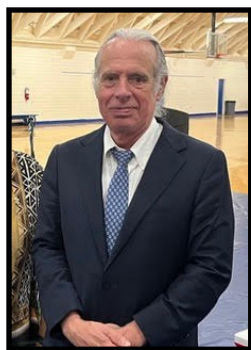


Message from the President

Greetings Compatriots,



First and foremost, I wish to express to you all my appreciation and thankfulness in being allowed to be the President of the Halifax Resolves Chapter Sons of the American Revolution for the next two years. I have been overwhelmed by the encouragement and support I have received from the members of our chapter. I remind myself that we are dedicated group that strives to maintain the work done by our ancestors to provide the liberty, structure and continuity of what we all enjoy today.

I do promise to you that I will constantly strive to work and facilitate to make our chapter and the work you all do meaningful and impactful. To that end and purpose, I must honestly say I feel I am “hitting the ground running.” This significant year of the 250th celebration of the founding of our nation will be the most active of any in the 20-year history of our chapter.

Fast approaching are the events we will be hosting for the Halifax Resolves Commemorations in April. As you know we will be honored with the presence of Michael J. Elston, the 118th President General of the Sons of the American Revolution. He is the leader of the 37,000 plus members of our organization. As part of his official visit on April 11, 2026, at the Halifax UMC Fellowship Hall there will be an invitation only President’s Reception in his honor. On April 12, 2026, at 1:30 we will have our traditional Wreath Laying Ceremony with Mr. Elston being our speaker. This will be followed by a Patriot’s Reception at UMC Fellowship Hall—refreshments will be available with no charge. There will however, not be a luncheon as we have done in the past.

In addition to these activities, there will be the placement of a plaque sponsored by our chapter which will honor the commitment and fortitude of those who took the great risk to declare their resolve and desire for independence from Great Britain. This marker will be a legacy to their work and our chapter’s desire to acknowledge such, long after we are gone.

These upcoming events will be commensurate with the magnitude of the significance of the Semi-quincentennial Celebration. Our chapter needs everyone to help with this once-in-a lifetime event in some way. We need volunteers and we definitely need financial support. We are not as large as some SAR chapters; hence if ever there was a time for our membership to “step up” now is that time. To state again, it is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The task has been laid before us—the call has been made.

In Liberty,

Mark Pace

The next meeting will be held Wed., March 11th, at the Halifax United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 150 S. King St. in Halifax, at 6:30 PM.

On the agenda:

- * discuss preparations for the Halifax Resolves Celebration in April;
- * present awards to the Chapter Knight Essay Contest winner and the Chapter Teacher of the Year;
- * a short program on the life of local Patriot, Gen. Jethro Sumner by President Pace;

The cost of the meal will be \$15. Reservations are required and must be in by 5:00 PM on Fri., March 6th. Please contact Past 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](http://HalifaxResolvesChapter.com)

The NC SAR Newsletter:
["The Old North State"](http://TheOldNorthState.com)

Dusty Corners

How do we know this?



This sounds like an innocent question, but it's of the utmost importance. If we want to be competent researchers, we have to be able to prove what we know about our ancestors. In many instances, there are long-standing traditions in families that might not be true. Such is the case in my own family.

Let's look at my ancestor Jephtha Atherton from Northampton County. We know very little about his past. He is mentioned in the 1903 genealogy of the Alston family, which states that Atherton was a native of Bermuda. But after hearing this story for many years, I decided to ask "how do we know this?"

I started by looking at what we can prove. We know that Jephtha married first to "spinster" Sarah Tynes in Virginia in 1760, and then a second time to the widow Betty Jarrell in 1763. Various records prove that Jephtha and his first wife had two children – Penelope and Sarah, with Sarah dying without issue prior to her father. There were five children by Jephtha's second wife.

The Bermuda story comes from Jephtha's will, written in 1787. In it, he left his daughter Penelope Brunson the profits of a half-share of land in Bermuda, as she was the "true and only heir" of Peter Pruden of Bermuda. This has prompted researchers over the years to theorize that Jephtha was from Bermuda. But that's not necessarily what the record says.

So I checked the Bermuda records. No trace of anybody named Atherton. But the records often mentioned Thomas Tynes, who seems to have gone back and forth between Bermuda and Isle of Wight County, Virginia. If Penelope Brunson was the only true heir of Peter Pruden, that means her half-siblings (from Jephtha's second wife) were not Pruden's heirs. This supported the idea that the Pruden land is connected to the Tynes family.

In tracing the Tynes family, we learned that Sarah Tynes was indeed the daughter of the Thomas Tynes mentioned above. Thomas had six children, by Sarah is clearly older than her siblings, and is by a different mother than the other children. If Penelope Pruden was entitled to a half-share of Peter Pruden's land, then the first wife of Thomas Tynes must have been a descendant of Peter Pruden. The Peter Pruden land comes through the Tynes family, and there is no proof that Jephtha Atherton was from Bermuda.

