

2014 & 2016 winner – 1st Place Nationally (single sheet)—Carl F. Bessent Newsletter Award

Message from the President



Compatriots,

Greetings Compatriots! and a happy holiday season to each of you. It has been my honor and privilege to serve as your chapter president this past year. The year has flown by and it's hard to believe

Christmas is here again and the new year is just right around the corner. I want to sincerely thank all of you who attended the regular meetings and participated in all of our events during this past year. It has been a great year for the Halifax Resolves Chapter. Our meetings have been well attended with strong, informative educational programs each and every meeting. The Halifax United Methodist Church Women have again provided us with those signature home cooked meals which we all look forward to on meeting nights. We have been active in our community attending SAR events, marking the graves of our compatriot ancestors and participating in the DAR, veteran events and school activities all around our eight county area. You should all be proud of your chapter and what we are doing to help spread the word of the Sons of the American Revolution and what our patriotic organization is all about.

This coming year will bring challenges to our small chapter with the attendance of the National Society President, Dr. Daryll Addington at the 249th Halifax Resolves Day on Saturday, April 12, 2024. This will be the opportunity for us to shine and it will take each and every member of our group to help with

this event. The chapter needs your help. Please mark this date on your calendar and help make this the biggest and best event to date. You will begin receiving information on the various activities being planned for this year's event soon. Best wishes to you and your families for a most healthy and prosperous New Year.

In Patriotism,

Bill Riggan

The January meeting will be held Wed., January 8, at the Halifax United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 150 S. King St. in Halifax, at 6:30 pm.

On the agenda: our VP Mark Pace will present a program entitled "A Malcontented People: Armed Insurrection in North Carolina 1677 - 1775".

The cost of the meal will be \$15. Reservations are required and must be in by 5:00 pm on Fri., Jan. 3. Please contact President Riggan at (919) 495-0706 or bill.riggan.sar@gmail.com if you're coming.

Visit our chapter website at:
[Halifax Resolves Chapter website](#)

The NC SAR Newsletter:
["The Old North State"](#)

Dusty Corners

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



In our previous article, we discussed the early steps in settling an estate where the person died with a will. Let's continue that discussion, and then move to settling estates where there was no will.

Even though we read old wills primarily to find out more about a deceased person and his heirs, we sometimes stumble on additional unexpected information. This is why we should read all the documents associated with an estate -- so we don't miss any interesting details.

As the court finished accepting and probating a will, sometimes complications arose. For example, you might see that an executor was unable to perform his duty, and the court minutes might indicate he had moved to Tennessee, or an even vaguer location like "west of the Cumberland." Where is that? Not much chance of finding him out in the wilderness, without even a zip code to help you. Alas, more often than not, missing executors are simply noted as "moved to parts unknown." You might even see it noted that the original executor had died in August 1852, for example. Often this is the only clue we have to a death date for that person. Write it down! This is the type of clue that might not seem important when you find it, but might be very important later, and you don't want to try to recall where you first saw it. I speak from unfortunate experience!

For an intestate person, the procedure was a bit different. First, somebody had to step forward to offer to handle the estate, and notify the court of the death. The first preference for this task was a close relative. Sometimes you will find an interesting document in which the widow of the deceased and her children sign a paper stating they don't want to handle the estate. This is an important document, as it might be the only place where you see the names of all the heirs! The heirs may further recommend someone else for the job. Presuming that person was willing, he would be appointed the administrator. If no relative was interested, the job was typically offered to someone to whom the estate owed a lot of money. Such a person would have a vested interest in making sure the estate was settled properly and all debts paid.

For both testate and intestate estates, an inventory of the property of the deceased was required, and was filed by the executor or the administrator. While many inventories are perfunctory, and sometimes seem to list only farm tools, other inventories were extremely detailed, and give us a good glimpse into the life and home of the deceased. Pewter, silver, walnut furniture and fine furnishings would indicate a family of means. Bibles and books indicate a literate family. Sometimes an inventory even included the names of slaves, and descriptions of acres of land owned. The inventory is like a snapshot of the home and household.

In our next installment of this series, we will discuss how estates were divided among the various heirs, and the complications with doing so.

