

## *Message from the President*



Compatriots,

Our next meeting is coming up soon and I wanted to take the time to invite everyone in the chapter to participate. We are having elections, nominations and swearing in ceremony all in one night! A very important event indeed. More will

be mentioned in the newsletter regarding the slate of proposed officers. I would like to place my faith in the chapter and its continued leadership.

That being said, I also want to wish everyone a Happy All Hallows Eve! Thinking of our nation's founding we have a lot of traditions which are very different than during that time. Our celebration of Halloween is just one such event.

Interestingly, according to Colonial Williamsburg's website, Colonial Americans didn't celebrate Halloween. They didn't have jack-o'-lanterns either, or trick or treat, or costumes, or candy as we know it. What they had were pumpkins— far more varieties of the fruit than we see today, all of which they consumed in far greater quantities than we do today.

In their day, the pumpkin, or pompion as it was called, got more respect. An important food source, pumpkins were crucial to their survival through the hungry winter months. By the time of our founders, the Pumpkin had improved in taste and was used in all sorts of recipes which we would not recognize. Before the colonists arrived and early in their arrival, pompion seeds were all that was consumed. But over time and cultivation, their bitterness was reduced

until they were eaten with gusto. (Cue pumpkin spice lattes!)

Though Halloween was unknown in early America, the established Church of England did take note of All Saints Day, also known as All Hallows' Day, on November 1. All Hallows' Evening, corrupted to Halloween, fell on the preceding night, October 31, but it was not an occasion for costumed children to rap colonial door knockers, and no jack-o'-lanterns flickered from colonial windows.

The origins of Halloween date back to the Celtic harvest festival Samhain, celebrated in November at the beginning of the Celtic New Year, when the souls of the dead were said to return to earth. Beliefs and celebrations varied from place to place, but often involved bonfires, burning sacrifices, and costumes, as people marked another autumn's reaping and honored the dead. Pumpkins were unknown in Europe at this early date, but traditions included hollowing out gourds to make lanterns to light the way at night or, some said, to ward off evil spirits that roamed the country-

**The November meeting will be held Wed., November 8, at Halifax United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 150 S. King St. in Halifax, at 6:30 pm.**

**On the agenda: Election of chapter officers and discussion and vote on new chapter bylaws.**

**The cost of the meal will be \$15. Reservations are required and must be in by noon on Fri., November 3. Please contact me by email at this address or telephone or text me at (252) 955-2103 if you're coming.**

side on All Hallows' Eve. Irish immigrants brought Celtic traditions to America in the nineteenth century, where they found the pumpkins larger than gourds and better for carving. So, in the New World, their jack-o'-lanterns were made from pumpkins instead.

Thank you allowing me to share this information. If you would like more on colonial history, which I greatly enjoy learning, please visit Colonialwilliamsburg.org and other sites.

I look forward to seeing you if you can attend our next meeting! May the Creator of all things favor you this day.

Fraternally, **Geoff**

Upcoming Meeting

This will be a very important chapter meeting, and we hope as many members as possible can make it. First off, we will be voting on the following slate of officers to lead the chapter for the next two years:

**President:** Bill Riggan

**Vice President:** Mark Pace

**Secretary:** Michael Cooper

**Treasurer:** Steve Avent

**Registrar:** Bill Riggan

We will also be voting on an updated set of bylaws. Our previous ones were written over 20 years ago, so updates are long past due, and all chapter members should be grateful to Bill Riggan and Mark Pace for the time and effort they've put into this project. All members should have received a hard copy of the bylaws via the US Mail earlier this month. We will be voting on them at this meeting if a quorum is present.

Treasurer's Report

Ending Balance as of September, 2023 meeting:	\$2,027.77
Deposits:	\$86.00
Checks:	\$20.85
Current Checking Acct Balance:	\$2,113.77

Youth fund balance: **\$1,492.50**  
 General fund balance: **\$621.27**

09/25/23	DEPOSIT	\$30.00	Late meal payment
09/20/23	DEPOSIT	\$56.00	September meeting meal payments

• **APPROVED APPLICATIONS**

Preston Armand Fortin - Supplemental; Patriot, Simon Lane  
Tucker Nobles - Patriot, Joseph Howell

• **APPLICATIONS IN PROGRESS**

Kenneth Christison - Patriot, Robert Lewis  
Kenneth Askew - Patriot, Wyatt Warrick  
Zack Myers - Patriot, John Reel  
Dwight Neal - Patriot, William Perry  
Bobby Cooper - Patriot, Thomas Woodward  
Willis Richardson - Patriot, Benjamin Richardson  
John Powell - Patriot, David Crawley

