The Old North State





Newsletter of the North Carolina Society of the Sons of the American Revolution • Vol. 26 No. 4 • October 2023

President's Message

Steve A. Van Pelt President NCSSAR



NC Compatriots,

Serving as President of the NCSSAR has been humbling and an honor. I sense the ongoing support of everyone in our soci-

ety. Please know how greatly it is appreciated.

The past three months have not been quite as busy as the second quarter. Nonetheless, there has been plenty to do in advancing the mission of SAR in North Carolina. Thanks to all compatriots and chapter leaders who are bringing attention to State and National SAR activities.

I brought NCSSAR greetings at the NCSCAR Southeastern Regional Meeting held July 12 at the Village Inn in Clemmons. Five states were represented: North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and Alabama. The following leaders also brought greetings: NCSCAR State President, Abbie Page; Senior State President, Valerie Howell; and DAR State Regent Anna Choi. While there, I learned that the SCSCAR Senior President Peter Widell is a distant cousin of my wife, Mary Ann. Small world! The NCSSAR supports the NCSCAR in its President's Project. This year we made a contribution to the NCSCAR to help purchase a motorized wheelchair for a disabled veteran.

The Salisbury Chapter sponsored a float in the Fourth of July Parade held in Faith, NC. This parade had over

200 units and attracted over 30,000 spectators. Held since World War II, this parade is one of the largest of its kind. Joining me on the float were Chapter President Franklin Merrell, SAR compatriots, and representatives from NCSDAR and NCSCAR.

The Commemoration of Colson's Mill Battle was held on July 22 in Norwood. We congratulate Chapter President Daniel Burleson for resuming the start of this important event after the pandemic period. Compatriot Franklin Merrell of the Salisbury Chapter was speaker for the day.

The Alston House in the Horseshoe Commemoration was held on July 29. A reenactment followed in the afternoon. Sandhills Chapter President Bruce Finsley and Chapter compatriots are to be commended, as this event has grown considerably over the past three years.

It is time to update the 2023 Americanism and the 2023 Stark Reports (downloadable from www.ncssar.org) that are due in early 2024. Every chapter should have someone responsible for recording activities associated with these two reports.

The NCSSAR currently has 1,533 members in its 28 chapters, which has increased by 51 members during the past three months. This is outstanding! Leadership applauds all Chapter and State Registrars for the hard and exacting work required to make this happen. Chapter Presidents are challenged to find ways for all new members to participate in SAR activities.

Be sure to invite and involve DAR members in SAR programs, including commemorations, grave markings,

and youth programs. Reciprocally, they are inviting us to their events. In many cases, joint events are held.

My recent visit to Europe included a visit to the American Cemetery in Luxembourg, where more than 5,000 American soldiers are buried, along with Gen. George S. Patton. It is a befittingly tranquil, final resting place for these Patriots who gave their all.

- 1. President's Message
- 2. Membership Update
- 3. Chapter News; Blue Ridge
- 5. Catawba Valley Chapter; Col. Alexander Erwin Chapter
- Gen. George Washington Chapter; le Marquis de Lafayette Chapter; New Bern Chapter
- 7. Raleigh Chapter; State Rumbaugh Winner Places; U.S. Navy Day
- 8. Firearms for Freedom
- 9. Liberty Point Resolves Commemoration
- 10. From the Revolutionary War Bookshelf
- 11. DAR Medal of Honor Recipient; Columbus Day
- 12. The Southern Campaign-Part 1
- 13. Flags of the Revolution
- 14. Battle of Elizabethtown Commemoration
- 15. In Search of my Grandfather's Grave-Part 3
- 16. Battle of Colson's Mill Commemoration; Pearl Harbor Day
- 17. Color Guard Report
- 18. Historical Sites: Historian's Herald
- 19. Grave Marking for 23 Planned
- 20. Morrison Grave Marking; U.S. Marine Day; Veterans Day
- 21. Battle of Ramsour's Mill Commoration
- 22. New Bern Resolves Observance
- 23. Battle of Charlotte Commemoration; Battle of the House in the Horseshow Commemoration
- 24. Tryon Resolves Commemoration; SAR Renewal; Election Day
- 25. SAR Meetings & Events; SAR 250th

In This Issue

2023

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Membership Update

NCSSAR welcomes 48 new members (June 10, 2023 - Sept. 15, 2023)

BANNON, George #227334 BEARD, Keith #227124 BEDDOES, Woody #227374 BENNETT, Charles #227582 BENNETT, Omer #227581 BILES, Steven #227335 CANTER, Christopher #227338 CLARK, Christopher Jr. #227648 CRABILL, David #227337 CRABILL, Preston #227336 CURTIS, Ken #227504 DALGLEISH, Charles #227797 DIENER, Charles #227577 DOWDY, David #227791 EDWARDS, John #227646 FRITZ, Rodney #227503 GILL, Richard III #227834 GOODE, Michael #227053 HOFFMAN, Michael #227642 HOVIS, Luca #227790 JAMES, Michael #227836 KEESEE, Matthew #227500 KLING, Gary #227201 LAFFERTY, John #227579 LESCAULT, Robert #227375 LEWIS, Ronald #227578 McARTHUR, Barnwell Jr. #227647 McCREIGHT, Richard #227643 MURRAY, Thomas #227333 MUSGRAVE, Vernon Jr. #227575 OWEN, Jim #227576 PARKER, Charles #227200 PATTERSON, Jeffery #227833 QUINN, Robert #227501 SHERRILL, David #227126 SLEDGE, Lewis #227499 STATON, Zacary #227645 STIWALT, Kenneth #227125 TEEM, Clarence #227580 THOMPKINS, Harry #227054 TYSON, Charles Jr. #227332 WADKINSON, George III #227127 WALKER, Donny #227502 WALKER, Harley Jr. #227123 WARD, Benjamin #227644 WELLS, William #227798 WHITWORTH James #227796 WILLIAMS, Daniel #227835

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

BENNETT, Charles BENNETT, Omer DAVIS, Manly DIEGART, Carroll KINKER, Albert TEEM, Clarence MCCORMICK. Samuel

NCSSAR Membership Inquiries

Since June 25, NCSSAR has received 60 inquiries about SAR membership. Chapter and inquiry counts include the following: Alamance Battleground-1; Albemarle-1; Bethabara-3; Battle of King's Mtn.-2; Colson's Mill-0; Blue Ridge-3; Catawba Valley-1; Col. Alex. Erwin-1; Col. Alex. Lillington-0; Col. Daniel Boone-2; Gen. Frances Nash-1; Gen. George Washington-1; Halifax Resolves-1; Isaac Carter-0; Lower Cape Fear-4; le Marquis de Lafavette-5; Lumber River-0; Lt. Col. John Phifer-6; Mecklenburg-9; Old North State-1; Nathanael Greene-3; New Bern-2; Raleigh-3: Salisbury-3: Sandhills-2: Lt. Col. Felix Walker-1; Western Waters-4; and Yadkin Valley-0.

