

The Old North State



Newsletter of the North Carolina Society of the Sons of the American Revolution • Vol. 27 No. 1 • January 2024

President's Message

Steve A. Van Pelt
President NCSSAR



NC Compatriots,

Happy New Year to all! I sincerely hope everyone had a great holiday season and is looking forward to a bright new year.

It is appropriate to make some resolutions for the new year such as exercise more, eat less, and resurrect other important activities that we may have neglected in the past. Some of us might need to consider getting a gym membership or reading a book on losing weight.

We do these things because we believe that we and our loved ones would be better off by making some meaningful changes. Sadly, many of our best laid plans fall by the wayside, and we revert to our old patterns.

Early in my career, when I was a high school band director, my school principal once said, "We all get in a pretty good rut sometimes." In retrospect, I believe he was trying to convey that, although we may be doing great things, we could unintentionally fail to identify other things that we might be able to change or do even better.

Every chapter in the NCSSAR is unique. We all follow the basic program and mission of SAR by "honoring our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting *patriotism*, *serving* our communities, and *educating* and *inspiring* future generations about the founding principles of our Country."

This can be a daunting task. I recommend that all chapter leaders and compatriots reflect on what is currently being done in these four areas, and then consider what can be done to improve efforts to advance the SAR mission.



The list of possibilities is extensive. For example, each chapter might plan a new activity or event based on the talents and interests of its members that promotes patriotism in the community. This will require that we move out of our 'pretty good ruts' (comfort zones) and try something new.

State SAR Treasurer Sam Powell and I have located a new venue for our Annual NCSSAR Meeting. We will gather at the Embassy Suites in Greensboro (<https://t.ly/FJXJk>) on April 5-6. We were impressed with the cleanliness and up to date rooms as well as the public areas of this facility. It is several steps better than our previous location. Details for registration will be shared soon.

Chapter leaders who have not already done so should go to the NCSSAR website and download the 2023 Americanism Report and Stark Report. Keep track of all chapter activities on a monthly basis. Every chapter should

have someone responsible for recording activities associated with these two reports. It can be difficult to remember everything that should be included. The Stark Report is due to Pat Neimann by January 14. The Americanism Report is due to Jay DeLoach by February 15.

Let's have a great 2024!

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Membership Update

**NCSSAR welcomes 35 new
members (October 6, 2023
to December 10, 2023)**

BROOKS, Stephen #228298
CHESNUTT, James #228483
CHESNUTT, Stephen #228480
CHESNUTT, James III #228482
CHESNUTT, James Jr. #228481
COTTINGHAM, Tracy III #228039
ELDER, Anthony #228418
GRENGA, John Jr. #227957
HARRIS, Cameron #228030
HARRIS, Logan #228035
HARRIS, Marvin #228034
HARRIS, Michael #228036
HARRIS, Owen #228033
HARRIS, Parker #228029
HARRIS, Ryan – 228032
HARRIS, Thomas #228037
HARRIS, Marvin Jr. #228031
HOPKINS, Alsey #228205
HURLBURT, David #228038
HERMAN, Todd #227955
LEVI, Erskine Jr. #227956
MEYERS, John #228203
MILLER, Luke #228417
NOBLES, Jim #228028
RICHEY, Camden #227962
RICHEY, Christopher #227961
ROARK, Davis #228201
ROARK, Peter #228202
SCOTT, Randall Jr. #27959
SEITZ, Eric #228204
SEITZ, Thomas #228549
STARNES, William S. #227960
STARNES, William E. #228499
THOMPSON, Michael #228484
YOUNG, Scott #227958

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

BAMFORD, David
BRIGHT, Donald
BRUSH, James

BURGESS, Nathan
DELOACH, Jesse
MATHER, Walter
MCCORMICK, Samuel
WHITEHURST, Walter

NCSSAR Membership Inquiries

Since September 15, NCSSAR has received 66 inquiries about SAR membership. Chapter and inquiry counts include the following: Albemarle-0; Bethabara-3; Battle of King's Mountain-1; Colson's Mill-1; Blue Ridge-5; Catawba Valley-1; Col. Alexander Erwin-3; Col. Alexander Lillington-1; Col. Daniel Boone-0; Gen. Frances Nash-3; Gen. George Washington-2; Halifax Resolves-0; Isaac Carter-0; Lower Cape Fear-6; le Marquis de Lafayette-4; Lumber River-0; Lt. Col. John Phifer-4; Mecklenburg-9; Old North State-4; Nathanael Greene-3; New Bern-1; Raleigh-8; Salisbury-1; Sandhills-1; Lt. Col. Felix Walker-0; Western Waters-1; Yadkin Valley-3.

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 nephews.

The *DAR Finder Form* should be completed and submitted with every application for which assistance has been provided from a NCSDAR member. This includes using DAR application 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

Alamance Battleground Chapter

The Chapter hosted a four-patriot grave marking ceremony on November 4 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church Cemetery in Alamance County. Honored were Patriots John Ludwig Albright (1761-1816), Malachi Izeley (1725-1808), John Shaddy (1738-1812), and Michael Shoffner (1721-1810). All four patriots are buried in the same cemetery in close proximity to each other.

Joel King gave a presentation in the church sanctuary entitled "Creating, consuming, and commemorating gravestones and the multiple identities they express." A second talk on "St. Paul's Lutheran and Stoner's German Reformed Churches in the regulator uprising at the Battle of Alamance and during the Revolutionary War" was presented by Mark Chilton. The event concluded with a BBQ dinner. Pictured (L-R) are John Martin, NCSSAR Treasurer Dr. Sam Powell, and James B. Powell.



SAMUEL C. POWELL, PHD, Secretary
Alamance Battleground Chapter NCSSAR

Bethabara Chapter

In July, Chapter Compatriots Bill Ewalt, Orin Sadler, and Andy Kelly gathered at the Spainhower-Volck Cemetery



in King, NC, to clear the area and to place a SAR marker at the grave of Patriot John Jacob Spainhower.

The grave marking ceremony was held on September 17 at a shelter at King Central Park near Patriot Spainhower's old cabin. His actual grave, located at the end of a new housing development, is not accessible by large crowds.

Patriot Spainhower was born in Yorktown, PA, to Moravian parents. He married Anna Catharina Volck in 1773. Their house became a satellite church of sorts for Moravians in the area. As a Moravian, he was a conscientious objector. Thus, he was never conscripted by either Whigs or Loyalists during the American Revolution. The Moravians walked a thin line with their neutrality and were often accused of aiding one side or the other. Despite his religious prohibitions, Patriot Spainhower supported the glorious cause and was paid to provide services to the Surry County Militia in support of the American Revolution. This was not a simple act, as he garnered the enmity of both Loyalist militia and his church. After the war, he prospered and sired 13 children with his wife Anna. He died after a prolonged illness in 1822 at the age of 72, and was buried in Stokes, NC.