*Bill Riggan*, Registrar

---

*Minutes of September Meeting*

The Halifax Resolves Chapter of the NC SAR met on Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at the Halifax United Methodist Church in Halifax, NC. President Geoff Pittard called the meeting to order at 1833. He gave the invocation and, in unison, the group recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Then, Secretary Cooper led the SAR Pledge. The following guests were introduced: • **Steven Berry**

President Pittard then dismissed us to our meal. After our meal we then conducted our meeting. The first item on our agenda was to approve the Secretary's report as was presented in our newsletter. President Pittard asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Compatriot Doug Wright made a motion to approve and was seconded by our Historian, Mark Pace. Next up was our Treasurer's report. President Pittard asked for a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented in our newsletter. Secretary Michael Cooper made the motion to approve, and it was seconded by Compatriot Mark Pace. The President's report was then presented by Geoff Pittard.

President Pittard spoke on the upcoming Suzanna Penn grave marking, as Mrs. Sheryll Albert was unable to attend that night due to Covid in the family. It was reported that it was a great event with an even greater turnout. Next, he spoke of the membership rate hikes for the dues at the National level. We should be aware of the possibility that the state society may follow suit.

Under unfinished business, he spoke about Halifax Day 2024 and possible ideas for a parade.

Then, the upcoming grave markings scheduled for October 21st, 2023 were briefly discussed. There will be three at Trinity Episcopal and one for Comp. Carl Witt in Lasker, NC. President Pittard discussed allowing former chapter member Ken Wilson to conduct SAR activities in the area for the Old North State Chapter. Under new business, President Pittard spoke about the Knight Essay contest. Renny Taylor is the Chapter Chairman, and he asked for volunteers to help with judging/grading. Next, President Pittard brought up the nomination of new officers. Three of our officers were unable to attend the meeting so we set it aside to deal with at the next meeting. Lastly, President Pittard spoke of the Board of Managers meeting coming up on September 30, 2023 and explained that he would attend, but if anyone wanted to go in his place he would greatly appreciate it due to a conflict with his schedule. For our program today, Douglas Wright did a presentation on sword fighting techniques of the American Revolution.

President Pittard then reminded all present again of the October 21st compatriot grave marking ceremonies and urged all to attend, and he asked for volunteers for our youth events. We were then led in the SAR Recessional by Mark Pace and the benediction was given by Renny Taylor. The meeting was then adjourned by President Pittard at 2007.

*Michael Cooper*, Secretary



# *The Halifax Dispatch*

*The Newsletter of the Halifax Resolves Chapter, NCSSAR,  
Steve Avent, Editor*



## *The Halifax Dispatch*

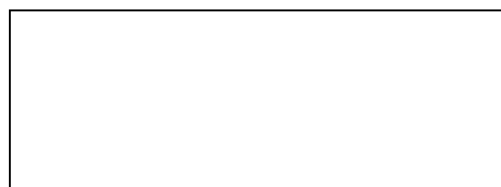
*A publication of the  
Halifax Resolves Chapter  
of the*

**NC Sons of the American Revolution**

Volume 22 — Number 6  
November, 2023

**Steve Avent, Editor**

42 Fox Grape Ln.  
Southern Shores, NC 27949  
(252) 955-2103



## **Chapter Activities**

On Oct. 21, the chapter marked the grave of former chapter member Carl Witt, in Lasker, NC. (l—r) former chapter member Ken Wilson, M. de Lafayette Chapter President David Dowless, Steve Avent and Geoff Pittard.



## **Chapter Officers**

**President: Geoff Pittard**

307 Jackson St., Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870  
(252) 532-0664, gspittard@gmail.com

**Vice President / Registrar: Bill Riggan**

108 Loy Dr., Louisburg, NC 27549  
(919) 495-0706, hrcregistrar@nc.rr.com

**Secretary: Michael Cooper,**

701 N. Main St., Louisburg, NC 27549  
(919) 702-4055, michael.cooper.sar@gmail.com

**Treasurer: Steve Avent**

42 Fox Grape Ln, Southern Shores, NC 27949  
(252) 955-2103, savent917@gmail.com

**Chaplain: Harry Albert**

hlalbert78@gmail.com

**Chaplain Emeritus: Rev. Duncan Jones**