



Burning of the Baggage Reenactment

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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 Fifteen Years



President's Message

Stephen P. McKee
President, NCSSAR



My fellow Compatriots,

It has been my privilege and great personal honor to serve as your State President over the last year. Thank you for your continued confidence in re-electing me for a second term for 2026. I am extremely proud of the North Carolina Society and the tireless efforts each of you make every-day in planning and executing commemorations, parades, and grave markings. These and other

events that ensure we promote Patriotism, preserve the history of this great Republic, educate people both young and old about the promise of America, and serve our communities.

The 250th Anniversary Commemoration of the Halifax Resolves is only a few days away. It will be a great opportunity to showcase the pivotal role North Carolina played in advancing the Nation towards Independence. I hope to see many of you there, ready to highlight our place as “First in Freedom.”

The National SAR Congress also looms large, as all of our planning begins to wrap-up and we enter our execution phase. The NCSSAR Leadership and I have full faith that the North Carolina Society will be amazing hosts, ensuring that the historic 2026 Congress will be one to remember! Kindly consider volunteering and helping us fill the last of the remaining opportunities to serve at the Congress. See sign-up information on page 12 in this issue.

A kind reminder, be sure to post all of your events on the State SAR website calendar as soon as possible. As your President, I always enjoy attending as many as I can across the Old North State. Posting events in a timely manner helps us all as we plan.

Finally, America’s 250th Birthday is upon us! Let’s put our best foot forward in this, the Semiquincentennial year, and really show America that North Carolina knows how to honor and celebrate our beloved country.

Yours in Liberty,
Stephen



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NCSSAR STATE OFFICERS 2025-2026

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State President

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2026 Congress Chairman

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National Trustee

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*Southeast Region Vice President
Assistant to the State Secretary*

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State Webmaster

WILLIAM "JOSH" TATE
Assistant State Webmaster

JOHN ELLIOTT
State Color Guard Adjutant East

<https://ncssar.org/about/leadership/>

NCSSAR Membership Update

NCSSAR welcomes 27 new members (January 1, 2026 to March 10, 2026)

New Member

Avery, Ronald Jody
Blocker, Shawn Daniel
Buckley, Robert Edgar F.
Cherry, Thomas Kevin
Dail, Luther Harry, Jr
DeGroot, Douglas Forrest, Jr
Fleming, William McKay, Jr
Fletcher, Paul Litton, III
Fletcher, Paul Litton, Jr.
Hutchison, Harvey Clark
Jackson, John Robert
Jayne, Jesse Paul
Jeffery, Tyler Lee
Lord, William Gray
McDowell, Taylor Ryan
Mills, Joshua Ryan
Nicholson, Thomas Randall
Nicholson, William Thomas
Pearsall, John Parker
Pulley, Randy Joel
Pulley, Tommy Troy
Ramsden, Bodie Michael
Shaw, Robert Russell
Stroup, Lee Wilcox
Warren, Doron Leland A.
Watkins, Stephen Christopher
Wyant, Charles James

Chapter

Catawba Valley
Mecklenburg
Nathanael Greene
Alamance Battleground
Raleigh
Lower Cape Fear
Col. Daniel Boone
Raleigh
Raleigh
Lower Cape Fear
Col. Daniel Boone
Lower Cape Fear
Colson's Mill
Halifax Resolves
Col. Alexander Erwin
Raleigh
Gen. Francis Nash
Gen. Francis Nash
Raleigh
Raleigh
Raleigh
Sandhills
Mecklenburg
Col. Daniel Boone
Blue Ridge
Blue Ridge
Raleigh

Patriot Ancestor

Samuel Aiken
Benjamin Batchelde
Elisha Battle
Benjamin Bell
John Long
James Ellis
Daniel Boatwright
Benjamin May
Benjamin May
Benjamin Crane
Francis Sturgill
Benjamin Franklin
Edward Allman
Burwell Davis
Charles McDowell
Alexander Gilbreath
Basil Low
Basil Low
James Pearsall
James Drake
James Drake
Joseph Laflin
Andrew Russell
John Wilcoxson
Nancy Ward
James Alexander
William Coon

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

Mark Steven Townsend Sandhills Chapter

NCSSAR Membership Inquiries

Since September 10, NCSSAR has received 58 inquiries about SAR membership that included the following chapter counts: Albemarle (3), Alamance (3), Andrew Jackson (1), Blue Ridge (1), Colson Mills (1), Daniel Boone (1), Gen Francis Nash (2), Gen. George Washington (1), Kings Mountain (1), Lower Cape Fear (5), Lt. Col. Felix Walker (4), Lt. Col. John Phifer (1), Le Marquis de Lafayette 3), Mecklenburg (6), Nathanael Greene (1), New Bern (2), Raleigh (8), Salisbury (2), Sandhills (4), and Western Waters (1).

DAR Finder Form Reminder

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.