Ceremony attendees included Chapter Compatriots Bill Ewalt, Andy Kelly, and Orin Sadler, DAR members, numerous descendants from several states, and Hon. Mayor Jack Warren of King. The ceremony concluded with the laying of wreaths by Bill Ewalt and Patriot descendants Charles Spainhower, Verna Brewer, and Carolyn Boyles.



On September 10, the Chapter sponsored a grave marking and wreath laying ceremony for War of Independence Patriot Jonathan Nichols Tull at the historic Concord Methodist Church Cemetery in Louisville, NC. Patriot Tull served during

the American Revolution in the Rowan County Militia. The church cemetery also serves as the final resting place for several additional Patriots. Present were Chapter Compatriots, DAR members, descendants and guests, and representatives from the NCSSAR Color Guard.

ALLEN MOLLERE, Newsletter Editor
Bethabara Chapter NCSSAR

Blue Ridge Chapter

The Chapter participated in a naturalization ceremony on September 15 in Asheville. The event was held to officially process new American citizens at the federal courthouse. The Chapter Color Guard presented the colors as part of the ceremony, including Brett Callaway, Craig Isaacson, Garry Linton, and Tom Rightmyer (pictured below). Eighteen new Americans were awarded citizenship during the ceremony. Approximately 40 additional people attended the event.



The Chapter Color Guard participated in a grave marking for Patriot Jacob Duckett on September 17 at the Old Brick Church Cemetery in Leicester. Ron Chapman provided the Duckett family history, and Steve Greene, Ron Hillabrand, and Craig Isaacson presided over the order of service. Color Guardsmen were Brett Callaway, Larry Chapman, Ron Chapman, Steve Greene, Craig Isaacson, and Garry Linton. Approximately 45 people attended the event.

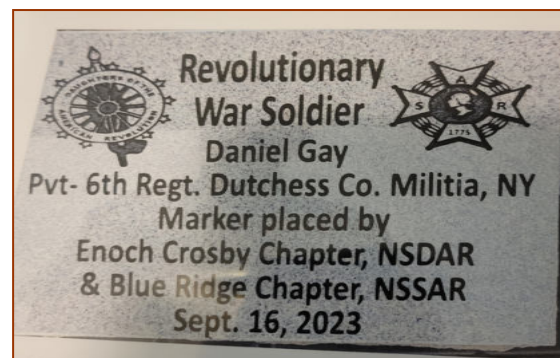


Led by members of the NCSDAR (pictured, bottom left), the Chapter joined a celebration of Constitution Day held at the Hendersonville County Heritage Museum on September 17. They provided a history of Constitution Day and hosted a re-enactor who described ratification of the Constitution. Compatriots Brett Callaway, Larry Chapman, Craig Isaacson, and Garry Linton of the Blue Ridge Color Guard presented the colors. Approximately 30 people attended the event.

The Chapter Color Guard (pictured below) participated in the Battle of the Black Hole Commemoration Ceremony on Wayah Creek near Franklin, NC, on September 15. Joe Sam Queen, President of the Western Waters Chapter NCSSAR, delivered remarks. The Kings Mountain Chapter NCSSAR Chapter took an active part in the program with their black powder gun salute. In addition, a representative from the Warriors of Anikituhwa (<https://rb.gy/a5vmgl>) provided a Cherokee war dance. The ceremony was attended by approximately 35 individuals.



The Chapter co-hosted a grave marking with the Enoch Crosby Chapter NYSDAR of Southeast, NY. The ceremony honored the legacy of private Daniel Gay of the 6th Regiment, Dutchess County Militia, NY. Private Gay is the primary SAR ancestor of Compatriot



Dave Gunther of the Blue Ridge Chapter. Dave had a marker designed and engraved locally in NC. He shipped it to New York along with a special salutation rendering honors on behalf of the Chapter.

The Blue Ridge Chapter hosted the grave marking ceremony for Patriot Lambert Clayton held at the Davison River Cemetery on October 7 in Pisgah Forest. The order of service, presentation of a wreath, and Color Guard were all orchestrated by the Chapter. The following NCSDAR chapters (representatives pictured below) also rendered honors and provided wreaths: Rebecca Sevier Waddell, Edward Buncombe, Ruth Davidson, Abraham Kuykendall, and Waightstill Avery.



Rebecca Wood, fourth great-granddaughter of Patriot Lambert and member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, shared Patriot Lambert's history. Also participating in the ceremony were Chapter members Dave Galentine, Ron Hillabrand, and Tom Long. Color Guardsmen included Jeff Brewer, Brett Callaway, Larry Chapman, Steve Greene, Dave Gunther, Craig Isaacson, Garry Linton, and Tom Rightmyer. Approximately 25 people attended the event.

On October 21, the Chapter Color Guard presented the colors for the grave marking ceremony of Patriot William M. Bryson (1750-1817). Born in Lancaster, PA, he is buried in a private family cemetery in Mills River, NC. Among the 30 people in attendance were some family members from the state of Wyoming.



Mountain Region NCSSAR Vice President Craig Isaacson gave the opening remarks, and Blue Ridge Compatriot Tom Long read the story, "Hallowed Ground." Descendant

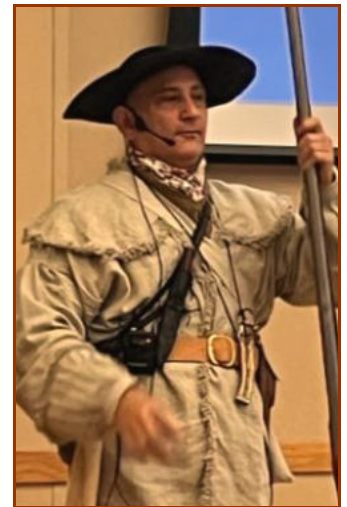
Steven Bryson delivered an eloquent speech about the life and times of his fifth great-grandfather. A nearby mountain ridge was named after Patriot Bryson, and the town of Bryson City in the western part of the State was named in his honor.



Hon. Allen B. West

Former U.S. Congressman, the Honorable Lt. Col. Allen B. West, USA, Ret. delivered a speech on patriotism at the Anchor Baptist Church in Pisgah Forest on October 25. Privileged to present the colors at the gathering were Blue Ridge Chapter Color Guardsmen Jeff Brewer, Brett Callaway, Larry Chapman, Lance Dickinson, and Dave Gunther.

