



Enduring CAR-SAR Partnership

PAGE 20

President's Message

Stephen P. McKee
President, NCSSAR



NC Compatriots,

With this issue of ONS, I begin my service as your State SAR President. I joined the SAR just shy of ten years ago this July. Since then, I have held various roles at the Chapter, State, and National levels. I have been blessed to serve, and I am thankful for fellow Compatriots who have offered guidance, advice,

and friendship, all of which has allowed me to grow personally and patriotically. My goal is to continue partnering with you in implementing the SAR mission in North Carolina.

We face exciting times in the year ahead. NCSSAR will host the Annual SAR Congress in 2026. This historic event gives us the opportunity to showcase the Old North State, our Revolutionary history, and the strength of our State Society. Compatriots from all over the United States will descend on Greensboro, N.C. to celebrate the founding of our Nation and the ideals upon which that foundation firmly rests. NCSSAR is committed to making the 2026 Congress one of the best ever, as we celebrate America's 250th birthday.

Still, challenges remain. I am too young to remember much about the Bicentennial. But I believe that the country was considerably more aware of it, and much more excited about celebrating a nation conceived in Liberty, and virtually everyone was involved. The 250th Semi-quincentennial of America offers us, as descendants of the Revolutionary generation, an amazing opportunity to plant the seeds that will ensure the Republic endures long after we are gone.

Therefore, much work lies ahead, and willing, eager hands and feet are needed. The State SAR Leadership is not asking you to follow us on Christmas night through a blizzard and across an ice-choked river to fight men better fed, better equipped, and better trained than you. Nor are we asking you to brave subfreezing temperatures with no coats or blankets or food or pay.

Rather, we are asking you to be *Men of Some Consequence* for the duration of this year. What does this mean? Part of it comes from recognizing the seriousness

of taking the *SAR Oath*, and believing and acting on what we say. It also means being men of duty and action and, if necessary, of sacrifice. We must ensure that young men and boys have visible examples of what it means to be truly Patriotic, so that when our time as guardians of Liberty is over, the younger ones are ready and equipped to accept the mantle and become the next generation of sentinels who will protect our Republic that is "of the people, by the people, and for the people."

How do we do this at the State and Chapter levels? It will require that we engage our members directly, make them feel valued, and offer them a reason to be an active and involved Compatriot. It will also require that we identify their talents and passions which can best be utilized for the SAR and help them find opportunities to serve. We must then be certain to recognize their contributions.

Men of Some Consequence and individuals with great character leave their mark on posterity. They are men on which our Republic has always depended. As your State SAR President, I choose to be a *Man of Some Consequence*. Join me in this noble effort as we move through 2025 in service together.

Yours in Liberty,
 Stephen

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Membership Update

NCSSAR welcomes 34 new members (January 1, 2025 to March 21, 2025)

ACKERSON, Brian #232657
 ACKERSON, Jeffery #232656
 ACKERSON, Steven #232658
 ADAM, Samuel #232659
 COX, David #232505
 CRAWFORD, James #232595
 CROUSE, Nathaniel #232661
 CROUSE, Raymond #232660
 DAVIS, Holye Jr. #232433
 DEDMAN, Phillip #232322
 EVERETTE, David #232975
 HIGGINBOTHAM, David Jr. #232596
 KIMMEL, Charles #232593
 KNOWLES, Ben #232971
 KNOWLES, Wayne #232972
 LOVEWELL, William #232974
 McMAHAN, John #232504
 MINETOLA, Eric #232503
 MOSTELLER, Brandon #232321
 PEARSON, Charles #232594
 ROARK, Samuel #232325
 ROBINSON, Blake #232319
 ROBINSON, Harold Jr. #232320
 SCHINDLER, Robert #232973
 SHEEHAD, David #232729
 TURNER, Benjamin #232324
 TURNER, John #232323
 TUTWILER, John #232597
 TUTWILER, Nichalos #232599
 TUTWILER, Ryan #232598
 TWIGG, Colton #232820
 TWIGG, Jeremy #232818
 TWIGG, Gerald Jr. #232819
 Van ROHR, John #232600

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

METCALF, Michael
 OWSLEY, Robert
 FERRIER, Bruce
 HAWKINS, Carroll
 ERWIN, Robert

NCSSAR Membership Inquiries

Since January 1, NCSSAR has received 58 inquiries about SAR membership that included the following chapter counts: Alamance Battleground (1); Albemarle (1); Andrew Jackson (1); Bethabara (0); Battle of King's Mtn. (2); Colson's Mill (1); Blue Ridge (8); Catawba Valley (1); Col. Alex. Erwin (0); Col. Alex. Lillington (0); Col. Daniel Boone (0); Gen. Frances Nash (3); Gen. George Washington (2); Halifax Resolves (1); Isaac Carter (0); Lower Cape Fear (3); le Marquis de Lafayette (4); Lumber River (0); Lt. Col. John Phifer (1); Mecklenburg (10); Old North State (0); Nathanael Greene (5); New Bern (2); Raleigh (7); Salisbury (1); Sandhills (4); Lt. Col. Felix Walker (0); 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 NCSDAR. This includes using a DAR application as source material and also includes having an NCSDAR member assist in completing the application. For example, if an NCSSAR chapter Registrar asks his NCSDAR 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

"Objects of the most stupendous magnitude, and measure in which the lives and liberties of millions yet unborn are intimately interested, are now before us. We are in the very midst of a revolution the most complete, unexpected and remarkable of any in the history of nations." ~Letter from John Adams to William Cushing, June 9, 1776

Chapter News

Alamance Battleground Chapter

The chapter held its first monthly meeting of the new year at Occasions Restaurant in Burlington on January 21. Two new members, Chris Hursey and Chuck Hursey, were inducted. Joe Steele delivered a presentation on "Small Arms Weaponry of the American Revolution." His presentation (see <https://t.ly/fiKkf>) was published in the January 2025 issue of the *Musket Smoke*, newsletter of the Alamance Battleground Chapter.

