

Message from the President



Compatriots,

Greetings Compatriots! I hope this message finds all of you well and in good health. Planning continues for our upcoming 2025 Halifax Day celebration. This year is the 249th Anniversary

of the Adoption of the Halifax Resolves. I received some disappointing news a week or so ago that the President General of the National SAR wouldn't be attending our event as planned. His very busy schedule has sent him to the National Convention of the Children of the American Revolution. Moving forward, the Event Registration and the Luncheon Reservations have gone live on the State website. If you would like to attend, the forms are available on the State Calendar and appear on the information for April 12th. If you have issues finding the information to register please contact myself or Steve Avent and we will be happy to guide you through the process.

I had the privilege of presenting three SAR Service Awards at the last meeting to Bob Bittner, Steve Avent and Ken Odom. Ken Odom received his 30 year Service Award and Medal for his continued service to the SAR and more especially the Halifax Resolve Chapter. Congratulations to these Compatriots for their service.

Our next chapter meeting will be on Wednesday, March 12th at 6:30 PM when we will have a delicious meal prepared by the Halifax UMC Ladies and

our regular meeting at 7:00 PM. I am extremely pleased to announce that our chaplain, Harry Albert, will be the featured speaker at this meeting. He will be presenting a program entitled, *"Exploring NC Postal History Connections to the American Revolution"*. Come enjoy some fellowship and a great meal.

Bill Riggan

The March meeting will be held Wed., March 12, at the Halifax United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 150 S. King St. in Halifax, at 6:30 pm.

On the agenda: our Chaplain Harry Albert will present a program entitled *"Exploring NC Postal History Connections to the American Revolution"*.

The cost of the meal will be \$15. Reservations are required and must be in by 5:00 pm on Fri., Mar. 7. 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 fourth in a series of articles discussing the settlement of estates in 18th and 19th century North Carolina.



In our previous article, we have discussed the roles of the executor and administrator in settling estates in early North Carolina. Let's continue our discussion of the next steps in the process.

Once the estate inventory was filed, a sale of the personal property of the deceased usually came next. This step was occasionally skipped when the deceased left a will that specified no sale would be held. Selling the personal property of the deceased might seem strange to us now, but in the days before life insurance policies and retirement accounts, the money from such a sale was used to pay debts and generate cash to support the family for the immediate future.

The accounts of these sales include the item sold, the price paid, and the name of the buyer. They are often full of tidbits of information, but the careful researcher should comb through the entire document. The first thing to examine is the types of items that were sold. An abundance of cobbler's tools or carpenter's tools might indicate the profession (or at least a sideline) of the deceased.

Almost as interesting as the items sold are the names of the buyers. Typically, family and neighbors bought most of the items. Among the buyers, you will often see "widow" marked for many of the purchases. Researchers should study the names of the buyers carefully to see if there are any surprises among them. Are there any unidentified buyers with the same last name as the deceased, or with the same last name as the maiden name of the widow? They might be related, and are worth investigating further. Likewise, a family member often bought the Bible.

Researchers should look at the names of all the buyers to see if a geographical pattern emerges. Were most of the buyers residents of Warrenton? If so, the deceased may have lived in that area. Also note that for wealthy people who owned numerous farms, there may have been multiple sales— one on each farm. The common element will be the name of the administrator or executor who is taking note of the sales. In fact, if you are trying to distinguish between two different estates for two people with the same name, often the easiest way to tell them apart is by the administrator or executor.

Unfortunately, an early death of the husband often spelled disaster for his family, who were often left without resources. Widows in distressed circumstances often petitioned the court for their year's provisions, and they were given bacon, flour, corn, molasses, sugar, and other basic items for their survival. The court typically appointed several neighbors of the deceased to allot these provisions. These petitions always give the name of the widow, and sometimes include the number of children in the home (but rarely their names, unfortunately). The pitiful tone of many of these petitions reveals the sad truth that many of our ancestors truly lived a meager existence.

As you can see, the more we dig into these early estates, the more we learn about our ancestors. These early records provide a clear look at their lives.