Chapter leaders Craig Isaacson (pictured left) and Dr. Garry Linton provided an educational program on the Revolutionary War Soldier and the Southern Campaign at the UNC Asheville Osher Lifelong Learning Institute on November 3. An audience of 50 people enjoyed the presentation, which included a display of a firelock and accoutrements.



The Edward Buncombe Chapter NCSDAR dedicated a bronze monument to 20 soldiers and Patriots buried at the historic Riverside Cemetery in Asheville on November 4. Numerous national, state, and local DAR officers were present. Joining the A.C. Reynolds High School JROTC to present the colors were Blue Ridge Chapter Color Guardsmen Steve Greene (pictured left) and Garry Linton.

The Blue Ridge Chapter hosted the grave marking ceremony for Patriot James Andrew Miller (1750-1808) to a small gathering of people at the Old French Broad Baptist Church Cemetery in Rugby. Participating in providing the order of service and a wreath were Chapter Compatriots Dave Galentine, Tom Long, and Rev. Dr. Tom Rightmyer. Various NCSDAR chapters also presented wreaths and rendered honors.



The colors were presented by Chapter Color Guardsmen Brett Callaway, Ron Chapman, Steve Greene, Craig Isaacson, Garry Linton, and Ken Weglarz (pictured above). Ron Chapman shared a biography of Patriot Miller who served as a mounted gunman with the SC Militia during the Revolution.



Chapter members Larry Chapman, Lance Dickinson, David Gunther (pictured right), and Steve Greene (pictured left) attended the Veterans Day ceremony sponsored by the Veterans Museum of the Carolinas at the Transylvania County Courthouse lawn in Brevard on November 11. A large crowd was present to honor a number of veterans who were in their late nineties, some 101 years of age. Of the World War II soldiers represented, one had served at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. The order of service for the ceremony can be viewed at <https://t.ly/ZgRaS>.



In December, the Chapter presented a *SAR Flag Certificate* to the congregation of the Newfound Baptist Church of Leicester in Buncombe County for proper display of the American flag near the church cemetery. Around 50 people were in attendance for the presentation. Accepting on behalf of the church was Pastor Bradley Johnson. Pictured above (L-R) are a church member whose son died in military service in Iraq, Chapter President Steve Greene, Pastor Johnson, and Chapter Flag Committee Chair Clarence Rogers, Jr.

GARRY LINTON, DVM, Vice President
Blue Ridge Chapter NCSSAR



Catawba Valley Chapter

The NCSSAR Color Guard joined the Catawba Valley Chapter Color Guard, the American Legion Post 544, and the John Hoyle Chapter NCSDAR for the Constitution Week Parade at South Newton Elementary School in Newton, NC, on September 15. Typically a small parade, it nonetheless serves an important patriotic purpose for the more than 350 students who were in attendance. Witnessing them recite the *Pledge of Allegiance* in unison with their youthful voices was spectacular.



Several Chapter members attended the 1780 Overmountain Militia Muster Commemoration at Sycamore Shoals on September 23-24, which included a recreation of the crossing of the Watauga River. Held in Elizabethtown, TN, journalist Murry Lee reported the event for WJHL news (<https://t.ly/BsB0a>).



On October 21, the Catawba Valley Chapter joined the Mary Slocumb Chapter NCSDAR at the grave marking honoring Patriot Rev. Daniel Asbury. Color Guardsmen (pictured above) presented the colors at the event held at Rehobeth United Methodist Church in Terrell, NC.

The Chapter hosted a rare triple grave marking on October 14 in collaboration with the Quaker Meadows Chapter NCSDAR. Honored were Patriots James Kincaid, Robert Kincaid, and Jonathan Boone. A direct descendant from each Patriot provided biographical back-ground. The ceremony was held at the Kincaid-Bristol Cemetery located in the middle of a cow pasture on the northern edge of Burke County. Several years ago, the cemetery was extremely overgrown. Quaker Meadows Chapter members are to be commended for refurbishing it and other old cemeteries in the area. Property owners, Connie and Robert Hallyburton, provided a tent for attendees along with hot coffee, cold drinks, pastries, and fruit. "These folks were the most gracious I have ever experienced," commented Chapter President Ben Setser.



In his inaugural address (<https://rb.gy/3s5aqh>) to the nation on January 20, 1961, President John F. Kennedy proclaimed, "Let the word go forth from this time and place, to friend and foe alike, that the torch has been passed..." So, it was with the induction of new officers for the Catawba Valley Chapter on November 4. NCSSAR Foothills Region Vice President Stephen McKee (pictured left) administered the oath of office to new Chapter President Roy C. Lightfoot, Vice President Rick Hubbard, and Treasurer Dan Beal.



Chapter Past President Ben Setser presented a *SAR Flag Certificate* to Commander Ron Harris (pictured below, right) of the American Legion Post 16 in Newton, NC, on November 16 for their proper display of the US flag.



The Catawba Valley Chapter partnered with the Jacob Forney Chapter NCSDAR and the Lincoln County Historical Society in hosting the 250th anniversary celebration of the Boston Tea party on December 9 at Betsy Ross Park in Lincolnton. The event included educational sessions about Boston Common, Griffin Wharf, and the Old South Meeting House. Pictured (above, left) is Catawba Valley Chapter President Roy Lightfoot overlooking activities of the day. In conjunction, the Vesuvius Furnace Chapter NCSDAR held its annual Tea Party at Vesuvius Vineyards on December 10. Chapter member Jennifer Baker discussed the historical relevance of the Boston Tea Party to North Carolina for the *Lincoln Herald* (see <https://t.ly/Gk6bW>).

**BEN SETSER, Past President
Catawba Valley Chapter NCSSAR**

Gen. George Washington Chapter

At the annual meeting on December 17, Chapter President Travis Putman presented numerous member awards, which included Gen. Tom Wilkerson, 25 years; Bill Tilghman, 20 years; Cordell Avery and Ken Ellis, 10 years; and Kiernan Ratliff, Doug Williams, and Brad



Williams, 5 years. In recognition of his work for three years as Registrar and Yearbook Chair Jerry Wilcox (pictured) was presented a *SAR Bronze Roger Sherman Medal*.