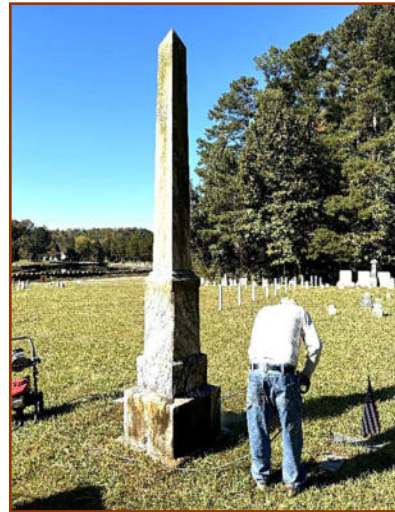
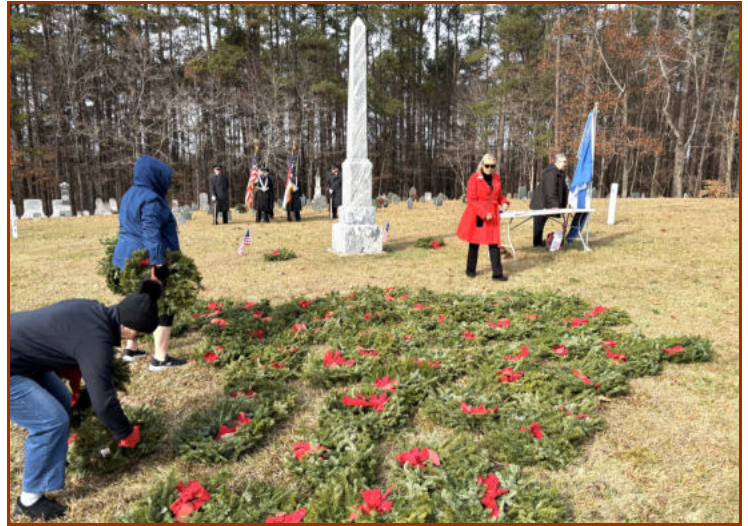
Bethabara Chapter

The February meeting of the chapter included a number of presentations and recognitions. Chapter and State SAR Past President Fred Learned (pictured right), recognized Compatriots (pictured L-R) Bill Ewalt, Ed Hossmer, and Larry McRae on their *SAR Ten Year Membership Award*.



New SAR member J. Larry Link (pictured left) was welcomed into the Bethabara Chapter. He was presented with his *SAR Membership Certificate* by Chapter President Orin Sadler.

Fred and Compatriots Jason Faulkner and Joe Weaver participated in the National Wreaths Across America Day, held on December 14. They have honored Patriots in this remembrance for the last three years.



In October, Fred cleaned the 1896 monuments for Patriots Valentine Leonard and Wooldrich Fritz at the Pilgrim Church Cemetery in Lexington, prior to the Chapter grave marking ceremony honoring five Patriots. A total of 30 patriots are interred in the cemetery. Plans are underway to honor the remaining unmarked Patriot graves.

AMERICA



<https://america250.org/>



The February meeting included one final recognition. Compatriot Fred Learned was awarded the SAR Medal of Distinguished Service by Bethabara Chapter President Orin

Sadler for his continuous extraordinary and conspicuous service on behalf of the Bethabara Chapter and the SAR.

At the Bethabara Chapter March meeting, two new members were inducted into the SAR. Pictured (L-R) are Phillip Dedmon and Doug Macklin, receiving their membership certificates from Fred Learned.



ALLEN MOLLERE
Bethabara Chapter NCSSAR



Blue Ridge Chapter

Compatriot Larry Chapman presented the SAR Eagle Scout Award to six scouts at the Brevard Davidson River



Presbyterian Church in Brevard on December 27, 2024. The scouts belong to Troop 703, which is sponsored by the church and one of the oldest active troops in Transylvania County. Pictured (lower left, L-R) are David Holland, Thomas Kennerly, Micah Roberts, Noah McLauclin, Ronin McQuaid, and Lake Cochran.

Larry Chapman, Craig Isaacson, and Dr. Garry Linton of the Blue Ridge Chapter provided an educational program on Revolutionary War flags, uniforms, and other historical items to the fourth grade class at Brevard Academy in Brevard on March 18. The program was attended by 49 students and four teachers.

The Chapter Color Guard (pictured below) presented the colors at a grave marking ceremony for Patriot James Brittain on March 22 at the Mills River Presbyterian Church in Mills River. Color Guardsmen included Brett Callaway, Larry Chapman, Garry Linton, Brian McCall, Ken Weglarz, and Bob Wood. Approximately 30 people were in attendance.



The Blue Ridge Chapter provided the order of service, including presentation of a wreath and rendering honors for the event. Compatriots who participated in the program were Craig Isaacson, Ron Hillabrand, Ron Chapman, Gary King, Tom Rightmyer, and David Galentine. Jack Tate was also in attendance. Several representatives from the NCS DAR presented wreaths and rendered honors, including Becky Wood of the Ruth Davidson Chapter, Connie Isaacson and Karen Newhall of the Abraham Kuykendall Chapter, and Jill Chapman of the Waightstill Avery Chapter.

DR. GARRY LINTON, President
Blue Ridge Chapter NCSSAR

Catawba Valley Chapter



At the September 14 Chapter Meeting, President Roy Lightfoot presented Compatriot Walter Smith with the well deserved *SAR Silver 250th Anniversary Medal*.

Catawba Valley joined with some of the ladies from the Hickory Tavern Chapter NCSDAR at South Newton Elementary School to celebrate Constitution Day (September 17) week.



On September 21, Chapter President Roy attended the induction ceremony for Chapter supporter Lisa Pupkiewicz into the Vesuvius Furnace Chapter of the NCSDAR. Lisa is a long-time supporter of the Catawba Valley Chapter.



State SAR President Steve Van Pelt and his wife Mary Ann attended the Chapter's November meeting. He assisted Roy in the induction of two new Chapter members, James McCauley, Jr. (pictured right, above) and Robert Clark, Jr. (pictured right, below).



On October 9, Roy presented to the 2024 Class of Leadership Lincoln of the Lincolnton-Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce. Graduates are "engaged in civic, social, community development, business, and government positions throughout the county," according to their website (<https://lincolnchambernc.org/leadership-lincoln/>). Roy stood on the front porch of the cabin at Ramsour's Mill, where he discussed the importance of the Battle of Ramsour's Mill in the history of the American Revolution including events that led up to, and after, the battle.



Catawba Valley Chapter Secretary-Treasurer Dan Beal, and one of our newest Compatriots Bob Clark (pictured right), attended the grave marking of Patriot Maj. John

McDowell in Morganton. Organized by the Col. Alexander Erwin Chapter NCSSAR, Dan served with the color guard, laid a wreath, and fired a volley during the event.



