

President's Message

Steve A. Van Pelt
President NCSSAR



NC Compatriots,

We had a tremendous turnout at our recent Board of Managers (BOM) Meeting in Huntersville at Hope-

well Presbyterian Church. In attendance were 54 NCSSAR members, the highest number we have seen in recent years, and exceeding the 51 who attended last year. It was good to see not only SAR members and our Ladies' auxiliary, but also members and representatives of the NCSCAR, the NCS DAR, and other societies.

Our State SAR has celebrated two significant events since the start of the new year. One was the Commemoration of the Battle of Cowan's Ford in Huntersville on January 27. The other was the Commemoration at Moore's Creek Bridge in Currie on February 24, which afterwards included installation of nine new SAR members of the New Bern Chapter on the historic bridge. Congratulations to all who helped organize these two events in order to make them memorable days.

The all-important Americanism and Stark Reports have been timely submitted to the National SAR. Our numbers for each report greatly surpassed those of the previous year. It will be interesting to see how competitive NCSSAR will be with other SAR societies across the nation. Thanks to all Chapter leaders for the dedication and hard work required to complete these reports.

Every day, I see and hear great things that are happening in our Chapters that advance the values of patriotism, service, and inspirational education as expressed in our national mission statement: *The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our country.*

If we are to continue to move in the right direction, then each chapter as well as the state society should have a clear vision of what can be achieved individually and collectively by our members as we strive to reach our destination. Stephen Covey, author of *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People* said it best: "To begin with the end in mind means to start with a clear understanding of your destination. It means to know where you're going so that you better understand where you are now and so that the steps you take are always in the right direction."

Being the North Carolina SAR President has kept me busy this year. The opportunity to serve in this leadership role has been a highlight of my life. As time passed, I became more comfortable in my role.

To the National SAR, all State and Chapter officers, committee chairs, and color guard members, I extend my heartfelt gratitude for their help and support this past year. Most importantly, I truly appreciate the many compatriots across North Carolina who care about the SAR and continue to make our society a viable, patriotic, and service-oriented organization.

As this issue of *ONS* goes to press, we will have concluded another successful NCSSAR Annual Meeting in Greensboro on April 6. We proudly list our State SAR medal and certificate winners on pages 20-21. Finally, please be present at the many SAR events and meetings around our State, as you are able.

Yours in Freedom,
Steve

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Membership Update

NCSSAR welcomes 25 new members (Dec. 6, 2023 to Mar. 29, 2024)

BOSTIC, Mark #229297
BUFF, Robert III #228785
BURLESON, Logan #228909
HILL, Kaleb #229296
LITTLE, Michael #229016
LITTLE, William #229017
LOOPE, David #229018
McCOY, Cayden #229015
PRICE, Derek #229019
RHONEY, Kevin #228783
ROBBINS, Daniel #229158
ROBBINS, Matthew #229157
SANDERS, James #228908
SCHWARTZ, John #229156
SMITH, Steven C. #229154
SMITH, Steven H. #229155
SMITH, Waylon #228784
STRONG, David #229020
THOMAS, Robert Jr. #229014
TRUITT, Jeffery #228677
VALLANI, Lawrence #229295
WILKINS, John Jr. #228679
WOOD, Robert III #229297
WOOD, Robert IV #229294
WOODIE, Charles #228678

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

CHEEK, Charles
LADD, William
RUSH, Charles
SKIPPER, Nathan
STALLINGS, Martin

Reconciliation Report

The annual Membership Reconciliation Report has been submitted. Unfortunately, the NCSSAR netted a huge net loss in Membership. After all numbers were totaled, 203 SAR

members associated with the North Carolina Society were dropped for failure to pay their annual dues for 2024.

As usual, the majority of these were members with only one or two years in the Society. They obtained their SAR membership certificates that documented they had an ancestor who took part in the Revolution. Most never attended a local chapter meeting and, therefore, were never involved nor engaged in the various SAR activities and events. In addition to the above, we lost another 41 SAR members through death, seven transferred to another state society, and 19 resigned for various other reasons, chiefly, for age and health.

On a more positive note, since the first of the year, many of the dropped members have reported that their intentions are to reinstate their membership. In addition, we continue to get inquiries about joining the SAR. In 2023, we received over 235 inquiries forwarded from National SAR headquarters. These, along with the members recruited by the local Chapters, have allowed us to grow. Leadership expresses sincere thanks and congratulations to everyone who has helped us grow our numbers.

A charter for the Andrew Jackson Chapter in Jacksonville was approved at the winter Board of Managers meeting. This chapter will fill a need in an area where there are potential members that will now have closer geographic access to a local chapter. There are other areas across the State where we have members that are either driving exceedingly long distances or are not active in the SAR because there is no close chapter in their respective locales. This is especially true in the western part of the State. There is also have a large area in the mid-southern part of the State and one in the eastern area in great need of establishing new chapters.

Let's continue to show ourselves active across the State. Many Chapters participate in parades and festivals of all kinds where the SAR can be visibly presented. These events, in addition to Patriot grave markings and various other celebrations, provide an opportunity to recruit new members. Thanks for all your good work.

JOHN O. THORNHILL, Chair
Membership Committee NCSSAR

Chapter News

Alamance Battleground Chapter



The Alamance Battleground Chapter has been involved in a variety of projects this year stemming from a rise in membership, thanks to the dedicated efforts of Chapter Registrar Tim Green.

Intriguing monthly meeting presentations, in particular, are noteworthy. In November, 2023, Jay DeLoach

(above) presented a fascinating program on the "Burning of the HMS Gaspee Affair," followed by our annual Christmas Social and Dinner at Grill584 in Burlington. In January, a longstanding member, Joe Seele (below),



provided a wonderful presentation on the "Battle of Yorktown" and his patriot ancestor who served in the campaign. Dr. Sam Powell presented a superb program on George Washington in February.