**PAT J. NIEMANN, Chairman
Membership Committee NCSSAR**



Chapter News

Andrew Jackson Chapter



Chapter Vice President Clarence Collins, III, Lt. Col. (Ret.) and his wife Patricia Collins, member of the Montfort Chapter NCSDAR, and their granddaughter are shown distributing McDonald's Big Mac® meals to USMC Military Policeman on Gate Guard duty on

Christmas Day. Chuck and Pat have done this for many years at their own expense to express their gratitude to the Guards for their efforts to keep the USMC Camp Lejeune safe and secure. The letter they included in the meal to the Guardsmen is a wonderful example of advancing the SAR mission:

Gate Guards, We know holiday times can be lonely, especially when family is far away in other places and climes. Rest assured, we have been in your shoes throughout our military service. We know what you are going through and how emotional these times can be. As a small token of our thanks for what you do and your patriotic service, we want to give you these "Big Mac" meals on Christmas Eve. Do know that others are thinking of you and are appreciative of the many freedoms afforded us because of your sacrifice to this great country of ours! Good on you!! Again, Thanks, Merry Christmas, and Semper Fi!

The Andrew Jackson Chapter has been contacted by the NC Department of Parks and Recreations to participate in 250th Anniversary events in Topsail, Onslow County, and Pink Hill, NC during 2026. Orations and attendants by members of the Chapter will display uniform items of the soldiers in the Revolutionary War period along with artifacts of money and foods.

Chapter members supported the Anniversary Commemoration of the Moore's Creek Bridge Battle, hosted by the Lower Cape Fear Chapter NCSSAR in February 2026.

DANNY HILTON, President
Andrew Jackson Chapter NCSSAR

Blue Ridge Chapter



Craig Isaacson delivered a program titled "Broken Links in the Chain: Critical Battles in the Carolina Backcountry" to the Ruth Davidson Chapter NCSDAR on February 13 in Asheville.

The event was attended by twenty-five people. Craig was awarded the NCSDAR *Hannah White Arnett Bronze Medal of Distinction* by Becky Wood, Regent, Ruth Davidson Chapter.

Chapter President Dr. Garry Linton provided a program on "George Washington, his Compatriots, and the Nascent American Revolution" at the Hendersonville Library on February 23. Twenty-four people attended the event. Compatriot Craig Isaacson assisted with the program and participated in the question-and-answer time.



DR. GARRY LINTON, President
Blue Ridge Chapter NCSSAR



Catawba Valley Chapter



Compatriot Jim McCauley (left) and future SAR member Jody Avery (below) were presented with medals by Chapter President Roy Lightfoot. McCauley received the *SAR Military Service Medal* for his service to our country.



Avery was presented with the *SAR 250th Anniversary Silver Medal* for his many planning efforts with the Chapter in the celebration of our country's birthday.

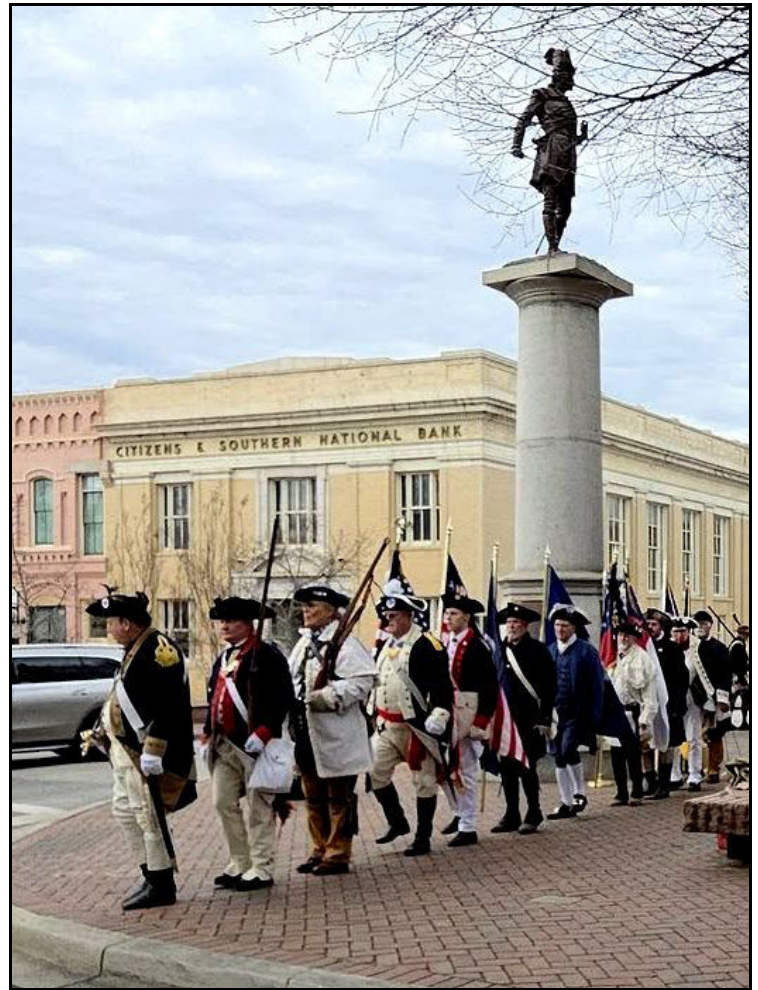
On January 17, the Chapter participated in the 245th Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of Cowpens, Gaffney, SC. With standing room only, National SAR President General Mike Elston spoke to a crowd that numbered more than one hundred people. Joining approximately fifty other Color Guardsmen were Chapter President Roy Lightfoot, Chapter Secretary/Treasurer Dan Beal, Chapter Registrar Kyle Smith, Compatriot Bob Clark (pictured lower left, third from right), newest Chapter Compatriot Jody Avery (pictured second from right), dual Compatriot Scott Collins, Lisa Pupkiewicz, Vesuvius Furnace Chapter, NSDAR, and NCSCAR member Cale Hartman (pictured far right). The same Chapter members also participated in the Daniel Morgan Wreath Laying at Morgan Square in Spartanburg, SC, on January 17 (pictured below).

