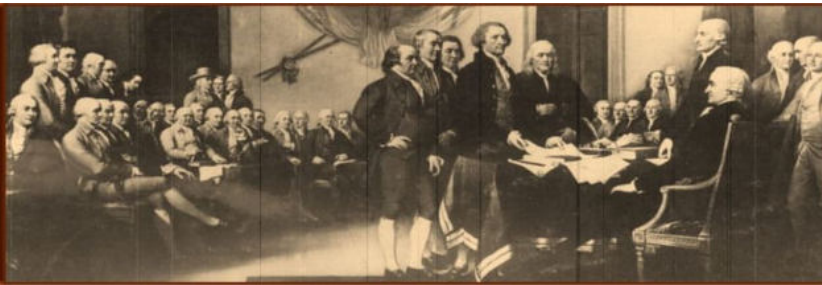


The Old North State



Newsletter of the North Carolina Society of the Sons of the American Revolution • Vol. 26 No. 2 • April 2023

President's Message

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



NC Compatriots,

For the second year in a row, the Editorial Committee and lead Editor Dr. Joe Sutton of *The Old North State* news-

letter have captured the *Grahame T. Smallwood, Jr. Newsletter Award* for 2022. This coveted award is presented by National SAR to the state-level society with more than 500 members, judged as having the best periodical or newsletter that exceeds ten pages. Congratulations. Well done!

In addition, State Leadership has been notified that the NC Society was the top large state society for the *USS Stark Memorial Award*. Because we won last year, guidelines stipulate that we may only receive Honorable Mention, with first place going to the Georgia Society. Also, the New Bern Chapter placed first among 77 medium-sized chapters nationally in this same competition. BRAVO ZULU to everyone who helped in our Veterans programs.

We learned as well at SAR Spring Leadership that the NC Society outperformed the TX Society (123-120) in the number of DAR Finder Forms submitted with new member applications. As a result, the NCSDAR will receive a certificate and a cash award at the upcoming National Congress in Orlando. Because of everyone's hard work in executing the SAR mission and its programs in 2022, we could potentially capture a few more awards and recognitions at Congress.

Effective training is important for our State Society to flourish. To the extent that leaders and members avail themselves of available resources, we should realize growth. Consider these resources on the SAR website eLearning tab (<http://bit.ly/3nTkG1q>; requires logon):

- Compatriot Training
- Registrar Training
- Blue Database Training
- Youth Protection Training

At <http://bit.ly/3ZMjPg4>, two additional resources can be found for use at chapter meetings and local schools:

- Keyholes in History
- Speaking Out About History

Lastly, the SAR Education Committee is producing podcasts called "Revolutionary War Rarities." These podcasts cover a range of topics and facts about the American Revolution. The podcasts can be viewed online at <http://bit.ly/431HrQQ>. Eighteen episodes are currently available, with 40 more in the works.

A new State President, Steve Van Pelt, was elected at the recent Annual Meeting. I trust that you will give him the same unwavering support that you



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have given me. It has been a great honor and a privilege to lead this fine organization. I will be continuing my service as the NCSSAR Planning Chair for the upcoming 2026 National Congress in Greensboro. May we all dedicate ourselves in making the Sescentennial Anniversary of America an unparalleled success. HUZZAH!

Yours in Patriotism,
Jay A. DeLoach

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Membership Update

NCSSAR welcomes 46 new members (Dec. 2, 2022 through Mar 3, 2023)

ALBERT, Harry, Jr. #224935
BITTNER, Robert, Jr. #225114
BOBO, George #225338
BRIGGS, Douglas #225340
BULL, Lynn #225265
BULLARD, Jeffery #224931
BULLARD, Jeffery, Jr. #224932
BULLARD, Palmer #224933
BULLARD, Williford #224934
CANIPE, Jule #224808
COBLE, James #225264
CONSTANTINO, Michael #224478
CROSBY, Gary #224802
CROUSE, Michael #224699
ELLINGER, Kenneth #225413
ESSA, John, III #224936
DEFOE, Benjamin #224806
DEFOE, Davis #224805
FILIOS, David #225168
FLORA, Peter #224938
FLORA, Stephen, II #224937
FRY, Ronald, Jr. #225021
GREEN, Bronson #225110
HUNTER, Conrad #224804
HURLEY, Glenn #225026
HURST, James #224700
KRUEGEL, Arthur, Jr. #224608
LAWRENCE, Jack #225025
LAWRENCE, John, III #225024
MILLER, James #225266
MORRILL, Dale #225023
MORRILL, Peyton #225022
PEOPLES, Kerney, Jr. #225415
OWSLEY, Dobert #225111
ROBERTSON, William, Jr. #225337
ROBBINS, William #225113
ROBBINS, George, Jr. #225112
RUNKLE, Michael #224939
SAAD, Isaac #225339
SAPPPIE II, Paul #224807
SHELTON, Hilburn #225027
SNOWA, Henry, Jr. #224803
SPRINGER, William #225414
TUCK, James, Jr. #225461
WELCH, Damon #224940
WILKERSON, William #224701

NCSSAR extends its deepest thoughts and prayers to the families of the following compa- triots who recently passed away

BISHIOP, Richard
CRAWFORD, William
ISRAEL, Kenneth
PUGH, Walter
ROCKETT, Gary

NCSSAR Membership Inquiries

Since December 20, NCSSAR has received 46 inquiries about SAR membership. Chapters and inquiry counts include the following: Alamance Battleground-1; Albemarle-0; Bethabara-2; Battle of King's Mtn.-0; Colson's Mill-0; Blue Ridge-7; Catawba Valley-1; Col. Alex. Erwin-0; Col. Alex. Lillington-2; Col. Daniel Boone-0; Gen. Frances Nash-5; Gen. George Washington-2; Halifax Resolves-1; Isaac Carter-0; Lower Cape Fear-3; le Marquis de Lafayette-4; Lumber River-0; Lt. Col. John Phifer-0; Mecklenburg-3; Old North State-1; Nathanael Greene-5; New Bern-1; Raleigh-6; Salisbury-0; Sandhills-0; LTC Felix Walker-0; Western Waters-1; and Yadkin Valley-1.

Some of these individual inquiries have the potential for extended family members that would allow for multiple new SAR members. Compatriots should ask about others when assisting inquiries. Remember that the National Family Plan covers a broad range of family members—sons, fathers, grandsons, and even nephews.

Potential member inquiries are automatically forwarded to the chapter President and Registrar for action. Note DAR assistance on a Finders Form and attach to the SAR application.

JOHN O. THORNHILL, Chair
Membership Committee NCSSAR

Chapter News

Alamance Battleground Chapter



Dr. James Wood, Professor of history at N.C. A&T University (pictured, right) presented a lecture titled "Hispanics in the American Revolution" at the Alamance Battleground Chapter on February 21, 2023. Pictured

presenting a certificate of appreciation to Dr. Wood is Scott Moore (left), Chapter Program Chair.

Dr. Wood discussed the noteworthy contributions of two Latino figures. One was Gen. Bernard De Galvez, then Governor of the Louisiana Territory, who was instrumental in helping George Washington with food, weapons, and supplies during the British invasion from the South. The other was the great Latino Patriot George Farragut. Born Jorge Farragut Mesquida in Minorca, Spain in 1755, he fought in the Battle of Cowpens.

Further reading is available at these links:
<https://bit.ly/3FvRdQY> and <http://bit.ly/3yRr6QW>

JOHN F. SHARPE
Alamance Battleground Chapter NCSSAR

Bethabara Chapter



The SAR Bethabara Chapter once again participated in a moving "Wreaths Across America" ceremony on December 17, 2022, at Pilgrims Lutheran

Church Cemetery, Lexington. In attendance were Bethabara Chapter Compatriots Jason Faulkner,

SAR junior member Dean Faulkner, NCSSAR Past President Fred Learned, Joe Weaver, and daughter of Compatriot Jason Faulkner. Joe Weaver's wife Susan Weaver, Regent of the Leonards Creek NCSDAR, organized the ceremony.

Interred in the historic cemetery are fifteen Revolutionary War Veterans, with a stone marking the common grave of five. Each Revolutionary War Veteran's grave received a fresh wreath in addition to a U.S. flag. Wreaths placed at the grave of over one hundred other interred veterans.

On Saturday, February 11, 2023, the SAR Bethabara Chapter and the Battle of Shallow Ford Chapter NCSDAR joined in celebration of President George Washington's birthday in Louisville, NC. The 60 attendees at the tea party were treated



to music enjoyed by George Washington, Mt. Vernon lemonade, tea served in fine China, as well as a variety of cakes, cookies, sandwiches, and other food and vegetable items that the founding President was known to enjoy in the afternoons.