Across the community, chapter members, including Dr. Powell, Don Somers, Larry Brown, and John Martin, have engaged in numerous outreach ceremonial

commemorative events to include the Battle of Kings Mountain, the Battle of Cowpens, and the Crossing of the Dan Campaign. The chapter will be participating in the Battle of Guilford Courthouse reenactment and cere-

monial activities. The final chapter meetings of the season will be our awards ceremony in May and Patriots Day commemorative events recognizing three battles which took place in Alamance County: Clapp's Mill, Lindley's Mill, and Pyle's Defeat.

Blue Ridge Chapter

Chapter Historian Ken Weglarz (pictured left) and Craig Isaacson West Regional Vice President NCSSAR represented the chapter on January 17 at the 243rd Anniversary of the Battle of Cowpens.



Dr. Garry Linton provided an educational program on health and disease during the Revolution to the Ruth Davidson Chapter NCS DAR on February 9 at the First Baptist Church in Asheville. Pictured are Garry, dressed as a colonial era civilian, and Brenda Canter, Regent of the Ruth Davidson Chapter. Twenty-five people attended the program.

monial activities. The final chapter meetings of the season will be our awards ceremony in May and Patriots Day commemorative events recognizing three battles which took place in Alamance County: Clapp's Mill, Lindley's Mill, and Pyle's Defeat.



On January 27 at the Hopewell Presbyterian Church in Huntersville, Chapter Color Guard members Craig and Garry participated in the presentation of colors for the commemoration ceremony of the Battle of Cowan's Ford. Craig rendered honors on behalf of NCSSAR Region 5 and the Blue Ridge Chapter. Among the 100 people in attendance for this solemn event were Chapter members John Boyd and Lance Dickinson.

DR. GARRY LINTON, Vice President
Blue Ridge Chapter NCSSAR

Catawba Valley Chapter

Catawba Valley Chapter gained two new members in January. Robert Sloan Buff, III (pictured, center) was inducted on January 13 by Chapter President Roy Lightfoot. Rob's wife Donna pinned his SAR rosette.



Compatriot Steven Williams (pictured left) was inducted on January 19. Steve has been a member for some time. Stationed in Ukraine for his work, Steve was in town for a few weeks. Past President Ben Setser joined Roy Lightfoot in Steve's induction ceremony.

Catawba Valley Chapter past president Ben Setser was guest speaker at the Hickory Tavern NCSDAR meeting on January 13 in Newton. His presentation was about early Catawba/Lincoln County history and the contributions of Patriots Jacob Setzer, Heinrich Weidner, and Maj. George Wilfong.



Catawba Valley Chapter received awards at the recent NCSSAR Winter Board of Managers Meeting held at Hopewell Presbyterian Church in Huntersville on January 27. Presented by State President Steve Van Pelt, Chapter Past President Ben Setser received an Oak Leaf Cluster for his continued work with patriot grave markings. Chapter Treasurer Dan Beal (pictured left) and Chapter President Roy Lightfoot (pictured right) each received a *Patriot Grave Marking Medal*. NCSSAR State President Steve Van Pelt presented the awards.





Ben Setser attended the third annual George Washington Birthday Tea on February 18 jointly hosted by the Jacob Forney Chapter NCSDAR and the Catawba Valley Chapter. Well attended, every seat was filled. Pictured with Ben is Fran Goins, Regent of the Jacob Forney Chapter.

Chapter Secretary-Treasurer Dan Beal and Roy Lightfoot traveled to Morganton to participate in the celebration of Gen. George Washington's Birthday on February 24. The invitation to attend came from Compatriot Kevin Allec of the Col. Alexander Irwin Chapter.



Chapter President Roy Lightfoot traveled to Old Fort, NC, to participate in the Third Saturday Monthly Muster at Davidson's Fort on February 17. Read more about Davidson's Fort Historic Park, including upcoming events and a gallery of videos and photos at <https://t.ly/h-lu>. The next events are scheduled for April 20, May 18, and June 15.



Gen. George Washington Chapter

At the January 18 chapter meeting, Chadwick Stokes (pictured right), history teacher at E. B. Frink Middle School in La Grange, was awarded the *SAR Bronze Good Citizenship Certificate and Medal* for his dedication in educating students about the Revolutionary War. Chapter President Travis Putman presented the award.



Halifax Resolves Chapter

Chapter Vice President Mark Pace presented the Halifax Resolves Chapter Wreath at the 243rd Commemoration of the Crossing of the Dan at Constitution Square, South Boston, VA, on February 17.



The Crossing of the Dan River was the culmination of the race to the Dan River between the American Southern Army under the command of Gen. Nathaniel Greene and the British Army under the command of Gen. Charles, Lord Cornwallis. This "race"

was an attempt by Lord Cornwallis to take back troops captured at the Battle of Cowpens.



The National SAR sponsors the annual George S. and Stella M. Knight Essay Contest. For students in ninth through twelfth grades, the contest is open to all U.S. citizens and legal resident students attending home schools, public, parochial, or private high schools in that same grade range.

On February 4, Maddie Hart (pictured) of Nash Central High School was recognized as the Halifax Resolves Chapter Knight Essay winner for her essay, "Activist Without Acclaim," which detailed Joseph Warren's contributions to the American Revolution. For her outstanding work, Maddie received a neck ribbon, a certificate, and a check from the Halifax Resolves Chapter.

Honorable Mention certificates were awarded to two students from Nash Central High School, Josh Eason for



his essay, "Marquis de Lafayette: The Hero of Two Worlds," and to Christian Garganus for her essay, "The Culper Spy Ring." Four other students, all from Faith Christian School, participated in the contest: Molly Morningstar, essay "War to Revolution and Everything In-between"; Josh Parker, essay "The British and the Bill of Rights"; Addison Rich, essay "Unlikely Heroes of the American Revolution"; and Payton Trevathan, essay "Sons and Daughters of Liberty."