The Chapter presented a check for \$500 to Rehobeth United Methodist Church in memory of past Church member Jim Tatum. Jim was active with the NCSSAR, and his wife Vivia was an active member of the NCSDAR. Following Vivia's recent passing last May, their daughter Carolyn expressed her desire for her parents' Revolutionary period uniforms and equipment to continue to be used by other SAR and DAR members.



Church member Nancy Jamgochian (pictured right) gathered Jim's SAR items and clothing from Carolyn. Received by Chapter Vice President Rick Hubbard (pictured left), the items are now available for Chapter members.

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Held on February 7, the Fifth Annual Reenactment of the 1781 Burning of the Baggage, which occurred in January 1781 near present-day Lincolnton, NC, was held on February 7 at the Christian Reinhardt Cabin on the site of the Battle of Ramsour's Mill. The NCSSAR was well-represented by Catawba Valley and Col. Alexander Erwin Chapters. Sponsored by the Lincoln County Historical Association, the following groups also participated in the event: Lincoln County Hearth Cookers, Vesuvius Furnace, Major William Chronicle, and Jacob Forney Chapters NCSDAR, Lenoir's Rangers of NC, Independent Rangers of SC, Mecklenburg Militia, Thunder Over Carolina, Inc., Project Local, Liberty Mountain: The Revolutionary Drama, and several historians.



Readers may be interested in a video teaser of the event (<https://is.gd/d2Oqm0>). NCSSAR State President Stephen McKee, also present for the event, portrayed Gen. Charles Cornwallis. When the event ended, Stephen provided a heartfelt, deeply reflective talk about the "55 most important words in the Declaration of Independence" (see video at <https://is.gd/y5FWjJ>).



Chapter members Roy Lightfoot and Dan Beal participated in the Color Guard and the firing of volleys at the 245th Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of Cowans Ford. Sponsored by the Mecklenburg Chapter, the event was held at the Hope-ell Presbyterian Church in Huntersville. Various other NCSSAR and NCSDAR Chapters were also represented.



The highlight of the February 19 Chapter meeting was the induction of two new SAR members. Pictured with Roy are Compatriot Rob Helms (pictured left) and Compatriot Jody Avery (pictured right).



Sponsored by the Col. Alexander Erwin Chapter, the grave marking ceremonies of Joseph Dobson, Sr. and Joseph Dobson, Jr. were held on February 21 in Nebo. The cemetery site was unusual in that it was located in the middle of a recreational vehicle camping area, although preserved by Dobson family descendents. Catawba Valley Chapter members Roy Lightfoot, Kyle Smith, Bob Clark, and Stu Myers participated in the Color Guard. Family and guests in attendance are pictured.





The Jacob Forney Chapter NSDAR hosted its Fifth Annual George Washington's Birthday Tea at the Lincoln Cultural Center on February 22 in Lincolnton. Refreshments included a wide variety of amazing food. Present were DAR and SAR representatives from the region and beyond, including NCSSAR State Regent, Cricket Crigler (pictured), and

NCSSAR State President Stephen McKee. Catawba Valley Chapter President Roy Lightfoot brought greetings to those in attendance.

The 250th Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge was held in Currie, NC, on February 27. This was the first significant Patriot victory of the American Revolution and served as a major deterrent for Loyalist support in the Southern Campaign. The event was sponsored by the Lower Cape Fear Chapter. Pictured (below) is Catawba Valley Chapter President Roy Lightfoot rendering honors.



Members of the Catawba Valley Chapter displayed a SAR table with information about the role of the Continental soldier in the American Revolution at a Lincoln County, NC 250th event at Ramsour's Mill Event on March 14. A program was presented by David Fleming, author of *Who's your Founding Father?* Pictured (L-R) are Chapter Vice President Rick Hubbard, recently inducted Compatriots Brandon Mosteller and Jody Avery.



