

**The  
Old  
North  
State**



Newsletter of the North Carolina Society of the Sons of the American Revolution • Vol. 27 No. 4 • October 2024



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Chartered on February 22, 1911, the NCSSAR has Honored the Memory of Patriots and Supported Compatriots in the Old North State for One Hundred Thirteen Years

# President's Message

**Steve A. Van Pelt**  
President NCSSAR



Greetings, NC Compatriots,

As of this writing, the NCSSAR has 29 chapters and 1,500 members. If all current applications at national headquarters are approved, we will finish the year with about the same number of members that we had at the conclusion of 2023.

We are presently in the membership reconciliation period.

How to conduct this efficiently will be a decision that individual chapter leadership must make. An electronic option is now available. If your chapter has not decided yet how dues will be collected, please contact Dr. Sam Powell, State SAR Treasurer. He will be happy to assist.

You never know what you may learn when doing historical research. During its annual Congress, National SAR holds a Memorial Service to remember SAR members who passed away during the previous year.

The Memorial Service at this year's Congress in Lancaster, PA, was held at the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, located one block from the Lancaster Convention Center. The church is a magnificent and wonderful place to honor our deceased compatriots. The architecture is late 18th century and has remained that way for the past 240 years.

The website for the church states that, "Two years before the birth of George Washington, and 46 years before the Declaration of Independence, the Trinity Lutheran Church was a worshiping congregation. Formally organized in 1730 with its first baptism recorded on May 4 of that year, Holy Trinity Church is the oldest church in Lancaster and one of the oldest in Pennsylvania."

Lynne Smith, a distant cousin on my Carpenter and Zimmerman family lines and a DAR member, heard that some of our ancestors had settled in the Lancaster area after coming to America. Sure enough, in my copy of *Carpenters a Plenty* (1982, Gateway Press) by Robert C. Carpenter, I learned that Christian Carpenter, my fifth Great-grandfather, and his wife had their first child baptized at Holy Trinity Church around 1760, shortly before they migrated south to the Gaston County area. Eureka!

The summer is almost over, and from all reports, we survived the heat. Little did we know that Hurricane Helene would strike on September 27, devastating Western North Carolina. In all likelihood the conditions caused by the storm are not likely to resolve themselves for several weeks, perhaps longer. For those who may have lost loved ones, livelihoods, or property, or who are experiencing hunger, thirst, or fear in the aftermath of the storm, please know our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Regrettably, NCSSAR has cancelled the Commemoration of the Battle of Kings Mountain scheduled for October 7, 2024 at the Kings Mountain Military Park in South Carolina. Leadership is already making plans for next year's commemoration, and we are praying for good weather. Make plans to join us at that time.

Patriotically,  
Steve



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## NCSSAR STATE OFFICERS 2024-2025

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## Membership Update

### NCSSAR welcomes 44 new members (June 7, 2024 to September 9, 2024)

BAILEY, W. Lane #230348  
BAUER III, Russell #230571  
BAUER, Russell Jr. #230570  
BILLS, Robert Jr. #230926  
BRIDGERS, Keith #230927  
BYERS, Charles #230611  
CARPENTAR, Stephen #230782  
CARPENTAR, Vernon Jr. #230781  
COOPER, Richard Jr. #230272  
DICK, James Jr. #230928  
DURHAM, John #230269  
EDWARDS, James #230247  
HARRELL, Michael #230704  
HAWKINS, Curtis #230929  
HURLEY, Matthew #230478  
HURLEY, Steven #230477  
HURLEY, Jack Jr. #230476  
KAIN, Robert #230925  
KURTZ, William #230656  
LAUGHRIDGE, Christian #230706  
LAUGHRIDGE, Gregory #230705  
LEA, John Jr. #230703  
LINK, James #230924  
MARCH, Brady #230786  
MARCH, Jackson #230787  
MC CONKEY, Joshua #230788  
McKINNON, James #230569  
METCALF, Michael #230270  
MORRISON, Charles #230655  
OSBORNE, Larry #230657  
PALMER, Kenneth #230271  
PHILLIPS, Kenneth #230408  
PIFER, Lyle #230783  
PYLE, Andrew #230245  
RAINEAR, Russell #230784  
SCOTT, Charles #230705  
ST JOHN, Nathaniel #230780  
ST JOHN, Walter #230799  
STEPHENS, Mark III #230785  
TWIGG, Connor #230567  
TWIGG, Gary #230566  
TWIGG, Jarrett #230568  
VICKNAIR, Timothy #230789  
WILLIAMS, Robertson #230246

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

DEBNAM, John  
PALMER, Robert  
SMITH, Steven Chad

### NCSSAR Membership Inquiries

Since June 10, NCSSAR has received 53 inquiries about SAR membership. Chapter and inquiry counts include the following: Alamance Battleground-1; Albemarle-2; Andrew Jackson-6; Bethabara-5; Battle of King's Mtn.-5; Colson's Mill-0; Blue Ridge-0; Catawba Valley-2; Col. Alex. Erwin-2; Col. Alex. Lillington-0; Col. Daniel Boone-2; Gen. Frances Nash-1; Gen. George Washington-5; Halifax Resolves-0; Isaac Carter-0; Lower Cape Fear-2; le Marquis de Lafayette-4; Lumber River-0; Lt. Col. John Phifer-0; Mecklenburg-4; Old North State-1; Nathanael Greene-3; New Bern-0; Raleigh-7; Salisbury-0; Sandhills-1; Lt. Col. Felix Walker-1; Western Waters-0; and Yadkin Valley-0.

The *DAR Finder Form* should be completed and submitted with every SAR application for which help and assistance has been provided from a member of the NCS DAR. This includes using a DAR application as source material and also includes having an NCS DAR member assist in completing the application.

For example, if an NCSSAR chapter Registrar asks his NCS DAR member wife to review an SAR application or to help with researching applicant ancestry, this help would require that a *DAR Finder Form* accompany the application.

**JOHN O. THORNHILL, Chair**  
**Membership Committee NCSSAR**

# Chapter News

## Blue Ridge Chapter



Dr. Garry Linton (left) and Ken Weglarz of the Blue Ridge Chapter Color Guard participated in the presentation of the colors during the Ramsour's Mill Battle commemoration on June 22 in Lincolnton. Approximately 100 people attended the event.

Garry provided an educational program on Health and Disease during the Revolution to the Dry Ridge Historical Museum in Weaverville on June 28. Sporting militia civilian attire, he spoke to a group of 25 people during the program.



Blue Ridge Chapter was well represented at the July 4th parade in Hendersonville. Included in the Chapter Color Guard were Larry Chapman, Ron Chapman, Steve Greene, Craig Isaacson, Garry Linton, and Ken Weglarz.

On July 4, 2024, members of the Blue Ridge Color Guard presented the colors in the dedication of a marker commemorating Patriots who served during the American Revolution.



Chapter compatriots and members of the Abraham Kuykendall Chapter NCSDAR and the Joseph McDowell Chapter NCSDAR conducted the event at the Old Henderson Courthouse and Museum in Hendersonville. Participating in the Color Guard were Larry Chapman, Ron Chapman, Steve Greene, Craig Isaacson, Garry Linton, and Ken Weglarz.

Compatriot Ron Chapman was the keynote speaker during a commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the First Provincial North Carolina Congress. Members of the Chapter Color Guard presented the colors at the event that was held on August 25 at the Silvermont Mansion in Brevard. Forty-two people attended the event.



Pictured above (L-R) are Color Guard compatriots and DAR members who participated in the event, which included Larry Chapman, Craig Isaacson, Connie Isaacson (Abraham Kuykendall Chapter NCSDAR), Dave Gunther, Jeff Brewer, Karen Newhall (Abraham Kuykendall Chapter NCSDAR), Ken Weglarz, and Sally Hursey (Joseph McDowell Chapter NCSDAR).

**DR. GARRY LINTON, Vice President**  
**Color Guard Commander**  
**Blue Ridge Chapter NCSSAR**



## Catawba Valley Chapter



On July 6, the Chapter meeting was held at Palermo's in Newton. Guest speaker Tom Dyson (pictured) took attendees back in time to 1780 right after the Battle of Ramsour's Mill and immediately before the Battle of Kings Mountain. His presentation wove tales of how men at the time might have questioned whether the fight was right and moral. Imperson-

ating a minister, Tom spoke to the audience as if they were sitting in a meeting and facing the decision on whether to fight in another battle. A gifted speaker, Tom's presentation was enjoyed by all.