The *DAR Finder Form* should be completed and submitted with every application for which help and assistance has been provided from a member of the NCSDAR. This includes using a DAR application as source material or having a NCSDAR member assist in completing the application. For example, if a NCSSAR chapter Registrar asks his NCSDAR member wife to review a SAR application, this help would require that a *DAR Finder Form* accompany the SAR application.

JOHN O. THORNHILL, Chair Membership Committee NCSSAR

Chapter News

Blue Ridge Chapter



On June 6, Compatriot Ron Chapman presented a program at T.C. Henderson Elementary in Transylvania County. Attending the one-hour presentation were 43 third, fourth, and fifth grade students. Compatriot Chapman appeared in militia uniform and discussed

the clothing of the colonial period, and then gave an overview of the Revolution in the Southern colonies. The students, who had been studying the Revolution, local Native Americans, and the colonial period, were attentive and asked excellent questions at the conclusion of the program. This may well turn into an annual event as an invitation to return next year has already been extended.

Chapter Vice President (VP) Dr. Garry Linton provided an educational program on Early Stages of the American Revolution and How George Washington Forged the First American Army to the Buncombe County Republican Women's group on September 7 in Asheville. Dressed in militia uniform, Garry shared information on Gen. Washington and fellow Patriots during the 1775-1783 time period. Approximately fifteen people attended the event.



The Chapter Color Guard participated in the committal service held for Compatriot Jim Brush on July 15. Following the funeral service at the Mills River Presbyterian Church, the committal was held at the Episcopal Church of the Holy Family in Mills River. Approximately 150 people attended.

Eight Chapter Color Guardsmen marched as part of the procession in the committal service. Brett Callaway, Ron Chapman, Steve Greene, Garry Linton, Tom Rightmyer, and Ken Weglarz were dressed in militia uniform. Larry Chapman and Craig Isaacson wore Continental uniforms. Chapter

leaders Steve Greene, Rev. Dr. Tom Rightmyer, and Garry Linton delivered the SAR message part of the committal liturgy. Craig Issacson, who chairs the Chapter Grave Marking Committee, read an essay on patriotism during the reception. Larry Chapman presented a U.S. flag to Mrs. Evie Brush, Jim's surviving wife, in appreciation of her late husband's military service.



Dressed in militia attire, Chapter President Steve Greene and John Boyd represented the Chapter at the Battle of Ramsour's Mill Commemoration on June 17 in Lincolnton. Among those rendering honors at the event was Regent Julia Greene of the Rebecca Sevier Waddell NCSDAR Chapter.

Participating in the Independence Day Parade (below) on July 4 in Boone were NCSSAR Mountain Region VP Craig Isaacson and Garry Linton, who also serves as Chapter Color Guard Commander. Hundreds of people lined both sides of King Street to view the procession.



The Chapter now has a presence on Facebook® (https://rb.gy/ku3np). Compatriot Kenneth Weglarz reported that, "After a lot of hair pulling," his wife, Karen Weglarz successfully launched the social network page. In conveying gratitude to Ken and Karen, Steven Greene stated, "I can't imagine the number of hours this must have taken, [but] I'm sure the membership and other guests will be a-mazed. Thank you on behalf of the Chapter."

Garry Linton participated in a U.S. Flag Dedication Ceremony on August 10 at Cloud 9 Farm in Fletcher. He brought greetings from the NCSSAR and from the Blue Ridge Chapter. He also provided information about the SAR and a brief history of the U.S. Flag. Approximately 30 people attended the event.

Cloud 9 Farm owner Janet Peterson, who recently installed a new flagpole, held the ceremony to promote patriotism in her community. Pictured is a plaque Janet placed at the base of her flagpole that included an inspirational message that Patriots past would have embraced.



In early September, the Chapter presented *SAR Flag Certificates* to two residential citizens and two corporations. Steve Greene presented the first flag certificate to Ms. Phillis Holt, management representative at French Broad Electric Membership Corporation in Marshall.

Three additional flag certificates were presented on September 5. Steve presented a *SAR Flag Certificate* to the Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College Assistant Site Director, Ms. Sharon Cupstid. The same day, Craig Isaacson and Steve presented a flag certificate Mr. Eric Talbot at his residence (pictured, p. 5). Finally, Craig Isaacson and Steve presented a flag certificate to Michael



Ms. Phillis Holt (left) with Steve Greene

Perini at his residence. Accepting on his father's behalf was Mr. Perini's son (pictured, p. 5).

Julia Greene, Regent of the Rebecca Sevier Waddell Chapter NCSDAR, and Connie Isaacson of the Abraham Kuykendall NCSDAR were present for one or more of these presentations. The certificates were signed by Chapter Flag Chair Clarence Rogers, Jr. and Chapter President Steve Greene. All recipients expressed sincere appreciation for the recognition.



Ms. Sharon Cupstid (left) with Steve Greene



Eric Talbot receiving flag certificate from Steve Greene (left) and Craig Isaacson (right)



Michael Perini's son receiving flag certificate from Steve Greene (left) and Craig Isaacson (right)

STEVE GREENE, President DR. GARRY LINTON, Vice President **Blue Ridge Chapter NCSSAR**

Catawba Valley Chapter

Catawba Valley Chapter in conjunction with Jacob Forney Chapter NCSDAR hosted the 243rd Anniversary of the Battle of Ramsour's Mill on June 16 and 17 in Lincolnton. His Excellency General George Washington and wife Martha joined us for the weekend event. A Patriot's gala reception was with some 120 guests held on Friday evening of the weekend event with fine food and a program of



honor for our Patriots. Awards were also presented at the reception (pictured above) to SAR and DAR members. A question-and-answer time with the Washingtons concluded the evening. Saturday morning's service included one of the largest groups of combined SAR Color Guardsmen ever assembled at a Ramsour's Mill commemoration. See page 21 for a photo gallery of the event.



The Chapter participated again this year in the 134th Old Soldiers Reunion Parade (above) and wreath laying ceremony on August 17 in downtown Newton. Photographs courtesy of Chapter President Ben Setser's daughter Skye.

BEN SETSER, President Catawba Valley Chapter NCSSAR

Col. Alexander Erwin Chapter

Al Ernest of the Col. Alexander Erwin Chapter participated in a living history event held at the Capt. Charles McDowell House at Quaker Meadows in Morganton on Saturday, September 2. The event portrayed early Burke County settlers and the 1,400 Overmountain Men who camped at Quaker Meadows on September 30, 1780 satisfied their hunger with campfire cooking. Al (pictured, next page) demonstrated how bear, venison, rabbit, fish, and ashcake were cooked in 1770's traditional field methods while engaging with

many visitors of all ages. Tours of the McDowell house and colonial music were also provided to attendees.