On February 15, members of the Catawba Valley Chapter traveled to Greensboro for the 245th Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. Rendering honors and pictured (L-R, below) are Kyle Smith, Roy Lightfoot, and Dan Beal who participated with the Color Guard along with about 25 other members from several NCSSAR Chapters and from other states. The NCSSAR and NCSCAR were also well-represented.



ROY LIGHTFOOT, *President*
Catawba Valley Chapter NCSSAR



Gen. George Washington Chapter



The February 19 Chapter meeting included the induction of new SAR member, Dennis Harper. A well-regarded, local Civil War historian, Dennis and fellow Compatriot Stacey Jones provided a presentation of their new book, *August Reign of Terror: Major James H. Craig's 1781 Punitive Raid*. Dennis is known for his expertise of the Wyse Fork

Battle that occurred in March 1865. Reared in the Battlefield community, he has collected some 15,000 artifacts.

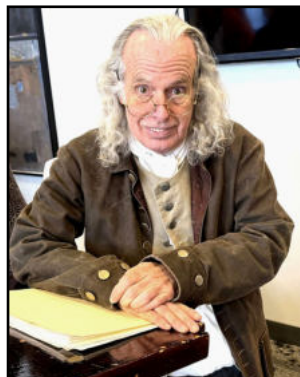
GEORGE STRUNK, President
Gen. George Washington Chapter NCSSAR

Halifax Resolves Chapter



The January 11 Chapter began with a delicious meal served by the Ladies of the Halifax United Methodist Church. Chapter member Dr. Sam Powell, State Treasurer NCSSAR, was the special guest speaker for the evening. New officers for 2026-27 were installed, and newest member, Zach Myers, was inducted. Zach will serve as Chapter Chaplain.

On February 7, Chapter President Mark Pace, portrayed Benjamin Franklin in a program to the Raleigh Chapter NCSSAR titled "American Independence from Great Britain." Mark is a noted reenactor of Revolutionary War Patriots. He is routinely invited to various events and meetings throughout the year.



The Halifax Resolves Chapter nominee for the SAR 2026 Dr. Tom & Betty Lawrence American History Teacher Award is Marisa Corcoran of East Wake High School in Wendell. Chapter Award Chair Renny Taylor presented the award to Ms. Corcoran, who was accompanied by Assistant Principal Tanya Byrd-Robinson. The Chapter winner of the SAR 2026 *George & Stella Knight Essay Contest* is Olivia Spain of Nash Central High School in Rocky Mount. Chapter President Mark Pace presented her with a medal on February 10. Olivia was acknowledged for her award at the March Chapter meeting and presented her essay at that time.



MARK PACE, President
Halifax Resolves Chapter NCSSAR





Le Marquis de Lafayette Chapter

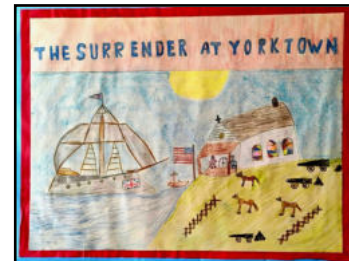
The Le Marquis de Lafayette Chapter is a proud supporter of the NC Society of the Children of the American Revolution (NCSCAR). On March 14, a delegation of Chapter members traveled to Fayetteville for the 85th Annual Meeting of the NCSCAR, sponsored by the Isham Blake Chapter NCSCAR. Included were Compatriots Dan Jutson and Jack Hurley, immediate Chapter Past President David Dowless, Chapter President Chris Ackiss. Joining these in the photo are State SAR Southeast Vice President Mike Aycock, Lower Cape Fear Chapter Compatriot J. C. Hustis, and Gen. George Washington Chapter President George Strunk.



Youth Awards were also displayed at the March 14 meeting. The following were Fourth Grade Poster winners. First place finisher Melody advanced to the State Level competition.



1st Place, Melody



2nd place, Joel



3rd Place, Clara



Hon. Mention, Blakely



Newest member, Jacob Schanke, former Green Beret, was inducted and welcomed at the Chapter's March 14 meeting.

A future leader, Jacob will likely transfer to the Mecklenburg Chapter to continue his SAR journey.

Immediate Past President David Dowless, Jr. presented his wife, Jeanie Padgett-Dowless, with the SAR Lydia Darragh Medal. The support she provided her husband during his three years of service as Chapter President has been notable.



On March 18, Chapter Flag Chairman Jack Hurley presented Chapman-Wilson Pools, Spas, and Home Improvements, with a SAR Flag Certificate for their proper

display of the American, the MIA, and the North Carolina flags. Jack has organized a Flag Retirement ceremony for May 30. A grave marking ceremony was held on March 21 for Patriots, James Cain, Sr., John Cain, Samuel Cain, and William Cain who served in the Bladen County Militia. Family member David Dowless, Jr. organized the effort. Other last quarter activities included presentations of the SAR Military Service Medal to Compatriot Dan Juston and the SAR Purple Heart Medal to Compatriot Jack Hurley. The Chapter Color Guard had contingents at the anniversary commemorations for both the Moore's Creek Bridge and the Guilford Courthouse events. Finally, the Chapter sponsored the "Gateway to Moore's Creek" program at the Harmony Hall in White Oak event, "A Colonial Faire," on February 16.

