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The Halifax Dispatch

The Newsletter of the Halifax Resolves Chapter, NC Society
Sons of the American Revolution

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

Message from the President

Greetings Compatriots,

I hope all is well with you and your families.

I look forward to seeing you all at our next regular chapter meeting in July. The educational program will be presented by your Chapter President on the "Life of General Jethro Sumner." This important patriot hailed from nearby Warren County and was a driving force in our state's move towards independence. Among other things, he was a planter, colonial assemblyman, a major of the Halifax minutemen and he also found time to run a tavern.

It is a great pleasure to report that the Halifax Resolves Chapter did quite well in the 2026 NCSSAR poster and brochure contest. McKensie Bennett, a fifth grader from Halifax Academy finished third in the poster contest ($75.00 prize) and London E. Saunders an 8th grader from Chaloner Middle School in Roanoke Rapids won first prize in the brochure contest ($100.00 prize.) Special thanks and kudos to Jamie Rook for facilitating and making our chapter's participation a big success. Promoting awareness and knowledge of our history and the founding of our nation is our most important task. With regard to forthcoming generations, it is a particularly vital duty—especially so, given the distractions and competition for their attentions faced by the youth of today.

Several of our compatriots are facing health issues at this present time. Joe Pearce and Duncan Jones are in our thoughts. Resilient Secretary Michael Cooper continues his recovery and we wish a speedy recuperation to our resident auteur and impresario Douglas Wright. Recover and regain all and we look forward to seeing you soon.

We all know from the ubiquitous praise our chapter received for the 250th Halifax Resolves Celebration that it was quite a success—but remember the commemorations and acknowledgment of that most important event are not yet completed. We are currently working on a commemorative brochure that will feature images of our activities and recognition of those that participated in and provided support for the most significant endeavor in our chapter's 23-year history. It is intended that proceeds from the sale of this brochure will be a great fundraiser for the Halifax Resolves Chapter.

As we approach the much anticipated 250th anniversary of our nation's founding on July 4th, I thought it would be appropriate to recount a few quotes about who we are and what our nation is:

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction." —Ronald Reagan

"Where liberty dwells, there is my country"—Benjamin Franklin

"For 200 years America has unlocked human potential like nowhere else on earth."— unknown quote from 1976, but still true today.

And lastly during this semiquincentennial season I think it is important to reiterate our Mission Statement: "The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our Country."

Thank you all for helping to do this.

Mark Pace

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

On the agenda: President Mark Pace will deliver a short program on the life of local Patriot, Gen. Jethro Sumner.

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

Dusty Corners

In a perfect world, all of our ancestors left wills, and have nice clean tombstones in well-manicured cemeteries. But that's a fantasy. Everybody has a few brick walls and unanswered questions.

But what are you to do when you have a will in your hand, and it doesn't make sense? Such was the case a few years back when I was researching the Anderson family of Edgecombe County.

I was reading the will of Thomas Anderson, who died in Edgecombe County in 1898. Everything in the will made sense except the final clause, in which he left his sister Elizabeth Newsome $500. As far as I knew, he had no sister named Elizabeth. Who was she?

Working backwards, I discovered that Thomas Anderson's parents were Micajah Anderson and Nancy Newsome. But I knew nothing about Nancy Newsome. I didn't know her parents, and I didn't know how she might be related to Elizabeth Newsome. So I decided to follow my own typical advice: Check every source!

I figured I was connected somehow. I knew that my great-great grandfather was Henry Newsome (1817-1862), and I knew that he had a sister Betsy Newsome (1814-1887), buried in the family cemetery. She never married. But how could she be the Elizabeth Newsome who was Thomas Anderson's sister? After all, she died in 1887, and Anderson's will was not written until ten years later. You can't leave something to a dead person!

I went through all the records pertaining to Thomas Anderson's estate. Nothing was significant. But in desperation, I checked all the records of how the estate was handled and closed. That's when I saw it – the identity of Elizabeth Newsome.

A petition in the probate file stated that she was indeed the sister of Thomas Anderson. It said she had died several years earlier, yet Anderson left her money in his will anyway, because he had not done enough for her while she lived. But she was dead, had never married, and had no children ---- where was the money supposed to go? The petition made it clear. It identified the heirs of Elizabeth Newsome as her brother Henry Newsome (my line), and their four half-siblings who were the children of Micajah Anderson and Nancy Newsome.

So Micajah Anderson married Nancy Newsome, who had two children of her own –Henry and Betsy. Together, they had four Anderson children. The puzzle began to get stranger. In our next installment, I will continue the story of my deep-dive into the Newsome and Anderson families of Edgecombe County.

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

David Gammon

Chapter Genealogist

Celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the Adoption of the Halifax Resolves

A large crowd of approximately 325+ attended and participated in the 250th celebration at the Historic Colonial Halifax Courthouse on Sunday afternoon. The Color Guard opened the ceremony lead by the Tryon Palace Drum & Fife Corps. Halifax Resolves Chapter President Mark Pace introduced National SAR President General, Michael J, Elston to the crowd with a rousing, **HUZZAH!**

National Sons of the American Revolution President General Michael J. Elston of Virginia welcomed the enthusiastic crowd of SAR, DAR, SR , family and friends to the 250th celebration of the adoption of the Halifax Resolves.