Chapter President Bill Ewalt addressed the attendees, and Chapter Compatriot Andy Kelly provided an update on the new

246-acre Shallow Ford State Historic Site. Chapter compatriots in attendance (pictured, L-R) were Andy Kelly, Allen Mollere, Joe Weaver, Gary Fraysier, Bill Ewalt, Larry McRae, and Fred Learned.

Blue Ridge Chapter

On January 27, 2023, the Blue Ridge Color Guard participated in a naturalization ceremony at the Federal Courthouse in Charlotte, NC. Chapter representatives Vice President Gary Linton and Awards Chairman Lance Dickinson wore their Colonial uniforms.

The Battle of Cowpens Commemoration on January 17, was attended by four Blue Ridge Color Guard members (pictured L-R): Craig Isaacson, Lance Dickinson, Ken Weglarz, and Steve Greene.



At the February 11 Chapter meeting President Steve Greene and Chapter Chaplain Tom Rightmyer led a memorial service for the late Blue Ridge Chapter Compatriots Michael Keleher, Dr. Kenneth Israel, Rev. Milton Ohlsen, and John Huggins, who departed this life in 2022. President Greene also recognized former NCSSAR Chapter Presidents. Pictured (L-R) are Jim Brush, John Boyd, Tom Long, and Steve Greene of the Blue Ridge Chapter, Tom Long of the McDowell Chapter, and Lance Dickinson of the Tuscon Chapter, AZSSAR.



STEVE GREENE, President
Blue Ridge Chapter NCSSAR

Catawba Valley Chapter



The Catawba Valley Chapter inducted a new member on January 21, 2023. Fellow Chapter compatriots welcomed Compatriot Loy E. Hoyle. Pictured (L-R) above are Chapter President Ben Setser and new member Loy.



Compatriot Setser attended the 242nd Commemoration of the Battle of Cowpens in Gaffney, SC, on January 17, 2023. A rainy day notwithstanding, the skies cleared long enough to snap a picture. Joining Ben (left) in front of the thirty-two foot high majestic monument are Col. Alexander Erwin Chapter Color Guard Commander Kevin Allec (center), and State SAR Society President Jay DeLoach (right).

After three years of pandemic restrictions, Catawba Valley Chapter resumed its celebration of the 250th anniversary of America and the conflict for liberty by remembering the 253rd Anniversary of the Boston Massacre. The commemoration took place on the steps of the historic Lincoln County Courthouse on March 4, 2023.

A respectable crowd of about 30 people were in attendance. Chapter President Setser superintended the ceremony and spoke about happenings on the evening of March 5, 1770 in Boston regarding those who died in the Massacre. Jacob Forney Chapter NCSDAR Chaplain Pat Hance brought

greetings and addressed lady Patriots in this action. State SAR Color Guard Commander Stephen McKee (pictured below) portrayed Dr. Joseph Warren, patriot and first Grand Master of all Masons in Massachusetts who was killed at the Battle of Bunker Hill. Included in Stephen's remarks were excerpts of Warren's oration delivered at the second anniversary of the Massacre. Catawba Valley Chapter Treasurer Dan Beal spoke on other Masons who contributed to the War effort.



Together with the Jacob Forney Chapter NCSDAR, the Catawba Valley Chapter enjoyed an afternoon tea on February 19, 2023. A great success, the event marked the second annual commemoration of George Washington's birthday.

Speaker Ray Maxson (pictured below) delivered an inspiring oration about Washington's early years. In attendance were DAR members from five Chapters, some from as far away as California, along with members from five SAR chapters. Collaborations with DAR are enjoyable and important.



BEN SETSER, President
Catawba Valley Chapter NCSSAR

Col. Alexander Erwin Chapter

The Col. Alexander Erwin Chapter conducted three Revolutionary War education classes at Robert L. Patton High School on February 9, 2023. Led by Chapter President Robert L. Patton, IV, and accompanied by Chapter Compatriots Al Ernest, Tom Lesser, and Kevin Hancock, the program reached out to 254 high school students and faculty.

In a supervised setting, students were able to handle 230- to 300-year old Revolutionary War weapons from Robert's personal collection. A few select students conducted a mock Spontoon Drill from original Revolutionary War drill instructions.



The young lady (pictured below) is reading "Halberd Exercise" from the 1768 *A Plan of Discipline for the use of the Norfolk Militia* (Norfolk England). The young man is responding to her commands with a Halberd sword.



KEVIN HANCOCK
Col. Alexander Erwin Chapter NCSSAR

Col. Alexander Lillington Chapter

In February, 2023, the Col. Alexander Lillington Chapter welcomed Jeffery Bullard and his sons Jeffery Jr., Palmer, and Williford (pictured, L-R) into the SAR as its newest inductees. Chapter membership proudly stands at 22 members. The Chapter is working with three other potential members on their applications.



In addition to the Chapter's participation at the Commemoration of the Battle at Moore's Creek on March 2, four members of the Duplin County Sheriff's Department were awarded SAR *Certificates of Appreciation* at a March 2 meeting. These deputies prevented a shooting at a Wallace/Rose Hill football game last year.

MICHAEL MURPHY, President
Col. Alexander Lillington Chapter NCSSAR

Col. Daniel Boone Chapter

On December 8, 2022, the Col. Daniel Boone Chapter held its Charter Celebration at the Courtyard by Marriott in Boone. Twenty-three people attended, which included Compatriots, members of the NCSDAR, and spouses of both in attendance.

In an effort to raise funds, Chapter Vice President and Registrar Dan Parsons organized a raffle for a Daniel Boone tomahawk. Parsons, a U.S. Army Special Forces (USASF) retiree, successfully recruited his comrade, Col. Aston Naylor, also a retired USASF member, to donate a tomahawk for the raffle. Col. Naylor is a blacksmith and owner of Naylor Forge in Boone, NC. Also collaborating was leatherworker Rob Moore of Old Sarge in Boone. Rob created and donated the tomahawk sheath with an embossed image of Daniel Boone.

Exceptional participation in the raffle allowed for a large amount money to be raised for the Chapter.

On February 9, 2023, Compatriots Parsons and Crum visited the shops of Aston Naylor and Rob Moore and presented them with SAR *Certificates of Appreciation*. Pictured is Parsons presenting Aston Naylor (right) with his certificate.



ROBERT A. CRUM, President
Col. Daniel Boone Chapter NCSSAR

Gen. Francis Nash Chapter

The February 4, 2023 meeting of the Gen. Francis Nash Chapter meeting at the Colonial Inn, Hillsborough, featured a special speaker. Courtney Smith, Exhibits and Programs Coordinator for the Orange County Historical Museum, delivered a presentation titled "Everything You Should have Learned in High School about the Declaration of Independence."



Ms. Smith's presentation about the seminal document of our nation's founding was animated, informative, and enjoyable. From the context of *when* (hostilities were already well underway), *why* (not

a call to arms, but a "Dear John" letter to King George), and *what* (Jefferson weaved themes from the "Age of Enlightenment" throughout), the Declaration was presented in a new light and explained in the current vernacular of the day while remaining true to its intent and purpose.

At the General Francis Nash Chapter Meeting on March 11, 2023 at Governors Club in Chapel Hill, Chapter President Albert Segars presented the Chapter *Medal of Distinguished Service* to Chapter Treasurer Alan Butler. This is the highest medal that can be awarded by a Chapter President.



Dr. Ralph D. Nelson, Jr, has retired as Gen. Francis Nash Chapter Registrar. He began his first service in this position when he joined the Delaware SAR in 1989. Eventually he rose through the ranks and became the Delaware State SAR President. He was later elected National SAR Vice President General.



After relocating to Florida, and to his current residence here in North Carolina, Dr. Ralph affiliated and served with those two respective state SAR societies. From 2004 through 2008 he edited the SAR website, "The Real Story of the American Revolution." For a

quarter century, he has faithfully participated in local, state, and national SAR Color Guard units.

Since 2000 Ralph has helped develop the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route—a 700-mile National Historic Trail. With his guidance and help, more than 120 prospects have become SAR members. Ably succeeding Dr. Ralph is Capt. John H. Cocowitch, USN, Ret., who has served as Chapter Assistant Registrar.



