

Message from the President



Compatriots,

Hope this finds all of you well and enjoying the “dog days” of summer. Things have sort of slowed down since our last newsletter but the Chapter has remained active attending several events. I wanted to especially remind everyone of our upcoming regular meeting on Wednesday, September 11th at 6:30 PM. Our guest speaker for that meeting will be Mr. Dan Hop-ping, President Emeritus of the Sons of the Revolution in North Carolina. His presentation will be **“The Lafayette Bicentennial Tour in North Carolina”**. I promise, you do not want to miss this presentation by whom many consider the expert on Lafayette and his tour of North Carolina during the Revolution.

There is also another event I would like to bring to everyones attention that ties in with David Gam-mon’s series in his Dusty Corners newsletter col-umn. The Micajah Pettaway - Halifax Resolves Chapter of the NC DAR is providing a free genealogy workshop on Saturday, September 14th. Addi-tional information will be emailed to all chapter members.

Plans are being finalized for the **two Patriots grave markings our chapter will be sponsoring in Granville County on October 26th**. Please mark this date on your calendar. We need as many chapter members present as possible for this important

event. Finally, I would like to thank all the officers and other chapter members who have participated in statewide events over the last month and continue to promote the SAR and our mission.

In Liberty,

Bill Riggan

The September meeting will be held Wed., Sep-tember 11, at the Halifax United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 150 S. King St. in Halifax, at 6:30 pm.

On the agenda: **“The Lafayette Bicentennial Tour in North Carolina”** by speaker Dan Hop-ping.

The cost of the meal will be \$15. Reservations are required and must be in by 5:00 pm on Fri., Sept. 6. Please contact President Riggan at (919) 495-0706 or bill.riggan.sar@gmail.com if you’re com-ing.

Visit our chapter website at:

[Halifax Resolves Chapter website](#)

The NC SAR Newsletter:

[“The Old North State”](#)

Dusty Corners

This is the first in a series of articles discussing the settlement of estates in 18th and 19th century North Carolina.



As researchers, we are sometimes guilty of limiting our research to marriage records and a quick reading of a will. Most of our ancestors didn't leave wills, but they are still traceable. With or without a will, our ancestors left some sort of estate, be it large or small. So let's look at the process of dealing with estates in the 18th and 19th centuries in North Carolina. This series of articles will talk about the value of studying the entire settlement of an estate, and what information we can glean from it.

By studying an entire estate from start to finish, we can learn a lot more than what is presented in a will. Many things can happen between the writing of the will and the death of the person who wrote it. Many years might pass, and circumstances and fortunes might change. Looking only at the will and ignoring the aftermath is like reading the first chapter of a book and skipping the rest!

Here's an example in my own family. My distant uncle Marmaduke Norfleet wrote his will in Halifax County in 1802. The will indicates he was a wealthy man with a lot of farms. He left land and other property to his wife and several children, and then goes into a lengthy sermon against his daughter Lucy, who had the misfortune of eloping with a man that Daddy didn't like. Norfleet was explicit in condemning Lucy's "abhorrent" actions, and ended the discussion by leaving Lucy one shilling as "a standing memorial to an ungrateful child." What a contrast- all the other children got a farm or two, but Lucy got a shilling.

If you just read that will and go no further, you will probably shake your head and feel sorry for poor love-struck Lucy. But when we study the entire estate settlement for Norfleet, we get a different feeling. First of all, it jumps out at us that his will was written in 1802, but it was not probated until 1818. Sixteen years had passed. What happened in between? In reading the various papers connected with the probate, we learn that Norfleet's daughter Lucy died leaving an infant child, and Norfleet and his wife had several more children, including one he also named Lucy, presumably to replace the Lucy who married the wrong man. Most importantly, we learn that Norfleet was placed in an institution in Pennsylvania for depression, and was eventually declared insane by the courts. With that insanity declaration, his heirs were easily able to break his will, and his property was evenly divided among all his children, including the daughter of the unfortunate Lucy.

This is just one example I could offer to show why we should follow an estate through to the end. In the coming articles, we will discuss the different steps along the way of settling an estate and what we can learn from each of them.

Questions or comments? Contact David at dbg557377@gmail.com.

David Gammon

Chapter Genealogist

Chapter Activities



June 2nd - Bill Riggan, President, Mark Pace, Vice President and Gary Hall, Dan River VA SAR Chapter President attended the *Reenactment of Patrick Henry's "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death" Speech* at Historic St. John's Church in Richmond, Virginia.