After meeting under a tree in Quaker Meadows that came to be known as "Council Oak," the Overmountain Men marched on to defeat the British at Kings Mountain on October 7, 1780. This defeat started the enemy on the road to surrender at Yorktown a year later.

KEVIN HANCOCK Col. Alexander Erwin Chapter NCSSAR

Gen. George Washington Chapter

Chapter Treasurer Kenny Smith and Chapter Past President and Past Vice President General (VPG) for the South Atlantic District SAR George Strunk joined the New Bern Chapter Color Guard for the posting of the Colors and a volley firing to open the Wood Ducks Fourth of July baseball game in Kinston.



In his national role as VPG, George attended the 133rd Annual SAR Congress in Orlando, FL. There he was awarded the Gold Roger Sherman Medal for his service as District VPG during 2022-2023. NCSSAR received numerous awards that will be presented at the September Board of Managers Meeting in Raleigh.

le Marquis de Lafayette Chapter

Members of le Marquis de Lafayette Society, along with members of the Sandhills Chapter and others, gathered in front of the Liberty Point monument in downtown Fayetteville on June 24 for the 248th Anniversary of the Liberty Point Resolves. The event commemorated the Liberty Point Resolves, a local document signed by Patriots at Cross Creek that protested the actions of the government in the North Carolina colony.



DAVID MANN
le Marquis de Lafayette Chapter NCSSAR

New Bern Chapter

On July 19, members of the New Bern Chapter hosted, and accompanied, residents and staff from the North Carolina Veterans Home in Kinston to a Wood Ducks baseball game. The occasion was also Military Appreciation Day at the ball field. Chapter members in attendance were Paul Higbee, Bruce Martin, Glen Carpenter and Bob Mull.



"Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom, must, like men, undergo the fatigues of supporting it." ~Thomas Payne, *The American Crisis*, September 11, 1777.

Raleigh Chapter

On August 26, Camp Flintlock held its Colonial Faire in Fair Oaks. The Raleigh Chapter, represented by Chapter President Gary Spencer and Chapter Treasurer Bob Sigmon, displayed the Chapter's "Patriot Chest." The contents of the chest covered two tables with war fighting materials ranging from flintlocks, powder horns, lead bars with bullet mold, to various caliber musket balls.



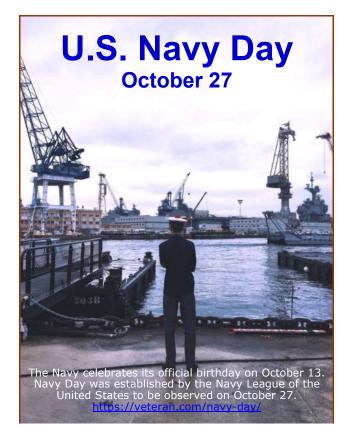
Another table featured other Revolutionary War items, including an East India Company Tea chest (like the ones thrown into Boston Harbor), blocks of tea, tableware, a pierced tin lantern, traveling candle holder, period games, cookware, and even a "courting candle." The exhibition was viewed by more than 200 youngsters and parents. In addition to educating our State's youth, the Chapter was able to recruit new SAR members.

Bob and Gary also did a couple of firing demonstrations for the crowd. The highlight of the event was a special visit by Joel Lane Society NCSCAR.

Ken Van Valen (pictured below, left), assisted by Ryan Briggs, presented Eagle Scout Mason B. Welch of Troop 226 in Apex with the SAR Eagle Scout Medal and Certificate on June 3 at his Boy Scout Court of Honor.



GARY SPENCER, PresidentRaleigh Chapter NCSSAR



State Rumbaugh Winner Places at Nationals

Aliza Jankowsky, winner of the Raleigh Chapter and State SAR Rumbaugh Oration contests, placed third in the National SAR Competition. She was awarded an Olympic-sized medal and a \$3,000.00

prize. Aliza's oration was titled, "Esther Reed: The Enduring Innovator."

All SAR State Society winners competing in the national competition were required to submit videos of their orations to a judging panel. Six were selected to compete in

person at the NSSAR National Congress in Orlando. Aliza was selected as one of the finalists. She and her mother Angela Jankowsky's travel expenses to Orlando were paid by NCSSAR. Finalists presented their orations at an evening program on July 16.

Ms. Jankowsky, now a graduate of Green Hope High School in Cary, will continue her education at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill.

FIREARMS FOR FREEDOM

Flintlock Smoothbore Military Muskets

By Dr. Michael D. Arnette, DDS

Some may think smoothbore flint military muskets with no rear sites are only relics from the past. Nothing could be further from the truth. One must acquire a "taste" for them, if you will, much like anchovies on pizza. After experiencing them a few times, these muskets can worm their way into the affections of musket enthusiasts.

Several shooting organizations foster matches, mostly offhand shooting competitions at paper targets, and some shooting at breakable targets for timed team matches. Four professional groups sponsoring these matches are the NMLRA (National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association, nmlra.org), the MLAIC



(Muzzle Loaders Associations International Confederation, mlaic.org), the NSSA (North-South Skirmish Association, n-ssa.org), and the USIMLT (U.S. International Muzzle Loading Team, usimit.org).

In the USIMLT world matches, there are large groups of countries that sponsor Olympic-type competitions. In fact, there are even Olympian shooting athletes who compete with these weapons. Unfortunately, there are no black powder shooting events in the Olympics.

The firing capacity of these muskets is amazing in group competitions, especially considering the matches are always offhand at 50 yards, and 50 meters in international matches.

Smoothbore flint muskets are considered by some to have limited range, but when watching competitors shoot at 50-meter targets, one will see the bullets strike down range at the berm (backstop) at 100 meters. Lower by 8 to 10 inches. You would not like to be coming up range behind targets shot at 50 meters!

Pictured are three different smoothbore muskets. One captured the gold medal at

the NSSA Fort Shenandoah National Championships home range in the first paper match competition for smoothe bore muskets. Another needs only four more points to earn NSSA distinguished status. The third musket won a silver medal at the 25th MLAIC World Championships in Pforzheim, Germany in 2012.

Editor's Note: A member of the Gen. George Washington Chapter, Dr. Michael Arnette is a practicing oral and maxillo-facial surgeon and a Contributing Author for *ONS*. Future articles for Mike's *Firearms for Freedom* ongoing series will focus on questions-and-answers about military muskets. Compatriots are encouraged to email their questions of interest to the *ONS* Editor at jpsutton56@gmail.com.

2023

Liberty Point Resolves Commemoration



On June 24, the le Marquis de Lafayette Chapter NCSSAR celebrated the 248th Commemoration of the Liberty Point Resolves. The event was held at the First Presbyterian Church and on the banks of Cross Creek in Fayetteville, in conjunction with the Liberty Point Chapter NCSDAR, the Col. Robert Rowan Chapter NCSDAR, the Isham Blake Society NCSCAR, and The Lafayette Society.