Gen. George Washington Chapter

At the January 19, 2023 meeting of the Gen. George Washington Chapter, Vice President General (VPG) George Strunk administered the SAR oath to Stephen Elliott (pictured left) as the newest member. Also at the meeting, Compatriot Stephen Craig (pictured right) was presented the *Southwest Asia Veterans Corp Certificate* for his service in the military.



The Battle of Moore's Creek Commemoration on February 25-26 in Currie, NC, was well-attended. Compatriot Kenny Smith placed the Chapter Wreath and VPG Strunk rendered honors for the SAR President General, accompanied by Brooks Lyles, National Color Guard Commander. Compatriot Broughton Goodson (standing, fifth from right) joined the SAR Color Guard at the Crossing of the Dan Anniversary on February 9-11 in VA.



Halifax Resolves Chapter

December was a busy month for awarding SAR *Flag Certificates* to schools for their "Exemplary patriotism in the display of the Flag of the United States of America." On December 16, 2022,



Chapter President Ken Wilson presented certificates to Assistant Head of School Amy Poole (pictured above) at Halifax Academy, and to Principal Angela Mallory (pictured below, left) and Assistant Principal Heather Karns (pictured, right) of Chaloner Middle School. Both schools are located in Roanoke Rapids.



On December 27, Ken presented *Flag Certificates* to Geoff and Danielle Pittard (pictured below) and



and to Gina and Tony Casper (pictured below). Both couples reside in Roanoke Rapids.



Boy Scouts of America Troop 144 hosted the Wreaths Across America ceremony at Cedarwood Cemetery in Roanoke Rapids on December 18, 2022. The ceremony was attended by NCSDAR,



American Legion, AMVETS, and members of the Widow's Son Masonic Lodge #0519, accompanied by their families and members of the community. Chapter President Wilson presented the Merchant Marine wreath. About 500 wreaths were placed on the graves of area veterans.

In January, Chapter President Wilson embarked on a rigorous four-week speaking tour at five schools in three cities that reached more than 500 students. He presented on various topics, including the Southern Campaign of the Revolutionary



War and the adoption of the Halifax Resolves as well as information about the SAR Americanism Poster and Brochure Contests. Ken had a busy itinerary:

- January 18–Nash Central High School; Rocky Mount; advanced placement history class
- January 31–Manning Elementary School; Roanoke Rapids; fourth and fifth grade classes
- February 1–Halifax Academy; Roanoke Rapids; fifth grade class
- February 2–Halifax Academy; Roanoke Rapids; social studies class
- February 6–Chaloner Middle School; Roanoke Rapids; social studies classes
- February 13–Bunn High School; Bunn; American history classes

Halifax Academy students Madison Crawford (pictured left) and Ben Christy assisted Ken with his February 2nd presentation.



In collaboration with the Elizabeth Montfort Ashe Chapter NCSDAR, the Halifax Resolves Chapter sponsored a George Washington Birthday Luncheon on February 11 in Littleton, NC. Jointly pre-



siding at the event were Chapter President Wilson and Regent Carol Guidry.

Dr. Troy Kickler, Senior Fellow and Managing Director of the N.C. History Curriculum Project, John Locke Foundation, was the guest speaker. He discussed North Carolina founding fathers and their roles in the early

government of the State. For his participation, Dr. Kickler was presented with a gift of thanks from the

NCSDAR and a *Certificate of Appreciation* from the NCSSAR.

Additional guests at the event included NCSSAR Treasurer and Alamance Battleground Chapter Past President Dr. Samuel C. Powell and wife Karen, NCSDAR Vice Regent Ms. Crickett Crigler, NCSCAR Senior State President Ms. Valerie Howell, and NCSDAR Regional Director Ms. Betty Corbin.

KEN WILSON, President
Halifax Resolves Chapter NCSSAR



Lower Cape Fear Chapter

On February 23, 2023, the Lower Cape Fear Chapter hosted its annual George Washington birthday dinner at the Cape Fear Club in Wilmington. The festive event was attended by 33 Patriots and honored guests.

This year's honoree was U.S. Coast Guard Boatswain Mate 2nd Class Jennifer A. Williamson (pictured). For her heroic rescue of three riptide swimmers in mortal peril off of Fort Fisher State Park, NC, on May 23, 2021, she was awarded the *Silver Lifesaving Medal* by The Commandant, on behalf of the Secretary of the Homeland Security.



The speaker was Helen Broder of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in North Carolina. With her mother, she co-authored, *What would George do? Advice from our Founding Father* (2013), a guidebook on civility.

The annual Moore's Creek Anniversary event was sponsored in part by the Lower Cape Fear Chapter. Some of the members attending were Danny Hilton, Gene Funderbunk, and John Stewart.

HARRY BLAKESLEE
Lower Cape Fear Chapter NCSSAR

le Marquis de Lafayette Chapter

On March 4, 2023, the Town of Elizabethtown, NC, invited the le Marquis de Lafayette Chapter to exhibit a booth at the Town's 250th Anniversary of the founding of the Town of Elizabeth in 1773 in Bladen County.

Pictured (on the right, L-R) are Chapter President David Dowless, Jr., Chapter Color Guard Commander John Elliot, and Chapter member Greg Conner who all partnered to man the booth. Several potential members picked up SAR applications from the Chapter's booth. The Town also invited David to speak at their Founders Day Ceremony.



Bladen County was formed in 1734. Rightfully named the "Mother County," 55 of the state's 100 counties were originally part of Bladen County. On March 6, 1773, a bill presented to the N.C. General Assembly by William McRee who was representing Bladen County, became law and the "Town of Elizabeth" was established. Although Elizabeth was founded in 1773, it was not officially incorporated as Elizabethtown until 1895.

Eight years later, on August 27, 1781, the Battle of Elizabethtown was fought with 70 Patriot Militia conducting a surprise attack on approximately 400 Tory Militia. The Patriots killed 17 Tories, including all of their officers with no loss of life to the Patriot Militia.

As a result of the battle, the power of the Tories in the Cape Fear Region was completely broken. Many of the remaining Tories proceeded toward Wilmington to join with Gen. Cornwallis who had started his march from Wilmington towards Virginia and Yorktown. Two months later, the siege and battle of Yorktown ended the Revolutionary War.

DAVID DOWLESS, JR., President
le Marquis de Lafayette Chapter NCSSAR

Mecklenburg Chapter



At the annual Presidents' Day Dinner on February 16, 2023, the Mecklenburg Chapter inducted a number of new members. The Chapter now boasts



of over 150 Compatriots. The efforts of Chapter President Greg Catledge and Chapter Registrar Bob Ray are paying off in a big way. After the ceremony, Greg presented special 250th Signing Anniversary Pins to several men instrumental in the Cowan's Ford success last month.

Another major initiative of the Chapter this year is the reinstitution of our monthly Chapter luncheons. Previously, members

met only during the summer months. Now, they meet monthly on the first Thursday of each month at Olde Mecklenburg Brewery in Charlotte at 11:30 a.m. All are welcome.

RUSSELL H. McCULLOUGH, Secretary-Chaplain
Mecklenburg Chapter NCSSAR





In the small town of Liberty, NC, Col. Guy Kent Troy, a U.S. Army veteran who served during World War II and in Vietnam, was inducted into the Sons of the American Revolution and the Nathanael Greene Chapter NCSSAR on February 4, 2023. Chapter President Danny Murray performed the induction in a lovely setting at Col. Troy's home that his son Kent Troy of the Alexander Hamilton Chapter WASSAR had arranged. Witnessing the extraordinary event were Chapter Compatriots, NCSDAR members, local friends, and Col. Troy's special friend, Lt. Gen. Walter Ulmer, U.S. Army, Ret.

Kent pinned the SAR Rosette on his father's lapel, which drew exuberant applause. Afterwards, celebratory champagne was served, along with several toasts to Col. Troy, the SAR, and the DAR. Amazingly alert and well spoken, Col. Troy expressed gracious words of gratitude.

In addition to his SAR membership, he was also awarded the SAR *World War II Certificate*, the SAR *Vietnam Certificate*, and the SAR *Special Ops Certificate*, along with the respective medals. His ancestor Patriot was Andrew Balfour. Col. Troy turned 100 years of age on March 18, 2023.

Special thanks go to Chapter Registrar Clarence Tillery and his wife Amy Tillery, who expedited the submission of his SAR application in December, 2022. The induction of Col. Troy into the SAR will stand for years to come as one of the most significant in NCSSAR history.