Several Catawba Valley Chapter members attended the Battle of the Waxhaws event, hosted by the Museum of the Waxhaws held in Waxhaw. Chapter President Roy Lightfoot (pictured below, left) and Chapter Secretary-Treasurer Dan Beal participated in the British line reenactment on Saturday, June 1. Roy returned to the event on Sunday, June 2 with Lisa Pupkiewicz, chapter supporter, where they were a part of the American Militia.



Independence Day was celebrated by Catawba Valley Chapter at Fort Defiance Historic Site in Lenoir. While there, chapter compatriots participated with Col. Alexander Erwin Chapter and several others as flag bearers of the Hopkinson Flag and fired several volleys in honor of our country. Pictured below (L-R) are Eric Minetola, Jordan Lowdermilk, Keven Allec, Autumn Lowdermilk, Lisa Pupkiewicz, and Roy Lightfoot.



During the weekend of July 13-14, Roy Lightfoot traveled to historic Brattonsville in McConnells, SC for a wreath laying event, hosted by the SCSSAR, and to participate in two battle re-enactments. The program included a reading of the original dedication of the monument erected there. Re-enactors (pictured above) from across the region convened to recreate the July 12, 1780 Battle of Huck's Defeat and the November 20, 1780 Battle of Blackstock's Plantation. Many grains of powder were burned at these battles, and many a good man "fell dead," only to rise again with a determined grin and greetings from fellow comrades. NCSSAR compatriots are urged to consider traveling to this wonderful location, not that far out-of-state, to experience the rich history.



On July 20, Roy Lightfoot and Dan Beal joined the group at Hickory Ridge Living History Museum and members of the cast of *Horn In The West* outdoor production in Boone for their program entitled "British Occupation." Unfortunately (maybe not), a thunderstorm banished them to The Tavern. Their small encampment bore the brunt of a storm, however, which had to be reset after the rain subsided. Joining Roy and Dan were State SAR Senior Vice President and Color Guard Commander Stephen McKee (pictured above, third from left), his son, and Lynne Smith (pictured, far left) of the William Gaston Chapter NCSDAR.

The Chapter Color Guard presented the colors for the NCSDAR District II Annual Meeting on July 25. Color Guard Commander Rob Buff (pictured below, right) was joined by Chapter Vice President Rick Hubbard (pictured, left), Dan Beal, and Roy Lightfoot for the event. Gratitude was extended to the Jacob Forney Chapter NCSDAR for the invitation.



Several Chapter members traveled to Montezuma, NC, to attend a grave marking for Patriot William Gragg, Jr. (1758-1847) at the Montezuma Cemetery on August 10. This event was co-sponsored by the Colonel Daniel Boone Chapter, the NCSCAR, and the Avery County Historical Association. Compatriot Ben Setser brought greetings while Roy Lightfoot, Rick Hubbard, and Dan Beal participated in the color guard (pictured below). Roy also participated in the wreath laying. While there, the Chapter presented Chapter Past President and Past Regional State Vice President Setser with the Chapter Distinguished Service Medal for his dedication and hard work for the Chapter and the State SAR.



The Chapter continues its ongoing partnership with Battleground Elementary School in sharing the story of the Battle of Ramsour's Mill. On August 12, for a second year in a row, the Chapter was invited to the school's



open house for the 2024-2025 school year. The Chapter presented a *SAR Certificate of Appreciation* to the school administration. Pictured above (L-R) are Roy Lightfoot, Principal Kelly Withrow, and Rob Buff.

The Chapter celebrated the 250th Commemoration of the Rowan Resolves on the front steps of the Lincoln Cultural Center on August 17. Rick Hubbard presented a brief history of the Resolves, which was followed by Roy Lightfoot's reading of the Resolves for all to hear. Roy also recognized Chapter members Rick Hubbard and Rob Buff with the *SAR Silver 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution Medal*. On the same day, *SAR Certificates of Appreciation* were presented to the Lincoln County Historical Association (LCHA), the Hampton Inn, and Publix Deli for all of their contributions for the Battle of Ramsour's Mill commemoration weekend in June. Pictured below is Carole Howell, accepting the certificate on behalf of the LCHA.



On August 17, Roy Lightfoot traveled to Old Fort, NC, to participate in the Cherokee Siege event at Davidson's Fort Historic Park. This is one of the Park's annual major events which attracts quite a crowd.



Roy Lightfoot presented the *SAR Silver 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution Medal* to future Com-patriot Brandon Mosteller on August 22 and to Beverly King Moore of the Jacob Forney Chapter NCSDAR on August 26. Both are huge supporters of the SAR and the Catawba Valley Chapter. Brandon signed his SAR application for membership with the Catawba Valley Chapter on the same day he was presented with his medal.



SAR and non-SAR individuals are eligible for this medal. Candidates earn points by participating in the planning and execution of activities which publicly educate, recognize, and honor heroes and events surrounding the American Revolution that support the celebration of the 250th Anniversary. See <https://t.ly/EG1j1> for more information.

**ROY LIGHTFOOT, President**  
Catawba Valley Chapter NCSSAR

## Gen. George Washington Chapter

The annual naturalization ceremony was held at the historic Harmony Hall in Kinston on July 1, an annual tradition since 2011. Twenty-three immigrants from 18 countries took the oath to become U.S. citizens. "It was an emotional ceremony," wrote Chris Young, news reporter for WCTI Channel 12, "and it was all smiles when they received their US citizenship." Participating in the ceremony were Gen. George Washington Chapter compatriots (pictured, L-R) George Strunk, Kenny Smith, and Lynn Bull.



Chapter Secretary George Strunk presented Lynn Bull (pictured below, left) with the *SAR Vietnam War Veterans Corps Certificate* at the chapter's monthly meeting on July 18.



### Raleigh Chapter

On June 15, the Raleigh Chapter held its annual picnic at Lake Crabtree. Many DAR members were present, including Bette Pena and Lizzy Thier, who were each presented with the *SAR Bronze 250th Anniversary Medal*. In addition, Mike Costantino was presented with the *SAR Bronze Henry Knox Medal* for his work designing the



Chapter Logo. Guest speaker was State SAR Chaplain Chris Grimes (pictured), who provided a spectacular presentation on medical practices in the Revolution, which included his extensive collection of medical equipment for display. The event was catered by the locally famous Sam Jones BBQ.



On August 25, Chapter compatriot Ken Van Valen awarded the *SAR Eagle Scout Medal* to Dakota Smith (pictured above, left) of Troop 421 in Archer Lodge. Joining the NCSSAR in celebrating Dakota's achievement was the Marine Corps League Carry-on Detachment. State Rep. Donna McDowell White of NC House District 26 arranged for a U.S. flag to be flown over the State Capitol in honor of Dakota.



The Raleigh Chapter Color Guard presented the Colors for the July 4th Naturalization Ceremony at the State Capitol. Afterwards, guardsmen presented a wreath at the George Washington statue. They then marched to the NC Museum of History, where they rang the reproduction of the Liberty Bell once for each state in the order they had ratified the Constitution. Pictured front to rear are Gary Spencer, Tom Floyd, Ryan Briggs,

Stephen Morris, Van Jones, and Color Guard Commander Bob Sigmon.





## NEWS FROM NATIONAL SAR HEADQUARTERS

# The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution Dedicates Bench Outside of York City Hall

JULY 11, 2024 · 3:07 PM NATIONAL NEWS

The Bench Commemorates the 250th Anniversary of the Founding of the United States



(YORK, PA)—On Thursday, July 11, 2024, at approximately 10:00 a.m., the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) participated in a bench dedication ceremony celebrating the city of York, PA, and its participation in the founding of the United States of America.

Pennsylvania SAR members were joined by Michael R. Helfrich, Mayor of the City of York, and Bryan K. Tate, York County Register of Wills and Clerk of the Orphans Court. SAR President General, John L. Dodd also made remarks and unveiled the permanent structure that now exists outside of the York City Hall.

This bench dedication commemorates the upcoming 250th anniversary of the United States and comes as the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution meets for its 134th Congress in Lancaster, PA.

SAR President General, John Dodd, remarked, “The SAR thanks the City of York and Lancaster County for participating in this event honoring the fact that The Continental Congress met in York from September 1777–June 1778.” Dodd said, “During that time it adopted the Articles of Confederation and [signed] the Treaty of Alliance with France. This bench truly commemorates one of the birthplaces of our Nation.”

**Editor's Note:** Article reprinted in its entirety from the National SAR website.

## SAR Awards

At the 2024 National Congress in Lancaster, PA, the NCSSAR was recognized with numerous SAR awards, including the following: 13 State Society awards (two first place, one second place, and one third place) and streamers; 7 chapter-level awards (four first place, two second place, two third place, and one honorable mention) and streamers to nineteen chapters; and 6 individual awards given to twelve NCSSAR compatriots.