The commemoration event was covered by *City View News* (https://rb.gy/aq3h1), who reported that Chris Thrasher of The Lafayette Society delivered the keynote address. The ceremony included a reading of the names of the signers of the Resolves. William J. Tate, le Marquis de La-Fayette Chapter Vice President led the honoring and presentation of wreaths by various organizations. The benediction was provided by Michael Aycock, Southeast Regional Vice President NCSSAR.

Members of the Cub Scout Pack 747 also assisted in the ceremony. Special thanks go to the Sandhills Chapter NCSSAR and other SAR compatriots who answered the call to provide Color Guard assistance.

The commemoration also helped raise needed hygiene supplies for a local future Eagle Scout and his Eagle Scout project. His project involved making care baskets for the community, which will be donated to Fayetteville Urban Ministries.

The Mayor's Office of Fayetteville provided a proclamation proclaiming June 21, 2023, as Liberty Point Resolves Day.





The Resolves were signed on June 20, 1775, by the Cumberland Association at Lewis Barge Tavern in Cross Creek. Cross Creek would later merge with Campbellton and become the city of Fayetteville, named after American Revolution War Hero General Marquis de Lafayette and the only town bearing his name that the General himself visited. Read more about the Resolves at https://t.ly/6vHa4.

David Dowless, Jr., President le Marquis de Lafayette Chapter NCSSAR

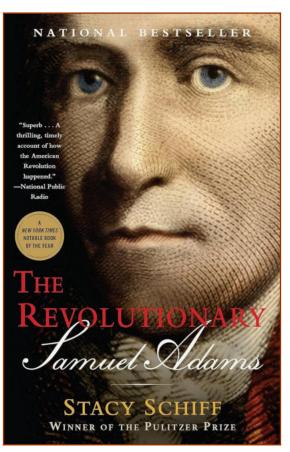
George Strunk, Past Vice President General South Atlantic Division NSSAR Gen. George Washington Chapter NCSSAR

FROM THE REVOLUTIONARY BOOK SHELF

By Lowell M. Hoffman

Schiff, Stacy. (2022). *The revolutionary: Samuel Adams*. Boston, MA: Little, Brown & Co. 432 pages. ISBN 978-0-316-44111-7

In my view, one reads a biography to take a deep dive into the character and how the individual developed and shaped the surrounding world. For this purpose, it would be difficult to find a more compelling book than this one written by Pulitzer Prize winner Stacy Schiff. In joining the chorus of accolades from such historians as Ron Chernow and David McCullough, I continued to discover a deeper sense of how public opinion was shaped, and the extent to which passion for liberty was crystallized, through to life of a single individual.



Inevitably, the story is focused upon Boston with its governance by Bernard, Hutchinson and then General Gates. Each was in correspondence with, and receiving direction from, the dictates of Parliament and policy makers with little knowledge of the Colonies they thought they were governing. The conflicts between intent and perception help to drive the story forward. We see how "propaganda," anonymous authors of newspaper "op-ed" columns and letters, and provocative public meetings both educate and inflame the citizenry. A war is fought in the pages of newspapers, correspondence and broadsides long before the first bullet is fired on the battlefield.

With current concerns in mind about the January 6, 2021 protests at the U.S. Capitol, Boston's sequence of staged riots, parades, stones hurled through windows, destruction of homes and property, effigy-hangings remind us that these Colonial times were indeed different. One quotation points out that Boston mobs were more orderly and disciplined than those in London, a reminder that England was far from a peaceful kingdom of docile and happy citizens.

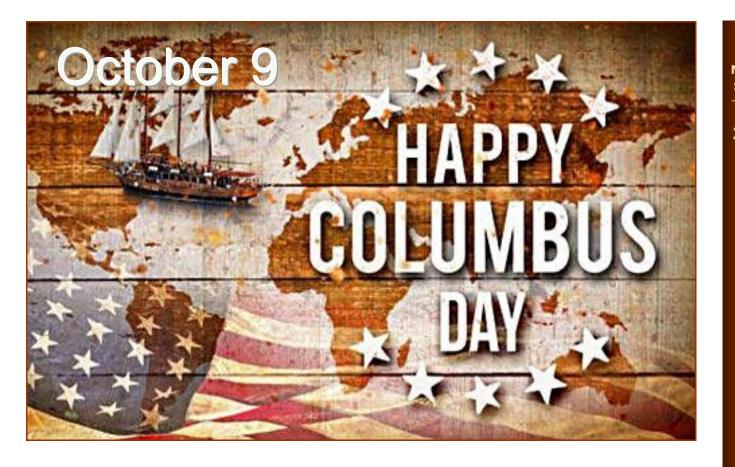
In previous readings about Sam Adams, it was suggested that he believed that riots were effectively theater. In Schiff's book, the reader is immersed in stage play and rea-

lizes its lingering truth. As one who has read an abundance of biographies and histories, I found this author's single-minded focus on her primary subject to be a two-sided template. A great deal can be learned about Samuel Adams.

Yet the reader may also pause to reflect upon what the author has chosen to omit. The events of Lexington and Concord occupy a single page. Bunker Hill is limited to one paragraph while the earlier exposition on shaping of a rather brief but tragic street action into the Boston Massacre was allocated numerous pages. The reader must fill-in the white space as he reads of Adam's response and planning for how each incident ought to be communicated in order to fan the flames of revolution.

In summary, *The Revolutionary: Samuel Adams* merits the attention of every SAR member as the greater story of the Revolution from which a fragment of the heritage we claim is contemplated.

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



Compatriot Receives DAR Medal of Honor

Dr. Tony Zeiss, Past President of the Mecklenburg Chapter NCSSAR, has consistently been a driving force in advancing the work of the SAR at all levels. He recently received the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) *Medal of Honor*. The award was presented by Anna Baird Choi, NCSDAR State Regent, on July 20 at the NCSDAR District II meeting held at the Quail



Hollow Club in Charlotte (Photo credit: Partners for Parks).

For many years Dr. Zeiss served as president of Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, taking that institution to the very top among community colleges in the nation. After his retirement, he served in a high capacity at the heralded and acclaimed Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C.

Among his many achievements, one of which he is

most proud, is the Trail of History up and down Sugar Creek in Charlotte. Of Dr. Zeiss, Regent Catherine Bracey of the Halifax Convention Chapter NCSDAR said, "His work will ensure Charlotte's rich history is captured for generations to learn."

The Southern Campaign That Secured American Independence (Part 1)

By Stephen McKee

Our Patriot ancestors wanted an independent, free nation. They also wanted the world to see what determined men could accomplish in that effort. Unfortunately, the vast majority of Americans today know little about the Revolutionary War and the heroic sacrifice required for freedom to take root and for foundational principles of liberty to flourish.