DANNY MURRAY, President
Nathanael Greene Chapter NCSSAR



www.farmersalmanac.com/flag-day

New Bern Chapter

The New Bern Chapter inducted four new members on December 27, 2022 at the Pollock Street Gate of Tryon Palace in New Bern. Pictured (L-R) are Jason Skeens, Kirby Ashford Smith, Kirby Hart Smith, III, and Benjamin Huchingson "Huch" Smith. Chaplain Bob Savacool delivered the "Tribute to the Flag" soliloquy to open the ceremony, and NCSSAR President Jay DeLoach assisted with the inductions.



On January 28, 2023, the Chapter Color Guard members posted the national colors at Marie Brown family home in New Bern during their Habitat for Humanity home dedication ceremony. The family was also presented a copy of the U.S. Constitution. Pictured (L-R) are Carleton Webster, Rolf Maris and Lee Purcell. Bob Rigg, Chapter Color Guard Commander, also participated in the ceremony.



Raleigh Chapter

Chapter Vice President David McCracken was the keynote speaker at the January 19, 2023 Chapter meeting. His presentation, titled "His Excellency's Developmental Assignments," addressed the reasons why George Washington accepted an officer's commission in the Virginia Militia. He also spoke about Washington's involvement against the French



in what is now western Pennsylvania. Finally, he discussed how his tactical decisions between 1753 and 1756 launched the Seven Years War between France and the Kingdom of Great Britain. The engagements included the one and only time Gen. Washington ever surrendered to an enemy in battle.

At the February 18 Chapter meeting, Compatriot McCracken once more was the featured speaker. His topic focused on the events leading to the March 1781 Battle of Guilford Courthouse and the personalities involved. Although the battle was a British victory, the British casualty rate and depletion of supplies drove Gen. Cornwallis to retreat to Yorktown. He was defeated there in October 1781 by the combined French and American armies leading to the British surrender and end of the war.

KARL FELD, Communications Director
Raleigh Chapter NCSSAR

Salisbury Chapter



Chapter members met at Pancho Villas Restaurant in Salisbury on November 10, 2022, for the annual fall dinner and awards event. Outgoing Sheriff Kevin Auten was pre-

sented with the SAR *Law Enforcement Commendation Medal*. Kevin has 35 years of service with the Rowan County Sheriff's Office, the last 13 of which have been as Sheriff. During his tenure, he led the department in closing some very difficult cases and several cold cases.

Compatriot Franklin Merrill presented Compatriot Terry Holt (pictured right) with the SAR *Bronze Roger Sherman Medal* for his service to the Salisbury Chapter. As one of the largest contributors to the Americanism Speakers Bureau section, Terry has made regular presentations to school groups both at the Rowan Museum and at the Old Stone House. He is also Chapter Color Guard Commander, ensuring that all flags are properly in place.



FRANKLIN MERRILL
Salisbury Chapter NCSSAR

Sandhills Chapter

The George Washington Birthday dinner meeting held by the Sandhills Chapter on February 21, 2023, included presentations of numerous awards. Sandhills Compatriot and National SAR Veterans Recognition Committee Chair, Pat Niemann (pictured far right), presented the SAR *War Service Medal* to Compatriots Dr. Michael Marsh (center left) and Lt. Col. William Carl (center right) for their service in the Vietnam War. Also pictured (far left) is Chapter President Bruce Fensley.



Chapter Registrar Jack Laflin (pictured upper right, left) and Chapter President Fensley conducted a SAR induction ceremony for new SAR member Gary Crosby (center) of Pinehurst, NC. Gary's fam-

ily Patriot is Richard Crosby who served as a Private in the Pennsylvania Militia.



Rod Herbig "The General," Sandhills Compatriot and Charter founding member, received a special birthday picture showing him serving in the Color Guard Unit and carrying the U.S. Flag at the recent Patriot Grave Marking ceremony for Nathan Stedman in Pittsboro, NC.



Chapter Secretary Mike Fusselbaugh presented the SAR *Certificate of Appreciation* to speaker Richard Claypoole (pictured right) of Lewes, DE, for his outstanding presentation, "Our Veterans, Our Presidents." Richard is an author and retired Assistant Archivist of the U.S.

Presidential Libraries and Museum. He is also a U.S. Army Veteran who served in the Vietnam War from 1969 to 1971.

BRUCE FENSLEY, President
Salisbury Chapter NCSSAR

Prayerful Washington

Editor's Note: This account of Gen. George Washington's overnight stay at the home of a couple in their farmhouse, reprinted here in full, was originally authored by Charles Edward M'Guire in 1836. According to M'Guire, it was "taken from a respectable literary journal published in New York" (p. 162).



One pleasant evening in the month of June, in the year 1779, a man was observed entering the borders of a wood, near the Hudson River, his appearance that of a person above the common rank. The inhabitants of a country village would have dignified him with the title of squire, and from his manner, have pronounced him proud; but those more accustomed to society would inform you, there was something like a military air about Him. His horse panted as if it had been hard pushed for some miles, yet from the owner's frequent stops to caress the patient animal, he could not be charged with want of humanity, but seemed to be actuated by some urgent necessity. The rider's forsaking a good road for the by path leading through the woods indicated a desire to avoid the gaze of other travelers. He had not left the house where he inquired the direction of the above mentioned path more than two hours before the quietude of the place was broken by the noise of distant thunder. He was soon after obliged to dismount, traveling becoming dangerous, as darkness concealed surrounding objects, except when the lightning's terrific flash afforded a momentary view of his situation. A peal louder and of longer duration than any of the preceding, which now burst over his head, seeming as if it would rend the woods asunder, was quickly followed by a heavy fall of rain, which penetrated the clothing of the stranger ere he could obtain the shelter of a large oak, which stood at a little distance.

Almost exhausted with the labors of the day, he was about making such disposition of the saddle and his own coat, as would enable him to pass the night with what comfort circumstances would admit, when he espied a light glimmering through the trees. Animated with the

hope of better lodgings, he determined to proceed. The way, which was somewhat steep, became attended with more obstacles the farther he advanced, the soil being composed of clay, which the rain had rendered so soft that his feet slipped at every step. By the utmost perseverance, this difficulty was finally overcome without any accident, and he had the pleasure of finding himself in front of a decent looking farmhouse. The watchdog began barking, which brought the owner of the mansion to the door.

"Who is there?" said he.

"A friend who has lost his way, and in search of a place of shelter" was the answer.

"Come in, sir" added the first speaker, "and whatever my house will afford, you shall have with welcome."

"I must first provide for the weary companion of my journey," remarked the other.

"But the former undertook the task, and after conducting the newcomer into a room where his wife was seated, he led the horse to a well stored barn, and there provided for him most bountifully. On rejoining the traveler, he observed, "that is a noble animal of yours, sir."

"Yes" was the reply, "and I am sorry that I was obliged to misuse him so, as to make it necessary to give you much trouble with the care of him; but I have yet to thank you for your kindness to both of us."

"I did no more than my duty, sir" said the entertainer, "and therefore I am entitled to no thanks. But Susan" added he, turning to the hostess, with a half-reproachful look, "Why have you not given the gentleman something to eat?"

"Fear had prevented the good woman from exercising her well-known benevolence, for a robbery had been committed by a lawless band of depredators but a few days before, in that neighborhood, and as report stated that the ruffians were all well dressed, her imagination suggested that this man might be one of them."

At her husband's remonstrance, she now readily engaged in repairing her error, by preparing a plentiful repast. During the meal, there was much interesting conversation among the three. As soon as the worthy countryman perceived that his guest had satisfied his appetite he informed him that it was now the hour at which the family usually performed their evening devotions, inviting him at the same time to be present. The invitation was accepted in these words:

"It would afford me the greatest pleasure to commune with my heavenly Preserver, after the events of the day; such exercises prepare us for the repose we seek in sleep."

The host now reached his Bible from the shelf, and after reading a chapter and singing, concluded the whole with a fervent prayer; then lighting a pine-knot, conducted the person he had entertained to his chamber, wished him a good night's rest, and retired to the adjoining apartment.

"John" whispered the woman, "that is a good gentleman, and not one of the highwaymen as I supposed."

"Yes, Susan," said he, "I like him better for thinking of his God, than for all his kind inquiries after our welfare. I wish our Peter had been home from the army, if it was only to hear his good man talk; I am sure Washington himself could not say more for his country, nor give a better history of the hardships endured by our brave soldiers."

"Who knows now" inquired the wife, "but it may be he himself, after all, my dear, for they do say, he travels just so, all alone, sometimes. Hark! What's that?"