### NCSSAR STATE SOCIETY AWARDS

#### Allene Wilson Groves Award and Streamer, 1,000+ members

Second Place

#### Admiral William Furlong Memorial Award (U.S. Flag Certificate participation)

#### CAR Activity Award and Streamer

#### Council of Youth Programs (six of seven youth contests) Outstanding Participation Award

#### DAR/SAR Membership Award

Highest number of approved SAR members,  
First place

Highest percent of approved SAR members,  
First place

#### George S. & Stella M. Knight Award (Essay)

Participation Streamer

#### John C. Haughton Award (JROTC Cadet)

Participation Streamer

#### Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historical Orations Contest

Participation Streamer

#### Marian L. Brown Eagle Scout Award

Participation Streamer

#### President General's Chapter Activities Compe- tition Award, 1,000+ members

Third Place

#### Sgt. Moses Adams Memorial Middle School Bro- chure Contest

Participation Streamer

#### State Veterans Service Award

#### U.S. Flag retirement Award (50% Chapter par- ticipation)

### NCSSAR CHAPTER AWARDS

#### Liberty Bell Americanism Award & Streamer, 1-40 members

Col. Alexander Erwin Chapter, First Place

#### President General's Chapter Activities Compe- tition Award, 1-40 members

Sandhills Chapter, First Place

Col. Alexander Erwin Chapter, Second Place

Battle of Kings Mountain Chapter, Third Place

#### President General's Chapter Activities Compe- tition Award, 41-90 members

New Bern Chapter, First Place

#### USS Stark Memorial Award, 100-199 members

New Bern Chapter, Honorable Mention

#### President General's Cup, 1-40 members

Col. Alexander Erwin Chapter, First Place

Catawba Valley Chapter, Second Place

#### President General's Cup, 41-90 members

New Bern Chapter, Third Place

#### President General's Education Outreach Streamer

Alamance Battleground Chapter

Albemarle Chapter

Battle of Kings Mountain Chapter

Bethabara Chapter

Blue Ridge Chapter

Col. Alexander Erwin Chapter

Col. Daniel Boone Chapter

Colson's Mill Chapter

Gen. George Washington Chapter

Halifax Resolves Chapter

Lt. Col. John Phifer Chapter

Lower Cape Fear Chapter

Lumber River Chapter

Mecklenburg Chapter

New Bern Chapter

Old North State Chapter

Raleigh Chapter

Salisbury Chapter

Sandhills Chapter

### NCSSAR INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

#### Comte De Vergennes France Trip Medal

Dr. Sam Powell

#### George Washington Fellow Award

Robert Alls

Lowell Hoffman

#### Liberty Medal, Silver

Dr. Ralph Nelson

#### Liberty Medal, Bronze

Kevin Allec

Jay DeLoach

Gary Gillette

Timothy Green

Robert Ray, III

John Thornhill

Robert Whitehead

#### Meritorious Service Medal, Gold

Jay DeLoach

Gary Greene

Dr. Sam Powell

#### Samuel Adams Congress Medal, Bronze

Jay DeLoach

## COLOR GUARD REPORT

By **Stephen P. McKee**  
Color Guard Commander NCSSAR

The NCSSAR Color Guard has been busy over the summer of 2024, making appearances and assisting in the Faith Fourth of July Parade, and the Commemorations of the 243rd Anniversary of Attack on the House in the Horseshoe, the 244th Anniversary of the New Bern Resolves, and the First Provincial Congress.

### Faith Fourth of July Parade

Faith, NC, hosted by the Salisbury Chapter NCSSAR on July 4th. Over 37,000 spectators lined the streets of Faith, NC, for their annual celebration of Independence Day.

North Carolina State President Steve Van Pelt was in attendance with Compatriots of the SAR, as well as members of the NCSDAR and the NCSCAR. The parade drew many patriotic onlookers who appreciated the presence of the Color Guard and celebration of the day.



### Commemoration of 243rd Anniversary of Attack on the House in the Horseshoe

Sanford, NC, hosted by the Sandhills Chapter NCSSAR on August 3. State President Steve Van Pelt was present for the event that included a reenactment of the attack that took place on the house. The Sandhills Chapter website reported, "In attendance were 13 SAR chapters including 2 from Virginia and 1 from Texas, 6 DAR chapters and Children of the American Revolution. 24 wreaths were presented in honor of the commemoration. The event included a firelock rifle demonstration, displays and demonstrations of 18th Century life, historical displays, living Revolutionary War Era encampment, extensive 18th Century firearms and weapons display, period medical treatments, as well as many other interesting displays and presentations throughout the day. Photograph courtesy of Compatriot Bryon Campbell" ([www.sandhillssar.org](http://www.sandhillssar.org)).

### Commemoration of 250th Anniversary of the New Bern Resolves and First Provincial Congress

New Bern, NC, hosted by the New Bern Chapter NCSSAR on August 24th. The SAR was joined by members of the DAR, CAR, and Boy Scouts, as well as the Tryon Palace Fife and Drum Corps for the parade and commemoration at Tryon Palace.

### Upcoming NCSSAR Color Guard Appearances

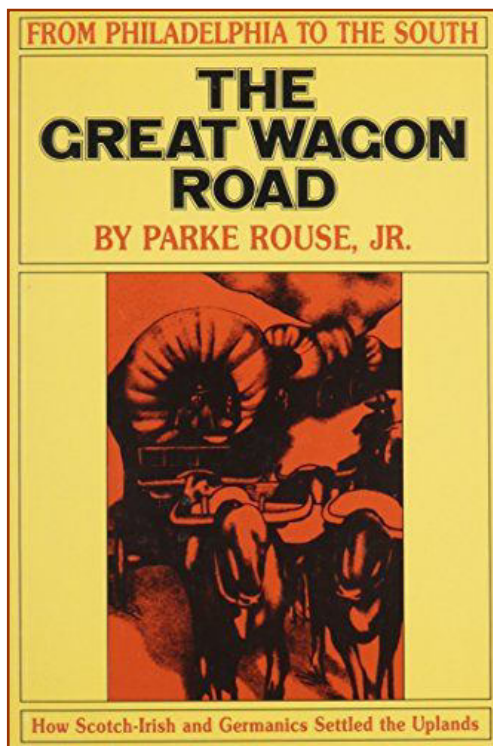
- Battle of Shallow Ford Commemoration—October 12, 2024
- Battle of Yorktown Commemoration—October 19, 2024
- Various Veteran's Day Parades and Activities—November 11, 2024
- Battle of Great Bridge Commemoration—December 7, 2024
- Wreaths Across America—December 15, 2024



**Rouse, Parke Jr. (1992). *The great wagon road: From Philadelphia to the South*. Petersburg, VA: Dietz Press. ISBN 0-87517-065-x.**

Did you ever wonder how those pioneer settlers of the Piedmont and the western Carolinas got here? If not our own direct ancestors, they were the people who became Regulators, who served in the militias and who comprised much of the band of Overmountain Men who played such an important role in the Revolutionary South and shaped the region in which we now live.

*The Great Wagon Road* shares the vivid story of the generations of families who left homes in Pennsylvania and beyond to travel by horse and oxen drawn wagons down the Cumberland Valley to the Carolinas. Scots-Irish, German, English, Quaker, and Moravian people of brave character found their way and established roots that endure.



“In the last sixteen years of the colonial era,” wrote noted historian Carl Bridenbaugh, “southbound traffic along the Great Philadelphia Wagon Road was numbered in the tens of thousands, it was the most heavily traveled road in America...” As one turns the pages, and a page turner it surely is, one reads of Daniel Boone, Andrew Jackson, Andrew Pickens, Daniel Morgan, John Sevier, and so many more. Along its route, battles were fought including King’s Mountain, Camden, and Guilford Courthouse.

The heart of the book tells the stories of the travails and hardships of those who walked this road. Highwaymen sought weakness. Innkeepers earned their extra penny. Drivers hoped not to lose an animal. Neighbors helped neighbors with barn raisings and dances. Communities were founded. Life was hard, but goodness and humanity prevailed that allowed a new nation to grow and flourish.

All in all, few books tell so many stories and answer so many questions. It shares the history of eighteenth century America and of the development of southern culture and community. The book has served as discussion fodder for book clubs as one way in which the SAR reader can introduce to others the spirit of early America and the people who would become revolutionaries. Make this book part of your own Revolutionary Bookshelf.

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, questions, and suggestions for future book reviews to [lmhglobal927@gmail.com](mailto:lmhglobal927@gmail.com).