Even among our countrymen with a working knowledge of the Revolution, their grasp of the depth and breadth of the War is limited. What they know is superficial and often follows a timeline that may include Lexington and Concord, Washington's crossing of the Delaware for the Battle of Trenton, the victory at Saratoga, the entrance of the French into the War, perhaps the Battles at Cowpens and Kings Mountain, and possibly the ultimate victory at Yorktown.

Many scholarly texts focus heavily on the war in the Northern Department, in general, and the Army under Gen. George Washington, in particular, while disregarding almost entirely much of the war in the Southern Department. In some respects this imbalance has been unduly influenced by the national mood at the time of the 1876 Centennial. Although the Civil War had concluded a decade earlier, wounds were far from healed.

Thus, any recognition of, and praise for, the Southern contribution to the Independence of these United States was not particularly palatable for the historians of that time period. Given history is often a retelling of the same stories and narratives that have come before, it should be no surprise that a more balanced version of the War has remained virtually unknown to most Americans.

An objective view of the full spectrum of battles and skirmishes that occurred in North America from 1775 to 1783 paints a different picture of the progress of the War. More importantly, where Independence was eventually won, the theatre which made that ultimate victory possible deserves a broader, more inclusive depiction.

British Southern Strategy

The British Southern Strategy was a remedy proposed to bring a swift closure to the War. Yet, the plan was doomed to fail by events that occurred in the Carolinas, from before the time the thirteen colonies united to declare their independence, to the very end of the war. The Revolutionary War may have started in Massachusetts and the North, but it most assuredly was won, and Independence secured, in the midst of a partisan War–a civil war fought between Americans in the South.

Understanding why the British elected to shift their focus from the mid-Atlantic and New England to the deep South requires a brief look at the considerations facing both sides in late 1779. First, the War in the North was practically at a stalemate with the British under the command of Sir Henry Clinton. As he occupied New York City and conducted operations within the area surrounding New York, with the Army under Washington positioned to keep him contained there. Both sides shared victories and defeats. Without a complete destruction of either army, the status quo was maintained, and the War became more a battle of attrition than active campaigning.

Lord George Germain, First Viscount of Sackville and Secretary of State for the American Colonies, was bombarded with letters from Loyalists in the South. They assured him that the vast majority of the South remained loyal to His Majesty George III. Further, they believed that a proper British Army in the Southern Colonies would restore order and end the rebellion there. Thousands of Loyalists would then be able to flock to the King's standard, swell the ranks of the army, and march north to crush Washington and restore the British Empire in North America.

Based on the information available to Germain and the British Ministry, it was the best strategy to bring a quick end to an increasingly unpopular war so that the British could regain control of the colonies. But

like all planning, it was only as good as the information on which it was based. From the outset of the conflict, the events on the ground as well as the information conveyed to Germain should have demonstrated to the Ministry that the plan was doomed to fail.

Editor's Note: Stephen P. McKee of the Mecklenburg Chapter is the NCSSAR Foothills Region Vice President, State SAR Color Guard Commander, and a Contributing Author of *ONS*. Part 2 of this ongoing article, to appear in the next issue of ONS, will discuss the War effort in the Carolinas. Read more about the Southern Campaign at https://t.ly/rFmQC.

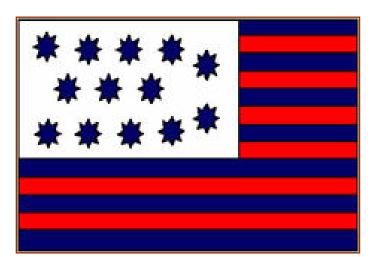
FLAGS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

The Guilford Courthouse Flag

By Robert Webster

Also known as the "North Carolina militia flag," the Guilford Courthouse flag is reported to be one of several early variations of the U.S. National flag. With blue and red stripes, it is the oldest existing American flag with eight-pointed stars on a white background.

The flag received its name as it was reportedly first flown at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, a battle that proved pivotal to the American victory in the American Revolutionary War.



On March 15, 1781, an Army of approximately 2,100 men, serving under British Gen. Charles Lord Cornwallis attacked the Continental Army serving under Maj. Gen. Nathanael Greene at Guilford Court House. The battle occurred near present-day Greensboro.

Gen. Greene formed some 4,500 men into three lines. The strategy was for the first two lines to inflict enemy casualties and exhaust their advance in hopes of a decisive blow to be delivered by the third, most formidable line. As the Battel ensued, Cornwallis was able to penetrate through the first two lines of Greene's men.

However, the British ranks lost cohesion, which left them disjointed as they advanced on some of Greene's best units. Although the British infantry was able to regroup and focus their attack, the Battle ended with Gen. Greene disengaging the enemy and withdrawing from the area.

Despite being a British Victory, Cornwallis lost over a quarter of his forces, which left him in no position to continue pursuit of Greene's forces. Instead, Cornwallis withdrew to Wilmington to rest and refit. In mid-April, with his army still not prepared to reengage Greene, Cornwallis decided to shift to Virginia, where, after the Battle of Yorktown in October of the same year, he surrendered to Gen. George Washington.

Due to a lack of evidence to support its presence at the battle, many historians question the authenticity of the Guilford Courthouse flag. Regardless, the Guildford Courthouse flag is considered the oldest surviving Revolutionary War flag. The original Guildford Courthouse flag is maintained in the collection of the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh, where it has been preserved since 1914.

Editor's Note: Robert Webster, MSgt., USMC, Ret., is Secretary of the New Bern Chapter NCSSAR and a Contributing Author for *ONS*. He can be contacted at NewBernSAR@gmail.com.

OCT

2023

Battle of Elizabethtown Commemoration

On August 27, the Lumber River Chapter NCSSAR collaborated with the le Marquis de Lafayette Chapter NCSSAR for the 242nd Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of Elizabethtown. A monument to the Battle and one to the female patriot spy and heroine Sallie Salter were rededicated at the ceremony in Elizabethtown, NC. The event was prepared and directed by Compatriot Greg Conner of the Lumber River Chapter.



Compatriot Carlton Mansfield, President of the Lumber River Chapter facilitated the ceremony, the SAR Pledge, and the SAR Recessional. The le Marquis de Lafayette Chapter Color Guard was led by Commander John Elliott, with members David Dowless, Jr, David Mann, and Greg Conner who presented the colors.

Pastor Matt Thorley of the Trinity Methodist Church gave the invocation. A welcome and greetings were given by Carlton Mansfield and David Dowless, Jr, President of the le Marquis de Lafayette Chapter. NCSSAR Southeast Region Vice President Michael Aycock (pictured) delivered a speech on the Battle of Elizabethtown. Susie Wilkes,

Regent of the Battle of Elizabethtown Chapter NCSDAR, presented wreaths for both monuments and a NC Department of Transportation sign marking the Battle. The Colors were retired by the le Marquis de Lafayette Chapter Color Guard.