Halifax Resolves Chapter

The Halifax Resolves Chapter held grave marking ceremonies at two locations for four compatriots on October 21. At Trinity Church in Scotland Neck, Frank Hart Saunders (1897-1960), Luther Rice Mills, II (1877-1955) and Dennis Hutson Holliday (1904-1973) were honored. Attending the ceremony were NCSSAR Northeast Region Vice President Steve Avent, Chapter President Geoffrey S. Pittard, Chapter Past President Ken Wilson, le Marquis de lafayette Chapter President David Dowless, and Don Oakes.

The second grave marking took place at the Lasker Town Cemetery in Lasker where Ernest Carl Witt (1945-2021) was honored. Present (pictured, L-R) were Ken Wilson, David Dowless, Steve Avent, and Geoffrey Pittard. Also attending were Constantia Chapter NCSDAR member and 250th Anniversary Committee Chair Gloria Womble. Compatriot biographicals are available at <https://t.ly/a6mcH>.



RENNY TAYLOR
Halifax Resolves Chapter NCSSAR

New Bern Chapter

On Nov 11, the Veterans Council of Craven County (VCCC) hosted their annual Veterans Day Luncheon at the Temple Baptist Church in New Bern. More than 250 people attended the event, most of whom were U.S. Military Veterans. During the ceremony that preceded the luncheon, Chapter Vice President and Registrar Gary Gillette was presented with the VCCC 2023 *Lifetime Achievement Award*. The award is presented each year



to a local veteran in recognition of "Exemplary service and leadership, while serving his country, community, and fellow veterans of Craven County."

DR. BOB AINSLEY, President
New Bern Chapter NCSSAR

Salisbury Chapter

On November 6, the Salisbury Chapter honored three Landis Fire Department members with the *SAR Life Saving Medal*. The certificates were presented by Chapter President Franklin Merrill. Engineer Todd Bittle (pictured right), volunteer Firefighter Rodney Wilhoit (pictured left), and Firefighter Ethan Yarborough (unable to attend) were called to the aid of an unresponsive victim. Upon arrival, they surveyed the situation and immediately applied CPR and used an AED on the victim until paramedics could arrive. Once stable, the three men accompanied the victim on the ambulance.



FRANKLIN MERRILL, President
Salisbury Chapter NCSSAR

The Southern Campaign That Secured American Independence (Part 2)

By Stephen McKee
Foothills Region Vice President NCSSAR

Readers: In order to get the full context of Part 2, readers may want to review Part 1 of this ongoing article, published in the October 2023 issue of *The Old North State* (see <https://t.ly/KFbj7>, p. 14).

The War in the Carolinas in 1776

Early in the war, before independence was declared, the outcome of two particular battles among American colonists would set the stage for a South that was anything but a hotbed of Loyalists waiting for a British Army to lead them. Indeed, Loyalist morale was dampened until the British Southern Strategy was put into effect.

One battle occurred 18 miles north of Wilmington, NC, on February 27, 1776. Loyalist Scots and some ex-Regulators recruited by Royal Governor Josiah Martin were marching to Wilmington to join a British Army under Sir Henry Clinton that was expected to land there. This combined force would then be used by the Governor to rally more Loyal-



ists and suppress Patriot sympathies throughout North Carolina. However, Patriot militia were rallied to halt the advance of Loyalist forces. They met in the early morning hours at Moore's Creek Bridge. The Patriots issued a challenge to the Loyalists, who responded they were "friends of the King" before firing a volley at the Patriot sentries. Finding the bridge planking removed and runners greased to make crossing difficult, a hand-picked company of men charged across the creek shouting "King George and broadswords!" in Gaelic. When they arrived within 30 paces of the fortified Patriot position, a devastating volley of musket and artillery fire cut down the attackers. The survivors, stunned and panicked, tried to cross

back over the creek. The entire Loyalist force was routed, and those who weren't killed in the action, lost, or drowned in the swamp, were quickly overwhelmed and captured by Patriot forces. In the following days, many more Loyalists were arrested, which put a damper on further recruiting efforts. Soon afterwards, a large Loyalist camp near Cross Creek (modern day Fayetteville) was captured. North Carolina was not militarily threatened again until 1780.

The British expedition found the situation near Wilmington untenable for landing troops and decided to sail south in an attempt to capture Charleston. There they met the forces of General Charles Lee and Colonel William Moultrie on Sullivan's Island just outside the city, which prompted yet another battle. The British were frustrated when the channel between the two islands was found to be too deep for the soldiers to wade across. Subsequent attempts to ferry the troops across the channel ultimately failed as American defenses proved successful at preventing their landing by boat.

The British Fleet's bombardment had little effect on the American defenders, as the spongy nature of the fort's palmetto log construction simply absorbed the cannon balls and suffered no real structural damage. Accurate counterfire by American artillery from the fort wrought significant damage on the Royal Navy ships, and nearly trapped them inside the harbor. The ships managed to withdraw after nearly a full day's engagement. With both the land assault and naval gunfire insufficient to take the town, the British withdrew their expedition force to New York, and did not return to South Carolina until 1780.

These two battles, occurring mere months apart, proved to be a decisive factor in the days to come. They ensured Patriot-leaning political and military factions in the Carolinas would have nearly four more years to suppress Loyalists within the States. There were partisan skirmishes and raids aplenty. But none allowed the Patriots to lose influence or control or for the Loyalists to gain an upper-hand from which to organize and raise forces for future British campaigns in the South.

Photo credit: National Park Service, <https://t.ly/QiJkr>.



HISTORICAL SITES

Cool Spring Tavern

By David L. Mann

Consulting Editor, *The Old North State*

Constructed atop the banks of Cross Creek in Fayetteville is the Cool Spring Tavern, built in 1788. It housed many of the delegates of the 1789 Constitutional Convention at the Old State House in Fayetteville where the federal constitution was ratified.

The convention was attended by several prominent colonial leaders. Among those recorded who visited the tavern were the former N.C. Colonial Gov. Richard Caswell and Gov. Samuel Johnston who presided over the convention. Gov. Caswell died during the convention and was buried near his home in Kinston. Privately owned today, the tavern is a federal period structure that is believed to be the oldest existing structure in Fayetteville.



National Medal of Honor Day

March 25



In Search of My Grandfather's Gravesite (Part 4)

By Victor Burns, *Genealogist*
Sandhills Chapter NCSSAR

Readers: To get the full context of the final Part 4 of Mr. Burns ongoing article, readers may want to review Part 1 (<https://t.ly/JLVEr>, pp. 23-24), Part 2 (<https://t.ly/0uyxo>, p. 14), and Part 3 (<https://t.ly/LnwaZ>, p.15), all published in previous issues of *The Old North State*.

