



## *Message from the President*



Compatriots,

What a busy couple of months we have had in our Chapter, but I would be remiss if I started this edition of my message without commenting on the effects of Hurricane Helene and the residents of western

North Carolina. What a tragedy has befallen the citizens of South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia and Tennessee. As you might know, our Chapter Genealogist David Gammon lives in the town of Linville just outside Boone. I have had several conversations with David in the past two weeks and he is fortunately alive and well and has power. His home and area around his house did not sustain any damage. Please continue to keep the residents of all of these areas in your thoughts and prayers.

As you can see the newsletter is full of news and events within our small chapter and hopefully this will keep all of you informed of what's going on in the Halifax Resolves Chapter. If you have not been able to attend any of our meetings I hope you might seriously consider doing that in the near future. All of our meetings have been well attended this year thanks to all of the great educational programs presented. The Ladies of the Halifax UMC continue to serve those delicious meals which we have become accustomed to.

We will mark the graves of two Revolutionary War Patriots with ceremonies in Oxford on Saturday, October 26 at 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM. One of the greatest tributes we can pay to these great American patriots is to not forget their sacrifices that made this great nation of free men and women.

Our next Chapter meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 13th at 6:30 PM. The featured speaker will be the newly installed Commander of the NC Color Guard, Gary Spencer. We see them at many of our events around the state but sometimes know very little about this unique group of Compatriots and exactly what they do. Hope to see you all there.

In Liberty,

*Bill Riggan*

**The November meeting will be held Wed., November 13, at the Halifax United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 150 S. King St. in Halifax, at 6:30 pm.**

**On the agenda: Commander of the NC SAR Color Guard, Gary Spencer, will be our speaker.**

**The cost of the meal will be \$15. Reservations are required and must be in by 5:00 pm on Fri., Nov. 8. Please contact President Riggan at (919) 495-0706 or [bill.riggan.sar@gmail.com](mailto:bill.riggan.sar@gmail.com) if you're coming.**

**Visit our chapter website at:**  
[Halifax Resolves Chapter website](http://www.halifaxresolves.org)

**The NC SAR Newsletter:**  
["The Old North State"](http://www.theoldnorthstate.org)

## Dusty Corners

*This is the second in a series of articles discussing the settlement of estates in 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century North Carolina.*



In our first article, we discussed the importance of studying an estate all the way through until it was settled. Now let's look at the different steps involved in settling estates in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries in North Carolina.

Unfortunately for us, most of our ancestors did not leave wills. That's really annoying, isn't it? A few more wills would really be helpful to those of us with brick walls in our family tree. But there are a number of reasons why our ancestors didn't leave wills. Some lived in remote areas and couldn't easily find witnesses. Some were illiterate and needed to dictate the will to a literate neighbor. And others simply didn't plan, and died of a sudden illness before they could make a will.

People who died with a will were considered to be testate. Those without a will were intestate. The presence or absence of a will determined how an estate was handled and settled. Yet, some parts of an estate settlement were the same, whether testate or intestate. But first let's discuss the early stages of opening a testate estate.

When a person died, it was expected that the county court would be notified the next time it met. In our early history, the regular county court sessions (called Pleas and Quarter Sessions) were usually held in February, May, August, and November, and might last a week or more. Brief special sessions were sometimes held at other times if there was enough pressing business. Considering the difficulty of early travel, getting to court was often a daunting task. Picture a rainy and snowy winter, with a wagon slogging through muddy and rutted roads. It's easy to see why it might take six months to get a will to court. For that reason, just because a will was probated in August 1843, we shouldn't assume the person died that same month. We also shouldn't assume the deceased died the same day he wrote his will, unless we have information to the contrary. But we can safely say he died between the date of the will and the date of the probate.

If the deceased left a will, he most likely named an executor (perhaps several) to handle his estate (a lady was called the executrix). The executor needed to take the will to court, ask that it be probated and recorded, and he officially qualified as executor. Then the work began. But it didn't always run smoothly. Sometimes the executor named in the will refused to do the job. Other times the executor might have died. And other times, the executor had moved away. In all three cases, a new person would have to be appointed to settle the estate. Note that in such cases, the new person was called an administrator (or administratrix, if a woman). They could not be considered an executor because they were not named as such in the will.

In our next article we will discuss what happened when a person died without a will!

*Questions or comments? Contact David at [dbg557377@gmail.com](mailto:dbg557377@gmail.com).*

*David Gammon*

Chapter Genealogist

## Chapter Activities



August 23rd - Chaplain Harry Albert and his wife, Sheryll, DSDI attended the grave marking ceremony on August 23rd for five Revolutionary War Patriots at Christ Episcopal Church during the Commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the New Bern Resolves. They both presented wreaths for their respective organizations.



