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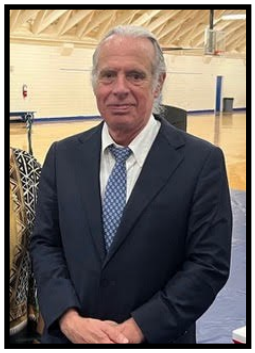
The Halifax Dispatch

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,



In thinking about what to write for this President's Message I'll just be honest--I am truly at a loss for the proper words to express to you all, the pride, awe and appreciation I feel for the success that was the 250th Celebration this year.

What to say? Things happened with such rapidity that it was almost a blur. A plethora of images come to mind—to wit: the booming volley of the color guard, the fife and drums, the conviviality of the President General's Reception (and the tasty deviled eggs), the dozens and dozens of wreaths, the sincere words of praise and appreciation from PG Micheal Elston, the dignified monument properly dedicated to a worthy cause, the 350 plus attendees on April 12, the teamwork… and many other positive impressions too numerous to recollect. By all accounts, from the feedback I heard we may very well have created the template (and set a high bar) for how to do a statewide SAR Event!

Having recently become a bit better acquainted with Mr. Benjamin Franklin of late I am reminded of his famous quote "Well done is better than well said" or another quote I have heard (not sure who stated it) "The reward for work well-done is the opportunity to do more." I feel that our Chapter is now on an important juncture—we have proven what we can do—let us add to that momentum as we seek to honor and acknowledge the brave souls who forged our nation.

I look forward to seeing you all at our May meeting—we will have our poster contest and a program by DAR member Karen Powers on "Olive Regan Cain, An Unusual Colonial Woman."

Again, on a personal level I want to offer a very sincere thank you to the dedicated members of the Halifax Resolves Chapter for your diligent efforts to make the 250th anniversary remembrance a success—and in particular, the omnipresent, incomparable, methodical and resilient Mr. Bill Riggan.

I think our antecedents would be proud of what we have done for them this anniversary.

Huzzahs to the them and to the Halifax Resolves SAR Chapter.

In Liberty,

Mark Pace

The next meeting will be held Wed., May 13th, at the Halifax United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 150 S. King St. in Halifax, at 6:30 PM.

On the agenda: Our speaker will be Ms. Karen Powers. The title of her talk is "Olive Regan Cain — An Unusual Colonial Woman".

The cost of the meal will be $15. Reservations are required and must be in by 5:00 PM on Fri., May 8th. 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

The NC SAR Newsletter:
"The Old North State"

Dusty Corners

Genealogists are a lot like private investigators, and are often called upon to dig until we can find the truth. Sometimes the truth contradicts what we thought we knew.

Such was the case when I helped a gentleman trace the Webb family who lived near Scotland Neck. Our biggest challenge was to determine the maiden name of his ancestor Esther, the wife of William Webb. Esther was probably born in the early 1770s. My client sent me an old family history, written by a distant uncle back in the 1930s or 1940s. In the article, his uncle stated Esther Webb's maiden name was Jones, and William Webb's family inherited land from Nancy Jones. The assumption was that Nancy Jones was the mother of Esther Webb.

So I set about to identify Nancy Jones. I found her in the 1850 Census, with an approximate birth date of 1794. Immediately I started having doubts, as she was too young to be the mother of Esther. Then I learned her maiden name was Atkinson, and that she had been married twice – first to Drew Young, who died in 1826, without issue. Her second husband was widower Asa Jones, by whom she had no children. Drew Young had died without a will, and Nancy had inherited a generous share of dower lands, plus considerable land, slaves, and personal property in her own right. Before her marriage to Asa Jones, she wisely signed a prenuptial agreement that protected all her property from her first husband. Remember, however, that her dower lands were already protected – they were hers for her lifetime.

Nancy later sold some of Drew Young's land to his brother James Young, who soon sold it to the Webb family. But she had a dower right on this land, so she must have continued to live there, even though the title had been transferred. In effect, her dower right went with the land, no matter how many times it changed hands. And when she finally died in 1865, the land finally belonged to the Webb family completely. That's the origin of the misunderstanding.

Unfortunately, my investigation disproved the long-held belief that the Webb family had inherited land from Nancy Jones, and it also weakened the argument that Esther was a Jones. After all, if there was no inheritance in the first place, why would we believe she was a Jones? This was simply a case of the sale of land, containing a dower right that lasted many years.

In my next article we will examine some more investigations and what they uncovered.

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

David Gammon

Chapter Genealogist

Chapter Activities

March 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. Approximately 20+ Compatriots and guests attended this important meeting

Left - Newly installed Chapter President Mark Pace officially called his first meeting to order as ***President of the Halifax Resolves Chapter.*** **Right -** After some ***Old Business,*** President Pace introduced our Chapter Committee Chair, Renny Taylor of the Knight Essay and the History Teacher of the Year contests. The winners and their family members and guests attending tonight's meeting were introduced.

Chapter Activities (cont.)