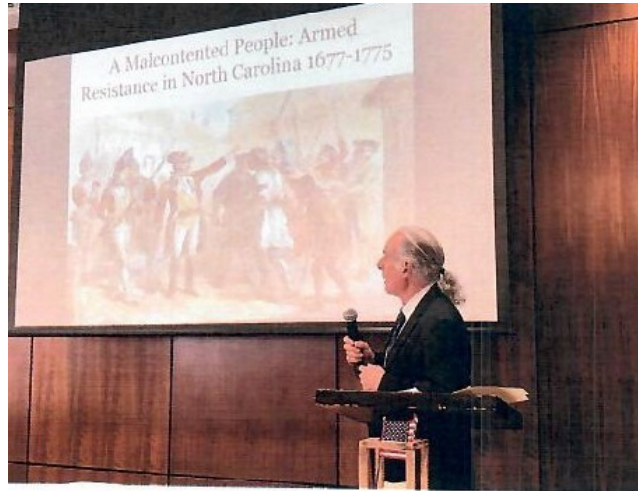
Questions or comments? Contact David at dbg557377@gmail.com.

David Gammon

Chapter Genealogist

Chapter Activities

(below left) November 16, 2024 - Chapter VP Mark Pace attended the grave marking ceremony for Revolutionary War Patriot John Webb, at Oak Hill Presbyterian Church in Granville County, sponsored by the Raleigh Chapter, NC SAR.



(above center) November 21, 2024 - VP Mark Pace presented a program entitled: "*A Malcontented People: Armed Resistance in North Carolina 1677 - 1775*" to the Sir Walter Raleigh Chapter of the North Carolina Society of Colonial Dames In Raleigh. The presentation featured the history of armed resistance in North Carolina in colonial times and how it influenced the outbreak of the American Revolution in our state in 1775.

(above right) December 22, 2024 - Chapter VP Mark Pace attended the U.S. Flag Replacement Ceremony at St. Bernadette Catholic Church in Butner, sponsored by the John Penn Chapter NC DAR. Pictured above are Mark, members of the John Penn Chapter and Rev. Marcos A. Leon-Angulo.

(below left) January 8, 2025 - Chapter VP Mark Pace presented a program on "*Granville County, N.C., and the American Revolution*" at the Granville County Senior Center. Pictured with Mark are members of the John Penn Chapter NC DAR present that day.

(below right) January 15, 2025 - Chapter VP Mark Pace presented a program on "*Granville County and the American Revolution*" to the John Penn Chapter NC DAR at the Granville County Historical Museum in Oxford and was attended by some 25 interested citizens.



January Chapter Meeting

The Ladies of Halifax UMC once again prepared a delicious meal for all those in attendance for tonight's meeting. Guests were Mrs. Hilary Cooper and Mrs. Sheryll Albert, both members of the Franklin Co. Shocco Creek DAR chapter.

President Riggan announced the marriage of our Secretary Michael Cooper and Hilary Patterson on December 6, 2024 at the beautiful Rose Hill Estate in Nashville, NC. Congratulation to the newlyweds.

Knight Essay Committee Chair Renny Taylor informed all those present that we had 30+ applicants for the contest this year. Awards and medals will be presented at a later date.



(left) Compatriot Bob Bittner was presented a *Five Year SAR Service Award*. **(center)** Chapter Treasurer and NE Region VP Steve Avent was presented his 25 Year SAR Service Award and Medal by President Riggan. **(right)** Compatriot Ken Odom was presented his *30 Year SAR Service Award and Medal* by President Riggan for his service to the Sons of the American Revolution.



(left) Tonight's speaker for our educational program was Vice President Mark Pace. Mark presented an interesting program entitled, *"A Malcontented People: Armed Insurrection in North Carolina 1677 - 1775"* which was very well received by those in attendance and created many questions and discussion following his presentation.

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

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

March 15th - 244th 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.

April 4th and 5th - NC SAR Annual Convention, Embassy Suites by Hilton Greensboro Airport, 204 Centreport Dr, Greensboro, NC 27409.

April 12th - 249th Anniversary of the Adoption of the Halifax Resolves, Historic Halifax, 72 Market St, Halifax, NC 27839, 10:00—11:00 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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