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

David Gammon

Chapter Genealogist

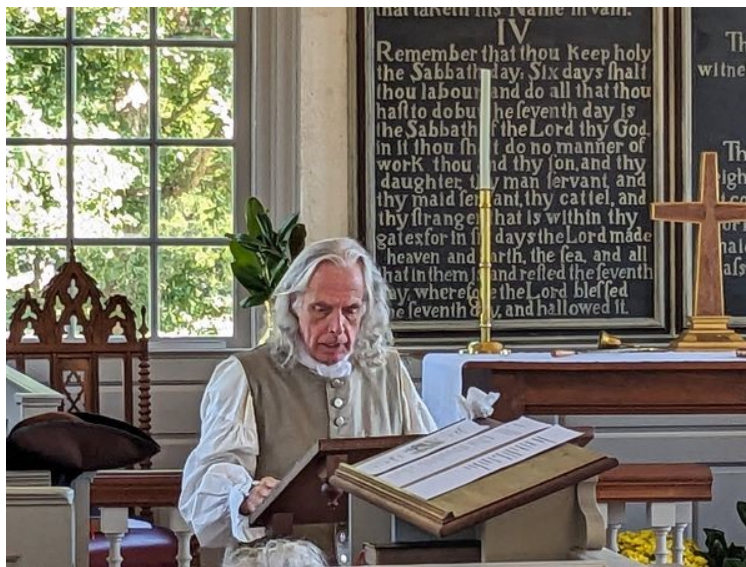
Chapter Activities

March 12, 2024 - Chapter Genealogist David Gammon presented a program entitled *“Tracing Ancestors Who Died Intestate”* to the Quaker Meadows DAR Chapter in Morganton, a group of approximately 50 members attended. (photo not available)

July 18, 2024 - Chapter Genealogist David Gammon presented a program entitled *“The Importance of Court Minutes in Genealogical Research”* to the newly formed Avery County Genealogical Society at the Avery County Public Library in Newland, NC. A group of 20 interested local citizens were in attendance. (photo not available)

September 17, 2024 - Genealogist David Gammon met with the Avery County Genealogical Society to discuss the process of *“Identifying Local Revolutionary War Patriots in Avery County”*. The society meets in the Avery County Public Library in Newland, NC. (photo not available)

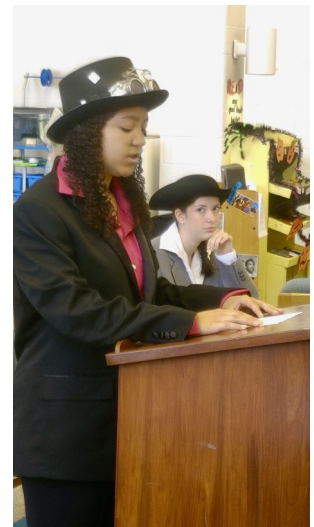
October 13, 2024 - Mark Pace (portraying John Penn) (below) was the featured speaker at the *“St John's Episcopal Church Homecoming Service”* at Williamsboro, N. C. The historic church was built in 1772 and is the third oldest existing church building in North Carolina. There were over 100 attendees for the service.



October 14, 2024 -Chapter Historian and Nash Central AP US History teacher Renny Taylor conducted a re-enactment of the infamous “Bacon’s Rebellion” trial as a class project. Colonial Governor William Berkeley of Jamestown who had arrested Nathaniel Bacon for leading a rebellion against the Crown and the colonial government and accused them of corruption, unfair taxes and his liberal view of native Indian issues.

(left) A student portraying Governor Berkeley as he defends his actions against Bacon to the court.

(right) The attorney for Nathaniel Bacon pleads his case against Nathaniel Bacon to the court.



Chapter Activities (cont.)



October 19, 2024 - Mark Pace in the guise of John Penn was the featured speaker at the Elizabeth Vann Moore Foundation Fundraiser Dinner at historic Hayes Plantation in Edenton, N. C. Hayes Plantation was home of noted North Carolina patriot Samuel Johnston, who was also the 6th governor of our state and its first U. S. Senator.

(below) Halifax Resolves & John Penn Chapter members, family and participants attending the service.

(above) Suzanne Sella, member of the John Penn DAR Chapter presented the biography of Patriot Smith to those in attendance. Halifax Resolves Chapter President Bill Riggan conducted the ceremony.

October 26, 2024 - The Halifax Resolves Chapter and the John Penn DAR Chapter co-sponsored the grave marking services of two Revolutionary War Patriots in Granville Co today. The first service was the marking of the grave of **Colonel Samuel Webb Smith** who is interred in the *Abrams Plains Plantation Cemetery* near Stovall, NC. Several family members were in attendance along with SAR & DAR members, friends and observers. Approximately 25 attended this event at 10:00 AM. A second service was conducted at the *Tranquility Plantation Cemetery* located near Oxford, NC at 1:00 PM. Approximately 15 or more family members and approximately 20 SAR & DAR members, friends and interested observers attended the service marking the grave of Revolutionary War patriot **Chesley Daniel**.