"The sound of a voice came from the chamber of their guest, who was now engaged in his *private religious worship*. After thanking the Creator for His many mercies, and asking a blessing on the inhabitants of the house, he continued: "And now, Almighty Father, if it is Thy holy will, that we shall obtain a place and a name among the nations of the earth, grant that we may be enabled to show our gratitude for Thy goodness, by our endeavors to fear and obey Thee. Bless us with wisdom in our councils, success in battle, and let all our victories be tempered with humanity. Endow also our enemies with enlightened minds, that they may become sensible of their injustice, and willing to restore our liberty and peace. Grant the petition of Thy servant for the sake of Him whom Thou hast called Thy Beloved Son; never-theless, not my will, but Thine be done. Amen."

"The next morning, the traveler, declining the pressing solicitations to breakfast with his host, declared it was necessary for him to cross the river immediately; at the same time offering a part of his purse, as a compensation for the attention he had received, which was refused."

"Well, sir" concluded he, "since you will not permit me to recompense you for your trouble, it is but just that I should inform you on whom you have conferred so many obligations, and also add to them by requesting your assistance in crossing the river, I had been out yesterday, endeavoring to obtain some information respecting our enemy, and being alone, ventured too far from the camp; on my return I was surprised by a foraging party, and only escaped by my knowledge of the roads and the fleetness of my horse. My name is George Washington."

Surprise kept the listener silent for a moment; then, after unsuccessfully repeating the invitation to partake of some refreshment, he hastened to call two negroes, with whose assistance he placed the horse on a small raft of timber, that was lying in the river near the door, and soon conveyed the General to the opposite side, where he left him to pursue his way to the camp, wishing him a safe and prosperous journey. On his return to the house he found that while he was engaged in making preparations for conveying the horse across the river his illustrious visitor had persuaded his wife to accept a token of remembrance, which the family are proud of exhibiting to this day.

In his book, author M'Guire provided the following postscript about the account:

In the summer of 1779 Washington had his Headquarters on the Hudson River. That he was in the habit of traveling alone sometimes during the war is well-known. The circumstances mentioned above are said to have occurred in the month of June, the year it would seem not remembered. It appears from one of his letters that he was absent from camp for a day or two, about that time in 1779. In a letter dated New Windsor, July 9th, he says, 'I did not receive intelligence of this till the afternoon of the 7th inst., having been absent from headquarters from the morning of the preceding day, on a visit to our outposts below, and those lately established by the enemy.' (p. 165)

Editor's note: In his 1919 book, William J. Johnson provided a complete reprint of M'Guire's account of Washington. He wrote, "Mr. M'Guire married the daughter of Mr. Robert Lewis, the nephew and private secretary of Washington, and thus he had exceptional sources of information." (Johnson, p. 273)

References:

Johnson, William J. (1919). *George Washington the Christian*. New York: Abington Press.

M'Guire, Edward Charles. (1836). *The religious opinions and character of Washington*. New York: Harpers & Brothers, pp. 162-167.

Photograph Credit (page 14):

Portrait of "George Washington at Princeton" by Charles Willson Peale in 1779. The original painting is among the collections at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia.



Col. Joel Lane Grave Marking April 29 in Raleigh

The Raleigh Chapter will host a grave marking ceremony for Revolutionary War Patriot Col. Joel Lane on Apr. 29, 2023. The ceremony will be held at Lane's grave at City Cemetery, 500 East Hargett Street, Raleigh, NC at 11:00 a.m. and is open to the public.

Col. Lane is considered a founding father of both Wake County and Raleigh. The original family cemetery of eight plots was found during a house demolition on South Boylan Avenue in Raleigh in 1969. Chapter Compatriot Richard Booth recalls playing under the house as a child and hearing stories about graves. "We were told that there was an ancient graveyard under the house," remarked Booth, "Boys being boys, we would go way up under the house and lay in the shallow depressions which we imagined were graves."

Lane's grave was moved to City Cemetery in Raleigh in 1975 to make way for a parking lot. Items from the original grave plot are now on display at the Joel Lane House (<http://bit.ly/3ZQFxfj>). The April 29 ceremony will include the installation of a new headstone and a presentation by a Lane descendant, restoring some dignity to his final resting place.

Lane introduced the legislation to establish Wake County in 1771. He sold 1,000 acres of land to North Carolina on which to build Raleigh as the new capital. In addition to his service as a militia colonel, he was a member of the Colonial Assembly for Johnston (1770-1771) and Wake (1773) counties, a Justice of the Peace for Wake and Johnston counties, and a Senator for Wake County in the N.C. General Assembly for eleven terms (1782-85, 1787-95).

During the Revolutionary War, Lane supported North Carolina's break from the Kingdom of Great Britain. In 1775 he was appointed a member of the Council of Safety for the Hillsborough District of North Carolina, the wartime governing body that oversaw the new State when the Provincial Congress was not in session. In August of 1776, he hosted the Council's meetings in his home. Lane was also responsible for distributing 100 bushels (800 gallons) of very valuable confiscated Loyalist salt to local Patriot soldiers.

Col. Lane was a delegate to the 1788 Constitutional Convention in Hillsborough, NC. He voted with the majority of North Carolina delegates to "neither ratify nor to reject the U.S. Constitution," which lacked a Bill of Rights. North Carolina and Rhode Island were the two states who rejected the original document. Both Lane and his son Henry Lane were delegates to the subsequent 1789 Constitutional Convention at Fayetteville, NC where the U.S. Constitution was ratified with the Bill of Rights amendment.

Karl Feld, Communications Director
Raleigh Chapter NCSSAR

Memorial Day May 29, 2023

<https://www.whenscalendars.com/when-is-memorial-day/>

Passing of Former State Color Guard Commander

On February 14, 2023, Maj. Richard 'Dick' Bishop, USA, Ret. of the le Marquis de Lafayette Chapter passed away at the age of 86 in Clarksville, TN. Dick was a very active Compatriot who was a pivotal leader in the Color Guard at the State and National levels.

He served as our State Color Guard Commander from 2010-2014 and earned the SAR *Patriot Medal* and the coveted *Von Steuben Color Guard Medal*. He authored the NCSSAR *Color Guard Handbook* that is still in use today. Lt. Col. Frank Horton, USA, Ret. and Chapter Past President 2009-2010, had these kind words to say about the late Compatriot Dick Bishop:

"Dick was one of a kind. He, Clark Wiser, Joe Harris and I made a foursome until Joe got married and became SAR executive director for a while. We always had a great time at leadership. Dick was a loyal National color guard member. He and I go a long way back as we were in the 82nd Airborne Division together in the early '70s nigh on to 50 years ago. He and wife, Jean were going to celebrate 58 years together later this year. What many may not know is that before Dick went into the Army he was a music major at the University of Oklahoma. I will miss him and his stories and will cherish our time together."

**Jay DeLoach, President
NCSSAR**

Rumbaugh Contests a Huge Success

The 2023 Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contests were held at the Governors Club in Chapel Hill on March 11. Judges determined winners at the chapter and State levels. Facilitated by NCSSAR Rumbaugh Committee Chair Lowell Hoffman, student contestants from two State SAR Chapters competed at the event.

Chapter & State Contest Results

Representing the Gen. Francis Nash Chapter and led by Chapter Rumbaugh Committee Chair Guy Guidry, five students presented oratories (pictured L-R):

- Lily Kate Witcher, "Common Sense for a Common Cause"
- Gio Cacciato, "Roger Sherman's Silent Legacy"
- Franco Forrester, "John Paul Jones"
- Kyle Stinson, "Samuel Adams and the Theory of Individual Freedom"
- Matthew Gao, "Nathan Hale: Scholar, Teacher, Soldier, Spy, Hero"



Winners for the Gen. Frances Nash Chapter were **First Place–Gio Cacciato**, Senior, Northwood High School, Pittsboro; **Second Place–Franco Forrester**, Junior Riverside High School, Durham; and **Third Place–Lily Kate Witcher**, Senior Northwood High school.

Led by Chapter Rumbaugh Committee Chair Jeremy Hodges, four students representing the Raleigh Chapter delivered oratories (pictured, L-R):

- Joshua Paul, "Courage in the Face of Death"
- Karl Ferm, "The Impact of the Declaration of Independence"
- Aliza Jankowsky, "Esther Reed: The Enduring Innovator"
- Jake Hessler, "The Innovative Value of the Turtle"

Raleigh Chapter winners were **First Place–Aliza Jankowsky**, Senior, Green Hope High School, Cary; **Second Place–Joshua Paul**, Junior, Home School; and **Third Place–Jake Hessler**, Junior, Home School.