CHRIS ACKIS, President
Le Marquis de Lafayette Chapter NCSSAR



From the Revolutionary Bookshelf

By Lowell M. Hoffman, *Contributing Author ONS*

Ryan, Elizabeth S. (2004). *Orange County Trio: Hillsborough, Chapel Hill, Carrboro*. Chapel Hill, NC: Chapel Hill Press. ISBN 1-880949-57-7. 345 pp.

The history of the Old North State incorporates stories of the ever-expanding colonial settlements as people moved west, as early settlements grew, and as large counties divided. Among these is Orange County past and present. From the western “capitol” of Hillsborough to later academic and industrial towns of Chapel Hill and Carrboro, this book captures stories which merit one's attention.

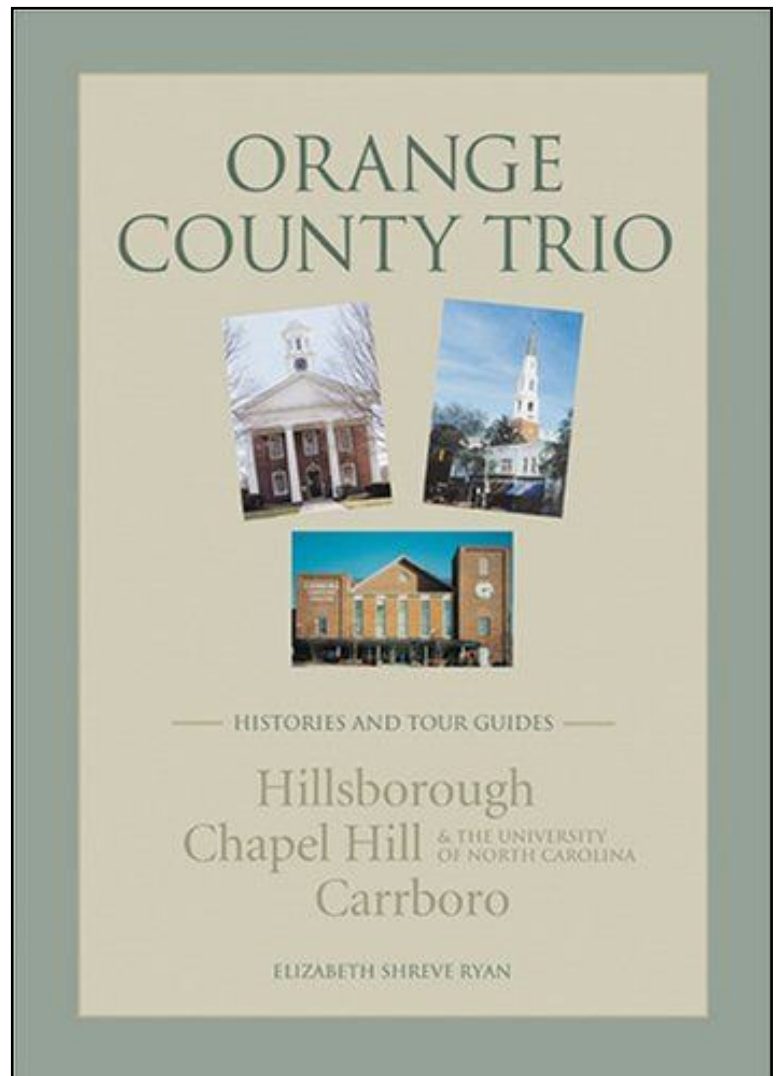
Formed in 1752, Orange County was vast. Its borders initially reached from Virginia south to present-day Chatham County, east through what is now Durham County, and west toward today's Greensboro. Carved up several times, on January 1771, partially in an effort to stem the Regulator movement, Orange County was again divided. Through it all, Hillsborough remained a vibrant, if small, settlement where deeds were registered, courts convened, disputes raged, and a provincial assembly again met in 1775.

The chapter on Hillsborough is most relevant to our *Revolutionary Bookshelf* series as one will read of ordinary people and those who sometimes antagonized in their quest for power or money or property. Militias formed, the war advanced, and General Cornwallis restored his forces in preparation for the coming Battle of Guilford Courthouse.

The greater part of this chapter continues with the stories of Carrboro and Chapel Hill and tells of the forward-thinking citizens who built businesses and collaborated to organize a great university. We read of these people and of the institutions they built.

We read of the founding of the university in 1789 and the people who created it. The town of Chapel Hill grew up around the college as it embraces the campus yet today. The adjacent town of Carrboro has quite a different story as the railroad provided avenues of trade and enterprise.

The book reveals the heart of the great State of North Carolina. It will be of interest to every Tar Heel and, in particular, to those with attachment to the Piedmont region and to these three distinct villages which have produced so many notable people.