The remains of the Stedman family are now re-interred in the Pittsboro United Methodist Church (UMC) graveyard. There is a marker for the family which reads, "This Monument Was Placed by Descendants of the Stedman Family, Whose Family Cemetery Was Located Near Here." The names of the family members are listed on the stone. There is also a commemorative patriot stone with the *SAR Medallion* for Nathan A. Stedman III, in recognition of his Revolutionary War Service which reads:

"In Memory of Nathan Alexander Stedman III who in 1776 at the age of 14 enlisted in The Army of The Revolution. He later joined the Ranks of The Privateers. After serving for some time, he was captured by a British Man of War. He was imprisoned to the Bermuda Isles until the end of the Revolutionary Conflict, at which time he came to the Chatham County area. Nathan served in the N.C. House of Commons and the Senate. He was instrumental in designing the early plan for the Town of Pittsboro."

On November 19, 2022, Compatriots of the Sandhills Chapter NCSSAR were joined by descendants of Revolutionary War Patriot Nathan Alexander Stedman, III at Pittsboro United Methodist Church to dedicate the grave marking and to honor his military service. Also participating in the ceremony were NCSSAR Secretary Bob Sigmon and Gary Spencer of the NCSSAR Color Guard, Compatriots and President Richard Pena of the Raleigh SAR chapter, The Regent and Daughters of the Alfred Moore Chapter NCSDAR of Southern Pines and Daughters of the Deep River Chapter NCSDAR of Pittsboro. Sandhills SAR Chapter President Bruce Fensley led the ceremony. Sandhills Chapter Compatriot and family descendant of Nathan Stedman, III, Victor Burns, of Carthage, provided a life chronology and the service record of Nathans's service in Revolutionary War. Sandhills Chapter Compatriot and N.C. State Senator Tom McInnis offered the benediction and the invocation prayer.

The story of my ancestors is my story. The more I have discovered that we are all intertwined, the richer my life becomes. It makes me realize that my part in the history of this nation is deeply rooted and that we stand on the shoulders of patriot giants.

I would like to thank the following individuals and groups, without whom my grandfather's gravesite may never have been found. Mike and Jane Deal—for maintaining the Find a Grave® page for many years; you gave us a path to follow. Paul Schmehl—for his tireless research in finding land plats and historical information on the Stedman family. Gregory Stafford—for his financial support, friendship, and exuberance in discovering the history of the Pittsboro area. Archaeologist, Matthew Jorgenson, RPA, Peter Sittig, RPA, Mary Glenn Krause, RA, and Sarah Potere, all with AECOM Technical Services of North Carolina—for getting down in the mud to help us discover our past. The N.C. Office of State Archaeology, the Chatham County Historical Society, and the Sandhills Chapter of the SAR—for their continuous support of our endeavors. Sincere thanks also go to the Pittsboro UMC—for their generous donation of the new family burial site. Finally, special thanks go to Dr. Larry Stedman O'Connell, John Gunter, Paul Schmehl, and Gregory Stafford—for helping me finance the monuments.

Reference:

Hurd, D. H. (1882). *History of New London County, Connecticut, with biographical sketches of many of its pioneers and prominent men*. Philadelphia, PA: J. W. Lewis & Co. See <https://t.ly/6crn>.

Editor's Note: Compatriot Victor Burns is the fourth great-grandson of Patriot Nathan A. Stedman, III.

Rumbaugh: It's All About Public Speaking

By Lowell M. Hoffman
Rumbaugh Committee Chair NCSSAR

Well-honed public speaking skills were necessary for our Founding Fathers to persuade other like-minded lovers of freedom so that liberty would take root and a new nation could be formed. Public speaking skills remain a life success enabler today.

The logo for America 250 SAR Programs features the text "America 250 SAR Programs" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The text is centered on a background that is split horizontally into three sections: a black top section, a red middle section, and a black bottom section. The text "America 250" is on the red background, and "SAR Programs" is on the black background below it.

America 250 SAR Programs

<https://america250sar.org/>

The **SAR Rumbaugh Oratory Contest** seeks to stimulate and reinforce public speaking skills among America's youth. All BOM members, including chapter leaders, have been sufficiently informed of the program. They have received promotional materials and have been urged to develop local chapter competitions. Yet, in recent years, only two State SAR Chapters have participated in the Rumbaugh Contest.

Perhaps, among ONS readers, there are non-officer SAR members—fathers, grandfathers, teachers, Scouts, or youth group leaders—who have a personal commitment to, and recognize the value of, public speaking skills as a life success enabler. You may also know others who touch the lives of one or many more high school students in the Old North State.

Compatriots interested in advancing the Rumbaugh Oratory Competition at the local chapter level should follow these recommended first action steps:

- Contact Lowell Hoffman, NCSSAR Rumbaugh Oratory Chair, to receive the latest up-to-date information and a contest entry form. He can be reached by phone at 919.656.9955 or by email at lmhglobal927@gmail.com.
- Team with chapter officers and other compatriots to identify local high school students who might be interested in competing. Make contact with, and work through, high school history teachers about the Rumbaugh Oratory.
- Inform and guide student participants in developing an original oration of 5 to 6 minutes on any topic related to the American Revolution. This enables the speaker to find something about which they are truly excited and will enjoy sharing with others.
- Work with your local chapter to seek sponsorship for one student participant or a full chapter competition of students. Ideally, the chapter will make a cash award and medal available to winners at the local level. For this first year, though, keep it simple.
- Register student participants using the contest entry form by January 31.
- Name a local chapter winner before March 16, which is the date of the State-level Rumbaugh Competition will be held at the Governors Club in Chapel Hill to determine a winner who will participate in the National SAR Rumbaugh Oratory Competition.
- Remember, this program is primarily about developing public speaking skills and shared patriotism. The awards, recognition, and opportunity to advance to State and National Competition is an added incentive. In the past five years, NCSSAR Rumbaugh participants (winners) have garnered more than \$22,000 in cash awards at the local, State and National levels.

FIREARMS FOR FREEDOM

The Valley Forge Campaign

by Dr. Michael D. Arnette, DDS

the Army could rest, train, and likely avoid a battle. In Valley Forge, American soldiers built 2,000 huts and cabins, placed in three parallel lines which were used from December to June 1778. Diseases killed as many as 3,000 people, soldiers, and camp followers. At Valley Forge, Congress convinced an ex-Prussian Baron von Steuben to train, educate, and motivate American soldiers in the military skills needed to fight as a unified Army.

In May 1778, an alliance with France was successful. Both land and sea support became available, and the training of von Steuben enabled the continentals to persist throughout the next five years of war. Myth and factual information weave a tremendous story of heroic tenacity and the will to win.