After points were tallied for the nine orations, the following State winners of the 2023 Rumbaugh Oratory Contest were proudly announced: **First Place–Aliza Jankowsky**, **Second Place–Gio Cacciato**, and **Third Place–Joshua Paul**. Aliza will go on to represent NCSSAR in the national competition. She was also the winner of last year's State contest.

The contestants represented seven schools, including two home schools. New schools in this year's competition were Seaforth High School, Durham Academy, and Riverside High School. NCSSAR recognizes Mrs. Jill Jackl, Northwood High School and Ms. Riley Shaner, Seaforth High School, a past NCSSAR Rumbaugh winner and National SAR Second Place Rumbaugh winner for their assistance and support this year.

NCSSAR strives to increase Chapter involvement in the Rumbaugh contests. Attendance at the event by Josh Tate of the le Marquis de Lafayette Chapter and NCSSAR Youth Programs Chair Jim Woods of the Mecklenburg Chapter lends hope that these two Chapters may sponsor a Rumbaugh contest next year. Interest has been expressed by other Chapters as well.

A special word of gratitude was extended to the Governors Club leadership and staff for their abundant and committed support for this year's event, and by extension, for the State SAR Society. In addition, Chapter Rumbaugh Committee Chairs Guy Guidry and Jeremy Hodges merit honor and support for their leadership. Finally, NCSSAR appreciates the sacrificial time and support of this year's judges, in particular, lead judge and NCSSAR Treasurer Dr. Samuel Powell.

New ideas and initiatives for growing the Rumbaugh program are always welcomed. Compatriot Hoffman is available to speak and promote this important event at chapter meetings. He may be reached at lmhglobal927@gmail.com.

Lowell Hoffman, Chair
Rumbaugh Oratory Committee NCSSAR

Denny Colvin, Secretary
Gen. Francis Nash Chapter NCSSAR

FLAGS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

The Gadsden Flag

By Robert Webster

In 1775, Col. Christopher Gadsden attended the Continental Congress in Philadelphia as a representative of South Carolina, his home colony. A member of the Marine Committee, Col. Gadsden believed in the European tradition, holding that the naval fleet commander would have his own personal standard.

On February 9, 1776, Col. Gadsden presented a Gadsden Flag to the Provincial Congress of South Carolina, which noted the following in its records: "Col. Gadsden presented to the Congress an elegant standard, such as is to be used by the commander in chief of the American navy; being a yellow field, with a lively representation of a rattle-snake in the middle in the attitude of going to strike and these words underneath, 'Don't Tread on Me!'" (Government Printing Office, p. 23)



The specific origin of the design of the Gadsden Flag is unknown. It was noted that, in December of 1775, the Continental Marines had a rattlesnake with "Don't Tread on Me" painted on their drum as they were literally drumming up recruits.

The Gadsden Flag has become one of the most popular flags of the American Revolution period and represents some of the earliest history of our nation at war. The flag was purportedly first flown on the *USS Alfred*, the flag ship of Commodore Esek Hopkins, the first commander-in-chief of the Navy. With this, it

is very likely that this flag was first run up the gaff by the ship's First Lieutenant, John Paul Jones. This flag is also reported to have been the first flag of the Continental Marines who would have carried it into the Battle of Nassau.

Reference:

Government Printing Office. (1917, June 14). *The flag of the United States: Address delivered by Hon. Frederick C. Hicks of Long Island in the House of Representatives*. Washington, DC: Author.

Editor's Note: MSgt. Robert Webster, USMC, Ret. is Vice President of the New Bern Chapter and an ONS Contributing Author. He can be contacted at NewBernSAR@gmail.com.

Shallow Ford Historic Site Update

More than a century ago, the NSDAR recognized the historic value of the Shallow Ford crossing of the Yadkin River when they installed one of many *Daniel Boone's Trail* signs on the property in 1912. These signs stretch from the Shallow Ford, past Boone, NC, and mark the historic trail that settlers followed to Kentucky. Lest we forget, this crossing was the only connection between North Carolina and its unsettled western county, from which the state of Tennessee was formed.

In 2017, the Bethabara Chapter NCSSAR, under the leadership of Compatriot Andy Kelly, began a campaign to preserve historic Shallow Ford. According to NCSSAR Past President Fred Learned, the original dream was to develop an easement for a walking trail along the two historic wagon roads that converged and crossed the Shallow Ford where a Revolutionary Battle occurred a week after Kings Mountain, in a very similar battle between Patriots and Tories. A tiny portion of the Great Wagon Road (now portions of Interstates 77 and 81) that led from Pennsylvania to Georgia merged with a portion of the Old Plank Road (now N.C. Highway 421) from Wilmington to Boone.

Bethabara Chapter's six-year effort to preserve historic Shallow Ford has become a reality. Never in anyone's wildest dreams, though, was preservation of a massive 246 acres of land around Shallow Ford a possibility. With the extraordinary effort of Mike Leonard and the Conservation Fund's purchase of the land for \$2.9 million, the acreage was held in suspension until the State purchased it for purposes of establishing a historic site.

The initial proposal for the historic site was sponsored by State Senator Tom McInnis, a Charter SAR member of the recently installed Sandhills Chapter. In 2022, Gov. Roy Cooper, also a SAR member, signed the State Budget that authorized \$2 million funding for the new Shallow Ford Historic Site.

In late December, 2022, a deed transfer event was scheduled. The State Department of Cultural and Historic Sites distributed a press release announcing the December 13 event.

With approximately 50 in attendance, the ceremony for the transfer of deed from the Conservation Fund to the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) occurred. The event constituted the official pronouncement of the property as the new "Shallow Ford State Historic Site."



The program included various speakers. Pictured (L-R) with Michelle Lanier, State Historic Sites Director at podium, are Mike Leonard of the Conservation Fund, Scott Douglas, newly appointed site manager with the NC Division of State Historic Sites, and Reid Wilson, Secretary of the DNCR (far right). *The Clemmons Courier* noted in their December 29 staff report that "Historic Sites will be working over the course of the next year to establish public parking, interpretive trails, and other facilities, with a goal of opening the site to the public by early 2024."

Present for the ceremony was Compatriot Robert Crum, descendant of Daniel Boone and President of the newly chartered Col. Daniel Boone Chapter NCSSAR. He posted the following reflection on Facebook® after the event:

"I had the opportunity to visit for the first time the newly acquired Shallow Ford State Historic Site.... I was fortunate to see the remnants of the eroded road bed of the Great Wagon Road....It's also on this site and along this road in 1750 that Daniel Boone, with his parents and siblings, first traveled here and crossed the Shallow Ford on the Yadkin River to his new home in North Carolina. In 1747 or 1748, Rebecca Bryan had also traveled along this same place with her grandparents, Morgan and Martha Bryan, to her new home. It was here in the Bryan Settlement that Daniel and Rebecca married in 1756, and their first five children were born."

The NCSSAR and future generations are indebted to the years of effort led by Compatriot Andy Kelly and the Bethabara Chapter. They blazed a long and lonely trail from the simple dream of a meager walkway trail to preservation of 246 acres of historically valuable land that includes nearly one mile of frontage on the Yadkin River. The Shallow Ford State Historic Site has indeed become a reality.

Editor's note: Photo courtesy of *The Clemmons Courier*, December 29, 2022.

**Fred Learned, Past President
NCSSAR**

Patriot Sons and Daughters

by Denny W. Colvin



Patriot Sons and Daughters is a SAR *America 250 Program* for marking the graves of Patriot sons, daughters, grandsons, and granddaughters, while recognizing the service of their Patriot ancestors. These were the generations of Americans who fueled the expansion of the United States across the continent. My own Patriot ancestor's surviving children moved west from North Carolina to the Indiana Territory after their parents' deaths in what is now Washington County, Indiana.

The SAR recognizes Patriot sons, grandsons, daughters, and granddaughters of our honored Patriot ancestors so that descendants have renewed opportunities to celebrate their contributions to a free nation. Although a formal grave marking is certainly preferable, many Patriots may not have marked graves, or they are on private property, and in many cases are distant from their descendants.

With twenty-first century technology, descendants have the ability to recognize their Patriot ancestors online while increasing SAR visibility in the process. For example, some SAR applicants may have been introduced to genealogy websites (e.g., ancestry.com) in the application process and maintain family trees there.

In lieu of a traditional grave marker, compatriots can post a digital image of the *Patriot Sons and Daughters* memorial marker (pictured) on qualifying family members' entries with appropriate accompanying text. Digital grave markers have unlimited visibility on the worldwide web.

