brought by NCSSAR President Jay A. DeLoach; South Atlantic VPG Patrick J. Niemann; VASSAR President R. Bruce Myer; NCSCAR President Davis Benedict; NCSSAR President Emeritus Daniel L. Hopping; and American Legion Post 38 Cmdr. Col. David Sammon, USAF (Ret.).

Mr. Vernon J. Bryant, Chairman of the Halifax County Board of Commissioners, brought greetings from the County and presented Compatriot Wilson with a proclamation from the Board of Commissioner in support of the event. Mr. William H. Riggan, Registrar of the Halifax Resolves Chapter introduced the guest speaker Mr. Mark Pace who was in the persona of John Penn, a Delegate to the Fourth Provincial Congress in Halifax and a delegate to the Second Continental Congress.

Following Mr. Pace's presentation, VPG Niemann presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation. The NSSAR wreath was presented by VPG Niemann and State society wreaths were presented by their respective presidents. NCSSAR Chapters presenting wreaths were Halifax Resolves, Alamance Battleground, Gen. George Washington, Kings Mountain, Lower Cape Fear, Mecklenburg, New Bern, and Raleigh.

VASSAR Chapters presenting wreaths were Culpepper Minutemen, Dan River and Thomas Nelson Jr. NCSDAR Chapters presenting wreaths were Brunswick Town, Elizabeth Montford-Ashe, John Penn, Susanna Coutanch Evans, and Shocco Creek. The VASDAR was represented by the Fauquier Court House Chapter.



Honors were also rendered by American Legion Post 38 and the Halifax County Government. Finally, NCSSAR President DeLoach presented NCSCAR President Davis Benedict and NCSCAR Senior President Kathleen Benedict with the Silver CAR Medal of Appreciation.

KEN WILSON, President
Halifax Resolves Chapter NCSSAR

THE
OLD
NORTH
STATE
JULY
2022

NC Society Sons of the American Revolution

20

Let Freedom Ring

Independence Day
July 4, 2022

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/willzhang05/>

Reconstruction of a Champion

by Dr. Michael Arnette, DDS

I first heard about her when two of my friends, one a retired Marine Colonel and the other an accomplished skirmisher, discovered her scattered parts on a sutler's table at Fort Shenandoah, Winchester, VA, the site of the North South Skirmish Association National Championships. Pitifully dismantled, she was a smooth-bore military flint musket from the Revolutionary War era.

My skirmisher friend wanted a parts gun, so he bought the 'pile of parts' from the Marine Colonel. Later, a gunsmith who was a regionally prominent shooter worked the parts together the best that he could. Many years later, a renowned gunsmith, himself a world and national champion, perfectly reassembled the smoothbore musket with the greatest of care. Restored, it was promptly remanded to a gun safe.

When one of my friends could not repay a sizeable loan to me, he settled by giving me an original Harpers Ferry lock and the reassembled smoothbore musket. It was again tenderly placed in a safe for years.

The second gunsmith who expertly reassembled her urged me to take her out and shoot it. He said, "Mike, that gun is a shooter!" I accepted his challenge, worked up a load, and at 50 meters offhand, the musket shot tens more than nines on the 200-meter French military rifle target.

Thus began my love affair with this special musket. I went on to shoot her in Zone International matches, winning a gold medal with a 94 offhand at 50 meters. A year or so later at the World Championships in Pforzeim, Germany, my little musket earned a silver medal.



Sometime between Zone and World matches, the barrel accidentally slipped to the edge of the safe where I kept her, and the door slowly closed on it. Trapping the barrel tip, the door dented the muzzle like a piece of pie. Incredibly, the gunsmith who successfully breathed life back into her earlier was able to resuscitate her again.

The musket was of great interest to one young skirmisher who I would see annually at World International matches. Dreaming of a time when he could use it himself in World competition, he pestered me every year with questions about the award-winning musket.

Eventually, I consented to loan the smooth-bore musket to him, along with two other medal-winning guns of mine that I thought still had winning potential. He allowed me to coach him, and I shared every-thing with him that I knew

about the three rifles. He proceeded to pull a fourth place win in his first Worlds competition in Austria with one of the guns I loaned him.

The smoothbore eventually returned home to me (pictured above), where I used her in a recent competition to shoot at 100 meters. She continues to give me great joy and to show herself unusually special. You see, the 'Champion' referred to in the title of this article is the smoothbore musket, not the marksman.

Editor's Note: Member of the Gen. George Washington Chapter, Dr. Michael Arnette is a practicing oral and maxillo-facial surgeon in Kinston. He is planning a future article that will focus on questions-and-answers from Compatriots. Email your questions to the ONS Editor at jpsutton56@gmail.com.

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SUBMISSION DEADLINES

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

Newsletter Contest Winners

Two NCSSAR newsletters have earned best all-around honors in the 2021 National SAR Newsletter Contests. Raleigh Chapter's newsletter, **The Patriot Journal** (David M. Bamford, Editor) and the State SAR newsletter, **The Old North State** (Joe P. Sutton, Editor) were selected top winners. The editors were notified of their awards on June 6 by SAR Newsletters and Publications Subcommittee Chair Toby Chamberlain.

The Raleigh Chapter newsletter will receive the Carl F. Bessent Award (for chapter-level newsletters of five or more pages). The State SAR newsletter will receive the Grahame T. Smallwood Jr.

Award (for state-level newsletters that exceed ten pages with a society membership of more than 500 members). Winning newsletter entries have been prominently posted at the SAR website (see <https://tinyurl.com/cyhsa62a>). The awards will be presented at National Congress in Savannah, GA in July.

Scoring for the contests focused on basic and editorial content as well as appearance and presentation of newsletters. "Excellent journalism will always be important," said Sutton, but "Good communication is the goal, not awards or accolades" (SAR *Guidelines for Award Judges*, p. 3).



NCSSAR Calendar

See https://ncssar.org/ecwd_calendar/calendar/ for updates.

- July 4:** Fourth of July parade, Faith, NC; Independence Day celebration, Raleigh Chapter, State Capitol, TBA.
- July 9-15:** National SAR Congress, Savannah, GA.
- July 13:** Blue Ridge Chapter executive meeting, TBA.
- July 23:** 242nd Anniversary of the Battle of Colson's Mill, Norwood, NC, 11:00 AM.
- July 30:** Battle of Rockfish Creek, Wallace, NC. 10:00 AM.
- Aug. 6:** 241st Anniversary of the attack at the House in the Horseshoe, Sandhills Chapter, Sanford, NC, 10:00 AM.
- Aug. 13:** Tryon Resolves, TBA; Battle of Camden, TBA.
- Aug. 20:** NCSSAR Summer Board of Managers meeting, TBA.
- Aug. 27:** 248th Anniversary of New Bern Resolves, Colonial Chapel, New Bern, 11:00 AM; Battle of Elizabethtown, TBA.
- Sept. 3:** Battle of Eutaw Springs, TBA.
- Sept. 17:** Washington's Tomb Vigil, TBA.
- Sept. 17-23:** Constitution Day and week, TBA.
- Sept. 29-Oct. 1:** NCSSAR Fall Leadership meeting, TBA.