Catawba Valley Chapter participated in the Wreaths Across America event on December 14, organized by the Vesuvius Furnace and Mary Slocumb Chapters NCSDAR in Mooresville. Representatives Marie Higgins and Nancy Jamgochian were joined by Chapter President Roy Lightfoot, Vice President Rick Hubbard (pictured), and Secretary-Treasurer Dan Beal in honoring veterans buried at the Willow Valley Cemetery. Colors were presented, and three volleys were fired.

Dan, Rick, and Roy traveled to Rock Hill, SC, on December 15 to participate in a grave marking to honor Arthur Garrison (1735-1822), Patriot ancestor of the SAR President General Darryl Addington. The event was hosted by the Mecklenburg Chapter NCSSAR.



On January 17, Roy and Dan traveled to the 244th Commemoration Ceremony of the Battle of Cowpens. There they participated in the combined Color Guard and snapped a picture with the SAR President General Darryl Addington and his wife, Mary.



A program on February 23 to dedicate a highway marker honoring the South Fork Boys of Lincoln (now Gaston) County was the combined effort of four NCSDAR Chapters: Maj. William Chronicle, Peter Smith, Tryon Resolves, and William Gaston.

These men fought at the Battle of Kings Mountain under the leadership of Maj. William Chronicle. They traveled up the most treacherous and dangerous portion of the mountain to arrive at the top where they defeated Maj. Patrick Ferguson and the British troops.

The DAR Chapters were joined by Color Guardsmen from the Catawba Valley, Col. Daniel Boone, and Mecklenburg Chapters NCSSAR (pictured). Also present for the event was State SAR Senior Vice President Stephen McKee.



On March 21, members of the Catawba Valley Chapter, the Vesuvius Furnace and Jacob Forney Chapters NCSSAR, the Lincoln County Historic Association, and the Lincoln County Hearth Cookers collectively provided a tour of the Ramsour's Mill battlefield to third grade classes and their teachers at Battleground Elementary School in Lincolnton. Despite the frigid cold day, this event was provided to this school for a second year.



DAR and SAR compatriots joined folks at Fort Defiance in Clarksville, TN for a spring muster on March 22. Represented were the Col. Alexander Irwin and the Catawba Valley Chapters NCSSAR, the Gen. Hugh Mercer Chapter WVSSAR, and the Quaker Meadows and Vesuvius Furnace Chapters of the NCSSAR.



ROY C. LIGHTFOOT, President
Catawba Valley Chapter NCSSAR

Gen. George Washington Chapter

The 200th anniversary celebration of Gen. Lafayette's visit to the Henry A. Donaldson Tavern was held in Rocky Mount on February 28. According to the event website "Lafayette was the last surviving Major General of the American Revolution when he was invited to return to the United States as 'Guest of the Nation.' He toured 24 states during 1824-1825. In North Carolina,

Lafayette visited nine locations. Three of those locations held a dinner and a dance to honor him. The Falls of the Tar was the first of three locations in North Carolina to honor Lafayette during his overnight stay at Henry A. Donaldson's Tavern with a lavish dinner followed by a mazy dance."



The celebration included a banquet and dance at the Rocky Mount Mills Power House. Compatriots Lynn Bull (pictured right) and Gary Barefoot represented the Gen. George Washington Chapter and the

NCSSAR at the event. They were joined by four members of the Raleigh Chapter to add some realistic flavor to the evening.

le Marquis de Lafayette Chapter

SAR Flag Certificates were presented to Blantons Heating and Air in Fayetteville and to Liberty Gas Station in Spouts Springs on December 14. On the same day, the Chapter and the community laid 72 wreaths for the Wreaths Across American Day at Cumberland Memorial Gardens in Fayetteville.



The le Marquis de Lafayette Chapter participated in the procession for the 200th Anniversary of Lafayette Farewell Tour in Fayetteville on March 4. Hosted by the Lafayette Society of Fayetteville, organizers of the event also partnered nationally with the NSDAR, the NSSAR, and with the American Friends of Lafayette.

Nine Chapter members attended the ceremony. David Mann, who served as the Chapter liaison to the Farewell Tour Committee for the last three years, led the Pledge of

Allegiance for the program. Of the four members who marched, Chapter Treasurer and Color Guard Commander John Elliott (pictured, second from right) led the procession.



After the opening ceremony of the Farewell Tour, John Elliott and Chapter President David Dowless, Jr. presented a \$200 donation to Connections of Cumberland County. Accepting the check on behalf of Connections was Executive Director Crystal DePietro. In November 2024, the Chapter hosted the 235th Commemoration of the N.C. Delegates ratifying the U.S. Constitution in Fayetteville on the Cool Spring Tavern Grounds. Permission to use the property was graciously provided by the Mackethan family, owners of

the Tavern and its tenant, Connections, which also set aside a room for the event in case of rain.

DAVID DOWLESS, JR., President
le Marquis de LaFayette Chapter NCSSAR

Mecklenburg Chapter

On February 13, the Mecklenburg Chapter held its Annual Presidents' Day Dinner. Members, guests, prospective members, and six history teachers from Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools convened for a patriotic social period and dinner. Special guests for the evening were President George Washington (portrayed by Dan Shippey) and First Lady Martha Washington (Kelly Shippey). Mr. Shippey was formerly the official impersonator of George Washington at Mount Vernon.

After President Frank Aikmus called the meeting to order, Senior State SAR Vice President Stephen McKee and Compatriot Greg Catledge, complete in Continental uniforms, escorted President and Mrs. George Washington into the room. Pastor Russell McCullough, Chapter Chaplin, then gave the Invocation, followed by Compatriot Jim Wood who led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Chad Lloyd, Chapter Vice President, who led the SAR Pledge.

Frank presented *SAR Membership Certificates* to several new members and the *SAR Liberty Medal* to Compatriot Bob Ray. Business completed, the gathering of more than 80 people enjoyed a buffet dinner replete with lively conversation, following which Compatriot McKee introduced President George Washington, the speaker for the evening.

President Washington gave an informative and interesting talk about his time in office. After a question-and-answer period, Frank called the meeting back to order.



Martha Washington, flanked by Compatriot Greg Catledge and his wife Sherrie.

Chapter Registrar Chuck Decker led the SAR recessional, and Chaplain McCullough delivered the benediction, after which the evening was adjourned.