Although there is no approving authority for verifying digital markers, proof should be on the same level that is required for proving a Patriot. All documented generational descendants of a proven Patriot on a SAR or DAR application may be considered for the SAR *America 250* Patriot Sons and Daughters program.

Editor's note: Compatriot Denny W. Colvin is the Secretary for the Gen. Francis Nash Chapter.

FROM THE REVOLUTIONARY
BOOK SHELF

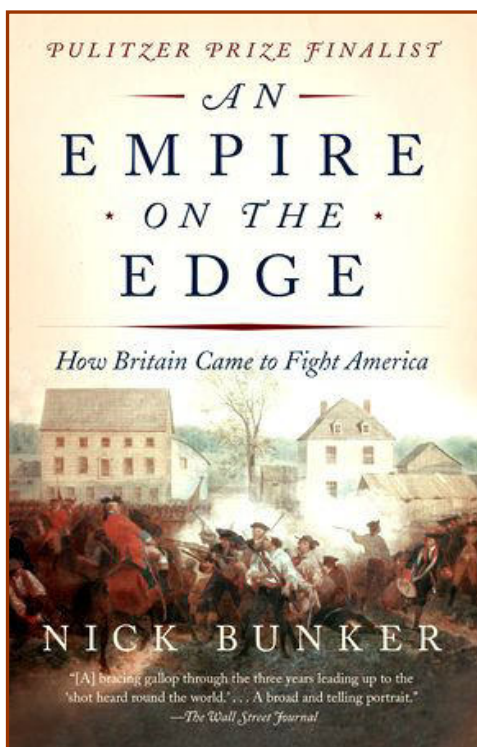
by Lowell Hoffman

Bunker, Nick. (2014). *An empire on the edge: How Britain came to fight America*. New York: Knopf. 448 pp. ISBN 978-0-307-59486-6.

America 250 is in countdown mode. Looking back two and a half centuries, the most notable event of 1773 was arguably the Boston Tea Party. The political protest revolved around the Parliament's insistence on supremacy in laying a tax on the Colonies, in this case, a tax of three pence per pound on tea. A key part of the rationale was to save the disastrous finances and treasury income produced by the East India Tea Company.

Informed citizens know all about Sam Adams, the protests of the arrival of tea ships into Boston Harbor, the mass meeting at Old South Church, and those disguised Mohawks dumping the tea. Many would argue this is the end of the Boston Tea party story. Not surprisingly, there is much more.

A masterful recounting of the three-year period leading up to the British march on Lexington and Concord is to be found in English historian and author Nick Bunker's book, *Empire on Edge: How Britain Came to Fight America*. His education at King's College Cambridge in England and Columbia University in New York exhibits the story from two sides of the Atlantic that is so well told and so important in understanding how the Revolution became inevitable.



Readers will learn of the economic and political turmoil of London, the Parliament, the King and the King's growing body of critics. Politicians and office holders such as Lords Dartmouth, Hillsborough and North, John Wilkes, Edmund Burke, and the Earl of Chatham William Pitt enter the picture and are essential in piecing together the story. Whom should we blame most? King George III or Lord North or belligerent members of Parliament? Benjamin Franklin and Arthur Lee, Americans in London, provide insight and error in two directions.

The Tea Party was not just a Boston event. Readers also learn of the communication and development of common interests up and down the Atlantic coastline with mentions of the Carolinas appearing often.

Of course, much of the focus is on Boston, on the imperious Thomas Hutchinson, and on the radical Samuel Adams. But there is much more, including the tale of a British officer who supported Tryon in North Carolina in 1771 and who received a well deserved engagement with tar and feathers for his ill treatment of a lad he encountered on the streets of Boston.

Within this engaging tale, the description of the Tea Party itself consumes only three pages in the book. It is the "before" and the "after" which define the entirety of the struggle of the Boston Tea Party incident.

In summary, this book is guaranteed to hold a reader's close attention as well as adding insight into the American experience and attitudes which led to Revolution. America 250, here we come!

Editor's Note: Lowell Hoffman chairs the NCSSAR Rumbaugh Oration Committee, is a member of the Gen. Francis Nash Chapter, and is a Contributing Author for *ONS*. Email comments, questions, and suggestions to lmhglobal927@gmail.com.

In Search of My Grandfather's Grave Site (Part 1)

by Victor Burns

Many graves of Revolutionary War veterans are lost to time. Some may be found in remote wooded areas marked with stones that are unreadable. Many fell victim to property development, built over by homes, commercial buildings, roads, and parking lots. The likelihood of finding the final resting place of ones ancestors is rare, if not impossible. Sometimes, descendants are left with only clues as to where they might have been. For my family, the impossible became a reality; we were able to find and re-inter remains of some of my Revolutionary War ancestors.

My story begins with my fourth great-grandfather Nathan Alexander Stedman, III. Nathan came from a long line of mariners. His second great-grandfather, Thomas Stedman, was a merchant sailor in New London Connecticut in the 1600's. His father was purportedly a merchant sailor for a time before coming to North Carolina.

In the early stages of the Revolution, after the British gained possession of New York, they captured or destroyed many of the merchant ships along the New England coast. As an act of self-defense, many in the area began to build and arm privateer ships. "From the beginning to the close of the Revolutionary contest a cloud of depressing gloom hung over New London," wrote D. Hamilton Hurd (1882). "Her mariners and artisans were deprived of employment; her shopkeepers and merchants were impoverished or bankrupt; religion, education and morals were at a low ebb, and the shadows grew deeper from year to year." (p. 182)

Such was the environment in Ashford, CT, when, in 1776, at the age of 15, young Nathan Stedman, III joined the Continental Army. He marched to Providence, RI under the command of Capt. Daniel Lothrop, serving in an artillery company. He was garrisoned there for three months until his enlistment expired. Afterwards, he joined the ranks of the privateers. The number of ships he may have served on is unknown. But at an older age, when he applied for a pension, there were only two privateers that he could recall—the *Bunker Hill* and the *Benjamin Sampson*.

According to his obituary in the Pittsboro NC paper, *The Communicator*, Nathan was involved in many hard-fought battles, was wounded himself, and had a younger brother killed at his side. One of the vessels on which he served was captured by a British man-of-war. He and the rest of the crew were conveyed to the city of Saint George in the Bermuda Islands. He remained a prisoner there until the end of the War and then migrated to North Carolina in 1784.

The ship on which he was on when he was captured is unknown; however, it is doubtful that it was the *Sampson*. According to the ship's records, the *Sampson* was a sloop-of-war, a Connecticut privateer brigantine, under the command of David Brooks. She received her "letter-of-marque" on April 5, 1781. A 150-ton ship with 18 six-pounder cannons and nine swivel cannons, she carried a crew of 100 men.

In July, 1781, the *Sampson* was involved in a battle with the British ship, *Swallow*, a 226-ton brig sloop-of war. After a battle that lasted about 45 minutes, the *Sampson* bore away. The *Swallow* was cut up in her rigging and sails and was unable to pursue. The brig *Sampson* had four men killed and 14 wounded. *Sampson* was so damaged she had to return to port.

The *Sampson* was captured on May 18, 1782 by the British frigate *HM Bellisarius*. The *Sampson* crew was imprisoned on the British ship *Jersey* in St. Georges, Bermuda. Eight of her crew, including Captain Brooks, died there. The *Jersey* could possibly be the ship that Nathan was aboard when he was wounded and lost his brother. He may have left the ship when it was docked for repairs after the battle with the *Swallow*.

The other ship that we know Nathan was on was the *Bunker Hill*. From his self-report, this ship was under the command of Capt. Smith. The *Bunker Hill* was a Connecticut privateer schooner. Commissioned on April 7, 1780, the schooner had ten broadside cannons, five swivel cannons, and a crew of 46.

The *Bunker Hill* was under command of Sanford Thompson, along with Lieutenant John Smith and Lieutenant Samuel Stow. A battle ensued with the British privateer sloop *Dolphin* which was en route from St. Kitts, British West Indies, at which time Lieutenant Stow was killed and Commander Thompson was wounded. Lieutenant Smith took charge of the *Bunker Hill* and captured the *Dolphin*. The final outcome of the *Bunker Hill* is unknown. There is a possibility that Nathan was aboard the *Bunker Hill* when he was captured.

Editor's note: Victor Burns is the Genealogist for the Sandhills Chapter and the fourth great-grandson of Patriot Nathan A. Stedman, III.