Many foot soldiers from North Carolina left family farms and rode their horses to New England where they contributed to the cause of freedom. They volunteered against the British who had the largest standing army and formidable navy in the world. Washington's legendary prayerful plea to Almighty God, coupled with France's support, eventually resulted in the Continental Army's success.

The Revolutionary War lasted eight and one-half years. The American Army had skirmishes from Canada to Georgia and west of the Alleghany Mountains. The Valley Forge campaign occurred in the third year of the war.

In July 1776, England and Hessian troops sought to crush the rebellion and pushed the Continental troops to near defeat, as they had control of New York City and the states of New York and New Jersey. Only the leadership of Gen. Washington, on the Christmas night crossing of the Delaware River and victories at Trenton and Princeton, saved the cause.

The Continental Army led by Washington emerged from Valley Forge as a united force trained to fight together and served as a source of inspiration for all freedom fighters. They were determined Americans of all ethnicities, creeds, and color who joined the fight with the will to win and the absolute refusal to be defeated.

Planted there were the seeds of courage for future American soldiers, including WWI's Eddie Rickenbacher flying ace and sharp shooter Alvin York in France, and WWII's 101st Airborne Division Brig. Gen. Anthony McAuliffe who answered, "Nuts!" to the German demand for surrender. They remain examples of strength for civil and military leaders today that Americans can be a best friend or a worst enemy when it comes to preserving liberty.

Sources:

McGready, Blake. (2018, October 15). Revisiting the prayer at Valley Forge. *Journal of the American Revolution*. <https://rb.gy/0ma0bd>

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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* series will center on questions-and-answers about military muskets. Fellow compatriots are encouraged to email their questions of interest to the *ONS* Editor at jpsutton56@gmail.com.

Valley Forge, PA, was the 1777-1778 winter camp of the Continental Army led by Gen. George Washington in the Revolutionary War. The name comes from the iron forge built along the Valley Creek in the 1740s.

There the soldiers were mostly separate militia, while the British occupied the American capitol of Philadelphia, only a day's march from the American camp. Valley Forge was a naturally defensible plateau where

Sons of American Revolution Commemorate 243rd Anniversary Shallow Ford Battle

Staff Report, *The Clemmons Courier**

The Sons of the American Revolution Bethabara Chapter of Winston-Salem hosted and commemorated the 243rd Anniversary of the Battle of the Shallow Ford at historic Huntsville Methodist Church on Oct. 14.

The overcast early morning weather with drizzling rain ceased just before the event, and the guests, SAR compatriots, and DAR representatives in attendance, who drove through rain from across the state to attend, were treated to an elaborate ceremony.



SAR Compatriot Fred Learned, Past President of the Bethabara Chapter [members pictured] and the N.C. Society, Sons of American Revolution (NCSSAR) once again served as emcee, and he opened the ceremony by welcoming attendees prior to the presentation of colors by the NCSSAR Color Guard.

Guest speaker Jason Melius, a historic interpreter at Ft. Dobbs, discussed the challenges faced by the patriots and Tories leading up to and during the American Revolution. Melius also provided an update on the progress at the historic Shallow Ford site.

Attendees were reminded that the Battle of the Shallow Ford took place on Oct. 14, 1780, one week after the Battle of Kings Mountain. It was at the Shallow Ford of the Yadkin River where Patriot forces consisting of four companies of militia from Montgomery County, Virginia, (about 160 men) marching south met three companies of North Carolina Militia from Charlotte and Salisbury (about 110 men) marching north.

They joined up with the local Surry County Militia (about 80 men). That combined force of about 350 patriots engaged and defeated a much larger force of over 500 Tories who had just crossed the Shallow Ford of the Yadkin River, and headed south, to reinforce the British army commanded by Gen. Charles Cornwallis.

The battle resulted in 15 casualties, with 14 loyalists and one patriot, Captain Henry Francis of the Virginia Militia, being killed. A tombstone, at the site where he fell, honors Francis. As described by the Sons of the American Revolution, the combined patriot victories over the Tories at Kings Mountain and the Shallow Ford, helped turn the hearts and minds of the War for America's Independence in North Carolina to the Patriots' advantage.

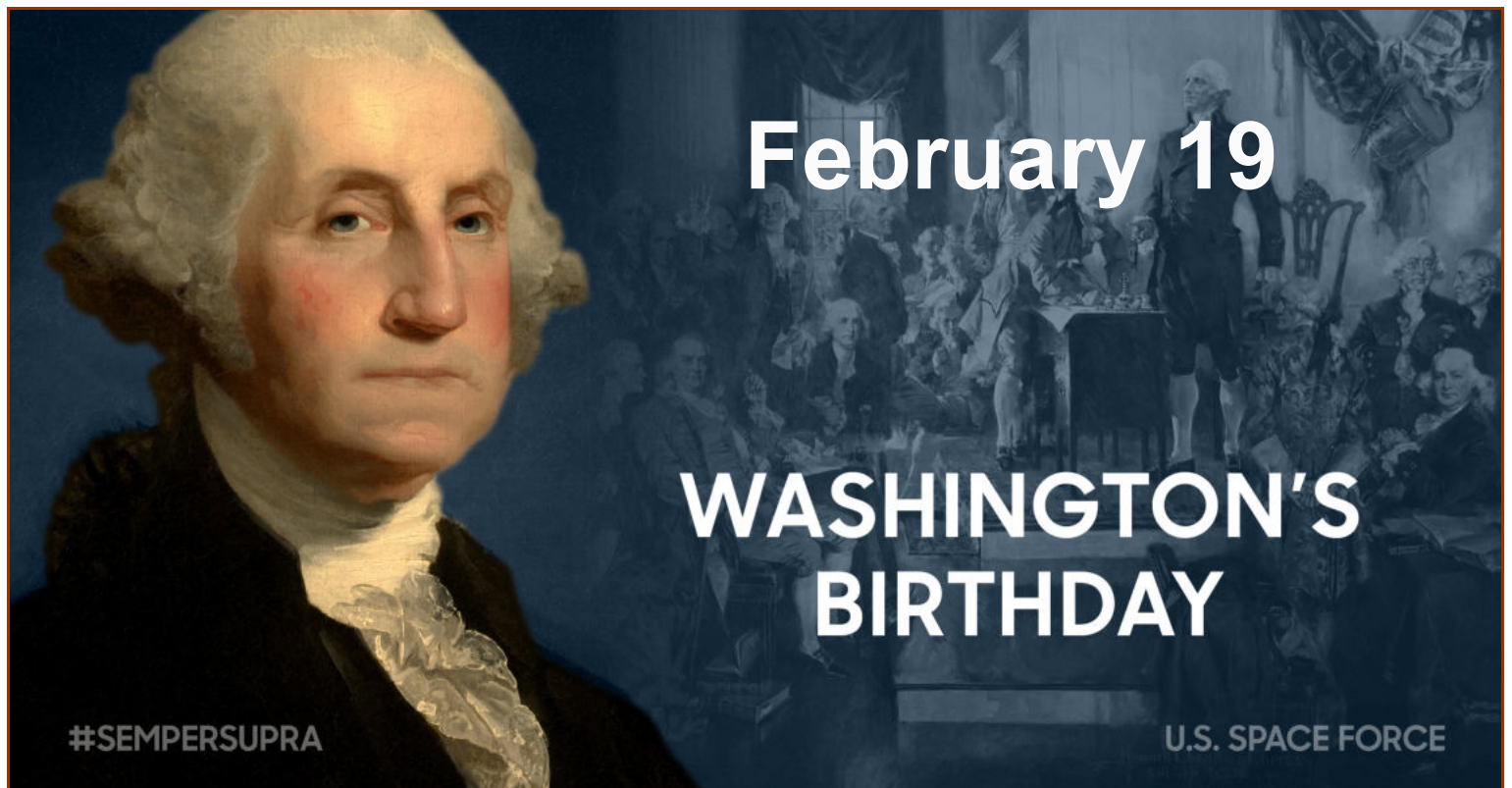
***October 26, 2023 article reprinted with permission.**