This reviewer commends this fascinating, very readable, and well-documented book as an essential primer before a next visit to the Old North State, no matter how familiar you may be with each town. An excursion to Hillsborough is included in the program for the national SAR Meeting in Greensboro in July 2026. Reading this book in advance will enable NCSSAR Compatriots to be knowledgeable as well as gracious hosts to visitors from afar.

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.



Dr. Sam Powell Recognized for Lifelong Service

On March 28, Compatriot Dr. Samuel C. Powell was presented with the *Order of the Long Leaf Pine* (OLLP) award at the 2026 Annual NCSSAR Meeting held at the Embassy Suites, Greensboro. The OLLP is the State's highest, most prestigious honor that has been awarded by North Carolina's governors since 1963 for persons who have made significant contributions to the State and their communities through exemplary service and exceptional accomplishments. The presentation was made by current Senior Vice President Dr. Tony Zeiss (pictured left) and Immediate NCSSAR Past President Steve Van Pelt, both recipients themselves of the OLLP award.



A remarkable North Carolinian, husband, father, businessman, servant-oriented Christian, and friend to many, Sam demonstrates a passion for his fellow man through focusing on public good over personal gain. Whether simple acts of kindness and volunteering, or large-scale foundation work supporting education, especially the history of the American Revolution and on health education, Dr. Powell's passion has focused on helping to create a positive change for a better quality of life for others.

Sam was born and reared in Burlington, NC where, during his youth, he earned the Eagle Scout and God and County Awards. He graduated from the Virginia Military Institute in 1974 with a B.S. degree in chemistry and earned his pilot's license while a student. In 1976, He earned the M.S. degree in biochemistry from Old Dominion University. He went on to complete a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree in biochemistry/biophysics from Loyola University of Chicago

in 1982. Sam served in the US Army Reserves (Medical Service Corps) from 1974-1987 and was honorably discharged at the rank of Captain. He and his wife Karen are members of the First Presbyterian Church, Burlington. They have two adult children and five grandchildren.

Sam began his professional career in 1968 as a botany Specimen Collector for the Carolina Biological Supply Company in Burlington, NC and served as a Research chemist, for Biomedical Reference Laboratories in Burlington. In the early 1980's he was appointed to the Department of Pathology, Clinical Chemistry Department, Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem, followed with concurrent Chief Executive Officer (CEO) responsibilities for Animal Genetic Systems, and Granite Technological Enterprises, both in Burlington. Dr. Powell is currently self-employed as President of Powell Enterprises, providing critical consultation and service in real estate management. He has served in corporate capacities as Chairman of the Board of Editk, Inc. which was traded on the American Stock Exchange. He also served on the Board of Directors of MedTox Scientific which was traded on NASDAQ. Dr. Powell continues to serve on corporate boards of family owned businesses and the Carolina Biological Supply Company.

Sam's extraordinary service on the local, State, and national levels is reflective of his sterling professional credentials and career. He served three, four-year terms on the Burlington City Council (1985-1997) and was elected to a single term on the Alamance County Commissioner Board (1998-2002). In early March 2026, he was appointed to serve out the unexpired term of Alamance County Commissioner and Compatriot John Paisley who recently passed away. Sam has also served as Chairman of the Board of Alamance Community College, Alamance County Urban Emphasis Scouting Association, Alamance Eldercare, the Alamance Housing Resource Board, the Alamance County Regional Medical Center, and the Alamance Airport Authority Board.



Sam has served on many State boards and Commissions including the Governor’s Institute on Alcohol and Substance Abuse, the North Carolina Community College System board (2013-2022). Several legislators recognized Sam's expertise with community colleges and appointed Sam to the North Carolina Community College Board where he served two terms. Sam had a great interest in improving services for students. He often drove to visit with Community College Presidents to discuss ways the NCSSAR could better serve students and communities.

Sam has also served on a variety of business boards including the local Nation’s Bank, Elon University, Burlington Day School, the Alamance County Chamber of Commerce, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the American Association for Clinical Chemistry. Sam has served on the National American Red Cross Board, and The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution Foundation which has raised millions of dollars for the new SAR museum in Louisville.

Sam’s work with, and advancing the mission of, the SAR have been exemplary. He has held most chapter and state society offices and positions. In addition to being a member of the National Society SAR Foundation, Sam was elected as a *SAR Minuteman*, the highest honor that SAR members can attain based on a record of attending and providing leadership at every level of our society. Therefore, with a deep sense of gratitude for his accomplishments and service to the SAR, the community, and the State, NCSSAR Compatriots extend heartfelt congratulations Dr. Sam Powell.