Pictured are his Excellency President George and First Lady

FREDDIE DECKER
Mecklenburg Chapter NCSSAR

On March 23rd, the Mecklenburg Chapter hosted a Patriot grave marking ceremony for Capt. Andrew Walker and his father John Walker at the newly restored Historic Walker Family Cemetery and Slave Cemetery in Waxhaw, NC. The family cemetery had been lost to the forest until it was rediscovered in 2022 by a local DAR Chapter seeking old family cemeteries and gravesites. Through the efforts of the DAR and Mecklenburg Chapter, Compatriot Greg Catledge, a descendant of the Walkers, the cemetery was cleared of debris and overgrowth and is undergoing continuous restoration and maintenance to ensure it endures for years to come.



Sandhills Chapter

The Sandhills Chapter celebrated Washington's Birthday on February 18 with a dinner meeting at Pine Crest Inn in Pinehurst. Six new SAR members were inducted: Dale Doan, Sanford; Sawyer Ramsden, Chapel Hill; Luke Saulnier, Southern Pines; Robert Van Camp, Southern Pines; Peter White, Pinehurst; and Dallas Ybarra, Pinehurst (pictured left).



Numerous awards were presented to chapter Compatriots and guests for their outstanding contributions to the SAR. Chapter President Michael Saulnier recognized Ruth Doran (for Dale Doran), Sawyer Ramsden, Robert Van Camp, Peter White, and Dallas Ybarra for their contributions.



Compatriot Chuck Spelman (pictured, left) received the *SAR Roger Sherman Bronze Medal and Certificate* for the creation and administration of the Chapter's U.S. Flag Retirement Program. This program collects

weather worn flags from many sites in Moore County, which are then offered to local crematoriums for use during Veteran cremations. Compatriot Steve Lawrence also received the *SAR Roger Sherman Bronze Medal and Certificate* for outstanding accomplishments with the local Boy Scouts troops and recognition of Eagle Scouts.

Compatriot Bruce Fensley received the *NCSSAR Minuteman Company Certificate and Ribbon Cockade* for his generous support of the upcoming 136th SAR National Congress to be held in Greensboro.

Guest speaker Mike Williams received a *SAR Certificate of Appreciation* for his presentation of "Revolutionary War Medical Treatments" during the dinner.

Larissa Glassman received a *SAR Certificate of Appreciation* for her vocal rendition of the national anthem at the House in the Horseshoe event at the Alston House State Historical Park in 2024.

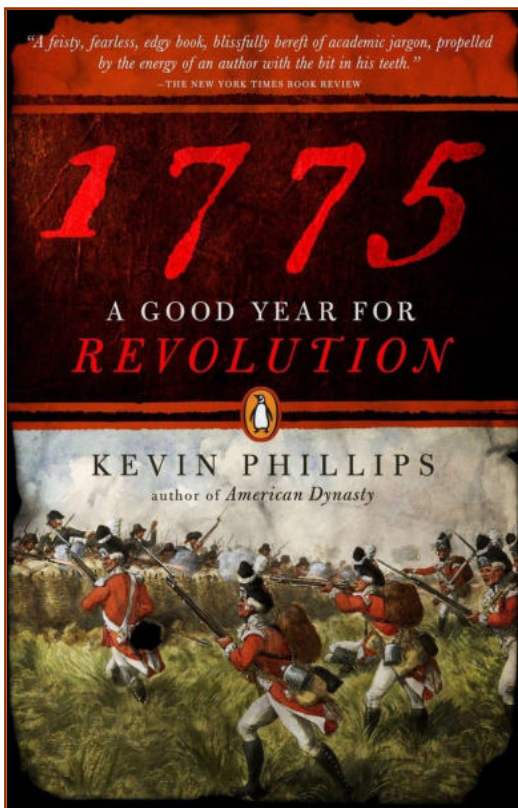
BRUCE FENSLEY
Sandhills Chapter NCSSAR

FROM THE REVOLUTIONARY BOOKSHELF

By Lowell M. Hoffman
Contributing Author

Phillips, Kevin. (2013). *1775: A good year for revolution*. New York, NY: Penguin Publishing Group. 672 pp.

What better book than this one, to keep beside your most comfortable chair, making it easy to grab for a good read. Phillips' book recounts the causes, events, people, and lessons of 1775, which are good for reflection as America approaches its 250th Semiquincentennial year.



Although much of what we think we know of 1775 is centered on the events of Lexington and Concord in April of that year, and Bunker Hill which followed, these are but the visible, if violent, lasting impressions. Battles were fought, people died, political forces consolidated, and stages were set for all that followed. This was but a fragment of the real story that launched our United States of America toward independence.

This author looks for, and well explains, a series of underlying attitudes and root causes that patriots can “dig their teeth into.” Taking what he calls “a grassroots” approach to studying history, the reader turns the pages and finds chapters on economic forces, the significance of religion and ethnicity of the influx of immigration following the end of the Seven Years War in 1763, and the wide variation in the culture and governance of the several colonies. People were far from united, and many voices competed for attention and influence.

The Carolinas are well-featured in this book. The reader will learn much that is new and challenging to conventional wisdom. The rapidly changing Coastal region, and the opening of the backcountry, all become vivid and add to our understanding of the Regulators and the rise toward revolution.

More than half of the battles of this long war featured American versus American. Two noteworthy paragraphs from the Preface read:

“As to why Virginia and South Carolina are identified as vanguard colonies and North Carolina is not, the latter was neither an old colony nor a national leader. But its rarely recognized importance in discouraging the 70-ship and seven-regiment southern expedition set in motion by King George and Lord North in October 1775 deserves a special mention.”

“The years of 1774 and 1775 have more than their share of unsung heroes. Some of these have provided a further, welcome refreshment in this era of political disappointment.”

This reviewer highly commends this book and continues his own second perusal of this seminal book. Gentleman, "Start your reading."

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.

250th Anniversary of

The Battles of Lexington & Concord

"The Shot Heard 'Round The World"

19 April 1775 ★ 19 April 2025

Can't make the trip to Massachusetts to mark the 250th Anniversary of "The Shot Heard 'Round The World"?

Join us as we bring Massachusetts to North Carolina at the Lincoln County Courthouse!

Sponsored by the

Lincoln County Historical Association

&

Road To Liberty 250

★ 19 April 2025 ★

10 AM

★

Lincoln County Courthouse

120 Justice Drive

Lincolnton, North Carolina

28092



244th Anniversary of the Battle of Cowan's Ford

By **Stephen P. McKee**
President NCSSAR



On January 25, the Mecklenburg Chapter hosted the Commemoration of the 244th Anniversary of the Battle of Cowan's Ford at Hopewell Presbyterian Church in Huntersville. This annual National SAR event commemorates the Patriot attempt to prevent or delay Cornwallis' advance across the Catawba River on his invasion of North Carolina.