Blue Ridge Chapter Celebrates Veterans Day at Madison County Middle School

Blue Ridge Chapter President Steve Greene was an invited speaker at the Veterans Day ceremony held at Madison County Middle School on November 11. Special guests included about 25 veterans from the various military branches and their families. Some 430 students, along with teachers and staff, were also present, catapulting the total attendance to approximately 500. The program began with a 7:30 a.m. breakfast for the veterans and concluded with a question-and-answer session. Chapter President Steve Greene was dressed in militia attire with a green coat and large black hat. Photograph courtesy of Alicia Frasure.



LANCE DICKINSON
Blue Ridge Chapter NCSSAR



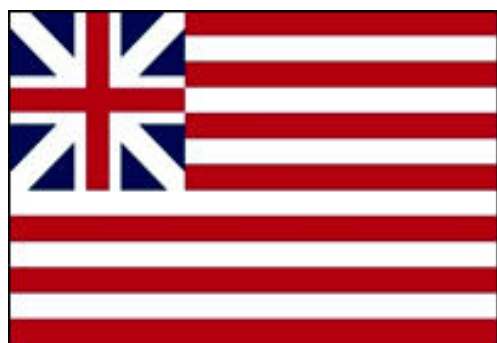
FLAGS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

The Grand Union Flag

By Robert Webster

The *Grand Union Flag*, sometimes referred to as the *Continental Flag*, was the first flag of the United Colonies. In 1775, with the establishment of the Navy by the Continental Congress, came the requirement to design a national ensign. Though this design was to be different from the one flown by British vessels, the design would need to reflect the desires of the colonies at the time, chiefly, to be recognized as an independent colony of Great Britain. With this in mind, a flag was designed that incorporated the striped pattern used in the *Sons of Liberty* and the *British Union Jack* Flags.

Although it is unknown who designed the *Grand Union*, it was first raised by John Paul Jones over the *USS Alfred* in December of 1775. Less than a month later, in January of 1776, Gen. Washington ordered the *Grand Union Flag* to be hoisted above his base at Prospect Hill.



The *Grand Union* received its first salute from a foreign nation on November 16, 1776, when the 14-gun American Brig *Andrew Dori* entered the Dutch port of St. Eustatius, West Indies. As was custom, when the *Andrew Dori* entered the port, it fired a salute to the fort of 13 cannons, one for each Colony.

After communication with local Gov. Johannes de Graaff, the fort returned the salute but with two less cannon firing, which was tradition in acknowledging a ship from a foreign nation. In 1939 President Franklin Delano Roosevelt presented a plaque to commemorate this event. The *Grand Union Flag* remained the first flag of the United Colonies until June 14, 1777.



NATIONAL
VIETNAM WAR
VETERANS DAY
29 MARCH

Join the Nation...
Thank a Vietnam Veteran

<https://t.ly/0EctO>

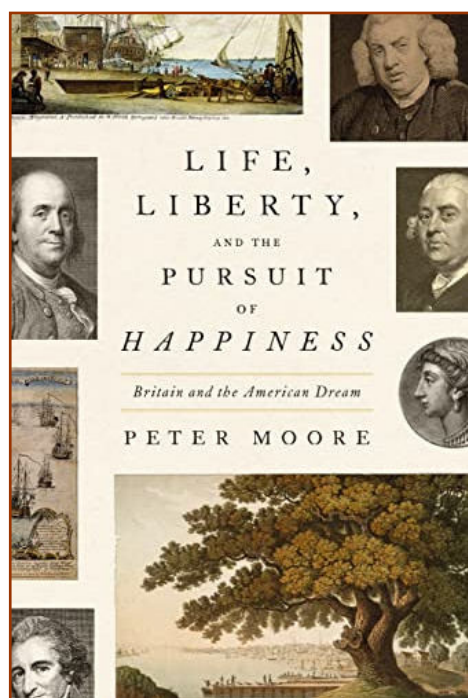
FROM THE REVOLUTIONARY BOOK SHELF

By Lowell M. Hoffman

Moore, Peter. (2023). *Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness*. New York, NY: Farrar, Straus & Giroux. 592 pp. ISBN 978-0-374-60059-4.

This is a book about ideas. No battles, no military generals, and no diplomats. Organized in three sections, built upon each of the three pillars of the book title, the reader is compelled to give thought to ideas. What inspires meaning to *life*? How deeply are concepts of liberty embedded in the founding of our nation and its character? And can we develop a deeper understanding of the origins and depth of that seemingly trivial phrase "the pursuit of happiness."

Borrowing the book jacket endorsement of notable UNC Professor Dr. Kathleen DuVal, an expert on early American history, "In prose as fluid as Jefferson's own, Peter Moore reveals how cherished American ideals originated not from one Founding Father's pen but through conversations across the Atlantic between men and women thinking and writing about how to make the world a better place."