In the guise of Granville County, NC native John Penn, Mark Pace was the keynote speaker for the State SAR Society of Georgia for their banquet in honor of George Washington's birthday on February 16. Held at the Savannah Yacht Club, an enthusiastic and attentive audience of some 100 attended. Penn was a Founding Father who served as a delegate from North Carolina

in the Continental Congress and signed the Declaration of Independence and the Articles of Confederation.

RENNY TAYLOR, Historian
Halifax Resolves Chapter NCSSAR

Raleigh Chapter



On December 2, Raleigh Chapter President Gary Spencer presented the *SAR Bronze Good Citizenship Medal* to U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Petty Officer Second Class (PO2) Amaan Minhas.

An exemplar to the other cadets in the Raleigh Battalion, PO2 Minhas lives out the SAR core values of honor, respect, commitment, and service. He leads the bi-monthly drills, works collaboratively with adult leadership on the annual training plan, and plans and executes the bi-annual Field Training Exercises. With excellent military bearing PO2

Minhas serves on and leads the honor guard. He has consistently gone the extra mile in serving our unit and has been instrumental in recruiting, public relations, and unit operations and training.

PO2 Minhas has demonstrated high levels of academic achievement, receiving the Academic Achievement award in January, 2022, followed by an Army ROTC scholarship and is awaiting decisions on his applications to the U.S. Military and Naval Academies.



On December 2, Eagle Scout Raleigh Committee Chair, Ken Van Valen (pictured left), presented Austin Williams with the SAR Eagle Scout Certificate and medal at the Troop 33 Court of Honor.



Raleigh Chapter Compatriot Ryan Briggs presented the SAR Eagle Scout Certificate and medal to Marwan Arafa (pictured left) at the Troop 226 Court of Honor on December 3.

Salisbury Chapter

At the winter Chapter meeting on February 25, five members of the Salisbury Chapter were each presented with a NSDAR Hannah White Arnett Medal by Sandra Czuba, Regent of the Elizabeth Maxwell Steele Chapter NCSDAR.

They were recognized for assisting the EMS chapter with several events and celebrations. Pictured (upper-right, L-F) are Garret Frick, Boyd Morgan, Steve Arey, Regent Czuba, Franklin Merrell, and David Stanton.



FRANKLIN MERRILL, President
Salisbury Chapter NCSSAR

Sandhills Chapter



On Jan. 23, Sandhills Chapter BSA Eagle Scout Committee Chairman Steve Lawrence presented Jack Castleberry of Pinehurst with the SAR Eagle Scout Certificate and medal at the Troop 7 Honor Court.

Jack’s project included planning, fundraising, and constructing an amphitheater near the Weymouth Woods Visitors Center for holding outdoor nature classes at the Sandhills Nature Preserve. The son of Cal and Melissa Castleberry, Jack attends Sandhills Community College.

National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

America 250 SAR Programs

<https://america250sar.org/>

COLOR GUARD REPORT

by Stephen P. McKee
Color Guard Commander NCSSAR

Chapter SCSSAR. This National SAR event was well attended by members of the NCSSAR Color Guard (pictured below), who fell in as the North Carolina Company in the Honor Detail.

Battle of Shallow Ford Commemoration, October 14, in Huntsville, NC. Hosted by the Bethabara Chapter NCSSAR. This event (pictured below) continues to grow each year, and the NCSSAR Color Guard grows with it. The State recently acquired the land that encompasses the battlefield and plans to create a State historic site to commemorate this pivotal battle between Americans that took place one week after Kings Mountain.



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Battle of Cowpens Commemoration, January 17, in Cowpens, SC. The NCSSAR and the State Color Guard (pictured below) was well-represented in this National SAR Event that celebrated Daniel Morgan's masterful victory over Banastre Tarleton at Cowpens. Guardsmen withstood bitterly cold temperatures to honor the Patriots who fought in this consequential battle.



Commemoration of the Battle of Cowan's Ford, January 27, in Huntersville, NC. Hosted by the Mecklenburg Chapter NCSSAR. Patrick Henry was the guest speaker and joined Guardsmen from NC, VA, TN, and OH as well as DAR chapters from throughout the country for this National SAR Event.



Commemoration Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge, February 24, in Currie, NC. Hosted by the State SAR Society. Compatriots were joined by members of the NCSDAR, NCSCAR, and the Society of the Cincinnati to honor the Patriots who fought in the decisive early action at Moore's Creek Bridge.

Upcoming NCSSAR Color Guard Appearances:

- NCSSAR Annual Meeting, Embassy Suites by Hilton, Greensboro, April 5-6
- 248th Anniversary of the Halifax Resolves, Halifax, April 12
- Meck Dec Day celebration of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, Charlotte, May 20
- 244th Commemoration of the Battle of Ramsour's Mill, Lincolnton, June 21-22
- July 4th events.

Strong DAR–SAR Cooperation



At the March meeting of the Caswell-Nash Chapter NCSDAR, Chapter Regent Teri Phillippi (pictured, center) welcomed NCSSAR Com-patriot Steve McKee to a spirited gathering. Also in attendance was the chapter's very own Anna Choi (right), who serves as NCSDAR State Regent.

Steve is the NCSSAR Foothills Region Vice President and State SAR Color Guard Commander. He is a former President of the Mecklen-burg Chapter NCSSAR and is presently the Chapter Color Guard Commander.