A musket volley of thirty rounds was fired by the New Bern Chapter Color Guard in commemoration of this special day.

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Celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the Adoption of the Halifax Resolves

National, State and Halifax Resolves Chapter SAR leadership were on hand to view the festivities. A new monument was dedicated celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the Adoption of the Halifax Resolves. Perhaps the largest Halifax Resolves Day event ever held by the SAR, DAR, CAR & SR celebrating this historic day.

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Chapter Activities

April 25, 2026—Durham

Mark Pace was presented with the DAR Medal of Honor at the NCSDAR State Convention in Durham, N. C. The DAR Medal of Honor is the most prestigious award presented by the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. It recognizes native-born U.S. citizens who have shown extraordinary qualities of leadership, trustworthiness, service, and patriotism, and made lasting contributions to our American heritage Pictured left to right are: Winn Smith, Honorary Regent, Shocco Creek DAR Chapter; Barbara Harrison, Regent, John Penn DAR Chapter; medal winner, Mark Pace and NCSDAR State Regent, Cricket Crigler.

April 25, 2026—Durham

Pictured attending the DAR State Convention in Durham, N.C. are Halifax Resolves President, Mark Pace and Registrar and Past Chapter President, Bill Riggan.

Chapter Activities

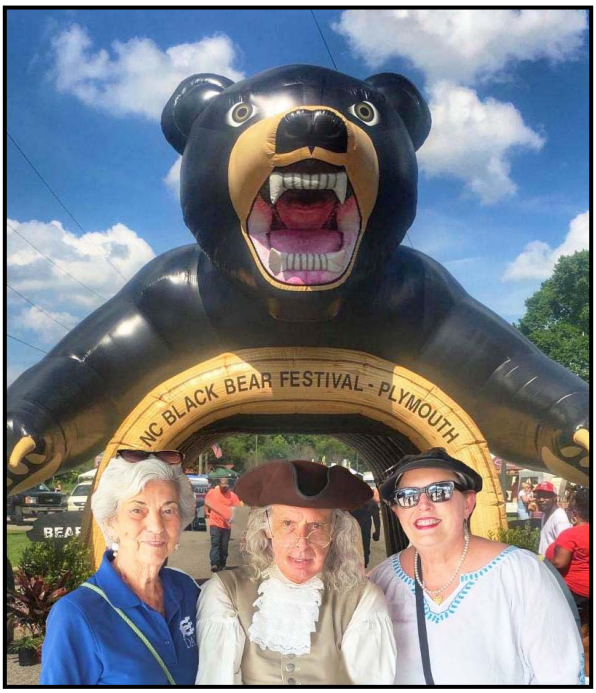
May 16, 2026—Alamance

(left) Chapter President, Mark Pace presented the chapter wreath at the annual Battle of Alamance / Patriot's Day Celebration. ***(right)*** Halifax Resolves Chapter member Sam Powell was the featured speaker at the annual Battle of Alamance / Patriot's Day Celebration..

May 20, 2026—Chapel Hill

Chapter President, Mark Pace in the guise of Signer John Penn, presented a program to the Davie Poplar DAR Chapter at the Chapel Hill Country Club.

June 6, 2026—Plymouth



President Mark Pace playing the role of Benjamin Franklin was a featured speaker at the 12th Annual Black Bear Festival.. Mark is shown with members of the Brick House Landing DAR Chapter at the event.

Chapter Activities (cont.)

June 7, 2026—Montross, VA

(left) Chapter VP Harry Albert and wife Sheryll outside of Robert E. Lee's ancestral home, Stratford Hall at the "Virginia Resolved" celebration. This is an annual historic commemoration held at Stratford Hall, honoring the 250th anniversary of the ***Lee Resolution for Independence***. ***(right)*** While they were there, they ran into James and Jamie Rook.

Thoughts and Prayers

- **Duncan Jones** remains in an assisted living facility in New Bern near his son.

- **Joe Pearce** remains in the Louisburg Nursing Center at this time from multiple issues with his artificial hip. He has responded well to physical therapy and is using a walker. Recently he contracted a blood infection which he has been told is directly related to his artificial hip. He is currently being treated with IV antibiotics. He is in good spirits and sends his regards to the Chapter.

- **Doug Wright** recently had a severe fall down a flight of steps and was hospitalized for multiple injuries sustained during that fall. He was released from the hospital and is now in a rehab facility in South Hill, VA and is recovering. He indicated that this rehab should take another four weeks or so to be completed and he is looking forward to getting back home. He sends his regards to everyone in the Chapter.

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Steve Avent, Editor, Bill Riggan, Co-Editor
Mark Pace, Harry Albert, Renny Taylor—Contributors

Upcoming Statewide Activities

June 20, Saturday—*251st Anniversary of the Liberty Point Resolves, 10:00 AM, Fayetteville*

July 10 - 16, Friday—Thursday—*SAR National Congress, Koury Convention Center/Sheraton Greensboro, Greensboro, NC*

July 16, Thursday—*Multiple Patriot Grave Markings, `10:00 AM, Pilgrim Reformed Church Lexington, NC*

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