Bill Chism of the Lumber River Chapter and David Dowless, Sr. of the le Marquis de Lafayette Chapter joined other compatriots for the ceremony. In addition to Regent Wilkes, six other members of the Battle of Elizabethtown Chapter NCSDAR were present. Dignitaries Paula Greene, Elizabethtown Councilwoman, and Terri Dennison, Elizabethtown Director of Communications, also attended the event.

The Battle of Elizabethtown pitted 69 Patriot Militiamen in a surprise attack against more than 400 members of the Bladen Brunswick Loyalist Militia. By the end of the battle, the Bladen Militia counted 17 dead, including all officers. With only four wounded, the Patriots did not lose a single soldier.



Read more about the Battle of Elizabethtown at https://www.ncpedia.org/elizabethtown-battle.

THE OLD

NORTH STATE

OCT

2023

In Search of My Grandfather's **Gravesite (Part 3)**

By Victor Burns, Genealogist Sandhills Chapter NCSSAR

Preface: To get the full context of Part 3 of Mr. Burns ongoing article, readers may want to consider reviewing Part 1 (https://t.ly/JLVEr, pp. 23-24) and Part 2 (https://t.ly/0uyxo, p. 14), published in previous issues of ONS.

The search for Nathan Stedman's grave continued when my first cousin's husband, Paul, contacted the Chatham County Historical Society to locate the exact location of the Stedman Family Cemetery. We were confident it was about a block away from the historic Pittsboro Courthouse and had been paved over as a parking lot, no longer recognizable as a cemetery. Fortunately, Paul identified a developer working in the area who was interested in making improvements on this property.

The developer expressed an interest in re-interring any family remains found under the parking lot into the Asbury United Methodist Church graveyard adjacent to the property. He ran into his own brick wall, however, when he made requests to the State and local authorities for construction permits. These permits had to be obtained since the cemetery was legally the property of the Stedman Family descendants.

Whether coincidence or fate, it is remarkable that Paul and I should be searching for Nathan Stedman's grave at the same time this benevolent developer was starting his work. Because Paul's wife and I are lineal descendants of Nathan Stedman, we were able to transfer the parking lot property to the developer and begin the process of moving any human remains that could be found. I expected the likelihood of finding anything more than dirt may be slim, considering the age of the graves. At a minimum, we could move any remains and give the family a marker that would show them the respect they deserve and honor their memory.

Paul found all the old documents and drawings showing the chain of custody and possible location of the cemetery. He also contacted other family members to inform them of our intent. The developer and financier of the project, Greg Stafford, managed the legal details, surveys, and scheduling archaeologist to begin the search. I notified other relatives and started the work to acquire markers for the new burial location.

After completing the research and the necessary legal steps for the survey work to locate the cemetery, the day finally arrived to commence the dig. Although everyone involved completed their due diligence to correctly locate the cemetery, there was still the possibility we could be wrong.

On the first day, Dr. Larry O'Connell, a representative from the health department, the archaeologist, developer Greg Stafford, and I were in attendance when the first grave was discovered. It was a child's grave containing some coffin handles and nails, but no skeletal remains.

To the best of our knowledge, we were expecting one child–Emily Euphania Stedman (June 1836-August 1836)—who died at three months of age. We also had information about eight other graves in this cemetery: Nathan Alexander Stedman II (1743-1790), Prudance Hurlbut Stedman (1734-1805), Nathan Alexander Stedman III (1762-1847), Anna Francis Clark Stedman (1775-1846), Thomas P. Stedman (1801-1836), Winship Stedman (1767-1828), Margaret Furguson Stedman (1765-1851), and Robert P. Stedman (1812-1836).

Over the next few days, we uncovered seven graves: four adults and three children (two unknown to us). There was evidence of other graves that we could not reach because the area was covered over with concrete and utilities which destroyed any of the remaining grave sites.

Editor's Note: The final Part 4 of Mr. Burns' ongoing article will appear in the upcoming January 2024 issue of ONS.

NC Society Sons of the American Revolution



Battle of Colson's Mill Commemoration

Hosted by the Colson's Mill Chapter NCSSAR, the 242nd Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of Colson's Mill was held at the Norwood Community Building on July 23. The event included a welcome, a wreath ceremony to honor Patriots who fought in the battle, and a wonderful luncheon prepared by Chapter member Dwight Eudy.

The guest speaker was Chapter member Jonathan Underwood, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina. An added feature of the program was the induc-



tion of two new Chapter members. Pictured are Roger Eudy (left) and Brian Jones who are being administered the SAR oath by President Daniel Burleson.

More than 50 were in attendance, including Chapter members (pictured, L-R) were Brian Jones, David Edwards, Roger Eudy, Dwight Eudy, Eli Galloway, Daniel Burleson, J. D. Burleson, and Jonathan Underwood. Special SAR guests included Michael Aycock, Southeast Regional Vice

President NCSSAR; Bob Sigmon, Secretary NCSSAR; and Gary Spencer, Raleigh Chapter NCSSAR. Also in attendance was Rosemary B. Adams of the Clear Creek Militia Chapter NCSDAR as well as members from the NCSCAR

2023

COLOR GUARD REPORT

By Stephen P. McKee NCSSAR Color Guard Commander

The NCSSAR Color Guard continued to showcase the SAR throughout the summer of 2023, making appearances and assisting in numerous ceremonies and events, including the following:

Boone Fourth of July Parade, Boone, NC, July 4. Hosted by the Col. Daniel Boone Chapter, NCSSAR's newest Chapter, with support from other NCSSAR chapters.



Faith Fourth of July Parade, Faith, NC, July 4. Hosted by the Salisbury Chapter NCSSAR. Over 30,000 spectators lined the streets. In attendance were State SAR President Steve Van Pelt, Compatriots of the SAR, and members of the NCSDAR and NCSCAR.





248th Anniversary Commemoration of the Tryon Resolves, Bessemer City, NC, on August 12. Co-hosted by the Mecklenburg Chapter NCSSAR and the William Gaston Chapter NCSDAR. Numerous leaders and representatives from several other NCSSAR and NCSDAR chapters were in attendance.

242nd Anniversary Commemoration of Attack on the House in the Horseshoe, Sanford, NC, on July 29. Hosted by the Sandhills Chapter, NCSSAR. State President Steve Van Pelt was in attendance. The event included a reenactment of the attack that took place on the house.



249th Anniversary Commemoration of the New Bern Resolves and First Provincial Congress, New Bern, NC, on August 26. Hosted by the New Bern Chapter NCSSAR. The SAR was joined by members of the NCSDAR, the NCSCAR, and the Boy Scouts as well as the Tryon Palace Fife and Drum Corps for the parade and commemoration.