Steve is the tenth NCSSAR leader to attend a Caswell-Nash Chapter meeting in the past fifteen months. As we all ramp up for America 250, NCSDAR chapters have been encouraged to invite local SAR leaders to meetings where they may witness the wonderful activities of ladies who are advancing the DAR mission. Mutually attended, well planned meetings between the DAR signify important cooperation in advancing joint goals and collaborative event planning, which posi-tively builds healthy partnerships for both societies.

**BETTE CHRISTOPHER-PEÑA, Chair
DAR–SAR Liaison NCSSAR**



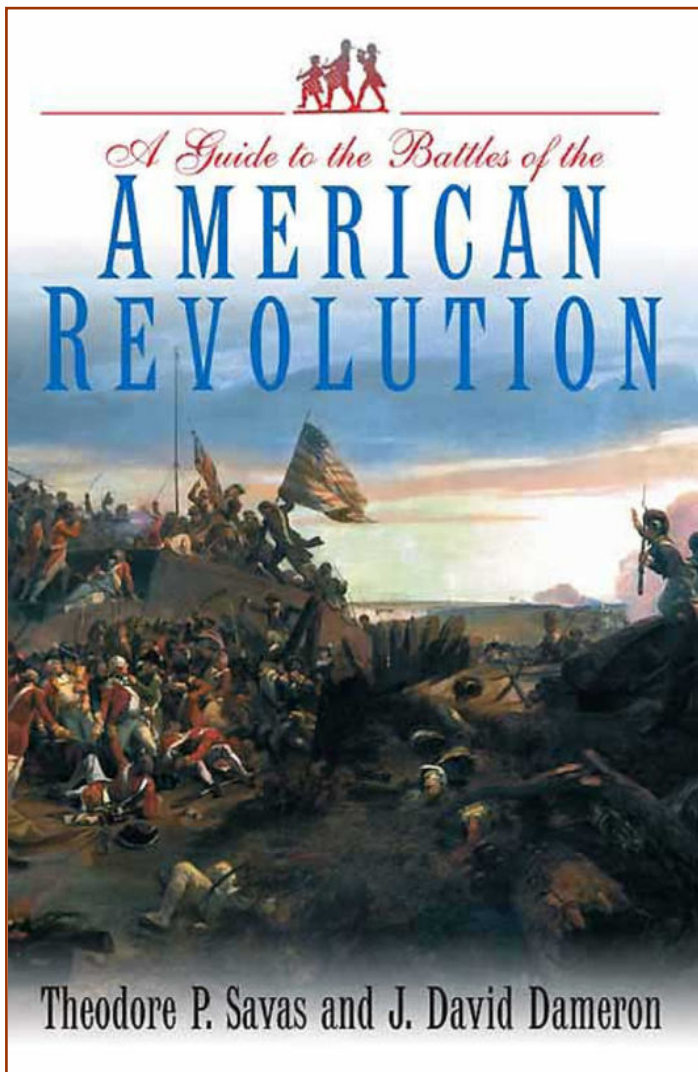
FROM THE REVOLUTIONARY BOOK SHELF

By Lowell M. Hoffman
Contributing Author ONS

Savas, Theodore P., & Dameron, J. David. (2010). *A guide to the battles of the American Revolution*. El Dorado, CA: Savas Beatie. ISBN 978-1-932714-94-4.

As we prepare for a decade-long observance of the Revolutionary War, visits to Battlefield sites will never be more timely or appropriate. This well-composed guide merits acquisition and review. Indeed, much like the twentieth century television series *You Are There* (aired 1947-1957), this book will transport the reader to the scene.

A total of 49 battles are described. The authors adopt the fascinating practice of first presenting a perspective from both the British and the American points of view. The views vividly point out differences in preparation as well as in motivation and objectives for the coming engagement. The opposing Generals listed offer insights on strategy and experience which will shape events and outcomes. A well-composed and helpful map is provided. Descriptions of the action are well focused. A post battle report summarizes casualties for both sides as well as a candid paragraph entitled "Outcome/Impact." In a few pages, the reader will sense he has been a close observer and has whiffed the gunpowder. These are not distant arms-length narratives.



Our Old North State is first represented by Moore's Creek Bridge. As often as this reviewer has read of this monumental, if short, engagement, new insights and perspective were gained. This held true of each of the handful of North Carolina battles. Titled "Haw River," we read of Pyle's defeat with added clarity as this event shortly preceded Guilford Court-house which is very well portrayed.

Mention of the roles of North Carolina forces in the Battles of Brandywine and Germantown merit extra attention to these two chapters. We learn more of North Carolina Brigadier General Francis Nash's mortally wounded leading troops in action around the Chew House in the center of this decisive battle.

An expanded introduction section of the book provides a detailed and documented listing of both British and American units, including ten North Carolina regiments in addition to a Corps of Light Dragoons, an Artillery Company, and a paragraph on Militia units. All in all, this focused and well-documented guide book merits its place on a Revolutionary Book

Shelf. It may well be dog-eared and well wrinkled through repetitive reference as day trips are planned and jaunts to battlefields near and far are organized.

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, suggestions to lmhglobal927@gmail.com.

*250TH Anniversary of the Observance of the
New Bern Resolves
1ST North Carolina Provincial Congress
New Bern, North Carolina*

August 23-24^{}, 2024
320 Pollock Street*

Christ Episcopal Church, New Bern, NC

The New Bern Chapter NCSSAR, Richard Dobbs Spaight Chapter NCSDAR, Christ Episcopal Church, the North Carolina History Center at Tryon Palace, St. Johns Masonic Lodge #3, and the National Sojourners will host a ceremony in remembrance of the 71 Delegates and Resolves of the 1st North Carolina Provincial Congress held in New Bern during August 25-27, 1774.

Mustering of All Citizens.