The guest speaker this year was Peyton Dixon (pictured) who portrayed Mr. John Adams of Massachusetts. He reminded those assembled that the real American Revolution was not the War itself, but it represented a change in the sentiments, opinions, and obligations of the people that caused the shift from monarchism to republicanism, and that the War secured the independence that had already occurred in the hearts and minds of the Colonists from Georgia to New England. Peyton's presentation included the often-neglected role that the Continental Congress and State Legislatures played in the war, and how liberty and virtue must work together to ensure that a constitutional republic endures. For the last several years, the focus of the Cowan's Ford Commemoration has focused on the "Why" of the Revolution rather than a recitation of the particulars of the war itself. Previous speakers portrayed Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, and Patrick Henry.

The National SAR President General Dr. Darryl Addington was in attendance, as was the SAR South Atlantic District Vice President General and National Color Guard Commander Scott Collins, Registrar General Brooks Lyles, and Genealogist General Gary Green. Chapters from across three States were also in attendance to lay wreaths and render honors at the grave of Brig. Gen. William Lee Davidson, who was killed in battle on February 1, 1781.

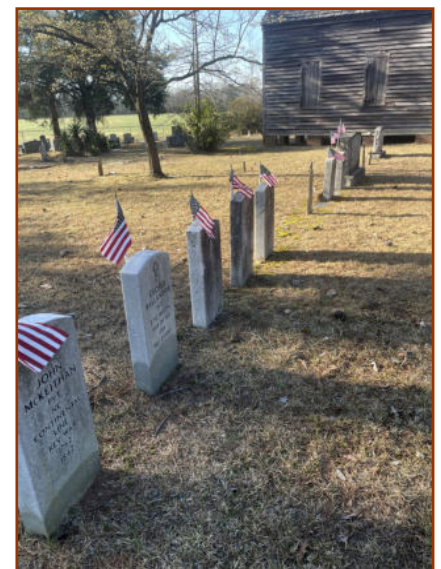
HISTORICAL SITES

The Battle at Brown Marsh

By **David Mann**, *Consulting Editor ONS*

Located near Clarkton in Bladen County is the Old Brown Marsh Presbyterian Church. The churchyard is said to contain the graves of several NC Continental line soldiers as well as members of local militia units. The Battle of Brown Marsh took place near there in 1781 and was the site of a skirmish between British forces and Patriot forces.

The Patriot force was led by Gen. John Butler. British forces gathered there to protect the transportation of prisoners captured at Hillsborough to the British garrison at Wilmington. The event took place in the aftermath of the capture of NC Patriot Gov. Thomas Burke in Hillsborough.



Sons of the American Revolution and America250 Announce Historic Partnership to Honor America's 250th Anniversary

FEBRUARY 13, 2025 · 7:02 PM | NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

WASHINGTON, D.C.—America250, the official nonpartisan initiative working to engage every American in celebrating and commemorating the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the Semiquincentennial, has announced a national partnership with the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR). This partnership will build on SAR's longstanding commitment to honoring Revolutionary War patriots and educating future generations about the nation's founding history.

As a premier lineage society committed to promoting patriotism, history, and education, SAR will work alongside America250 to expand and coordinate efforts leading up to this historic milestone. Together, America250 and SAR will bring history to life, fostering a deeper connection to the nation's past while shaping the future of civic engagement and historical appreciation.



“The Sons of the American Revolution have played a vital role in preserving the legacy of those who fought for our nation's independence,” said Rosie Rios, America250 Chair. “This partnership strengthens our shared mission of honoring history while engaging new audiences in celebrating the values of freedom and democracy.”

“As an organization committed to preserving the memory of our patriot ancestors and deepening appreciation for our nation's founding, we are honored to partner with America250,” said Dr. Darryl Addington, SAR President General. “Together, we will amplify efforts to commemorate this historic anniversary and inspire future generations to connect with their American story.”

Through their respective educational programs, America250 and SAR will engage young Americans, ensuring the next generation is empowered with knowledge and pride in the nation's history. America250's America's Field Trip contest invites students in grades 3-12 to reflect on the question, “*What does America mean to you?*” Meanwhile, SAR encourages youth to explore their lineage and discover their patriotic roots by asking, “*Where does your American story begin?*”

This partnership builds on America250's collaborations with heritage societies, including the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Partners like SAR and DAR are crucial in educating Americans and fostering reflection on our nation's history ahead of the commemoration.

For more details on SAR's initiatives and upcoming events, visit [SAR.org](https://www.sar.org). To learn more about America250 and its national commemorative efforts, visit [America250.org](https://www.america250.org).

Editor's Note: This article is reprinted in full from the National SAR website. An addendum to the article, "About America250," is available at <https://t.ly/DyuC5>.

FROM THE PULPIT

By Chris Grimes
Contributing Author ONS

Richard Dobbs Spaight, Jr., Founding Father and Signer of the U.S. Constitution

No sect is preferred to another. Every man has a right to worship the Supreme Being in the manner he thinks proper. No test is required. All men of equal capacity and integrity, are equally eligible to offices. Temporal violence might make mankind wicked, but never religious. A test would enable the prevailing sect to persecute the rest. I do not suppose an infidel, or any such person, will ever be chosen to any office, unless the people themselves be of the same opinion. He says that Congress may establish ecclesiastical courts. I do not know what part of the Constitution warrants that assertion. It is impossible. No such power is given them. (Quote from Richard Dobbs Spaight, Jr., Debate in North Carolina Ratifying Convention, July 30, 1788)



Founding Father Richard Dobbs Spaight, Jr. was born on March 25, 1758 in New Bern, NC. He was a Revolutionary War Patriot and remained firm in the Christian faith when the British seemed destined to completely triumph in the South.

A young man when Brig. Gen. Horatio Gates led his doomed army southward, Spaight hastened to join the North Carolina forces, then commanded by Gen. Caswell, who chose him to serve as his aid-de-camp. The people, appreciating his patriotism and capacity for public service, appointed him a delegate to the Constitutional Convention, at which our U.S. Constitution was framed. He was an active and influential member of that body, and strongly advocated the adoption of the federal constitution by his home state. The very words he spoke at the North Carolina Ratifying Convention illustrates his thoughts concerning our freedom to worship and to the idea that our Country should not establish a national religion. Rather, each man should have the right to worship the Creator in his own way.