Upcoming Appearances of the NCSSAR Color Guard: ● Crossing at Greenlee Ford, October 1 ● Battle of King's Mountain, October 7 ● Battle of Shallow Ford, October 14 ● Various Veterans Day Parades, November 11 ● Battle of Great Bridge, December 2 ● Various Wreaths Across America Events, December 16.

HISTORICAL SITES

Chowan County Courthouse

By David Mann, Contributing Author



The Chowan County Courthouse is the oldest active courthouse in the State. It is located in Edenton, a town named after one of N.C's Royal Governors, Charles Eden. A meeting room above the courtroom on the second floor became the site of Revolutionary sentiment with early Patriot leaders James Iredell and Samuel Johnston.

Iredell was later appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court by George Washington. Johnston served as President of the N.C. Convention that ratified the U.S. Constitution. Johnston also served as Governor of the State. He was the nephew of Gabriel Johnston, another Royal Governor. The Chowan Precinct was one of the earliest European settlements in North Carolina.

HISTORIAN'S HERALD

Readings for CompatriotsBy Gary Spencer, *Contributing Author*

Reading is "fun"damental. Sometimes, though, it's hard to find a good book that piques your interest. Many new books on the market seem to be regurgitations of previous works. Other books can be difficult to read, due to either the author's writing style or poor content presentation. For this reason, consider the "Fifty Page Rule." If you determine the first fifty pages of a book are too much of a struggle, then lay the book aside, and move on to another. Below is a short list of books that may be worth the reading pleasure of compatriots. Some are out-of-print, but pre-owned copies can be found online at places like Amazon and Alibris, or possibly even the famous used book store Stacks's of New York.

- Babits, Lawrence E., & Howard, Joshua B. Long (2009). *Obstinate and bloody: The Battle of Guilford Courthouse*. Chapel Hill, NC: UNC Press. ISBN: 978-0-8078-3266-0.
- Freeman, Douglas Southall. (1995). *Washington* (Abridged), New York: Touchstone. ISBN: 0-684-82637-2. Note: The original 1948 work is a seven-volume set and can be expensive to purchase.
- Knight, John. (2020). *War at Saber Point: Banastre Tarleton and the British Legion*. Yardley, PA: Westholme Publishing. ISBN: 978-1-59416-352-4.
- LaCrosse, Richard B. (1997). *The frontier rifleman: His arms, clothing and equipment during the era of the American Revolution, 1760-1800.* Union City, TN: Pioneer Press. ISBN: 0-913150-57-6.
- Martin, Joseph Plumb. (2010). *A narrative of a Revolutionary* soldier [The memoir previously published as *Private Yankee Doodle*]. New York: Penguin Random House. ISBN: 978-0-451-53158-2.
- O'Shaughnessy, Andrew Jackson. (2013). *The men who lost America: British leadership, the American Revolution, and the fate of the empire*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press. ISBN: 978-0-300-19107-3.
- Peterson, Harold L. (1968). The book of the Continental soldier: Being a compleat account of the uniforms, weapons, and equipment with which he lived and fought. Harrisburg VA: Stackpole Books. ISBN: 0-88394-033-7.
- Rankin, Hugh F. (2005). *The North Carolina Continentals*. Chapel Hill, NC: UNC Press. ISBN: 978-0-8078-5662-8.
- Royster, Charles. (1979). A revolutionary people at war: The Continental Army and American character, 1775-1783. Chapel Hill, NC: UNC Press, 1979. ISBN: 0-8078-4606-6.
- Unger, Harlow Giles. (2002). Lafayette. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons. ISBN: 978-0-471-46885-1.

Group Grave Marking Proposed for 23 Patriots



NCSSAR Past President Fred Learned and Catawba Valley Chapter President Betser are proposing a group grave marking at Pilgrims Church Cemetery in Lexington. One or more ceremonies (to be determined) will occur in conjunction with the SAR 2026 National Congress and our nation's 250th Anniversary celebration.

Ben has researched and identified 23 Patriots who are buried at the Pilgrims Church Cemetery. Two of the Patriots, Wooldrich Fritz and Valentine Leonard, were killed in their homes in November 1781 by Tories, eight months after they had fought at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse.

Since old gravestones become mostly illegible over time, we are planning to install one new monument that identifies each of the 23 Patriots. Ben created a sketch (pictured) of the proposed monument and a grave marking medal fundraising flyer (pictured).

We are hopeful that State SAR members and others from around the country will want to earn a grave marking medal. To be medal-eligible, com-

patriots have to make a monetary donation toward the effort, per National SAR guidelines. They may also want to attend some of the grave marking ceremonies, simply because so many States don't have any, or very few, patriot graves.

The next step is fundraising, which will need to begin soon to get this monument approved and installed prior to 2026. The possibility of placing an ad in the National *SAR Magazine* to help promote this event is being considered.

Volunteers who would like to help with this project could assist with (a) researching descendants, (b) writing a short biographical about each patriot, so we can tell their unique story at the proposed national grave marking ceremonies, (c) preparing and submitting a PRS Application for each Patriot, and (d) reaching out to local elected officials for their support.

Compatriots interested in helping with this cause may contact Fred (fdlearned@gmail.com) or Ben (lennon_0102@yahoo.com) directly. Much work is yet to be done.

FRED LEARNED, Past President NCSSAR Bethabara Chapter NCSSAR

BEN SETSER, *President*Catawba Valley Chapter NCSSAR



Mecklenburg Declaration Signer Honored

Russell McCullough Contributing Author ONS

On July 15, the Mecklenburg Chapter NCSSAR conducted a solemn grave marking for Capt. Neill Littlefield Morrison (1728-1784), a signer of the Mecklenburg Declaration on May 20, 1775. He was a brave, diligent, and fervent Patriot in the Carolina backcountry.

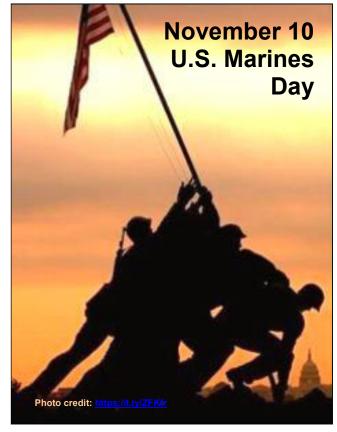


Buried in historic Providence Presbyterian Church Cemetery, the ceremony was conducted with all the pomp and circumstance worthy of an honorable man. Assisting the Chapter was the NCSSAR Color Guard who fired an impressive volley. Delegations from other State SAR chapters and a large contingency of the NCSDAR and NCSCAR attended. The present church building was erected in 1858. A large rock rests at the entrance to the cemetery that served as the congregation's first pulpit, still reverently referred to as "Preachers Rock."