INQUIRIES: NewBernResolves@gmail.com

**Five (5) Patriot grave markings on Friday, August 23, 2024 (late afternoon) followed by a buffet supper, Harrison Center, 311 Middle Street, New Bern. Procession starts at 9:45 o'clock a.m., Saturday, August 24, 2024. The ceremony includes an additional five (5) Patriot grave markings on Saturday, August 24, 2024 (morning).*

The Southern Campaign That Secured American Independence (Part 3)

By Stephen McKee

Foothills Region Vice President NCSSAR

Readers: In order to get the full context of Part 3, readers may want to review Part 1 (<https://t.ly/KFbj7>, p. 14) and Part 2 (<https://t.ly/LGBfF>, p. 10) of Mr. McKee's ongoing article, published in previous issues of *The Old North State*. The final Part 4 will appear in the upcoming July issue of *ONS*.

To the South Once More: The War in the Carolinas, 1780-1781

The British's second attempt to gain control of the South appeared to fare much better than it had in 1776. All indications were that the information Lord George Germain (pictured) had received was truthful, and the strategy was working better than the Ministry had hoped. Savannah and Augusta fell to the British arms in late 1779, and with those two cities, most of Georgia found itself back under the control of Royal authorities.

Charleston fell after a months-long siege in May of 1780. With it, the largest surrender of American troops took place when nearly the entire Army of the Southern Department was captured. The British capitalized on their victory at Charleston, striking at Goose Creek, the Waxhaws, and as far inland as Ninety-Six.

A reconstituted Continental Army of the Southern Department was routed and destroyed at Camden when Virginia and North Carolina militia fled without resistance. The outnumbered British were able to flank the remaining Continentals and defeat them after several hours of battle. A series of fortified posts and positions acted as supply and communications lines from Charleston throughout South Carolina, effectively returning most of that State to Royal control. Loyalists from Georgia and South Carolina both flocked to the King's standard as well as engaged in reprisals against their Patriot neighbors who now found themselves on the defensive side of the war.

With no regular Continental Army now standing between Cornwallis in South Carolina and Washington's Army, the Southern Strategy looked to be an even more remarkable success than Lord George Germain could have imagined. All that remained was to swoop into North Carolina, to overrun Virginia, to slowly tighten the noose around Washington in the North, and to defeat the rebellion once and for all. The tide seemed to have turned, and Loyalist morale was rising as quickly as Patriot morale was tanking.

Cornwallis was ready to seize the situation and to strengthen his hold on South Carolina and Georgia while also preparing North Carolina for invasion. From his Camden headquarters, he dispatched British and Loyalist officers to begin organizing Loyalist and Provincial forces and gathering supplies his army would need in the months ahead.

Two North Carolina natives who had fought in many battles with the British returned to Lincoln (formerly Tryon) County to begin organizing their kinsmen and fellow Loyalists. Lt. Colonel John Moore and Major Nicholas Welch found many men in the area ready to fight for the King. By June 10, 1780, they had gathered nearly 1,400 Loyalists and began drilling the men and gathering provisions at Ramsour's Mill. Patriot militia in the area learned of the Loyalist gathering and, although outnumbered nearly 3-to-1, decided to attack the camp.



Editor's Note: Painting of George Germain by artist George Romney (1734-1802). Photo credit, <https://t.ly/qyun2>.

South Carolina Grave Marking to Honor 29 Patriots

The Gen. Andrew Pickens Chapter of the South Carolina SAR is pleased to announce a grave marking ceremony for Capt. John Starnes, Mecklenburg Militia, 2nd Regiment (1778-1780). The event will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church, 100 St. John's Church Rd., Concord, NC on Saturday, June 22, at 10:30 a.m. The ceremony will also honor the service of 28 other Revolutionary War Patriots buried or memorialized in St. John's Lutheran Church Cemetery.

Also supporting the event will be the Cabarrus Black Boys Chapter NCSDAR, the Col. Adam Alexander Chapter NCSCAR, St. John's Lutheran Church, and members of the Starnes Triennial Association (STA). A national family reunion organization, the STA will hold its annual reunion June 21-23, 2024, in Monroe, NC.

With the committed attendance of the local Mecklenburg Chapter NCSSAR and the Lt. Col. John Phifer Chapter NCSSAR, the grave marking ceremony is scheduled on the same day as the Commemoration of the Battle of Ramour's Mill, a national SAR event.

Any NCSSAR or SCSSAR members or living history groups interested in participating in the grave marking ceremony are encouraged to contact Bud Starnes at starnesb@bellsouth.net or at 864.710.0526.



Battle of Cowan's Ford Commemoration

By Russ H. McCullough, *Consulting Editor ONS*



After a fine breakfast, the congregation assembled in the sanctuary of the 19th century, still extant, Hopewell Presbyterian Church. The ancient brick structure stands near Cowan's Ford Battlefield where Gen. Davidson fell.

The indoor assembly was greeted by hosting Mecklenburg Chapter President Frank Aikmus. The entire event was planned and moderated by SAR State Color Guard Commander Stephen McKee. A spirited and patriotic discourse was spoken in the hall-

owed hall by Patrick Henry Jolly of Ohio, fifth-great grandson of Patrick Henry (pictured right).



On that dreaded day in 1781, the outnumbered Patriot forces sought, unsuccessfully, to deter Gen. Charles Cornwallis from crossing the Catawba in his ongoing assault on North Carolina in pursuit of the stealthy and evasive Gen. Nathanael Green. Valiantly, Gen. Davidson lost his young life (35 years of age) that day in the cause of Liberty. "Honor to whom honor is due," was given him at his graveside by many patriotic attendees. An honorary musket volley concluded the ceremony. Many commented on the numerous wreaths presented as well as the multitude of honors rendered.

Pictured (left) are two new memorials that were presented by our friends from the NSCAR and the Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge.