From 1792 to 1795, Spaight served as the eighth Governor of North Carolina. He ran for the North Carolina Senate in 1802. Fellow New Bernian and U.S. Congressman John Stanly, campaigned against him as unworthy. Offended, Spaight challenged Stanley to a duel on September 5, 1802, in which Spaight was mortally wounded. He died a young man, age 44, the following day and is buried at Clermont Estate Cemetery, New Bern.

Sources:

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Photo Credit: Titled, *Richard Dobbs Spaight, delegate from North Carolina*, by artist Ellen Sharples (1769-1849), this image is in the public domain.

Chris Grimes is Chapter President and Chaplain of the Albemarle Chapter. He also serves as Assistant to the State SAR President. He is Pastor at Saints Delight Church of Christ in Roper, NC. Feel free to contact Chris by email at chrisgrimes@embarqmail.com.

HISTORIAN'S HERALD

By Roy C. Lightfoot
Contributing Author ONS

The Shot Heard 'Round The World

Planning for the 2025 celebration of America's Semiquincentennial has been going on for awhile. Seasoned folks may remember the excitement and festivities of the Bicentennial in 1976. Some have suggested that sentiments today are not the same for the upcoming 250th Anniversary as it was for the 200th in many ways.

Nothing is exactly the same as we remember. Our memories tend to color things in certain romantic or idealistic ways. History confirms that all was not that great in 1976. We just made things better by celebrating how far our country had progressed in 200 years.

I was a 13-year-old boy in the Bicentennial year. We had just moved for the fourth or fifth time because of my father's work (or lack thereof). By 1976, the nation had endured the Vietnam War, Watergate, the threat of an impeachment of a U.S. President and his resignation, the installation of his Vice President to the Presidency, and a looming election that was screaming for change. In my young eyes at the time, I saw no one who seriously planned anything prior to or after the Bicentennial day to celebrate the Revolution. It was a celebration of the event itself, it seemed, rather than a deep recognition of the Revolution from a historical perspective.

As we look forward to the Semiquincentennial, reflecting on our country's rich history and its founding is critically important. A mere 250 years ago in 1776, our country declared its independence from the largest superpower of the time with the signing and ratifying of the Declaration of Independence. However, the Revolution had been going on since 1765 because of several different acts passed by Great Britain's Parliament against the thirteen original colonies.

It took another ten years for the revolution to ensue in earnest. No one truly knows who fired that first shot on April 19, 1775 at the Battle of Lexington. Nonetheless, it touched off a powder keg of a war which lasted until September 3, 1783 when the Treaty of Paris was signed and the British troops finally left New York City on November 25.

We celebrate our coveted independence today through history books, stories, articles, and gatherings. Longfellow's 1860 poem begins with the line, "Listen, my children, and you shall hear of the midnight ride of Paul Revere, on the eighteenth of April, in seventy-five..." These words transport me to a simpler time, not only of my own childhood, but to a time of the American Revolution, or what I romanticize that time to be. Interestingly, Paul Revere was not the only rider. Others included William Dawes, Samuel Prescott, Israel Bissell, Sybil Ludington, and Wentworth Cheswell (Cheswill).

On the morning of April 19, 1775, British troops marched into Lexington, MA, at about 5:00 a.m. Numbering approximately 700 regulars, they came face-to-face with 70 Minutemen and militia led by Capt. John Parker. As the British force rushed, Parker ordered his men to disperse, and a shot rang out. The nervous Brits fired a volley, which killed seven and mortally wounded one of the retreating militia. The British then moved on to Concord.

At about 8:00 a.m., the British troops, commanded by Francis Smith and John Pitcairn, ordered several of the companies of approximately 220 men to secure the North Bridge across the Concord River, then to continue about another mile to secure a presumed cache of arms and powder located at Barrett Farm. A group of about 400 militia from Concord had gathered on high ground where smoke rising from Concord could be seen. Mistakenly assuming the Brits had set fire to the town, the militia advanced. Commanded by thirty-year-old Capt. Isaac Davis, the Acton Company led the way. When asked about their preparedness, Davis stated "I haven't a man afraid to go."

As the Minutemen advanced down the hill, the British troops were intimidated by their numbers and orderly deployment. The British began to retreat to the opposite shore to prepare a defense against the attack. When Davis' troops

came within range, the Brits opened fire, killing Davis and Abner Hosmer. Maj. Buttrick of Concord shouted, "For God's sake, FIRE!!" and fire they did, killing three British soldiers and wounding nine others. This volley is considered to be "the shot heard 'round the world," and it sent the British retreating.

Smith and Pitcairn ordered their troops to return to Boston. During their retreat, angry Minutemen began to attack them on all sides from behind cover, an area now known as "Battle Road." Once reaching Lexington, Parker's men continued to take their revenge for the morning's events and to fire on the troops. For the next twelve miles, the British found themselves under an ambush as the Minutemen fired from behind rocks, trees, and buildings. Although British reinforcements arrived to aid Smith and Pitcairn, the Minutemen doggedly pursued them as they retreated back to Boston. The British troops conducted a running fight until they were able to reach the cover of the guns from the ships anchored in the waterways around Boston. The Patriots with no clear orders, broke off the attack, allowing the British to escape.

The contrast in the numbers of forces engaged and casualties amassed were stark. For the Americans, there were 3,960 engaged, with 49 killed, 39 wounded, and 5 missing or captured. But, for the British, there were 1,500 engaged, with 73 killed, 174 wounded, and 53 missing or captured.

In the wake of the Battles of Lexington and Concord, Gov. Gage was faced with the arrival of Patriot militia troops from across New England who had come to fight for liberty. This group, numbering 20,000 would become a part of the Continental Army when it formed a few months later on June 14, 1775.

Lifelong learners of history realize that the Revolution is much more than rote recall of names, dates, and events recorded in dusty old books stored in musty libraries. It was principally about *people* of strong character who sacrificially fought for the cause of liberty, not just for themselves, but for the generations to come. Without them, we simply would not be. As we consider once again that fateful time when no one knew exactly how long the conflict would last or what the result would be, and as we make plans for the Semiquincentennial, let us keep our patriot ancestors first and foremost in mind.