*(left)* September 4th - Vice President Mark Pace presented an educational program to the Kiwanis Club of Henderson, NC entitled “*Granville County in the American Revolution*”. *(right)* September 11th - John Penn (a/k/a Mark Pace) presented a program to the Samuel Johnson DAR Chapter at the NCSU Faculty Club in Raleigh on “*Observations on the Current State of Our Nation in 1788*”

## Chapter Activities (cont.)



**September 11th-** A regular chapter meeting was held on Wednesday, September 11, 2024. The meeting was well attended with several guests. A delicious home cooked meal was served by the ladies of the Halifax UMC. The featured speaker for this meeting was Mr. Larry Armstrong of Enfield, NC, who is the director of the Historical Halifax Restoration Association. He presented a very interesting program on *“The Halifax Resolves & little known facts about April 12, 1776”*. President Riggan thanked Mr. Armstrong and presented him a Certificate of Appreciation for a highly informative talk that was enjoyed by all those present.



September 11th being *Patriot Day*, President Riggan started the meeting off with a moment of silence in remembrance of the people who lost their lives on September 11, 2001 in the terrorist attacks on our country.

Chaplain Harry Albert presented a very interesting slide show about a weekend packed full of events in New Bern on August 23rd & 24th. On August 23rd at *Christ Episcopal Church* the graves of five Revolutionary War Patriots were honored with grave markings. Compatriot Albert also presented the chapter wreath on behalf of the Chapter at this event. On the 24th, the New Bern SAR Chapter and the Richard Hobbs Spaight DAR Chapter co-sponsored a celebration of the *“Commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the New Bern Resolves”* held at Tryon Palace in New Bern. All of those present were very appreciative of Harry’s presentation.

Several Compatriots of the Halifax Resolves Chapter have been under the weather this past month and were sent cards signed by all those present encouraging their recovery. Compatriot Joe Pearce of Louisburg had surgery to repair an artificial hip and is now at home recovering. Compatriot Carlton Garner of Roanoke Rapids is finally back home recovering from a stroke he suffered several weeks ago.

**September 14th** - The Micajah Pettaway - Halifax Resolves Chapter NC DAR sponsored a full day Genealogy Workshop at the Englewood Methodist Church Fellowship Hall in Rocky Mount. Featured speakers were, Ms. Traci Thompson, Local History & Genealogy Librarian at the Braswell Memorial Public Library and Craig R. Scott, Certified Genealogist, who gave the group a presentation entitled *“A Day in the Revolution: Researching Your Soldier”*. Halifax Resolves Compatriot Jim Rook and his wife, Lois from our chapter were in attendance and said the event was very well attended and was an excellent program to help research your patriot ancestor.

**2025 dues are now payable and must be in before 11/1!**. Dues amount payable is \$90.00 (\$20.00 Chapter dues, \$20.00 State dues, \$50.00 National dues). The online option mentioned in the dues notice is no longer available but you can still use Paypal— just use the following link: [paypal.me/HalifaxResolvesSAR](https://paypal.me/HalifaxResolvesSAR) -- or -- just go into your PayPal account and make payment to

**@halifaxresolvessar**

You can also mail checks to the Treasurer at:

**Steve Avent, 42 Fox Grape Ln, Southern Shores, NC 27949**



September 23rd (left) - John Penn (a/k/a Mark Pace) gave the Granville County Homeschoolers a tour of the *Granville County Historical Museum*. An inquisitive group ranging from Kindergartners to 11th Graders learned about Granville County's rich, diverse, interesting and compelling heritage and history.



October 7th (left)- Vice President Mark Pace presented a program at the Richard H. Thornton Library in Oxford entitled "*Granville County in the American Revolution*" to the Books-Sanwiched-In Literary Club of Oxford NC.



September 28th- The John Penn Chapter of the NC DAR celebrated the Chapter's 100th Anniversary from March 8, 1924 - March 8, 2024 at a reception in the Fellowship Hall of the Oxford UMC. The event was very well attended by DAR members from the area along with three officers of the Halifax Resolves Chapter of the NC SAR.



# *The Halifax Dispatch*

*The Newsletter of the Halifax Resolves Chapter, NC SAR,*

*Steve Avent, Editor*

*Bill Riggan, Mark Pace, Harry Albert, Contributors*



## **Upcoming Statewide Activities**

**October 26th** - Halifax Resolves Chapter grave markings for Patriot Samuel Webb Smith and Patriot Chesley Daniel, Oxford, NC.

**October 26th** - Francis Nash Chapter grave marking for Patriot Matthew McCauley in Chapel Hill, NC.

**November 2nd** - Albemarle Chapter grave marking for Patriot John Harris in Elizabeth City, NC.

**November 16th** - Catawba & Bethabara Chapters joint grave markings for five Patriots in Lexington, NC.

**November 16th** - Gen. George Washington Chapter Commemoration of William and Richard Caswell in Kinston, NC



The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our Country.

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