This is a greatly abbreviated version of this Bermuda mystery. But it supports the idea that we must always ask "How do we know it?" if we want to discover the truth.

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

David Gammon
Chapter Genealogist

Chapter Activities

January 11, 2026 - Chapter Meeting



A regular Chapter meeting was held on Wednesday night with a delicious meal served by the Ladies of the Halifax UMC. Dr. Sam Powell, Treasurer of the NC SAR was the special guest speaker for the evening and conducted the Installation of Officers for 2026-2027 and the Induction of our newest member, Zach Myers of Louisburg.



Left - Dr. Sam Powell. **Right** - Zach Myers accompanied by his mother, Rhonda Myers.

Chapter Activities (cont.)

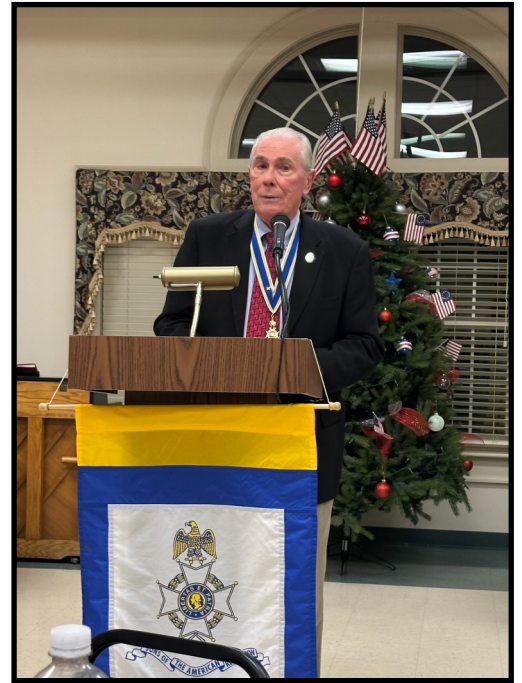


Newly elected officers for the ensuing two year term we installed by Dr. Powell as follows: Mark Pace, President, Harry L. Albert, Jr., Vice President, Steve Avent, Treasurer and Bill Riggan, Registrar. Secretary Michael Cooper will be installed at a later date.



Incoming President Mark Pace was presented his President's neck ribbon, Chapter gavel and Chapter Meeting Bell by outgoing president Bill Riggan. After the presentations President Pace gave a few short remarks and thanked everyone for their vote of confidence in his election.

Chapter



President Mark Pace presented Past President Riggan a Past President's Pin and Certificate. Past President Riggan thanked everyone for their support over the past two years.