Traveling to the various celebrations in 2026 may be difficult and expensive for some. In the absence of wherewithal to attend events in historical places like Lexington and Concord, consider creating local events to celebrate the 250th Anniversary. In Western North Carolina, a number of Compatriots started this back in 2020 with the Battle of Golden Hill. We have continued with the Boston Massacre and the Boston Tea Party in 2023, and the Rowan Resolves in 2024. We plan to hold at least one event each year until 2033 in commemoration of the 250th Anniversary.

For those who are unable to make the journey to Massachusetts, you are invited to join a group of historians, members of the SAR and the DAR, re-enactors, and other enthusiasts, at a local event being planned at the Lincoln County Courthouse, 120 Justice Drive, Lincolnton, NC, on Saturday, April 19, 2025, 10:00 a.m. There we will commemorate "The Shot Heard 'Round The World: The Battles of Lexington and Concord." Bring a lawn chair.

Roy Lightfoot is the President of the Catawba Valley Chapter NCSSAR and also serves as State SAR Historian. Parts of this article were previously shared in the January 2023 issue of The Catawba Coalition, newsletter for the Catawba Valley Chapter. If you have ideas for future articles in this series, contact Roy at capn_roy@hotmail.com.



250th Anniversary Commemorative Henry Rifles

Message from John L. Dodd, Esq.
Past President General NSSAR

The second rifle in the 250th Anniversary Commemorative Henry Rifles Series is available at Bass Pro Shop® and Cabela's®. One side of the receiver features an artist rendering of Carpenter's Hall while the other is emblazoned with our SAR Eagle Logo. It is produced in the popular .357mag/.38 special caliber.

To streamline the process from last year, Bass Pro Shop® requests that you order through their online catalogue, or you may order at your local store. This rifle is not stocked in individual stores, so you will need to order. Some may still be in stock at the central warehouse.

Check to see if you are eligible for special veterans, first responder, and club member discounts. Several state societies and chapters have had good success in raising funds using these rifles as raffle prizes (in states where permitted). The First Continental Congress Edition rifle (pictured below) is available for purchase. Go to <https://t.ly/cBMPF> for more information.



Henry Big Boy SAR 250th Anniversary 1st Continental Congress Edition Lever-Action Rifle \$1,599.99

There are a handful of Tea Party Edition rifles (pictured below) remaining. When they are sold out, though, that model will no longer be available. Get more information at <https://t.ly/PM7vf>.



Henry Golden Boy SAR 250th Anniversary Boston Tea Party Edition Lever-Action Rifle \$1,099.99

The next Henry Rifle edition, commemorating the Lexington and Concord, "The Shot Heard 'Round the World," will be available for ordering shortly. It will be offered in a .44magnum /.44 special caliber. Remember, these rifles are available to the general public, not just to SAR members. Therefore, feel free to forward this notice to your non-SAR friends who may be interested.

GEORGE STRUNK, President-Secretary
Gen. George Washington Chapter NCSSAR

250th Anniversary Celebration of the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge



Some of us were alive for the Bicentennial celebration of our nation's independence in 1976. With the impending 250th Anniversary Semiquintennial in 2026, we begin a celebration of that historic sequence of events that occurred in 1776-1783 that secured our freedom and liberty. The significance of the first "Shot heard around the world" on April 19, 1776 in Lexington and Concord, MA, is the starting point where we begin an enjoyable journey of many more remembrances.

Please join us as we celebrate the 250th Anniversary Celebration of the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge, the first Patriot victory during the War for Independence. The event is free to the public, and activities will take place on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, February 27-March 1, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Activities will include musket and cannon demonstrations throughout both days, as well as demonstrations of colonial trades such as blacksmithing, candle dipping, spinning, cooking, gardening, powder horn making, colonial toys and games, live music, and more. Up-to-date information is available at www.facebook.com/moorescreeknps.

The combined NCSSAR Color Guard and North Carolina chapters of the CAR, the DAR, the SAR, and the SR (Sons of the Revolution) will commence a memorial walk on Friday, Feb 27, 2026, starting at the Visitor's Center at 10:00 a.m. Wreaths will be displayed at the Women's Monument, the Moore Monument, the Loyalist Monument, and finally at the Patriot John Grady Monument. Senior representatives of the CAR, the DAR, the SAR, the SR, and the Society of Cincinnati will present wreaths for their respective societies.

Accommodations in Wilmington:

Hampton Inn Wilmington-University Area-Smith Creek Station
Go to https://t.ly/y_K6Q | 124 Old Eastwood Rd, Wilmington, NC 28403

Holiday Inn Express & Suites Wilmington-University Center
Go to <https://t.ly/9p7NX> | 160 Van Campen Blvd, Wilmington, NC 28403

Wingate by Wyndham Wilmington
Go to <https://t.ly/I44Hv> | 5126 Market St, Wilmington, NC 28405

Photo Credit: Moores Creek National Battlefield website.

GARY O GREEN, Genealogist General
National SAR



Enduring CAR-SAR Partnership

*** FEATURE COVER STORY ***



The NCSSAR offers unwavering support for compatriots, children, and youth who embrace patriotism and love of country. With this as a mutual shared goal, the CAR and the SAR enjoy an enduring partnership.

On March 15, NCSSAR Past President George Strunk represented current State SAR President Steve Van Pelt at the North Carolina Society Children of the American Revolution (NCSCAR) 84th State Conference at the Caraway Conference Center in Sophia, NC.

The NCSSAR Color Guard opened the ceremony and conference festivities. Compatriot Strunk brought greetings on behalf of Steve and the State SAR Society. He also presented NCSCAR President Nathan Westbrook with a check for \$1,000 to support the CAR activities and a *SAR-CAR Silver Medal of Appreciation*.



Compatriot Strunk later joined the NCSDAR State Regent Cricket Crigler in presenting Nathan with the *DAR-SAR Outstanding Member Award*. Nathan's impressive profile on the NCSCAR website reads:

"Nathan is a recent graduate of Liberty Academy and member of the Colonel Adam Alexander Society. Some of his Patriots include Colonel Adam Alexander, signer of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, William Carver, signer of the Liberty Resolves, and William Johnson who was in the Dragoons at Valley Forge with George Washington. Nathan has served as State Curator, State Recording Secretary, and State Chaplain, before becoming the State President. Nathan enjoys gaming, playing pool, history, hiking, working out, and hanging out with friends. Nathan [has a] love and respect for our Veterans and active military..."