The Mecklenburg Chapter drew a large contingency of compatriots on January 27 in Huntersville for the 243rd Commemoration of the Battle of Cowan's Ford in 1781. This annual national SAR observance serves to render honors to one of the State's fallen namesakes, Gen. William Lee Davidson.

Joining the host of attendees were fellow SAR chapter compatriots from North and South Carolina, as well as other states. Numerous chapter representatives from the NCSDAR and NCSCAR, the Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge, and several ancestral and patriotic organizations were also present. All were solemnly assembled to remember, reflect, and lament. Local, state, and national SAR dignitaries made formal greetings.



FLAGS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

By Robert Webster
Contributing Author ONS

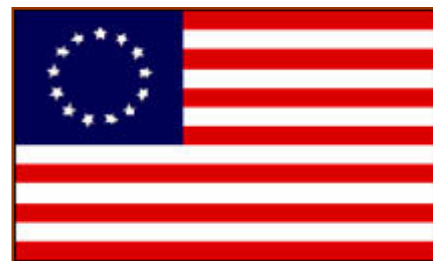
The Betsy Ross Flag

Probably no other U.S. flag has been questioned more throughout history than the *Betsy Ross Flag*, as far its origin. Many credit her for the flag's design, which is based on a verbal account presented by Betsy's grandson William Canby. He states that, in late May to early June,

Gen. George Washington, Robert Morris, and George Ross, who was the uncle of Betsy's late husband John, came to Betsy to commission a new U.S. flag.

Although Betsy may have sewn the first flag, as she was an upholsterer and had made several flags for the states, she did not design this flag. A variety of correspondence, including both pay documents from, and journals of, the Continental Congress, indicates that the flag may have actually been designed by Francis Hopkinson, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. He was reported to have contributed to the designs of Continental Currency, the design of the Great Seal, and other state and department seals.

Regardless of its origin, what we know is that on June 14, 1777, the Second Continental Congress passed the first Flag Resolution. This resolution officially adopted the "Stars and Stripes" as the national flag and states: "Resolved That the Flag of the United States be 13 stripes alternate red and white, that the Union be 13 stars white in a blue field representing a new constellation." A Flag Day commemoration of this resolution occurs every year on June 14.



On February 14, 1778, just days later after the signing of the *Treaty of Alliance* with France, the French fleet saluted the Betsy Ross Flag as it was being flown by John Paul Jones aboard the sloop *Ranger*. France was the first foreign nation to salute our nation's flag and acknowledged France's acceptance of the United States of America. For further reading, see "The First U.S. Flag" article authored by Dr. Ralph Nelson (<https://t.ly/C9fOf>, pp. 8-9).

Robert Webster, MSgt., USMC, Ret., is the Secretary of the New Bern Chapter NCSSAR. He can be contacted at NewBernSAR@gmail.com.

HISTORICAL SITES

by David L. Mann
Consulting Editor ONS

Guilford Courthouse National Military Park

The Military park is located six miles north of downtown Greensboro, a city named for Gen. Nathaniel Greene. On March 15, 1782, Greene's Patriot forces confronted British forces led by Lord Cornwallis. The battle was one of the most important in the American Revolution. It ended with a British victory, but

one in which the British suffered heavy casualties.

The original Guilford Courthouse was located on a colonial crossroad on land originally owned by Gov. Tryon's agent, Edmund Fanning. It was also adjacent to the Quaker settlement of New Garden. Quakers at the Society of Friends Meeting house at New Garden tended to both British and Patriot soldiers who had been wounded during the battle. The Quaker settlement later formed the foundation for the establishment of Guilford College in 1837.



FIREARMS FOR FREEDOM

By Dr. Michael D. Arnette, DDS
Contributing Author ONS

Revolutionary Firearms Questions & Answers Part 1

Question: *Was the typical Revolutionary War firearm smoothbore or rifled?*

Both smoothbore and rifled firearms were used. The Continental soldiers generally had American-made flintlock smoothbore muskets with no rear site, or they used French or English muskets with large diameter balls from .69 to .72 caliber.



However, militia units frequently used the flintlock muzzleloading rifle with a rifled barrel and calibers were from .40 to .54. Personal experience suggests that the maximum effective range exceeds 150 yards.

Question: *How accurate were smoothbore muskets and flintlock muzzleloading rifles?*

Today, smoothbore international competitors shoot offhand at the National Rifle Association (NRA) of America official international B-17/50-meter slow fire target. Shooters hit the 19-by-19-inch target with almost every shot. This would be equivalently similar to a 20-by-40-inch man-size metallic silhouette.

At 100 yards, the hold off for 100 yards shooting would be from one to two feet to yield hits and near misses. Doubtless, this degree of accuracy would be enough to ruin someone's day! Smoothbore muskets were sufficiently accurate when used against armies that adopted European tactics standing shoulder-to-shoulder, often three to four lines deep, and firing at each other, which resulted in the killing of hundreds.

The British complained loudly and frequently when their officers were targeted at the beginning of engagements. The militia soldiers were used to fighting Indians on the frontier and had learned and used Indian tactics of cover, concealment, and camouflage.

Accuracy of smoothbore muskets was further demonstrated by both sides in the American Civil War. The muskets had been converted to percussion that used caps to fire. In fact, some units of the Confederate States of America threatened to stand down when given rifled muskets in the second year of the war, because they loved a particular load called 'buck and ball.' This was a .62 caliber round ball with three pieces of buckshot glued together that often yielded more than one hit at each shot.