Volunteers Needed for the 2026 National SAR Congress in Greensboro

Jay DeLoach
2026 SAR Congress Chairman

The NCSSAR will host the 2026 National Congress from July 9-16 in Greensboro. We need the help of Compatriots and their better halves to volunteer in several remaining but critical spots. Currently, we are at 70% capacity, but we still have nearly 100 volunteer spots vacant to fill at this time. See the list below. Please check out the vacant positions and sign up for one or more of these positions by going to the SignUp Genius link below or go to the 2026 Congress menu on our NCSSAR.org website then scroll down and select the Volunteer Signup link. By signing up, you will receive one free men's or women's volunteer polo shirt (remember to include your shirt size). If you want more shirts, then the option is available to pay for additional shirts. Training is associated with each of the volunteer positions. One frequently asked question is, "Do I need to register and pay for Congress if I am just there to volunteer?" The short and encouraging answer is, "No." But if you want to attend any events at Congress, then you will need to register and pay registration fees and other selected activities.

Volunteer Spots	July 11	July 12	July 13	July 14	July 15
General Volunteer	4	1	9	2	5
Registration Table	1	2	4	1	–
Credentials Review	–	–	–	–	2
Hospitality Room	3	4	5	7	6
Decorations	2	–	5	9	8
Lobby Inform. Table	–	2	4	3	2

Click here to signup: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050C4AAEA62AA64-59482233-2026#/>

On behalf of your NCSSAR, thank you for your willingness to help in one or more jobs/shifts and to serve our National Society and to showcase our Southern hospitality.



Revisiting the Halifax Resolves

By Roy C. Lightfoot
State Historian NCSSAR

The historical documents of our Founding Fathers must never be forgotten. They are especially important as we celebrate the 250th Anniversary of our Independence this year. Several Resolves were sent to the King of England from the colonies. At least six came from the colony of North Carolina before the Declaration of Independence was written and signed. The six included the Rowan Resolves (August 8, 1774), the Edenton Tea Party (October 25, 1774), the Mecklenburg Resolves (May 20, 1775), the Liberty Point Resolves (June 20, 1775), the Tryon Resolves (August 14, 1775), and the Halifax Resolves (April 12, 1776). Dates from two of these Resolves appear on our North Carolina State flag. One date is from the Halifax Resolves, which is the focus of this article.

At a meeting on April 12, 1776, the eighty-three delegates of the Fourth Provincial Congress of North Carolina at Halifax voted unanimously for independence. With this act, they cemented their resolve and intent by inscribing them to paper and placed them into the minutes of their meeting. These resolutions, known as the Halifax Resolves, authorized the North Carolina delegates William Hooper, Joseph Hewes, and John Penn to vote for independence at the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia. These Resolves were not only important because of the call for independence but also because they were not unilateral recommendations. They were a call to all colonies and their assembled delegates to do the same.

The Halifax Resolves was the culmination of a year of discussions among the North Carolina county conferences across the colony. With its passage, North Carolina became the first colony who explicitly allowed their delegates to vote in favor of independence and the severing of ties with Great Britain. What the Resolves did not do was instruct the North Carolina delegates to introduce the resolution of independence to Congress. After the adoption of the Halifax Resolves by Congress, Virginia soon followed with its own recommendations. Known as the "Lee Resolution" or "The Resolution for Independence," introduced by Richard Henry Lee and passed on July 2, 1776, it stated that the colonies were to be "free and independent States."

The conclusion of the Halifax Resolves and its historical significance reads, "Resolved, That the Delegates for this Colony in the Continental Congress be empowered to concur with the Delegates of the other Colonies in declaring Independence, and forming foreign Alliances, reserving to this Colony the Sole, and Exclusive right of forming a Constitution and Laws for this Colony, and of appointing Delegates from time to time (under the direction of a general Representation thereof) to meet the Delegates of the other Colonies for such purposes as shall be hereafter pointed out."

Today, at least two copies of the Resolves are known to have survived. One copy was sent to the Continental Congress and is held in the collection of the National Archives. The other copy is at the State Archives of North Carolina. Compatriots should sincerely reflect on the enduring words of liberty contained in the Halifax Resolves. Moreover, realize the spirit of sacrifice that catapulted our Patriot Forefathers to obtain the independence that we all enjoy today.

Roy is President of the Catawba Valley Chapter NCSSAR and also serves as NCSSAR Historian. Ideas for future articles are welcomed. Contact Roy at capn_roy@hotmail.com.





The North Carolina Society

of the

Sons of the American Revolution



PATRIOT GRAVE MARKING CEREMONY

CONDUCTED BY

BETHABARA & CATAWBA VALLEY CHAPTERS

16 JULY 2026 - 2PM

PILGRIM REFORMED CHURCH
797 PILGRIM CHURCH RD, LEXINGTON, NC

CAPT. JOHN LOPP (ABT 1743-AFT 1820)

PHILLIP LEONARD (1756-BEF 1830)

JOSEPH ESSIG (1742-1842)

CHRISTOPHER EDDINGER (1720-1803)

MICHAEL LINK/SINK (1757-AFT 1843)



Gen. Francis Nash Chapter Holds Rumbaugh Oratory Contests

**By Denny Colvin, *President*
Gen. Francis Nash Chapter NCSSAR**

The General Francis Nash Chapter held its spring chapter meeting and Rumbaugh Oratory Contest at the Governors Club in Chapel Hill on March 14. NCSSAR Rumbaugh Oratory Chairman Lowell Hoffman welcomed the contest audience. Four outstanding student orators competed. The results were the closest in the Chapter’s history.