President Pace announced the Chapter winner of the ***Knight Essay Contest*** as Olivia Spain, who attends Nash Central High School in Rocky Mount. After the presentation of her awards she read her essay to all those in attendance entitled **"Penelope Barker's Bold Protest"**

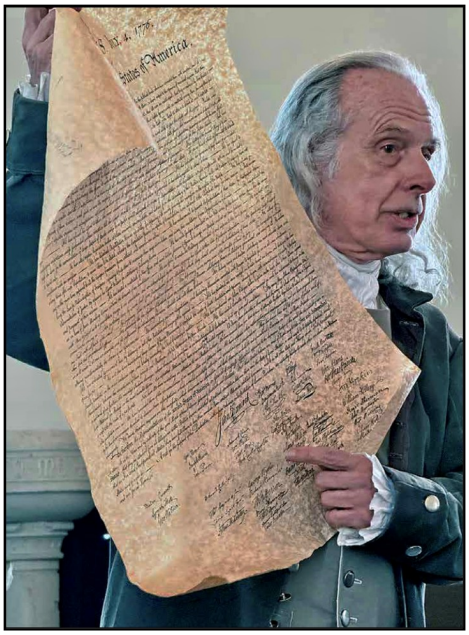
President Pace then presented Marisa Corcoran, who teaches at East Wake High School, a certificate and ***Good Citizenship Award*** for being selected as the Halifax Resolves Chapter nominee for the NC SAR History Teacher of the Year Award. She will now be included with the other Chapter selections for the State Award. After her presentation she gave a few short remarks and thanked everyone for this prestigious award.

Chapter Activities (cont.)

March 14, 2026 - Oxford

The Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence honored Anne Clark Hooper, wife of William Hooper, NC signer of the Declaration of Independence. The grave marking was held at the Hillsborough Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall and the Old Town Cemetery in cooperation with the Town of Hillsborough and the Orange County Historical Museum. Chapter Vice President, Harry Albert and Registrar, Bill Riggan attended the event and presented the Chapter Wreath.

March 15, 2026—Hamilton



President Mark Pace presented a program to members of the Historic Hamilton Commission as John Penn, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence from North Carolina. The program was attended by approximately 35 attendees in the St. Martin's Episcopal Church in Martin County.

Chapter Activities (cont.)

March 27, 2026—Greensboro

The North Carolina Society of the Sons of the American Revolution held its annual meeting on Friday, March 27 - Saturday, March 28, 2026 in the Embassy Suites Hotel in Greensboro. Bill Riggan, Registrar represented the Chapter at the Annual Meeting and Renny Taylor, Historian represented the Chapter at the Youth Awards Luncheon.

One of the most popular events of the Annual Meeting are the Youth Awards. A luncheon is held on Saturday during which the judging results are finalized, and the North Carolina State Winners are announced in various contests such as Oration, Knight Essay, Video and History Teacher of the year. ***Renny Taylor***, ***State Chairman of the History Teacher of the Year Award*** presented Marisa Corcoran, Halifax Resolves Chapter nominee, her award as the State Winner. Congratulations to Marisa.

Chapter Activities (cont.)

March 28, 2026 - Halifax

Installation of 250th Monument

The placement, arrangement & script on our new monument was decided at the local level by the State Historic Site Manager and staff. Every level of administrative approval above the local Site Manager had a differing opinion and view as to how this 250th event should be memorialized. Halifax Resolves Chapter did not get its wish, victory was declared and we moved on. We now have a beautiful granite monument which marks the 250th Anniversary of the Adoption of the Halifax Resolves.

After a year and a half, final approval from the North Carolina Historical Commission was received; and we were given permission to install the 250th, Semi-Quincentennial Monument at the site of the Colonial Halifax Courthouse located on the Historic Halifax State Site. The gray stone area behind the markers is the confirmed location of the old Colonial Courthouse. The older stone on the left is a marker placed on the site in the 1950's by the State of North Carolina. On the right side of the pictures above is a new "Liberty Pole" placed there by the state for this years 250th events. The house in the background is located on the site of Joseph Monfort's original home; he was the Provincial Grand Master of Masons for America.

April 11, 2026 - Raleigh

Mr. Franklin arrives at the Governor's Mansion to entertain the ladies during tea. Halifax Chapter President Mark Pace in the persona of Benjamin Franklin took part in the ***DAR Liber-Tea Event*** at the Executive Mansion in Raleigh on the morning of April 11, 2026. The event was in celebration of the 250th and was sponsored by the William Davie DAR Chapter in Durham.

Chapter Activities (cont.)

April 12, 2026—Halifax

On Sunday afternoon, April 12th at 1:30 PM the Halifax Resolves Chapter and several hundred of its closest friends celebrated the ***"250th Anniversary of the Adoption of the Halifax Resolves"*** at the site of the Colonial Halifax Courthouse, located on Market Street in the Town of Halifax. Monuments were dedicated, wreaths were presented, musket volleys were shot, speeches were made and prayers were prayed. All in the commemoration of our patriot ancestors who made a decision that day for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Huzzah!

April 20, 2026—Stovall

President Mark Pace presented a program titled, ***"North Carolina - The American Revolution and the Halifax Resolves"*** to a large group at the Granville County Senior Center in Stovall.

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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

May 16, Saturday—Battle of Alamance, Patriot's Day, *10:00 AM—2:00 PM, Burlington.*

May 16, Saturday—*Patriot Grave Marking for Abner Nash, 4:00 PM, New Bern*

May 23, Saturday—*Patriot Grave Marking for Nathan Skipper, `11:00 AM, Wilmington*

June 13, Saturday—*246th Anniversary of the Battle of Ramseur's Mill, 10:00 AM, Lincolnton*

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

The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our Country.

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