This rather large book of 512 pages is not for the faint-hearted reader. However, once beyond some rather "sloggy" chapters of exploration on scene-setting prose in which central characters and printers Benjamin Franklin of Philadelphia and William Strahan of London are introduced and put into place, the pace quickens and spell binding storytelling begins. A central theme is that of the importance of the printed word in literate societies. It is in the debate and conversation that ideas are massaged and developed. The people and print shops who produced these pamphlets, newspapers, broadsides, and books become important. The correspondence between them illustrates that ideas are fluid, and the exchange is transatlantic, not just in coffee shops and pubs of capitol cities.

In the latter two sections, the pace quickens. Ideas of *liberty* are irrepressible, even as the new King George III establishes himself, and his ever-changing cohort of elected members of Parliament and appointed Prime Ministers take their turn at dealing with the ungrateful upstarts across the ocean. We meet and, perhaps, for the first time understand, just how important and influential Samuel Johnson was. The radical John Wilkes becomes central with many anecdotes and stories previously unknown. His memory lives on in North Carolina where the town and county of Wilkesboro bear his name. A historian of considerable influence, Catherine Macauley, enters the scene as well.

In the last section, the concept and meaning of *happiness* becomes vivid. For the first time, one feels a personal association with the phrase, "in pursuit of happiness," and one's encounter with this pursuit in reflecting upon one's own life journey and the chapters of life yet to unfold. The arguments for and against a separation of the Colonies from the Crown are more clearly set forth here than in any other text that can be recalled.

Throughout the book, the concept of balancing individual liberty with appropriate government regulation lingers. First, one is endorsed and expounded upon. And then the opposite resounds. Using anecdotes and embedded quotations, the reader is taken back to the pre-Revolution decades in which these ideas reached their ultimate elaboration.

Although not foreordained, the upcoming celebration of America 250 in 2026 would have had many advocates back then, but there would have been strong opponents as well. Our Founding Fathers had numerous mentors, and many of them were British. With this, the conscientious reader develops respect for the duty to maintain and continue to build the republic and is given vocabulary with which to sustain the conversation.

In reflecting upon the ideas and insights showered in this book, this reviewer said to his wife, “I would love to have lived in London in these decades, had I been invited to sit at a table in 'The Beefsteak Club' or at printer Edward Dilly’s dinner table to participate in the lofty and witty exchanges of those gathered round.”

Indeed, such exchanges might flavor a future SAR luncheon or gathering for readers who choose this or another book to read and to share. A Swiss friend and mentor once told me, “Ideas are in the air.” One cannot hope to harness an idea and keep it secret. Words escape. Others have and expressed similar thoughts. Ideas are to be shared and discussed, from which learning develops, concepts and technology advance, and friendships are nurtured.

These three ideals—*life, liberty*, and the pursuit of *happiness*—bequeathed to us in the text of Thomas Jefferson, lie at the heart of today’s political discourse. They merit our deeper understanding. In summary, this is a book to be read and then discussed. This reviewer invites feedback from readers to begin our own conversation.

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 and suggestions to lmhglobal927@gmail.com.

COLOR GUARD REPORT

By Stephen McKee
Color Guard Commander NCSSAR

The NCSSAR Color Guard continued to showcase the SAR in the closing days of 2023. Comprising Guardsmen from various NCSSAR chapters, the State Color Guard made appearances and assisted in numerous ceremonies, commemorations, and events over the last quarter (October through December), including the following:

Grave Marking Ceremony for Patriots Michael Braun and John Braun, Germanfest 2023, Salisbury, NC, hosted by the Salisbury Chapter NCSSAR on September 16. Foothills Region Chapters—Catawba Valley, Lt. Col. John Phifer, and Mecklenburg—joined the Salisbury Chapter in marking the graves of both Patriots at Germanfest, an annual celebration at the Old Stone House (1769) in Salisbury, NC. Many of the Braun Family descendants were in attendance as part of their annual family reunion.

Commemoration of the Crossing of the Catawba at Greenlee Ford, Morganton, NC, hosted by the Col. Alexander Erwin Chapter on October 1. Color Guardsmen from across the State attended this annual commemoration marking the crossing of the Catawba River at Greenlee Ford by the Overmountain Men, who were en route to Kings Mountain to attack British forces under Major Patrick Ferguson.

Commemoration of the 243rd Anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain, Kings Mountain National Military Park, held on October 7. The combined NCSSAR Color Guard, representing many chapters from across the State, joined with other Guardsmen from around the Republic for this National SAR event.



2023 New Bern Christmas Parade, New Bern, NC, hosted by the New Bern Chapter NCSSAR, on December 2. The New Bern Chapter was joined by the Richard Dobbs Spaight Chapter NCSDAR and the Tryon Palace Drum and Fife Corps. Representatives from the groups who were in attendance are pictured (left).

Upcoming Events:

- Battle of Cowpens Commemoration, January 17
- Battle of Cowan’s Ford Commemoration, January 27
- Winter NCSSAR Board of Managers Meeting, January 27
- Battle of Moore’s Creek Bridge Commemoration, February 24.

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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**January - March 2024****Updates available at**

<https://rb.gy/l9e7l>

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

NATIONAL EVENTS

January 17: 243rd Anniversary Commemoration, Battle of Cowpens, Cowpens National Battlefield, Gaffney, SC, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

February 24-25: 247th Anniversary Commemoration, Battle of Moore's Creek, Moore's Creek Battlefield, Currie, NC, Feb. 24, 10:00 a.m.-Feb. 25, 4:00 p.m. Register for wreath recognition at <https://t.ly/8E-w9>.

February 29-March 3: National SAR Spring Leadership Meeting, The Brown Hotel, Louisville, KY, Feb. 29, 9:00 a.m.-Mar. 3, 9:00 a.m.

March 15: 243rd Anniversary Commemoration, Battle of Guilford Courthouse, Guilford Courthouse National Military Park, Greensboro, NC, 10 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Organized by the Nathanael Greene Chapter NCSSAR.

STATE EVENTS

January 27: 243rd Anniversary Commemoration, Battle of Cowan's Ford, Hopewell Presbyterian Church, Huntersville, NC, 7:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Hosted by the Mecklenburg Chapter NCSSAR. Register at <https://t.ly/6glNq>.

January 27: NCSSAR Winter Board of Managers Meeting, Hopewell Presbyterian Church, Huntersville, NC, 12:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Hosted by the Mecklenburg Chapter NCSSAR. Register at <https://t.ly/FdWmc>.

March 16: NCSSAR Rumbaugh Competition, Governor's Club, Chapel Hill, NC, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Hosted by the Gen. Francis Nash Chapter NCSSAR.