## Griffith to Speak at Annual Meeting

Informed compatriots are familiar with some of the stories, battles, and prominent figures of the American Revolution. However, there are many untold, interesting stories of how our Nation gained its independence that many may not know. NCSSAR leadership is pleased to announce that Jim Griffith (pictured, left) of the National SAR will be the keynote speaker at the 2025 NCSSAR Annual Meeting to be held on April 4-5 at the Embassy Suites in Greensboro. Jim is the creator and producer of *Revolutionary War Rarities*, a podcast that focuses on rarely known and taught aspects of the American Revolution. Besides his podcast production duties, he currently serves as Travel Coordinator for the National SAR President General, Dr. Darryl Addington. Jim hails from the state of Alabama. Visit <https://fastfunhistory.com>.



## **THESE are the Times**

**Ralph D. Nelson, Jr., PhD**  
**Consulting Editor ONS**

In August, 1776, the British landed an army on Long Island. For five months they won every battle. Patriot militia commitments ended on December 31. After that, they would return home. If Gen. George Washington didn't win a battle very soon, states might refuse to send him more troops, and the Revolution would be over. What could be done to boost the morale of the troops?

Fortunately, an experienced writer Thomas Paine (pictured, next page) had joined the army in New York. He wrote an inspirational tract that could strengthen their resolve. Published in Philadelphia on December 19, 1776, Paine's pamphlet was titled, "The American Crisis, No. 1, 1776."

Gen. Washington was so impressed with Paine's charge to persevere in the fight for freedom that he ordered it read to his troops on Christmas Eve to strengthen their courage. Why? Because they had suffered a string of defeats in the preceding five months, and they were about to embark on an overnight river crossing and a morning attack on the Hessian troops in Trenton NJ. If they lost this battle, the war to become independent from Great Britain would likely fail.

Thus inspired, Washington's troops boarded boats that night, crossed the ice-choked Delaware River, marched nine miles, surprised the sleeping Hessians, and won the Battle of Trenton. Two days later they savaged British forces at the Battle of Princeton. The Revolution was not extinguished, and independence was achieved, seven years later, in 1783.

Noteworthy extracts from Payne's consequential pamphlet, "The American Crisis, No. 1, 1776," follow:

"THESE are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman."

"Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly. It is dearness only that gives every thing its value. Heaven knows how to set a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed, if so celestial an article as FREEDOM should not be highly rated."

"Britain, with an army to enforce her tyranny, has declared, that she has a right—not only to TAX but 'to BIND us in ALL CASES WHATSOEVER,' and if being bound in that manner is not slavery, then there is not such a thing as slavery upon earth. Even the expression is impious, for so unlimited a power can belong only to GOD."

"I have as little superstition in me as any man living, but my secret opinion has ever been, and still is, that GOD Almighty will not give up a people to military destruction, or leave them unsupported to perish, if they have so earnestly and so repeatedly sought to avoid the calamities of war by every decent method which wisdom could invent."

"Neither have I so much of the unbeliever in me as to suppose that HE has relinquished the government of the world and given us up to the care of devils; and as I do not, I cannot see on what grounds the king of Britain can look up to heaven for help against us. A common murderer, a bandit, or a housebreaker has as good a pretense as he."

"I am well acquainted with many circumstances which those who live at a distance know but little or nothing of. I was with the troops at Fort Lee and marched with them to the edge of Pennsylvania. Our situation at Fort Lee was exceedingly cramped, the place being a narrow neck of land between the North River and the Hackensack. Our force was inconsiderable, being not one-fourth so great as Howe could bring against us. We had no army at hand to relieve the garrison if we had shut ourselves up and stood on our defense. The simple object was to bring off the garrison and march them on till they could be strengthened by the Jersey or Pennsylvania militia and be enabled to make a stand."

"It is great credit to us that, with a handful of men, we sustained an orderly retreat for near a hundred miles, brought off our ammunition, all our artillery, the greatest part of our stores, and had four rivers to pass. None can say that our

retreat was precipitate, for we were near three weeks in performing it, that the country might have time to send reinforcements. Twice we marched back to meet the enemy and remained out till dark."

"Why is it that the enemy hath left the New England provinces and made these middle ones the seat of war? The answer is easy. New England is not infested with Tories, and we are. I have been reluctant to raise my voice against these men, and I have used numberless arguments to show them their danger, but it will not do to sacrifice this cause to either their folly or their baseness. The period has now arrived when either they or we must change our sentiments, or one or both must fall."

"And what is a Tory? GOOD GOD! What is he? If the Tories attempted to form a militia, I should not be afraid to go with a hundred Patriots against a thousand Tories. Every Tory is a coward, because servile, slavish, self-interested fear is the foundation of Toryism; and a man under such influence, though he may be cruel, can never be brave."



"I once felt all that kind of anger which a man ought to feel against the mean principles that are held by the Tories. A noted one, who kept a tavern at Amboy, was standing at his door, with a pretty, eight-year-old daughter. After complaining about the battles in New York, he finished with this unfatherly expression, 'Well! Give me peace in my day.'"

"Really? Not a man lives on this Continent but fully believes that a separation must sometime or other finally take place. A generous parent should have said, '*If there must be trouble, let it be in my day, that my child may have peace,*' and this single reflection, well applied, is sufficient to awaken every man to duty. The heart that feels not now, is dead. The blood of his children will curse his cowardice, who shrinks back at a time when a little might have saved the whole and made *them* happy."

"Not a place upon earth might be so happy as America. Her situation is remote from all the wrangling world, and she has nothing to do but to trade with them. I am as confident, as I am that GOD governs the world, that America will never be happy till she gets clear of foreign dominion. Wars, without ceasing, will break out till that period arrives."

"America did not, and does not, want force; but she lacked a proper application of that force. Wisdom is not the purchase of a day, and it is no wonder that we should err at first setting off. From an excess of reluctance, we were unwilling to raise an army and trusted our cause to the temporary defense of a well-meaning militia."

"A summer's experience has now taught us better; yet with those troops, while they were collected, we were able to set bounds to the progress of the enemy and, thank GOD! they are again assembling. I always considered militia as the best troops in the world for a sudden exertion, but they will not do for a long campaign."

"America could carry on a two-years' war by the confiscation of the property of disaffected persons, such as Tories, and be made happy by their expulsion. Say not that this is revenge, call it rather the soft resentment of a suffering people who, having no object in view but the GOOD of ALL, have staked their OWN ALL upon a seemingly doubtful event."

"Quitting this class of men, I turn with the warm ardor of a friend to those who have nobly stood and are yet determined to stand the matter out. I call not upon a few, but upon all: not on THIS State or THAT State, but on EVERY State. Rise up and help us. Lay your shoulders to the wheel; better have too much force than too little, when so great an object is at stake."

"Let it be told to the future world that in the depth of winter, when nothing but hope and virtue could survive, that the city and the country, alarmed at one common danger, came forth to meet and to repulse it. Say not that thousands are gone, turn out your tens of thousands; throw not the burden of the day upon Providence, but '*show your faith by your*'

*works'* that GOD may bless you. It matters not where you live or what rank of life you hold, the evil or the blessing will reach you all. The far and the near, the home counties and the back country, the rich and the poor, will suffer or rejoice alike."

"My own line of reasoning is to myself as straight and clear as a ray of light. Not all the treasures of the world, so far as I believe, could have induced me to support an offensive war, for I think it murder. But, if a thief break into my house, to burn and destroy my property, and to kill or threaten to kill me or those that are in it, and to '*bind me in all cases whatsoever*' to his absolute will, am I to permit it?"

"What signifies it to me whether he who does it is a King or a common man, my countryman or not my countryman? Whether it be done by an individual villain or an army of them? If we reason to the root of things we shall find no difference; neither can any just cause be assigned as to why we should punish in the one case and pardon in the other."

"Let them call me rebel, and welcome, I feel no concern from it; but I should suffer the misery of devils were I to make a whore of my soul by swearing allegiance to one whose character is that of a sottish, stupid, stubborn, worthless, brutish man. I conceive it likewise a horrid idea to receive mercy from a being, who at the day of final judgement shall be shrieking to the rocks and mountains to cover him, and fleeing with terror from the orphan, the widow, and the slain of America."

"There are Cases which cannot be overdone by language, and this is one. There are persons, too, who see not the full extent of the evil which threatens them. They solace themselves with hopes that the enemy, if they succeed, will be merciful. It is the madness of folly to expect mercy from those who have refused to do justice; and even **mercy**, where conquest is the object, is only a trick of war. The cunning of the fox is as murderous as the violence of the wolf, and we ought to guard equally against both."

"I dwell not upon the vapors of imagination; I bring reason to your ears, and—in language as plain as A, B, C—hold up truth to your eyes."