Photo Credit: <https://www.ambroseantiques.com/flongarms.htm>. Authentic ca. 1770 Revolutionary War period American musket/fusil (officer's musket). Octagonal-to-round, pin-fastened, 37", smoothbore, .72 caliber barrel with its front sight/bayonet-lug and smooth, untouched, chocolate brown, steel surfaces: a fine touch-hole and bore. Overall length, 52 1/2". American-made, New England/Mid-Atlantic form, Colonial-American, Walnut fullstock of "Brown Bess" design. Paul M. Ambrose Antiques, 179 Main Street, Suite #13, Monroe, CT 06468. Phone/Fax 203.452.9035. Email pequonnoc@aol.com. Price: \$7,875.00.

Dr. Arnette is a member of the Gen. George Washington Chapter and a practicing oral and maxillo-facial surgeon. Future articles for Mike's Firearms for Freedom series will focus on additional questions-and-answers about military muskets. Email your questions to the ONS Editor at jpsutton56@gmail.com.

New Bern Chapter Inducts Family of Nine

After the 248th Moore's Creek Battleground Anniversary Ceremony on February 24, the New Bern Chapter inducted nine members of the Harris family, one of the largest known family inductions in NCSSAR history. Gary Green, National SAR Genealogist General, along with Gary Gillette, New Bern Chapter President, administered the SAR oath to the new members.

Ten members of the New Bern Chapter Color Guard were present for the special event. Also in attendance were NCSSAR President Steve Van Pelt, NCSSAR Treasurer Dr. Sam Powell, and National SAR South Atlantic District Vice President General Jim Wyrosdick.



Members of the Harris family (pictured) inducted were: Thomas Edward Harris, Michael Thomas Harris, Logan Wias Harris, Marvin Eugene Harris, Owen Michael Harris, Ryan Burke Harris, Marvin Eugene Harris, Jr., Cameron Eugene Harris, and Parker Jennings Harris.

The Harris family's Patriot Ancestor is Milbea Musselwhite (1750-1835), a Private in the NC Militia. He served a term of nine months under Capt. Nathaniel Richardson, Lt. Col. Thomas Brown, and Col. Thomas Robeson, Jr. He also served under Capt. John Ellis and Capt. Peter Robeson. Patriot Musselwhite participated in the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge.

GARY GILLETTE, *President*
New Bern Chapter NCSSAR

The Burning of the Baggage

By Ben Setser, *Consulting Editor ONS*

The Catawba Valley Chapter NCSSAR joined the Lincoln County Historical Association (LCHA) in presenting the "Burning of the Baggage" on February 3. Other participants were compatriots from the Col. Daniel Boone, Col. Alexander Erwin, and Lt. Col. John Phifer Chapters NCSSAR, and the Gen. Hugh Mercer Chapter of the West Virginia SAR. In addition, several re-enactor units were represented, including the 6th North Carolina, Mecklenburg Militia, Kingsbury

Artillery/Locke's Militia, New Acquisition Militia Regiment, Tryon County Militia Regiment, and Davidson's Fort/Rowan County Militia. Performers from the *Horn In The West*, *Liberty Mountain*, and *Thunder Over Carolina* outdoor theaters also participated.



The event is an annual commemorative celebration of "General Cornwallis' burning of his baggage on January 24, 1781 in his pursuit of Nathanael Greene's Revolutionary War encampment," according to the LCHA.

An instructive historical account by Michelle T. Bernard, Senior Staff Writer of the online *Lincoln Times-News*, is available at <https://t.ly/aLMHq>.



NCSSAR Bylaws Update

By Dr. Bob Ainsley, MD
Bylaws Committee Chair NCSSAR

and incorporated the *NSSAR Model Rules of Compatriot Conduct and Disciplinary Procedure* into the NSSAR Bylaws. They highly recommended that the state societies adopt these rules with or without modification and incorporate into their respective state society Bylaws.

At the 2022 Summer Board of Managers Meeting, National Trustee Gary Green recommended that a review of NCSSAR's Bylaws be conducted. State SAR leadership subsequently directed the Bylaws Committee to incorporate and align NCSSAR ethical standards with National SAR ethical standards. The review and revision was coordinated in conjunction with NCSSAR chapters throughout 2023.

In the spring of 2024, the *NSSAR Model Rules of Compatriot Conduct and Disciplinary Procedure* were incorporated into the NCSSAR Bylaws without modification and re-titled under *Article XV. Discipline, Procedure and Due Process* (see https://t.ly/s_RR0). Upon a motion by the Bylaws Committee (Dr. Bob Ainsley, Chair, New Bern Chapter; Michael Murphy, Col. Alexander Lillington Chapter; Joe Culik, Mecklenberg Chapter; and Craig Isaacson, Blue Ridge Chapter), the revision was unanimously approved. NCSSAR Chapters are encouraged to adopt the revised Article XV within their respective Bylaws, with or without modification, to ensure a seamless policy across the chapter, state, and national levels.



State SAR Awards

Leadership proudly awarded medals and certificates to the following compatriots at the recent 2024 NCSSAR Annual Meeting in Greensboro on April 6. Congratulations to all who are advancing the mission of SAR.