Patriot Chesley Daniel

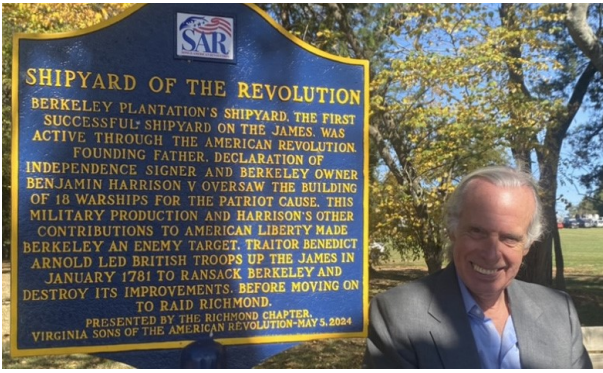


(right) Chapter President Bill Riggan presided over the service marking the grave of Revolutionary War Patriot Chesley Daniel. Vice President Mark Pace presented the biography of Patriot Daniel.

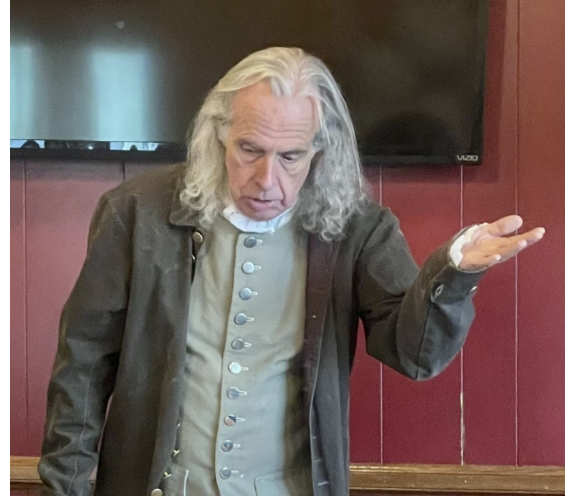


(below) Halifax Resolves & John Penn Chapter members, family and other participants attending





November 3, 2024 - (left) Mark Pace, V. P. attended the “*63rd Annual Virginia Thanksgiving Festival*” at Berkeley Plantation on the James River. Mark is a direct descendent of Captain John Woodlief of Berkeley Plantation. Pace is pictured next to the S.A.R. marker commemorating the building of 18 warships for the Patriot cause at Berkeley.



November 10, 2024 - (right) John Penn (aka Mark Pace) gave a presentation to the Hillsboro, N. C. Questers (Eno Regulators Chapter) History Group about “*The State of the Nation in 1788*” and provided some biographical information on the Signers of the Declaration of Independence .



November 11, 2024 - (left) Mark Pace was a featured speaker for the “*Oxford, N. C. Veteran's Day Ceremony*” held at American Legion Post #90. His topic was D-Day, June 6, 1944, and he spoke of Granville County's participation and the sacrifices made on that pivotal day.

December 14, 2024 - (right) Michael Cooper, Chapter Secretary, combat veteran (and new bridegroom), was the featured speaker at the “*Wreaths Across America*” ceremony at Oakwood Cemetery in Louisburg, NC.



November Chapter Meeting

Presentation of Awards

Chapter President Bill Riggan presented the **Bronze Henry Knox Medal** to Sheryl Albert for her consistent support of our Chapter, the DAR and to the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence (DSDI). Sheryll attends and participates in all chapter meetings and events. She is the wife of Chapter Chaplain Harry Albert.

President Riggan also presented the **Bronze Henry Knox Medal** to Mr. Zach Myers for his assistance to President Riggan during this past year. Zach attends all meetings and events and helps setup those meetings and other special activities as needed. He is in the words of President Riggan, “one of the most valuable assets of the our Chapter”.

Congratulations to both of them for their contributions to the Halifax Resolves Chapter.



The guest speaker for the night was **Mr. Gary Spencer, NC Color Guard Commander.** (below, left) The newly appointed Commander is also the President of the Raleigh Chapter NC SAR. He informed interested chapter members what was required to start a chapter color guard. The basic requirement is to have the appropriate colonial clothing along with a minimum of training. An appropriate training will hopefully take place soon.



(above, right) Commander Spencer is presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from Chapter President Riggan.

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

Sat., January 15th - Commemoration of the Battle of Cowan's Ford, followed by the Winter Board of Managers meeting. Hopewell Presbyterian Church
10500 Beatties Ford Road, Huntersville, NC 28078.

January 18th –19th - Commemoration of the Battle of Cowpens, Cowpens National Battlefield,
4001 Chesnee Hwy, Gaffney, SC 29341. All day.

February 22nd - The Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge Anniversary Celebration. 10:00 am, Moore's Creek Battlefield, 200 Moores Creek Dr, Currie, NC 28435.

March 15th - 224th Anniversary of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. Guilford Courthouse National Military Park, 2332 New Garden Rd, Greensboro, NC 27410, 9:00 am—10:00 am.



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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