"By perseverance and fortitude, we shall have the prospect of a glorious outcome. By cowardice and submission, we shall have the sad choice of a variety of evils: a ravaged country, a depopulated city, habitations without safety, and slavery without hope. Our homes will be turned into barracks and bawdy-houses for Hessians, and a future generation to provide for, whose fathers we shall doubt of."

"Look on this picture and weep over it! And if there yet remains one thoughtless wretch who believes it not, let him suffer it unlamented."

—Signed COMMON SENSE, dated *December 23, 1776*.

### Sources:

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### Photo Credit:

Thomas Paine, oil on canvas, ca. 1792, by Laurent Dabos (1761-1835). National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution. [https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Portrait\\_of\\_Thomas\\_Paine.jpg](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Portrait_of_Thomas_Paine.jpg)

### Editor's Note:

On July 3, in Continental uniform, Dr. Ralph D. Nelson, Jr. of the Gen. Francis Nash Chapter NCSSAR, delivered this presentation at The Forest at Duke in Durham. A video of his presentation is available at <https://t.ly/H4hid>.

# SAR Youth Video Contest

What happens when you combine the academic rigor of the Rumbaugh Oratory Contest with 21st Century technology and unlimited creativity? Easy answer. Something very special. On May 7, 2024, the NSSAR Executive Committee approved the SAR Youth Video Contest as a National-level SAR program. A Contest Committee was empanelled to administer the program, and Denny Colvin was appointed as Contest Committee Chair.



## Basics of the Contest

- Eligible contestants are middle school and high school students (grades 6 through 12).
  - Video length is limited to 3 to 5 minutes (plus titles and credits).
  - Projects may be individual or group submissions.
  - The subject should focus on an event, person, document, or topic pertaining to the American Revolution. Emphasis on the 250th anniversary of events leading up to and following the Revolution (1763-1783) is recommended.
  - The style, approach, and perspective are unlimited. The entry may be in the form of a documentary, dramatization, interview, advertisement, etc. Creativity is encouraged.
  - Historical accuracy is essential.
  - At least three research references to document the topic/subject are required.
  - Contestants without a nearby participating NCSSAR Chapter may submit their entry to an “at large” competition.
  - Videos must be submitted to participating Chapters by January 15.
- Chapter winners must be submitted to the Contest Committee Chair for the State contest by February 1.
  - State winner is submitted to the National SAR by February 15.

## National SAR Contest Prizes

- First Place: \$1,500 (plus travel allowance to the SAR National Congress in CT)
- Second Place: \$500

## State SAR Contest Prizes

- First Place: \$500, and recognition at the NCSSAR Annual Meeting
- Second Place: \$250

## Chapter Contest Prizes

- Determined by the Chapter.

## Chapter Preparation Required

- Recruiting and advising contestants, as required
- Soliciting submissions (as soon as possible)
- Receiving the completed videos (by January 15)
- Judging entries, determining a winner, and forwarding the winner to the Contest Committee Chair for the State Competition (by February 1)
- Recognizing participants as the Chapter deems appropriate

The Youth Programs page at the NCSSAR website has been updated with information on the SAR Youth Video Contest. A State-level flyer similar to this announcement is also available, which can be easily modified for Chapter use. As the new school year is now underway, State SAR leadership encourages all Chapters to reach out to local public, private, and home schools. As a start, consider holding an informational meeting with light refreshments. Address any questions or requests for forms to Committee Chair Denny Colvin, [colvindw@rose-hulman.edu](mailto:colvindw@rose-hulman.edu).



## HISTORIAN'S HERALD

By Roy C. Lightfoot  
*Contributing Author ONS*

# Remembering the Battle of Shallow Ford

Located approximately fifteen miles west of present day Winston-Salem, Shallow Ford gains its name

from what it implies. It is a shallow place in the Yadkin River, and was a safe place for travelers to cross. A study done in 1994 by geologist Victor M. Seiders indicated there is a sand and gravel bar which forms the ford.

When the battle occurred on October 14, 1780, the ford was located in Surry County. However, today, its east entrance is in Forsyth County, while the west entrance is in Yadkin County. During Colonial times, Shallow Ford was one of two points where heavier wagons could cross, with the other being Trading Ford near Salisbury.

When the Yadkin River was at the normal or low levels, the depth of the ford was only eighteen inches or less. But when rain came, and the river flooded, it was impassable. According to tradition, a rock known as "Ford Rock" gauged the depth of the river. In addition to being a river crossing, it was also a well-known muster ground during the Revolution. Soldiers were told to report or march at the location as they mustered in and out of service. There they received their pay as well.

While Patrick Ferguson was being defeated at Kings Mountain, another force of Loyalist Militia was moving southwest to link up with Lord Cornwallis in Charlotte Town. Cornwallis had captured the city only two weeks prior to the Battle of Shallow Ford. He was feeling fairly confident his plan of action for North Carolina would come to fruition, until the defeat at Kings Mountain, and the event to follow at Shallow Ford.

On 30 September 1780, most of the Surry County Militia had moved to Quaker Meadows, near Morganton, and had moved on to the Battle of Kings Mountain. This left Shallow Ford unguarded. With Cornwallis' taking of Charlotte Town, many of the Patriot forces had fled to Virginia. Further, with the absence of the Surry County Militia, a band of Loyalist Militia numbering 600 men, led by brothers Col. Gideon Wright and Capt. Hezekiah Wright, attempted to cross the Yadkin River in their trek south. On October 3 and October 8, this band attacked the county seat of Richmond, NC, and killed the sheriff of the county.

Since they were moving south, Patriot intelligence believed their intent was to join with Lord Cornwallis in Charlotte Town. Patriot Gen. William Lee Davidson sent a company of fifty-two men, under the command of Capt. Andrew Carson to meet the Loyalist Militia in Surry County, while Gen. Jethro Sumner sent two companies of thirty men each, under the command of Capt. Jacob Nichols and Capt. Miller from Salisbury. Approximately 80 Surry County Patriots who remained, gathered together, and joined in with the arriving force.

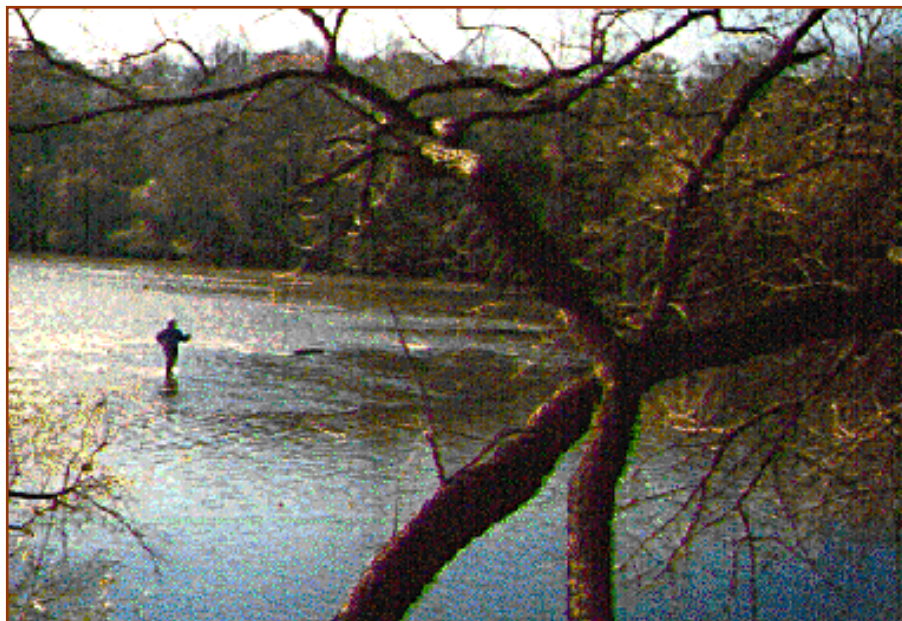
Meanwhile, four companies of Patriots from Montgomery County, VA, numbering 160 men, under the command of Maj. Joseph Cloyd, and Captains Henry Francis, Isaac Campbell, George Parris, and Abraham Trigg, set out after the troops who were in pursuit of Ferguson. Upon reaching western North Carolina, word arrived of Ferguson's defeat, and they were ordered to Surry County. Once there, they joined the other companies who had arrived, which totaled about 350 men.

On the morning of Saturday, October 14, the troops occupied the west bank of what is now called the Battle Branch near the Shallow Ford Crossing. From their vantage point, the Patriots observed the head of the Loyalist column coming up the road. This was the same group that had been threatening the area for the past couple of weeks. Hastily, both sides quickly formed and fired several volleys at each other. Fourteen of the Loyalists were immediately killed, including Captains James Bryan and William Lakey, as was Patriot Capt. Henry Francis. Four Patriots and one Loyalist were wounded.