Jack Simpson
Seaforth High School



Aria Browndyke
Seaforth High School



Audrey Palmer
Trinity School



Giuliana Greta
Seaforth High School

The contestants introduced themselves, which was followed by a general discussion of the value of public speaking skills. The 2025 Gen. Francis Nash Chapter and State-level SAR Rumbaugh winner, Jonathan Paul, who advanced to become the National SAR Rumbaugh Champion, was recognized. A special welcome was extended to Riley Shaner (pictured, lower left), a previous Gen. Francis Nash Chapter and NCCSAR Rumbaugh winner, and National SAR Rumbaugh finalist. Now a teacher at Seaforth High School, Riley served as coach to the three of the student orators from her school. After adjournment for lunch, and a brief chapter meeting, Chapter Rumbaugh Oratory Chairman Guy Guidry announced the judges’ decisions: 1st Place, Giuliana Greto, with her Oration, *Resilient Through and Through*; 2nd Place, Audrey Palmer; and 3rd Place, Aria Browndyke. Giuliana will go on to compete in the State Rumbaugh Oratory Contest at the NCSSAR Annual Meeting on March 28.





2026 SAR Annual Congress Greensboro, NC

*** Make Your Hotel Reservation Now ***



The host hotel for the 2026 SAR Annual Congress is the Sheraton Greensboro at Four Seasons, centrally located at Interstate 40, Exit 217. Located near the airport and local and interstate highways, Sheraton Greensboro at Four Seasons is a contemporary haven amid the area's most popular attractions. Unpack and unwind in stylishly appointed hotel rooms and suites with complimentary Wi-Fi, ergonomic work-space, rainfall showers, and modern amenities. Shop 200 stores and specialty shops at the adjacent Four Seasons Town Centre, and explore a variety of nearby attractions, including Hillsdale Park, the Greensboro Coliseum, Koury Convention Center and the Greensboro Aquatic Center. Savor delectable cuisine, espressos, and adult beverages at the two

distinctive restaurants and three lobby bars. Gather in 250,000 square feet of versatile event space, designed for flawless corporate meetings and memorable social affairs. When it's all said and done, energize in the fitness center or refresh in the indoor-outdoor pools. The hotel sets the stage for an unforgettable experience in Greensboro, NC. Get ahead of the crowd, and make your hotel reservation now at <https://t.ly/qqUiR>.



Second Quarter Patriotic Days

National Loyalty Day

May 1, 2026

Armed Forces Day

May 16, 2026

Memorial Day

May 25, 2026



Flag Day

June 14, 2026



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SUBMISSION DEADLINES

January Issue: December 20
April Issue: March 20
July Issue: June 20
October Issue: September 20

SAR Meetings & Events

April-June 2026

Updates Available

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

^Semiquincentennial Event

NATIONAL EVENTS

April 11-12^: 250th Anniversary Commemoration Halifax Resolves, Halifax, NC. Hosted by the Halifax Resolves Chapter NCSSAR. SAR President General's Reception, Halifax United Methodist Church Fellowship, Saturday, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Halifax Resolves Day, Halifax State Historic Site, Sunday, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

STATE EVENTS

May 16: Battles of Alamance County, Patriots Day, Alamance Battleground Historic Site, Burlington, NC, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Hosted by the Alamance Battleground Chapter NCSSAR.

CHAPTER & LOCAL EVENTS

April 4: Multiple Patriot grave markings, Pilgrim Reformed Church, Lexington, NC, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. Hosted by the Bethabara and the Catawba Valley Chapters NCSSAR.

April 25: Grave marking for Patriot John London, Oakdale Cemetery, Wilmington, NC, Saturday, 10:00-11:00 a.m. Hosted by the Lower Cape Fear Chapter NCSSAR.

May 17: Grave marking ceremony for Patriot Abner Nash, Amelia Grove (Old Pembroke Plantation), New Bern, NC, 3:00-4:00 p.m. Hosted by the New Bern Chapter NCSSAR.

May 30: Flag retirement ceremony, Stoney Point Fire Department, Parkton, NC, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. Hosted by the Le Marquis de Lafayette Chapter, NCSSAR.

June 12-13: 246th Anniversary Commemoration Battle of Ramsour's Mill, Lincolnton, NC. Friday reception, Hampton Inn, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Saturday wreath laying, Mass Grave Site, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. Hosted by the Catawba Valley Chapter NCSSAR.

June 20-21: 246th Anniversary Commemoration Battle of Ramsour's Mill Reenactment, Ramsour's Mill Battleground, Lincolnton, NC, all day, both days. Hosted by the Catawba Valley Chapter NCSSAR and the Lincoln County Historical Association.