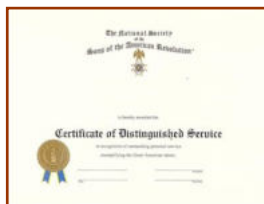
Patriot Medal

JAMES ROBERT AINSLEY
New Bern Chapter

LOWELL MARTENS HOFFMAN
Gen. Francis Nash Chapter

CRAIG STEVEN ISAACSON
Blue Ridge Chapter

STEVE ALLEN VAN PELT
Alamance Battleground Chapter



Distinguished Service Certificate

SAMUEL CHRISTOPHER POWELL
Alamance Battleground Chapter



Distinguished Service Medal

BOBBY JAY ERVIN
le Marquis de Lafayette Chapter



Meritorious Service Medal

JAY ALLEN DELOACH
New Bern Chapter

CHRISTOPHER WAYNE GRIMES
Albemarle Chapter

STEPHEN PATRICK MCKEE
Mecklenburg Chapter



Roger Sherman Medal

*Oak Leaf Cluster

JAMES GREGORY CATLEDGE
Mecklenburg Chapter

GARY STEVEN HORNE
Raleigh Chapter

VAN MICHAEL JONES
Raleigh Chapter

ROLF COLE MARIS
New Bern Chapter

RICHARD ANTHONY PEÑA*
Raleigh Chapter

GEOFFERY STEVEN PITTARD
Halifax Resolves Chapter

BENNETT LEE SETSER*
Catawba Valley Chapter

GARY CHANDLER SPENCER
Raleigh Chapter

JOE PERRY SUTTON*
Gen. George Washington Chapter

JAMES HENRY WOOD*
Mecklenburg Chapter



Henry Knox Medal

JONATHAN ROBERT BATTLE
Sandhills Chapter

GARY OWEN GREEN
Lower Cape Fear Chapter

ALGERNON ROBERT SIGMON
Raleigh Chapter

PATRICK JAY NIEMANN
Sandhills Chapter

JOHN OAKLEY THORNHILL
Lower Cape Fear Chapter

GEORGE KIM STRUNK
Gen. George Washington Chapter



Good Citizenship Medal

ANNA BAIRD CHOI
State Regent
North Carolina Society Daughters
of the American Revolution



NC Color Guardsman of the Year

FREDERICK DOUGLAS LEARNED
Bethabara Chapter

Award is a feather for the recipient's revolutionary tricorn hat.



Youth Education Medal

*Oak Leaf Cluster

C. KENITH WILSON*
Halifax Resolves Chapter



Daughters of Liberty Medal

ELIZABETH PEÑA



Lydia Darraugh Medal

MARY ANN VAN PELT



Certificate of Appreciation

DAVID ALAN ALLS
Old North State Chapter

STEVEN FOSTER AVENT
Halifax Resolves Chapter

STEPHEN ALLEN MORRIS
Raleigh Chapter

WILLIAM JOSHUA TATE
le Marquis de Lafayette Chapter

DAVID LEE MANN
le Marquis de Lafayette Chapter

JAMES R. JOHNSON
Alamance Battleground Chapter

FREDERICK D. LEARNED
Bethabara Chapter

MARK ALLEN MORTENSEN
Nathanael Greene Chapter

MICHAEL THOMAS AYCOCK
le Marquis de Lafayette Chapter



Chadwick Stokes Wins State SAR History Teacher Award

The Gen. George Washington Chapter announced Chadwick Stokes as the State SAR winner of *Dr. Tom and Betty Lawrence American History Teacher Award* at its January 18 chapter meeting. The award includes a

\$150.00 cash prize. Read more about the award at <https://t.ly/iROZq>.



Chadwick is a social studies teacher at E. B. Frink Middle School in La Grange. He is among 17 State edu-

cators highly selected for the inaugural cohort of America 250 Freedom Fellows, a program "designed to enhance their teaching of issues related to and emanating from the nation's founding," according to WNCT News 9 (<https://t.ly/X5OMS>). The group will participate in professional development activities linked with both the State and national America 250 programming, all part of the upcoming 250th anniversary signing of the Declaration of Independence in 2026.

Pictured is the "History Lab" that Chadwick created to inspire his middle school students. He advances to the national competition for the history teacher award as the NCSSAR representative winner at the SAR Congress.



Flag Day | June 14



Photo credit <https://www.farmersalmanac.com/flag-day>



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SUBMISSION DEADLINES

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

SAR Meetings & Events**April - June 2024****Updates available at**

<https://rb.gy/l9e7l>

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

STATE EVENTS

April 5-6: NCSSAR Annual Meeting, Embassy Suites by Hilton, Greensboro, NC. Business meeting, 1:30-3:30 p.m. See complete two-day schedule at <https://t.ly/SkrFX>. Register at <https://t.ly/h3BEo>.

April 12: 248th Anniversary, Adoption of the Halifax Resolves, Halifax State Historic Site, Halifax, NC. 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Hosted by the Halifax Resolves Chapter NCSSAR. Keynote speaker, Dr. Carole Troxler, Professor Emeritus, Elon University.

April 27: Andrew Jackson Chapter Charter Ceremony, Jacksonville Country Club, Jacksonville, NC. 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Hosted by the Andrew Jackson Chapter NCSSAR.

June 21: 244th Commemoration, Battle of Ramsour's Mill, Lincolnton, NC. 10:00 a.m. Additional activities, June 22-23, TBA. Hosted by the Catawba Valley Chapter NCSSAR and the Jacob Forney Chapter NCSDAR.

LOCAL EVENTS

April 20: Grave Marking for Patriots John Elijah Keener, Sr., Johann Nicholas Shrum, and John Peter Shrum, Union Baptist Church, Lincolnton, NC. 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Hosted by the Catawba Valley Chapter NCSSAR.

April 27: 96th Annual Raleigh Chapter Banquet, Winston's Grill, Raleigh, NC. 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Hosted by the Raleigh Chapter NCSSAR.

April 27: Grave Marking for Patriots Joseph Cole, Joseph Harrison, John Hays, Peter Plemmons, and Valentine Thrash, Newfound Baptist Church Cemetery, Leicester, NC. 11:00 a.m. Hosted by the Blue Ridge Chapter NCSSAR.

June 15: Flag Retirement Ceremony, Battle of Rockfish Creek Monument, Wallace, NC. 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Hosted by the Col. Alexander Lillington Chapter NCSSAR.

June 15: Annual Raleigh Chapter Picnic Gala, Lake Crabtree Sheltered Picnic Area, Morrisville, NC. 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. Hosted by the Raleigh Chapter NCSSAR.