Although outnumbered, the Patriots quickly gained advantage over the larger force, and the Loyalists scattered in a disarrayed retreat across the Yadkin River. Since they were mostly a mounted force, they were able to make good their escape. The Battle of Shallow Ford lasted approximately 45 minutes.

Since reports of the Loyalists had worsened, Gen. Sumner dispatched an additional three hundred militia from nearby Salisbury, under the command of Col. John Peasley. However, they arrived near the end of the battle, as did Col. Joseph Williams of Surry County, who had heard rifle fire from his home not far away.

Capt. Francis was buried on the battlefield, and the twelve dead Loyalists were all buried in a separate mass grave beside the road. The four wounded Patriots and one Loyalist were all cared for by a Moravian physician and an assistant, first at the battle site, and from there, they were all moved to Bethania. Over the next few days, the Patriots went to the areas around Winston-Salem, where, they dried out from the rains, which had begun late on the day of the battle. Within several days, the Patriot Militia all returned home.



Of historical note, these rains and the rain the Overmountain Men endured prior to the Battle of Kings Mountain, can be attributed to seasonal weather that occurred during October 1780. In his scholarly article, SAR historian William Lee Anderson, III identified three major storms, in particular, *Savanna-la-Mar Hurricane*, October 3-7; *Great Hurricane of 1780*, October 10-20; and *Solano's Storm*, October 16-21. *The Great Hurricane of 1780* is the deadliest hurricane in recorded history, killing tens of thousands and sinking dozens of French and British ships carrying thousands of soldiers.

On October 19, the field officers of the Patriots held council, and directed those who had supported the Loyalists to be offered a pardon upon meeting specified conditions, which included the laying down of their arms. Many of the former Loyalists took advantage of this offer. After the defeats at Kings Mountain, and then again at Shallow Ford, the Loyalist movement dispersed from Surry County, never again gathering in such numbers. In addition to these defeats, and other skirmishes in the Carolinas resulting in British defeats, along with continued harassment from the British and Loyalists, Lord Cornwallis' reinforcements were delayed, which forced his retreat south in November.

In addition to the battle, Shallow Ford (pictured) was also used on February 7-8, 1781, by Lord Cornwallis' army as he pursued Gen. Nathaniel Greene's army after the Battle of Cowpens, which crossed the Yadkin River at the Trading Ford. This became known as the "Race to the Dan," resulting in the Battle of Guilford Courthouse on March 15, 1781.

A tombstone on the battle site honors Capt. Francis. The "Big Poplar Tree," a landmark on the site, is believed to have been shot at during the battle. Like many other Revolutionary War battles viewed by some as small, the Battle of Shallow Ford has traditionally been long overlooked by historians. As we all know from other battles local to North Carolina, they all helped to turn the tide of the American Revolution in the Patriots' favor, and paved the road to the eventuality which became the British defeat and surrender at Yorktown.

**Source:** Anderson, William Lee III. (2011-2014). *Cornwallis's retreat from Charlotte*.  
<http://www.elehistory.com/amrev/CornwallisCharlotteRetreat.pdf>

**Photo Credit:** <http://www.shallow-ford.net/shalford.html>

**Editor's Note:** Roy Lightfoot is the Chapter President of the Catawba Valley Chapter and NCSSAR State Historian. He holds a Bachelor's degree in history and a Master's degree in student development, both from Appalachian State University. Parts of this article were previously shared in the Catawba Valley Chapter newsletter *The Catawba Coalition* in October, 2022. If you have ideas for future columns you would like to have shared, he can be reached at [capn\\_roy@hotmail.com](mailto:capn_roy@hotmail.com).

## Compatriot Roberts Named Chancellor

The NCSSAR proudly announces long-time compatriot and member of the Raleigh Chapter NCSSAR, Lee Roberts has been selected as Chancellor of the University of North Carolina (UNC) Chapel Hill. Having served as Interim Chancellor since January, and now the 13th Chancellor in the history of the University, his permanent selection was announced by the UNC Board of Governors (BOG) in August. Appointed by Republican State lawmakers in 2021, Lee himself was a member of the BOG.

A career finance and private investor, Lee holds a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree in political science from Duke University, and a Juris Doctor (J.D.) law degree from Georgetown University. His mother was noted journalist and television co-anchor, the late Cokie Roberts, and his father is Cokie's companion journalist and college professor Steven V. Roberts. Lee's grandfather was the late Hon. Thomas Hale Boggs, Sr. (1914-1972), U.S. House of Representatives and Majority Leader from New Orleans, LA.

Of special note is Lee's indisputable and unquestionable patriotism, which was demonstrated with national attention in April 2024 during his brief tenure as Interim Chancellor. WRAL News Staff Writer Brian Murphy in an August 9 news piece reported (see <https://t.ly/NDfyT>).

"Roberts' most public actions as interim chancellor came during pro-Palestinian protests on the Chapel Hill campus in April. After several days of protests and encampment, protesters took down the American flag in the main quad and replaced it with a Palestinian flag. Roberts, followed by security, walked from the administrative building into the protests as the American flag was placed back up. 'To take down that flag and put up another flag, no matter what other flag it is, that's antithetical to who we are, what this university stands for and what we have done for 229 years,' Roberts said, while being shouted down by protesters who accused him of supporting genocide in the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. 'That flag will stand here as long as I'm chancellor,' Roberts said, pointing toward it. Dozens were arrested, and the encampments broken down."



**Photo credit:** Courtesy of John Hansen Photography and UNC Media Relations.

### HISTORICAL SITES

By David L. Mann  
Consulting Editor ONS

## Carver's Creek Methodist Church

Located in Bladen County near the Cape Fear River, Carver's Creek Methodist Church is situated on the site of a former Quaker Meeting House established in the early 18th century by settlers from Pennsylvania. Among the settlers during this period was William Bartram from Philadelphia who was the son of John Bartram, the famous botanist who served King George III. The Bartrams were associated with Ben Franklin during their time in Philadelphia but returned to the Cape Fear region where their eldest William owned a plantation. Revolutionary War veterans buried in the church graveyard include Col. Thomas Brown for whom the Southeast District NCSSAR performed a marking ceremony in 2015. Brown was the son-in-law of William Bartram and the brother-in-law of Col. Thomas Robeson, also a native of Philadelphia, for whom Robeson County is named. Both Robeson and Brown were prominent figures in the Battle of Moores Creek Bridge.



## FROM THE PULPIT

Chris Grimes

Contributing Author ONS

### Opening with Prayer

On September 5, 1774, the First Continental Congress convened in Philadelphia to tackle the challenge of how the then-thirteen colonies should respond to Great Britain's Intolerable Acts. With the exception of Georgia, twelve of the thirteen colonies sent delegates (which included North Carolina's own Richard Caswell, Joseph Hewes, and William Hooper) who would attend some portion of the proceedings.

Complicated issues confronted the delegates from the start. One issue was whether the Congress should open with prayer. In his September 5, 1774 letter to Abigail Adams, John Adams revealed the disunity that erupted, stating, "Two delegates immediately opposed the motion because we were so divided in religious Sentiments...[and we] could not join in the same Act of Worship." Samuel Adams suggested a solution. He stood and declared that he "was no bigot, and could hear a prayer from a gentleman of piety and virtue, who was at the same time a friend to his country."

All said, the Reverend Jacob Duché, rector of Christ Church of Philadelphia, was chosen to deliver the opening prayer in Congress on September 7, 1774. He read the *Collect for the Day*, which happened to be Psalm 35. Adams further shared in his letter to Abigail that it "seemed as if Heaven had ordained that Psalm to be read on that Morning. I never saw a greater Effect upon an Audience," he said.

Compatriots are encouraged to read Psalm 35, which should shed light and understanding on why Adams expressed the feelings that he did. The Psalm was followed by the following extemporaneous prayer from Duché, "which filled the Bosom of every Man present":

"O Lord our Heavenly Father, high and mighty King of kings, and Lord of lords, who dost from thy throne behold all the dwellers on earth and reignest with power supreme and uncontrolled over all the Kingdoms, Empires and Governments; look down in mercy, we beseech Thee, on these our American States, who have fled to Thee from the rod of the oppressor and thrown themselves on Thy gracious protection, desiring to be henceforth dependent only on Thee. To Thee have they appealed for the righteousness of their cause; to Thee do they now look up for that countenance and support, which Thou alone canst give. Take them, therefore, Heavenly Father, under Thy nurturing care; give them wisdom in Council and valor in the field; defeat the malicious designs of our cruel adversaries; convince them of the unrighteousness of their Cause and if they persist in their sanguinary purposes, of own unerring justice, sounding in their hearts, constrain them to drop the weapons of war from their unnerved hands in the day of battle!"