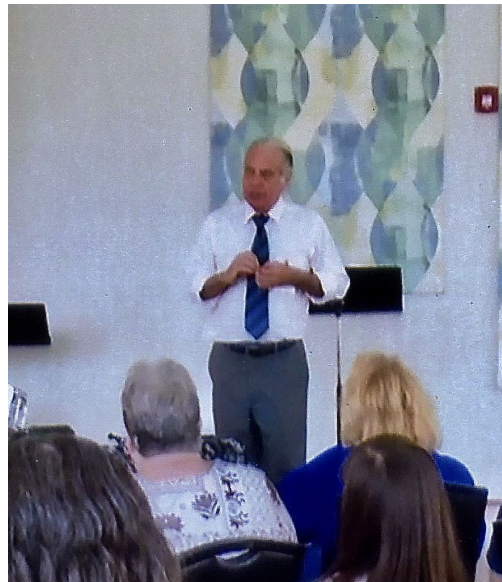


June 20th - President Bill Riggan & Vice President Mark Pace traveled to Fayetteville for the "*249th Commemoration of the Liberty Point Resolves*" sponsored by the Le Marquis de Lafayette Chapter NC SAR. President Riggan brought greetings from the Chapter and they both presented the Chapter wreath.

Chapter Activities



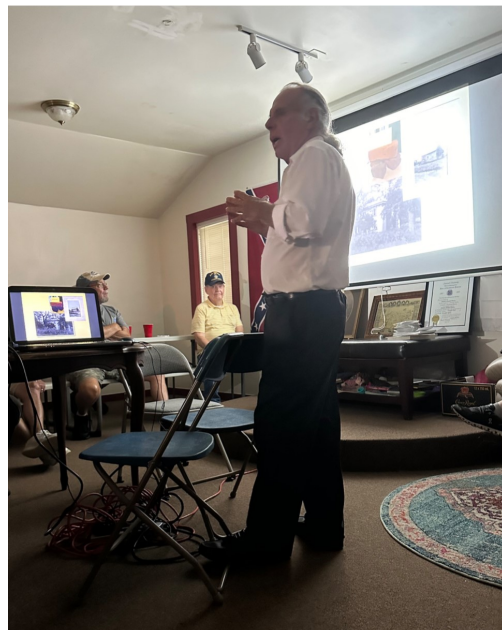
June 29th - Chaplain Harry Albert was the guest speaker at the Annual Meeting of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of NC held at The Carolina Country Club in Raleigh on Saturday, June 29th. The presentation was titled, *“NC Postal History Connections to the American Revolution*



July 8th - Mark Pace, Chapter Vice President presented a program on the *“History of the American Revolution and Granville County”* to the Vance County Genealogical Society at the Perry Memorial Library in Henderson NC.



July 11th - Mr. Gary L. Hall, President of the Dan River Chapter of the VA SAR and Secretary of the Sons of the Revolution in NC was the keynote speaker at the July Chapter meeting. His presentation on Patrick Henry was titled *“Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death”*.



July 26th - Vice President Mark Pace presented a program titled *“The American Revolution in Granville County”* to the Franklin Rifles Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans in Franklinton, NC at their monthly meeting.

Chapter Activities



August 3rd - President Bill Riggan and Zach Myers, Halifax Resolves Applicant attended the 243rd Commemoration of the “Battle of the House in the Horseshoe” in Sanford. President Riggan presented the Chapter wreath.



The National Society of The Sons of the American Revolution held it’s 134th Annual Congress in Lancaster, PA from Wednesday, July 10th through Tuesday, July 16th. Over 700 compatriots from across the country were in attendance. Dr. Daryll Addington of the Mecklenburg Chapter in Charlotte was elected President General to serve for the ensuing year. The National Society also kicked off the 250th SAR celebration coming up in 2026.

The Halifax Dispatch

The Newsletter of the Halifax Resolves Chapter, NC SAR,

Steve Avent, Editor

Bill Riggan, Mark Pace, Renny Taylor, Contributors



Upcoming Statewide Activities

August 17th - 2024 Summer BOM Meeting
11 am -3 pm. NC State Univ. Club, Raleigh

August 23-24th - 250th Anniversary of New
Bern Resolves, Tryon Palace, New Bern, NC

September 7th - 243rd Battle of the Capes
(VASSAR) Ft. Story, VA Beach, VA

September 14th –Gen. Francis Nash Chapter
Tour of Guilford CH NMP, 10 am—3:15 pm
Greensboro, NC

October 26th - Halifax Resolves Chapter Grave
Markings, Granville Co.



The Sons of the American Revolution honors
our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by
promoting patriotism, serving our communi-
ties, educating and inspiring future genera-
tions about the founding principles of our
Country.

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