GEORGE STRUNK, President-Secretary
Gen. George Washington Chapter NCSSAR

244 Anniversary of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse

The commemoration of the 244th Anniversary of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse took place on March 14. Many SAR members were in attendance including National SAR President General Dr. Darryl Addington and National SAR Commander Color Guard K. Scott Collins.



Like most major wars, the Revolutionary War was hard fought and spanned several years. The war began on April 19, 1775, with the Battle of Lexington and Concord. Roughly six years later, the Battle of Guilford Courthouse was fought on March 15, 1781. The patriots who fought in all the battles maintained a strong desire for independence, limited government, and individual freedom. Those who sacrificed their lives, along with others who fought at Guilford Courthouse, should never be forgotten.

MARK MORTENSON, *President*
Nathanael Greene Chapter NCSSAR

Second Quarter Patriotic Days

National Loyalty Day
May 1, 2025

Armed Forces Day
May 17, 2025

Memorial Day
May 26, 2025



Flag Day
June 14, 2025

4th Annual Burning of the Baggage

Sponsored by the Lincoln County Historical Association, the Fourth Annual Burning of the Baggage was held on February 1 at the Christian Reinhardt Cabin behind Lincolnton High School. NCSSAR Compatriots who participated in the event included members of the Catawba Valley Chapter and Col. Alexander Irwin Chapters.



They were joined by the Vesuvius Furnace Chapter and Jacob Forney Chapter of the NCSDAR, Paulette Garner (pictured) of Lincoln Hearth Cooks at the Reinhardt Cabin, *The Revolutionary Drama* group from Liberty Mountain, the Kingsbury Artillery Locke's Militia, Lenoir's Rangers, and the 2nd Tryon County Militia and New Acquisition reenactment groups. The event was reported by the *Lincoln Times-News* (<https://t.ly/DaXET>).

ROY C. LIGHTFOOT, President
Catawba Valley Chapter NCSSAR

John Hoyle Grave Rededication



The John Hoyle Chapter NCSDAR rededicated the grave of the Chapter's namesake, Patriot Lieutenant John Hoyle (1740-1822), with a DAR America 250 Patriots Marker on November 16. The ceremony was held at the Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Cemetery in Newton, where Patriot Hoyle is buried. The marker reads:

Revolutionary War Patriots. This marker commemorates the men and women who achieved American independence. These Patriots, believing in the noble cause of liberty, fought valiantly to found a new nation. 1775 - 1783. Presented by North Carolina State Organization Daughters of the American Revolution in honor of the 250th anniversary of the United States.

John Hoyle was indeed a Patriot. The NCSDAR Chapter website that bears his name provides interesting aspects of his Revolutionary War service:

"John Hoyle...both fought and supplied the troops of the American Revolution. A pay voucher proves his military service and lists his rank at that time as ensign. John Hoyle was the youngest child of German emigrant "Pioneer Peiter Heyl" and was born in Pennsylvania, on June 1, 1740. He was said to be a born leader and sympathized with his English neighbors in their desire for independence. He received 1150 acres of land in Rutherford County, North Carolina (NC), for his service."

"John Hoyle was in his mid thirties when the American Revolution began. He had seen service against the Cherokee prior to the war, but there is no evidence that he participated in the patriot cause before 1780—apparently choosing to remain neutral, as most Germans in that area did during that period. On June 22, 1780, the Battle of Ramsour's Mill occurred in Lincoln County, NC, where John resided. The battle was significant in that several hundred patriot militia defeated loyalist militia more than three times their size, greatly weakening loyalist sympathies in the back country and strengthening the patriot cause. John had relatives on both sides. Loyalist brother-in-law Peter Costner was killed, patriot brother-in-law Thomas Costner survived the battle, and John's brother Michael furnished supplies to the patriots during the war. With his military background, John Hoyle would have been encouraged to use his skills in the strengthening patriot cause in North Carolina, after 1780."

Members of the Catawba Valley and Col. Alexander Erwin Chapters NCSSAR were in attendance and participated in the event. Led by Catawba Valley Chapter Roy Lightfoot, Colorguardsmen from both chapters rendered appropriate honors for the ceremony. Special thanks to Ms. Lynne Hill and all members of the John Hoyle Chapter for their hospitality and in allowing the NCSSAR to have a small part in this wonderful occasion. The rededication was extensively covered by the *Observer News Enterprise* (https://t.ly/dmQ_K) of Hickory.

ROY C. LIGHTFOOT, President
Catawba Valley Chapter NCSSAR

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SUBMISSION DEADLINES

January Issue: December 24
April Issue: March 24
July Issue: June 24
October Issue: September 24

SAR Meetings & Events**April - June 2025**

Updates available at

<https://rb.gy/l9e7l>

<https://www.sar.org/events/>

***Semiquincentennial 250th Event**

NATIONAL EVENTS

April 12: 249th Anniversary, Adoption of the Halifax Resolves, Halifax, NC, Organized by the Halifax Resolves Chapter NCSSAR.

April 18*: Paul Revere's Ride, Lexington & Concord, MA

April 18-19*: Two Lights for Tomorrow, Official America250 nationwide event.

April 18-21*: 250th Celebration, Battles of Concord and Lexington, Lexington & Concord, MA, Organized by National SAR.

STATE EVENTS

April 4-5: 2025 NCSSAR Annual Meeting, Greensboro, NC.

May 1-4: 2025 NCSDAR Annual Meeting, Durham, NC.

June 14: Wreath laying 245th Anniversary, Battle of Ramsour's Mill, Lincolnton, NC, Organized by Catawba Valley Chapter NCSSAR.

June 21: 250th Commemoration Cumberland Association Fayetteville, NC, Organized by le Marquis de Lafayette Chapter NCSSAR.

LOCAL EVENTS

April 12: Grave marking, Col. Andrew Balfour, III, Asheboro, NC, Organized by the Nathanael Greene Chapter NCSSAR

April 12-13: Grave marking, Pilgrim Reformed Church, Lexington, NC, Organized by the Catawba Valley Chapter NCSSAR

May 1: Grave marking, Col. James Richardson, Tar Heel, NC, Organized by Lumber River Chapter NCSSAR.

May 17: Patriots' Day Celebration / 245th Commemoration, Battle of Alamance, Burlington, NC, Organized by Alamance Battleground Chapter NCSSAR.

June 21-22: Battle of Ramsour's Mill Living History Weekend, Lincolnton, NC, Organized by Lincoln County Historical Association.