"Be Thou present, O God of wisdom, and direct the councils of this honorable assembly; enable them to settle things on the best and surest foundation. That the scene of blood may be speedily closed; that order, harmony and peace may be effectually restored, and truth and justice, religion and piety, prevail and flourish amongst the people. Preserve the health of their bodies and vigor of their minds; shower down on them and the millions they here represent, such temporal blessings as Thou seest expedient for them in this world and crown them with everlasting glory in the world to come. All this we ask in the name and through the merits of Jesus Christ, Thy Son and our Savior. Amen."

Prayer is powerful and can change lives and nations. We have that privilege afforded us by our God and secured by the freedom of which the Founders gave of their very lives and fortunes. Let not one day go by that we don't thank our Heavenly Father for these men and women.

**Sources:** *Diary of John Adams* (Sept 5, 1774); *Journals of the Continental Congress* (September 1774); *Letter from John Adams to Abigail Adams* (September 16, 1774)

*Chris Grimes is Chapter President and Chaplain of the Albemarle Chapter. He also serves as State SAR Chaplain and Assistant to the State SAR President. He is the Pastor at Saints Delight Church of Christ in Roper, NC. Contact Chris at [chrisgrimes@embarqmail.com](mailto:chrisgrimes@embarqmail.com).*

## Color Guard Change in Command



By order of State SAR President Steve Van Pelt, Gary Spencer (pictured, far left) of the Raleigh Chapter has assumed command of the NCSSAR State Color Guard, relieving Stephen McKee (pictured right) as State Color Guard Commander on August 24. The coveted appointment was made during the Commemoration of 250th Anniversary of the New Bern Resolves and First Provincial Congress in New Bern on August 24th.

Stephen's unwavering leadership and dedication have not gone unnoticed, and the NCSSAR owes him a great debt of gratitude. "It has been my honor and pleasure to serve as your Com-mander for the last two years," stated McKee, "and I have no doubt the same

professionalism and pursuit of excellence shown by each of you will ensure Gary's success as our new Commander." Gary's faithful participation to date in Color Guard events across the State will serve him well as the new Commander.

## Black Powder Training

The Catawba Valley Chapter hosted a Color Guard and Black Powder training session at the home of Chapter President Roy Lightfoot on September 2. A total of 13 compatriots and future compatriots from Catawba Valley Chapter, the Col. Alexander Erwin Chapter, and the Col. Daniel Boone Chapter participated.

State SAR Color Guard Commander and State SAR Senior Vice President Stephen McKee led the training session. The resulting certification as a NCSSAR Color Guardsman will be a requirement to participate in the firing of volleys at all SAR events in the near future.



Pictured (L-R) in the first row are Al Ernest, Rob Buff, Kevin Allec, and

Steve McKee. Pictured (L-R) in the second row are Roy Lightfoot, Jim McCauley, and Robert Crum. Pictured (L-R) in the third row are Eric Minetola, Kevin Rhoney, and Jordan Lowdermilk. Finally, pictured (L-R) in the fourth row are Tom Lesser, Kevin Hancock, Dan Beal, and Brandon Mosteller.



**ROY LIGHTFOOT, President**  
Catawba Valley Chapter NCSSAR

# How to Best Honor the American Flag

By Lee Purcell

New Bern Chapter NCSSAR

The American Flag is the emblem of our identity as a sovereign nation. As the United States and its Flag move forward into a fourth century, here are some thoughts on how patriotic citizens should show proper respect for this historic symbol of freedom and liberty.

On May 30, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson established June 14 as annual Flag Day to commemorate the Congressional Flag Resolution of June 14, 1777. On that date Congress affirmed the design to consist of 13 stripes, alternating red and white, with the 13 stars in the blue union corner, representing “a new constellation.”

From 1777’s original flag, whose true creator is unknown, 27 versions of the flag were subsequently created over the years. With the admission of Vermont and Tennessee to the Union, the second Flag Act of 1792 required 15 Stars and Stripes. This was the Flag that flew over Fort McHenry, inspiring Francis Scott Key to compose our beautiful *National Anthem*. The Flag Code, a set of Flag etiquette guidelines developed by the American Legion in 1923, was adopted by Joint Resolution of Congress as law in 1942, albeit with no enforcement mechanism.

Principles to consider for proper display and care for the American Flag follow. Compatriots are encouraged to abide by, and incorporate, these principles routinely in both personal and patriotic activities and gatherings, including all SAR related programs:

- The American Flag should be displayed daily on or near the main administration building of every public institution. It should be displayed in or near every polling place on election days, and during school days in or near every schoolhouse.
- Servicemen and veterans should stand at attention and salute when the Flag is passing, or being raised or lowered.
- The Flag should not be displayed during inclement weather. The Flag should be displayed in the open from sunrise to sunset. The Flag may be displayed on a 24-hour basis if properly illuminated during darkness.
- The American Flag should be treated with respect and dignity, and should be honored when on display.
- In the company of other flags, the American Flag should be on the right of any other arrangement of flags. No other flag should be higher. The American Flag should not be dipped to any person, and never touch the ground, floor, water, or merchandise, or anything beneath it.
- No State Flag may fly above the American Flag.
- When the American Flag is so worn as to no longer serve as a symbol of our country, it should be destroyed by burning in a dignified manner. Most American Legion Posts, VFW Chapters, and Boy Scout Troops regularly conduct dignified flag burning ceremonies.
- The American Flag is not to be flown upside down, except as a sign of distress.
- The American Flag is never to be carried flat or horizontally, always aloft and free.
- When looking at the American Flag from street level or if displayed on a wall, the blue union corner should be to the observer’s left; the flag should be facing left.

**Editor's Note:** Stanley “Lee” Purcell, Lt., USA, is the Flag Program Committee Chair of the New Bern Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution. He can be contacted at [NewBernSAR@gmail.com](mailto:NewBernSAR@gmail.com).



## Liberty Point Resolves Commemoration

The 249th anniversary commemoration of the Liberty Point Resolves was held at the First Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville on June 22. Le Marquis de Lafayette Chapter NCSSAR served as the lead organization for the event. Co-sponsors were the Liberty Point Chapter NCSDAR, the Col. Robert Rowan Chapter NCSDAR, the Isham Blake Society NCSCAR, and the Lafayette Society. In addition to promotional efforts from local museums and businesses, the Jernigan Warren Funeral Home provided seating for the celebration.



Guest speakers were Cumberland County Commissioner Glenn Adams, House in the Horseshoe Director Amanda Brantley, and the City of Fayetteville Historic Property Manager Heidi Bleazey. Joining the le Marquis de Lafayette Chapter Color Guard were guardsmen from across the State, including one from Virginia.

Assistance was also provided by members of the NC Chapter 97 of the National Sojourners and the Boy Scout Troup and Pack 747. The Chapter partnered with the Cumberland County Library to create a booklet about the Liberty Point Resolves and its signers.

Celebration of this annual event is a reminder of its importance as an early example of organized resistance against British rule in America that led to our independence. On June 20, 1775, a group of patriots gathered at Lewis Barge's Tavern in Cross Creek, now part of Fayetteville. They signed a document called the *Liberty Point Resolves*, protesting Great Britain's actions following the Battles of Lexington and Concord. While expressing hope for reconciliation, they also pledged to sacrifice their lives and fortunes, if needed, to secure the freedom and safety of the colonies.

**DAVID DOWLESS, JR., President**  
**le Marquis de Lafayette Chapter NCSSAR**

# Edenton Tea Party: 51 Courageous Women

By Chris Grimes  
Contributing Author ONS

On October 25, 1774, Mrs. Penelope Barker and fifty-one likeminded women gathered at the home of Mrs. Elizabeth King in Edenton. Together, these ladies affixed their names to a document that was quite revolutionary.

The Boston Tea Party, which was held in December 1773, set into play a series of events that led to the British Parliament passing the “Intolerable Acts” as proof of the King George’s absolute authority. Following the example of the patriots of Boston, the women of Edenton decided to protest these unjust laws after the First Continental Congress passed



non-importation resolutions in 1774 to boycott British textiles and tea. The fifty-one ladies signed an agreement, committing that they were “determined to give memorable proof of their patriotism” and could not be “indifferent on any occasion that appears nearly to affect the peace and happiness of our country....it is a duty that we owe, not only to our near and dear connections...but to ourselves.”

News of these “Edenton Resolves” quickly reached the shores of England. Political resistance was common but never from a women’s movement. These fifty-one women had shocked and rocked the world with their bravery.

Arthur Iredell, who at the time was visiting London, wrote his brother, James, describing England’s reaction to this “Tea Party.” Iredell indicated that, “The incident was not taken seriously because it was led by women,” and snidely remarked, “The only security on our side...is the probability that there are but few places in America which possess so much female artillery as Edenton.”