242nd Commemoration of the Battle of Cowan's Ford

The Commemoration was held on January 28, 2023, at the Hopewell Presbyterian Church in Huntersville. Attendees were graced with the presence of Gen. George and Martha Washington portrayed by Dan and Kelly Shippey from Orange County, CA.

Martha (Kelly Shippey) gave a wonderful portrait of Gen. William Lee Davidson who was killed during the battle trying to prevent Lord Cornwallis' troops from crossing Cowan's Ford. Gen. Davidson is buried at the Hopewell Presbyterian Church.

Gen. Washington (Dan Shippey) delivered a timely and relevant message of unity and civility, one that everyone needs to revisit and take to heart today as Americans. George (Dan) also fielded quite an array of questions from the audience making for a very memorable engagement. NCSSAR commends the Mecklenburg Chapter for organizing an excellent commemoration.

Jay DeLoach, President
NCSSAR

COLOR GUARD REPORT

By **Stephen P. McKee**
NCSSAR Color Guard Commander

The State SAR Color Guard has been active in the first few months of 2023, making appearances and offering assistance and support in several ceremonies and events, including the following:



January 28: 242nd Anniversary Commemoration of the Cowans Ford, a National SAR event in Huntersville, NC, hosted by the Mecklenburg Chapter.

February 25: 247th Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge (pictured), Currie, NC, hosted by the Lower Cape Fear Chapter.

March 4: 253rd Anniversary Commemoration of the Boston Massacre, Lincolnton, NC, hosted by the Catawba Valley Chapter.

March 15: 241st Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, Greensboro, NC, a National SAR event, hosted by the Nathanael Greene Chapter.

Upcoming Event

In the fall of 2022, fourteen bodies were discovered in several shallow graves on the Camden, SC battlefield. Upon forensic analysis, twelve of the bodies were determined to be American soldiers of the Continental Line, one was a British soldier, and one a Native American Loyalist from North Carolina.

The bodies will be returned to Camden on **April 21-23, 2023**. Called the **Camden Burials Project**, a weekend ceremony will include reenactments, a parade escorting the bodies to their burial sites, then re-interment and military honors at the battlefield.

Participating organizations include SAR, DAR, the 3rd Infantry Division of the U.S. Army (The Old Guard) along with the U.S. Department of Defense, and the British Army Special Air Services soldiers in conjunction with the British Foreign War Graves Commission who will guard the bodies as they lie in state at Historic Camden.

This is a major, once in a lifetime event that warrants the attendance of NCSSAR compatriots. Contact Steve (stephen.p.mckee@gmail.com) regarding registration. See the full event schedule at <http://bit.ly/3K3SyQC>.



247th Anniversary Battle of Moores Creek

February 25, 2023 | Currie, NC | Hosted by Lower Cape Fear Chapter



Photographs courtesy of Desiree Whalen, *The Whalen Team* (<http://bit.ly/3ZBZTN1>), Wilmington, NC

Building a Chapter Legacy

by Gary Spencer

Every SAR chapter needs a Historian. Some chapters presently have one. Others don't. One might question the importance and purpose of having a Historian. It is often a nebulous role, and it can be an oddball position, especially if the person serving in the post is given no direction.

Consider this, though. If no one records what chapters and officers accomplish, then what is left to future generations of the chapter on which they can build? What did the chapter achieve, create and participate in with regard to advancing the mission of the SAR? Five or ten years from now, records and documents of events and happenings will likely not be available without a Historian.

If nothing is ever recorded for a chapter, then nothing will ever be known, other than perhaps the occurrence of monthly meetings. Without proper records prepared by a Historian, a chapter has no real legacy to pass on to the future members of the chapter.

Chapter leaders should make it a priority to find a suitable candidate to serve as Historian. He can be appointed or elected. He should be given direction on what is to be accomplished. Keep the Historian in the loop regarding governance of the Chapter, just as would be done for other chapter officers.

One of the first and most important tasks for a chapter Historian is developing a list of all current officers and committee chairs. A list of all former leaders since a chapter's chartering should be available for reference. It is virtually impossible to re-create such a list, unless Historians, in collaboration with chapter Secretaries, make this an annual priority. The information will have been lost to time.

Historians should also prepare summaries of events that the chapter sponsored or participated in. Document new member inductions and compatriots who receive awards. Recommend an ultimate assignment, for example, developing an annual booklet on the chapter's activities that includes pictures and narratives. Make it a product that chapter members can appreciate, take pride in, and build on.

Historians might create a comprehensive record that synthesizes all events and happenings during the year. This should be kept in the chapter archives and passed on to succeeding officers in perpetuity. This will enable them to refer back to successes and possibly prevent them from repeating mistakes of the past. It could even provide opportunities to create special anniversaries that can be celebrated, which potentially might become national SAR events.

Historian records may be similar to the SAR Americanism Report, but more easily readable for future leaders so that they can see what worked, what didn't work, what has not been done before, and perhaps what should become an annual standard. Records can vary in detail.

Thanks are extended to Compatriot John Thornhill for suggesting the idea of this article. As a former State SAR Historian, he chronicled the history of the NCSSAR for the ten-year period, 2007-2016. As current State Historian, I am endeavoring to continue John's good work.

Editor's Note: Gary Spencer is Vice President of the Raleigh Chapter and a Contributing Author for ONS. For questions or comments, contact Gary at gspencer1861@hotmail.com.



Engaging Members is Key

The NCSSAR Membership Committee mailed letters to 130 compatriots whose memberships had been dropped for failure to pay annual SAR dues. Twenty-seven replied with reasons for their non-renewal. Twelve indicated they were ready to pay their dues and renew membership. Five reported aging and health issues. Another five relocated to another state. Three had passed away, and three indicated they thought they had paid their dues. One indicated that he was "burned out" and that dropping his membership was the only way he could get out of the office.

Of the 130, 55 (42%) had been members fewer than five years. Forty-two (32%) had been in the SAR from six to ten years. Three members with over 36 years in the SAR did not respond but probably dropped due to health. The likely reason for most lapsed memberships is non-involvement in SAR activities. Chapter leaders are urged to take greater interest in members, reach out to them regularly, and find creative ways to engage and involve each and every one.

JOHN O. THORNHILL, *Chair*
Membership Committee NCSSAR



<https://nationaltoday.com/national-loyalty-day/>

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SUBMISSION DEADLINES

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

SAR Meetings & Events

April-June 2023

Updates Available:

https://ncssar.org/ecwd_calendar/calendar/

<https://www.sar.org/events/>

NATIONAL

April 11-12: 247th Anniversary of the Adoption of the Halifax Resolves. Hosted by Halifax Resolves Chapter NCSSAR, Halifax, NC. Tuesday, Reception, 5:00, Holiday Inn & Express, Roanoke Rapids, NC. Wednesday, Meeting, 10:30, Guest speaker National SAR President General C. Bruce Pickette. Post-event luncheon, Halifax United Methodist Church, \$15/person, RSVP by April 6, 12:00 noon.

STATE

March 31-April 1: 94th Annual NCSSAR Annual Meeting. Wyndham Garden Greensboro, NC. Friday, President's Reception, 6:00-7:00. Saturday, President's Breakfast Buffet, 7:30; Ladies' Auxiliary Silent Auction, 9:00; NCSSAR Training; 9:00; SAR South Atlantic District Meeting, 10:00; NCSSAR Youth Luncheon, 11:15; NCSSAR Annual Business Meeting, 1:30; NCSSAR Banquet, 6:30.

May 20: NCSSAR Brochure & Poster Contests. Alamance Battleground State Historic Site Visitor Center, Burlington, NC, 1:00.

May 20: 27th Annual Patriots' Day, Alamance County. Hosted by Alamance Battleground Chapter, Alamance Battleground State Historic Site, Burlington, NC, 2:00-4:00.

LOCAL

April 15: Patriot Grave Markings for Captain John Koonce, Sr. and Captain Michael Koonce. Organized by the New Bern Chapter NCSSAR, Koonce Family Cemetery, Trenton, NC, 2:00-4:00.

April 22: Patriot Grave Markings for John Duckworth, William Walton, and William Wilson. Organized by the Col. Alexander Erwin Chapter NCSSAR and the Catawba Valley Chapter NCSSAR in conjunction with the John Sevier Chapter TNSSAR, First Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Morganton, NC, 10:00-12:00.

June 3: Patriot Grave Marking for William Harris. Hosted by Yadkin Valley Chapter NCSSAR, William Harris Cemetery, Elkin, NC, 2:00.