Two direct descendants of Capt. Morrison were also in attendance. Both shared very interesting and important insights into the life of the famed patriot. Compatriot Gary Spencer, who led the color guard, shared intimate details of his family's remembrance. The history of the man and his times were relayed by Chapter President Greg Catledge. Both presentations were inspiring and informative.

The Chapter is aggressively working to mark more graves every year. Our next grave marking ceremony will be this fall at Goshen Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Belmont where six Patriots will be honored. We acknowledge the hard work of NCSDAR, who has identified some 22 graves of patriots, including these six, who lie unmarked by the SAR, although the DAR marked them in 1976.





2023

Battle of Ramsour's Mill Commemoration

The 243rd Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of Ramsour's Mill was co-hosted by the Catawba Valley Chapter NCSSAR and the Jacob Forney Chapter NCSDAR on June 16 and 17 in Lincolnton. Read more about the event in the Catawba Valley Chapter news section on page 5.

BEN SETSER Consulting Editor ONS













New Bern Resolves Anniversary Observance





The 249th anniversary of the signing of the New Bern Resolves, held on August 26, was hosted by the New Bern Chapter NCSSAR in collaboration with the following organizations: Richard Dobbs Spaight Chapter NCSDAR, Christ Episcopal Church, North Carolina History Center, St. Johns Masonic Lodge #3, Heroes of 1776, parent group National Sojourners, Inc., and Boys Scouts of America (BSA) Troops #13, #97, #132, #219, #584, #1884, #9133, and Cub Scout Pack #130 of the East Carolina Council.

A procession of people dressed in Revolutionary War period regalia proceeded down Middle Street to Christ Episcopal Church where a ceremony was held to observe the historical event. Representative organizations included NCSSAR Foothills Region, NCSSAR Southeast Region, Col. George Waller Chapter VASSAR, Joseph Montfort Chapter NCSDAR, Susanna Coutanch Evans Chapter NCSDAR, Col. Adam Alexander Chapter NCSCAR, Valley of New Bern Scottish Rite, Executive and Senior Leadership of the East Carolina Council BSA, the Tryon Palace Fife and Drum Corps, and the Veterans Council of Craven County.

The keynote speaker for the ceremony was Nelson McDaniel, Historian of the New Bern Historical Society. About 400 people attended the event. Photography provided by the Coastal Photography Club (www.coastalphotoclub.com).



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

Battle of the House in the Horseshoe Commemoration



The Sandhills Chapter NCSSAR hosted the 242nd Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of the House in the Horseshoe on July 29 at the Alston House Historic site in Sandford. Col. Jonathan Battle, USA, Ret., House of the Horseshoe Committee Chair, planned, directed, and implemented an extraordinary program. The SAR ceremony and battle reenactment were widely attended by nearly 1,200 people during the day, according to the Alston House.

Chapter Secretary Mike Fusselbaugh facilitated the ceremony. The keynote speaker was William Caldwell from the National Park Service. His presentation was titled, "To Bear True Allegiance: Remembering the Revolution as a Divisive Event."

Various individuals and groups honored our American Patriots and placed wreaths. In addition to compatriots from ten NCSSAR chapters, State SAR President Steven Van Pelt was present, as well as Foothills Region Vice President and Color Guard Commander Stephen McKee, who led the State SAR Color Guard.

Also in attendance were Regents and members from five chapters of the NCSDAR and members from NCSCAR, including State CAR President Abbie Page.

MIKE FUSSELBAUGH, Secretary Sandhills Chapter NCSSAR



Battle of Charlotte Commemoration



The Catawba Valley Chapter participated in a ceremony to honor Patriot Major John Davidson and family, on whose property the Battle of Charlotte reenactment and celebration

was held. The Battle took place on September 26, 1780, about where the Bank of America tower stands on Trade and Try-

on Streets in Charlotte. The battle reenactment was held on the Davidson family property in Rural Hill. The event included a spectacular musket volley.



BEN SETSER, *President*Catawba Valley Chapter NCSSAR

OCT

2023

Tryon Resolves Commemoration

The Battle of Kings Mountain Chapter NCSSAR, original hosts of the 248th Anniversary Commemoration of the Tryon Resolves, was unable to organize the event. To ensure the commemoration was properly held, State SAR leadership called on Catawba Valley to muster a Color Guard, which contributed four Guardsmen. Others comprising the Color Guard were NCSSAR State Color Guard Commander Stephen Mckee of the Mecklenburg Chapter, and one other compatriot from Old North State Chapter, for a total of six. Also present for the ceremony were five NCSDAR members.

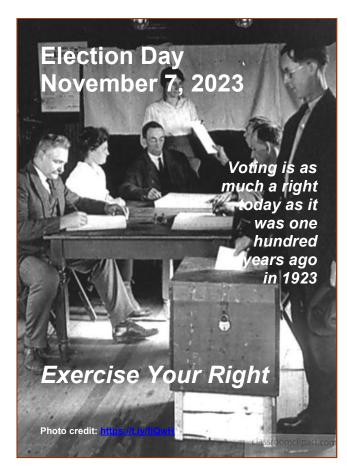




BEN SETSERContributing Author ONS



October kicks off the annual **SAR membership** renewal campaign. Paying annual dues is a seasonal tradition, much like sports and holidays, that culminates near Thanksgiving. A dues notice will be sent by email or traditional mail to all current NCSSAR members by October 1.



THE

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

October-December 2023

Updates available at

https://rb.gy/19e71 https://www.sar.org/events/

NATIONAL EVENTS

October 7: 243rd Anniversary Commemoration, Battle of Kings Mountain; Co-hosted by the Battle of Kings Mountain Chapter NCSSAR and the Daniel Morgan Chapter SCSSAR; Kings Mountain National Park, Blacksburg, SC; Begins 11:00 a.m.

STATE EVENTS

October 14: 243rd Anniversary Commemoration, Battle of Shallow Ford; Hosted by the Bethabara Chapter NCSSAR; Huntsville Methodist Church, Huntsville, NC; Begins 11:00 a.m.

December 2: 123rd Anniversary Commemoration, Battle of Great Bridge; Hosted by Norfolk Chapter VASSAR; Details TBA; see http://www.norfolksar.org/schedule/

LOCAL EVENTS

October 21: Grave marking ceremony (morning), Compatriot Carl Witt; Lasker Town Cemetery, Lasker, NC; Grave marking ceremony (afternoon), Compatriots Frank Hart Saunders and Luther Rice Mills; Hosted by the Halifax Resolves Chapter NCSSAR; Historic Trinity Church, Scotland Neck, NC; 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

October 21: Grave marking ceremony, Patriots Rev. Daniel Asbury and wife Nancy Asbury; Hosted by the Catawba Valley Chapter NCSSAR; Rehobeth United Methodist Church, Terrell, NC; 1:00 p.m.