There was even a political cartoon, “A Society of Patriotic Ladies, at Edenton, North Carolina,” published in London in March of 1775, poking fun at the patriotic women of Edenton. While the “Edenton Tea Party” was mocked in England, colonials in America praised it. The courageous women of Edenton put their names on the line. Their resolves represented fellow colonists' frustrations with Great Britain and the need for American independence.

A Commemoration of the Edenton Tea Party and the 250<sup>th</sup> Signing of the Edenton Resolves will be held Friday and Saturday, October 25-26. For more information, visit <https://historicsites.nc.gov/resources/a250-historic-sites/edenton-tea-party>

**Photo Credit:** British Museum, London. Inscription, "A Society of Patriotic Ladies, at Edenton, North Carolina, Plate V., London, Printed for R. Sayer & J. Bennett No. 53 in Fleet Street, as the Act directs 25 March 1775." [https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/P\\_2010-7081-3247](https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/P_2010-7081-3247)

Chris Grimes is Chapter President and Chaplain of the Albemarle Chapter. He also serves as State SAR Chaplain and Assistant to the State SAR President. He is the Pastor at Saints Delight Church of Christ in Roper, NC. Contact Chris at [chrisgrimes@embarqmail.com](mailto:chrisgrimes@embarqmail.com).



## Col. Le Hansyus De Keyser Grave Marking

The le Marquis de Lafayette Chapter NCSSAR hosted the patriot grave marking ceremony of Col. Le Hansyus De Keyser at the Cross Creek 1 Cemetery in Fayetteville on June 22. Col. DeKeyser is considered a founding father of Phoenix Lodge 8 of Fayetteville. Thus, it was fitting for James Pugsley from the NC Chapter 97 of the National Sojourners to speak on De Keyser's Masonic Service.

Maj. Bruce Daws of the Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry (FILI) also spoke at the event. FILI is not only the State's oldest militia, it is also the second oldest active militia in the nation. Many of the original records were lost to time, so there is no confirmed connection of De Keyser to FILI. However, due to DeKeyser local and State involvement, DeKeyser is presumed to have been involved with FILI to some extent.

From extensive research that he conducted, Chapter President David Dowless, Jr. delivered a presentation on the life of Patriot De Keyser at the ceremony. In his opening remarks, David stated, "I don't know an important person in the American Revolution like Col. De Keyser could have been overlooked to date, given he served such a valuable role, not only in the military but also in local politics."

Little information about Dekeyser predates 1775, other than he was a Virginian by birth, and he was used as an example by George Washington in 1756 to warn Virginia soldiers to maintain discipline. As for his Revolutionary service, De Keyser was a key contributor to the Wilmington-New Hanover Safety Committee, which served the geographic region from Wilmington to Cross Creek. On February 20, 1775, a message was sent to the members of the Safety Committee to meet at De Keyser's house on March 6 to "consult business of the utmost consequence to the Patriotic support of the cause of British America." By May 20, Cross Creek would have its own committee, but stayed in contact with their Wilmington counterparts.

Le Dekeyser was appointed Ensign and Adjutant in the First NC Regiment and then promoted to First Lieutenant on February 3, 1776, just 24 days before the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge. Although placing him at the Moore's Creek battle has not been proved with absolute certainty, the presence of the First NC Regiment has been confirmed. Indirect evidence suggests that he was there, however. A pension application from Patriot Robert Cook mentioned his joining the First NC Regiment under Adjutant Dekeyser and further described the Regiment's route to get to Moore's Creek bridge. Records show that De Keyser resigned on December 10, 1776. In 1778, per the pensions of Francis Timberlake and Nathan Briggs' widow pension, De Keyser was a Captain and/or Major of the NC Light Horse Infantry. Patriot Timberlake testified that it was De Keyser who discharged him in Augusta, GA.

Perhaps De Keyser's final service to the new nation occurred on November 5, 1789. He opened his boarding house to Richard Caswell, North Carolina's first and fifth Governor, who spent the last five days of his life there. De Keyser would eventually become the owner of a hotel inn in Cross Creek.

The grave marking ceremony was scheduled the same day as the Liberty Point Resolves Commemoration, which occurred at the First Presbyterian Church (FPC). While there, David (pictured above, left) took the opportunity, on behalf of the Chapter, to present a check to Senior Pastor Dr. Mike Garrett, which had related significance. The check was presented in memory of Margaret De Keyser, wife of Patriot De Keyser. She was a documented member of FPC in 1809.



## Battle of Ramsour's Mill Commemoration



The Catawba Valley Chapter hosted the 244th Commemoration of the Anniversary of the Battle of Ramsour's Mill, a National SAR event, on June 22 in Lincolnton. Partnering organizations included the Lincoln County Historical Association, the Jacob Forney Chapter of the DAR, Thunder Over Carolina, Inc., and the Lincolnton Tourism Development Authority.

The speaker of the day was Chapter President Roy Lightfoot (pictured), who delivered a presentation titled, "A Soldier's Story—Jacob Parkerson/Parkinson." He shared the story of his SAR Patriot and stressed the idea of sharing our stories of our ancestors often with families and associates.

The program jumped headlong into the presentation of the wreaths. There were over fifty chapters of SAR, DAR, and CAR present, with some chapters bringing multiple representatives. More than 100 were estimated to be in attendance. Special thanks to NCSSAR State President Steve Van Pelt for bringing greetings.


At the ceremony, Steve (pictured, left) assisted Roy in awarding medals to the following compatriots, non-members, and some who will soon become members of the SAR and the DAR for their dedication and hard work (pictured, L-R): Mrs. Charla Setser, *SAR Martha Washington Medal*; Chapter Dan Beal, *SAR 250th Anniversary Gold Medal*; and Lisa Pupkiewicz, *SAR 250th Anniversary Silver Medal*. In addition, the *SAR 250th Anniversary Bronze Medal* was awarded to Chapter Vice President Rick Hubbard, Brandon Mosteller, Roy Lightfoot, Beverly King Moore, and Chapter Color Guard Commander Rob Buff, all pictured below (L-R).



**ROY LIGHTFOOT, President**  
Catawba Valley Chapter NCSSAR

Catawba Valley Chapter also participated in the festivities of the encampment, held as part of the Battle of Ramsour's Mill commemoration. Pictured are a few Chapter members of the chapter who were involved.





## **Fourth Quarter Patriotic Days**

**Columbus Day**  
October 14

**U.S. Navy Day**  
October 27

**Election Day**  
November 5

**U.S. Marines Day**  
November 10

**Veterans Day**  
November 11

**Pearl Harbor Day**  
December 7

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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****October - December 2024****Updates available at**

<https://rb.gy/l9e7l>  
<https://www.sar.org/events/>

**NATIONAL EVENTS**

**October 3-6:** National SAR Fall Leadership Meeting. The Galt Hotel, Louisville, KY

**October 7:** 244th Annual Commemoration, Battle of Kings Mountain. Kings Mountain National Battlefield Park, Blacksburg, SC. Co-hosted by the Battle of Kings Mountain Chapter NCSSAR and the SCSSAR. 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

**STATE EVENTS**

**October 12:** 244th Annual Commemoration, Battle of Shallow Ford, Old Historic Huntsville Methodist Church, Huntsville, NC. Hosted by the Bethabara Chapter NCSSAR. 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. **\*CANCELLED-See President's Message on page 2.**

**CHAPTER EVENTS**

**October 26:** Grave Markings for Patriots Samuel Webb Smith and Chesley Daniel. Granville County, location TBA. Hosted by the Halifax Resolves Chapter NCSSAR. All day.

**October 26:** Grave Marking for Patriot Matthew McCauley. McCauley Family Cemetery, Chapel Hill, NC. Co-hosted by the NC Brigade of the Society of the Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge and the Gen. Francis Nash Chapter NCSSAR. 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

**November 2:** Grave Marking for Patriot John Harris. Harris-Love Cemetery, Elizabeth City, NC. Hosted by the Albemarle Chapter NCSSAR. 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

**November 16:** Grave Marking for Patriots Casper Brinkle, Johann Peter Everhart, Wooldrich Fritz, Valentine Leonard, Sr., and John Sauer. Pilgrim Reformed Church, Lexington, NC. Co-hosted by Catawba Valley Chapter and Bethabara Chapter NCSSAR. 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

**November 16:** Annual Commemoration, Richard and William Caswell. Gov. Richard Caswell Memorial, Kinston, NC. Co-hosted by the Gen. George Washington Chapter NCSSAR and the Moseley-Bright Chapter NCSSAR. 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.