January 21 - Oxford



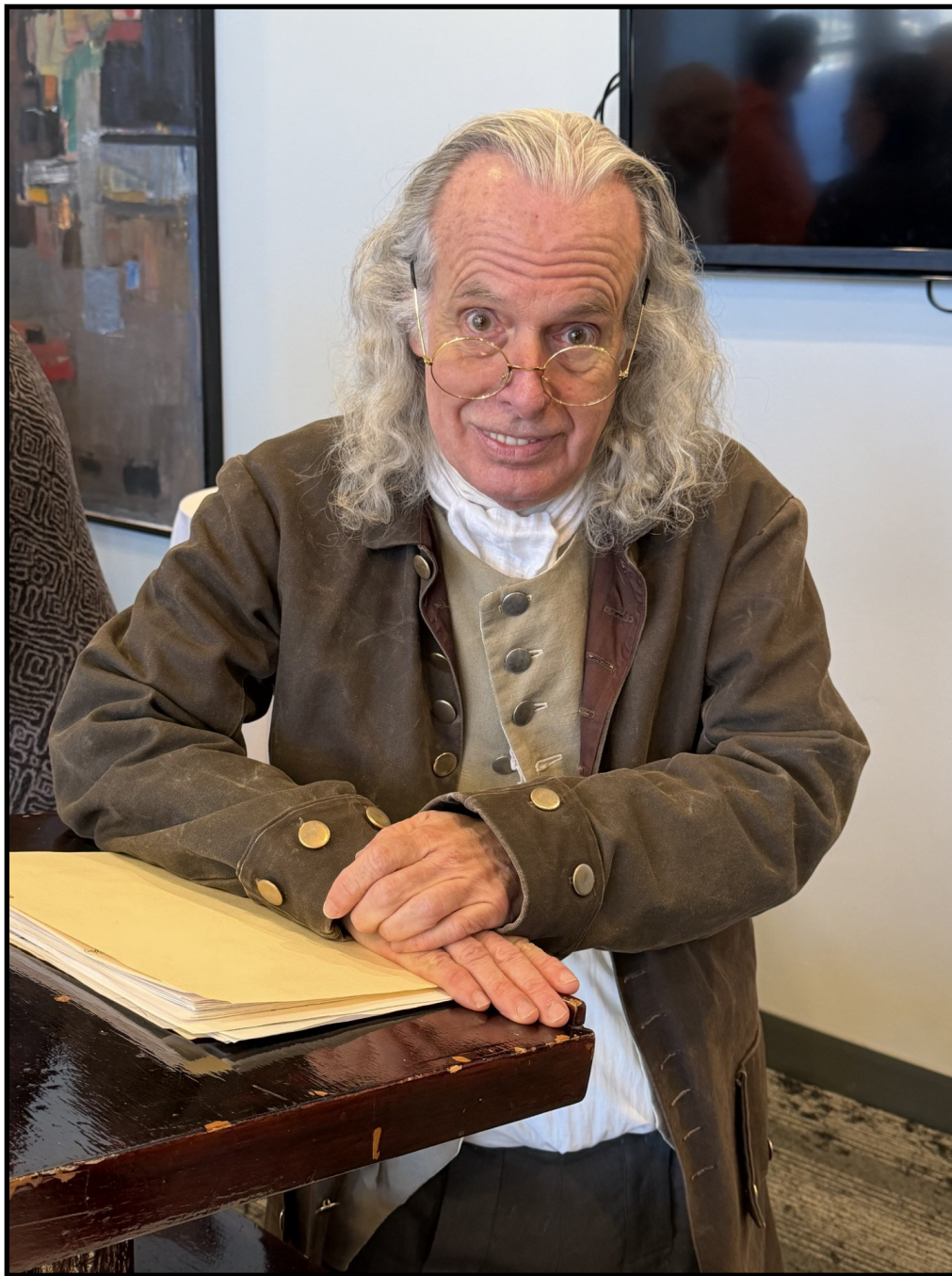
February 5 - New Bern

Left - President Mark Pace presented a program to the John Penn Chapter, NC DAR entitled, *"A Malcontented People: Armed Resistance in North Carolina 1677 - 1775"*.

Right - Halifax Resolves Chaplain Emeritus Duncan Jones received a special visit from members of the *New Bern Chapter of the NC SAR*. A request for assistance was sent out, the boys from New Bern came through. Duncan was surprised and delighted with their visit.

Chapter Activities (cont.)

February 7 - Raleigh



President Mark Pace in the guise of Benjamin Franklin presented a program to the Raleigh Chapter of the Sons of the Revolution (SR) titled ***“American Independence from Great Britain”***.

Chapter Activities (cont.)

February 10 - Rocky Mount

President Mark Pace attended several Nash County Schools and presented Awards to the following:



Halifax Resolves Chapter nominee for the *Dr. Tom & Betty Lawrence American History Teacher Award*, **Marisa Corcoran** of East Wake High School. Pictured are Renny Taylor, Chapter Teacher of the Year Committee Chair, Marisa Corcoran and East Wake High School Assistant Principal, Tanya Byrd-Robinson.



The Halifax Resolves Chapter winner of the *2026 George & Stella Knight Essay Contest* was **Olivia Spain** of Nash Central High School. President Pace presented the winner's medal to Olivia. She will be acknowledged for her award at our next Chapter meeting and will present her essay at that time. Teacher, Renny Taylor was not available for this picture.

Chapter Activities (cont.)

February 14—South Boston, VA



President Mark Pace, Vice President Harry Albert and Halifax Resolves Compatriot Dr. Sam B. Powell attended the annual ceremony of the Crossing of the Dan. President Pace presented the new Chapter wreath on behalf of the Chapter.

Thoughts and Prayers

- Joe Pearce has been released from Granville Medical Center and moved to Louisburg Nursing Center & Rehab today. We will have an address for him soon if you would like to communicate with him.
- Duncan Jones remains in assisted living in New Bern near his son. He has lost some weight but looks to be in great shape from the picture in this newsletter.
- Michael Cooper remains at home recovering from his recent surgery. He sends his best regards to everyone and thanked the Chapter for the cards.

The Halifax Dispatch

*The Newsletter of the Halifax Resolves Chapter, NC SAR,
Steve Avent, Editor, Bill Riggan, Co-Editor
Mark Pace, Harry Albert, Renny Taylor—Contributors*



Upcoming Statewide Activities

February 27, 2026—250th Anniversary of the Battle of Moores Creek Bridge.

Location: Moore's Creek Battlefield,
200 Moores Creek Dr, Currie, NC 28435. 10:00 am—
4:00 pm.

Additional activities will continue on Saturday and
Sunday, February 28-Mar 1 from 10:00 AM-4:00 PM.

March 15, 2026—245th Anniversary of the Battle of
Guilford Courthouse

Location: Guilford Courthouse National Military Park
.2332 New Garden Rd, Greensboro, NC 27410,
11:00 am—12:00 pm.

March 27—28, 2026 — 2026 NC SAR Annual Meet-
ing.

Location: Embassy Suites by Hilton Greensboro Air-
port
204 Centreport Dr, Greensboro, NC 27409. Time: All
day.



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 found-
ing principles of our Country.

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