

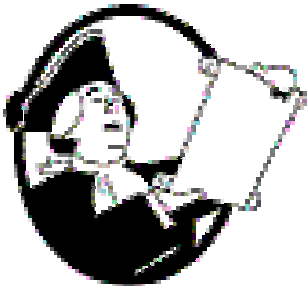


HALIFAX RESOLVES CHAPTER, HALIFAX, NC

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*The Halifax Resolves Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution will be receiving its charter during the Halifax Day celebration, Saturday, April 12, 2003. The grave of Patriot Col. Joseph Montfort is located on the grounds of Royal White Hart Lodge No. 2, in Halifax, and a SAR grave marker will be placed at his grave in a ceremony to be held at 2:00 p.m. on April 12. Following the ceremony, the first organization meeting of the new chapter will be held in the Royal White Hart Lodge building, erected in 1824. All interested parties are encouraged to attend.*



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## What were the Halifax Resolves?

North Carolina, on April 12, 1776, authorized her delegates to the Continental Congress to vote for independence. This was the first official action by a colony calling for independence. The 83 delegates present in Halifax at the Fourth Provincial Congress unanimously adopted the Halifax Resolves, which read as follows:

*The Select Committee taking into Consideration the usurpations and violences attempted and committed by the King and Parliament of Britain against America, and the further Measures to be taken for frustrating the same, and for the better defence of this province reported as follows, to wit,*

*It appears to your Committee that pursuant to the Plan concerted by the British Ministry for subjugating America, the King and Parliament of Great Britain have usurped a Power over the Persons and Properties of the People unlimited and uncontrolled and disregarding their humble Petitions for Peace, Liberty and safety, have made divers Legislative Acts, denouncing War Famine and every Species of Calamity daily employed in destroying the People and committing the most horrid devastations on the Country. That Governors in different Colonies have declared Protection to Slaves who should imbrue their Hands in the Blood of their Masters. That the Ships belonging to America are declared prizes of War and many of them have been violently seized and confiscated in consequence of which multitudes of the people have been destroyed or from easy Circumstances reduced to the most Lamentable distress.*

*And whereas the moderation hitherto manifested by the United Colonies and their sincere desire to be reconciled to the mother Country on Constitutional Principles, have procured no mitigation of the aforesaid Wrongs and usurpations and no hopes remain of obtaining redress by those Means alone which have been hitherto tried, Your Committee are of Opinion that the house should enter into the following Resolve, to wit:*

*Resolved that the delegates for this Colony in the Continental Congress be empowered to concur with the other delegates of the other Colonies in declaring Independency, and forming foreign Alliances, resolving 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*

(Continued inside)

# The Halifax Resolves (cont.)

*general Representation thereof to meet the delegates of the other Colonies for such purposes as shall be hereafter pointed out.*

The Halifax Resolves were important not only because they were the first official action calling for independence, but also because they were not unilateral recommendations. They were instead recommendations directed to all the colonies and their delegates assembled at the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. Virginia followed with her own recommendations soon after the adoption of the Halifax Resolution, and eventually on July 4, the final draft of the Declaration of Independence was signed. William Hooper, Joseph Hewes, and John Penn were the delegates from North Carolina who signed the Declaration of Independence.

*(From “The North Carolina Encyclopedia”*

## Who was Col. Joseph Montfort?

In spite of his prominence and influence in the colony of North Carolina, very little is known of Joseph Montfort – almost nothing of his early life. He is said to have been born in England in 1724 and appears to have settled in what was then Edgecombe (now Halifax) County around 1750. In 1750 he married Priscilla Hill, daughter of Col. Benjamin Hill, of Bertie, by whom Montfort appears to have come into a sizeable estate. Victorious in his first campaign for the General Assembly in 1762, he was for the next 14 years a leading figure in the colony. He served as Clerk of the Court of Edgecombe until the creation of Halifax County and was afterward the first Clerk of the Halifax Court. He attained the rank of Colonel in the provincial militia and was one of the commissioners of the town of Halifax where he had a home and a store, among other properties.

The major public service of Joseph Montfort commenced with his appointment as Treasurer of the Northern district of North Carolina in 1764, an office he was destined to hold for many years. He remained a member of the legislature

until 1768 and returned for still another term in 1773. In April, 1775, he was elected to the Provincial Congress in New Bern, but, already in ill health, died the following spring as war with England was just commencing. His landed estate consisted of well over 30,000 acres of land scattered in large tracts across North Carolina and he must have been one of the wealthiest North Carolinians of his time.

(From “Launching the Craft”, by Thomas C. Parramore)

On January 14, 1771 he was appointed Provincial Grand Master of Masons of America, the first and only man to hold that title.



**Col. Joseph Montfort, 1724-1776**

# Sons of the American Revolution Day

By the Governor of the State of North Carolina  
A Proclamation

*Whereas*, North Carolina Sons of the American Revolution have Honored and perpetuated the memory of their Revolutionary Patriots; and

*Whereas*, North Carolina Sons of the American Revolution have Cherished with deep devotion the nation founded by their sacrifice; and

*Whereas*, North Carolina Sons of the American Revolution have Acquired and preserved the records of their ancestor's services; and

*Whereas*, They have encouraged historical research that the Present may learn from the Past; and

*Whereas*, Sons have fostered training in the precepts and Principles of good citizenship; and

*Whereas*, They have collected and conserved documents and Relics of the Revolutionary period; and

*Whereas*, They have celebrated the great events that brought American Independence; and

*Whereas*, Sons have maintained and extended our institutions Of liberty and learning; and

*Whereas*, The Sons of the American Revolution have Conducted their own lives so that they may reflect credit upon Their Forefathers and be an inspiration to those who descend;

*Now*, Therefore, I, Michael F. Easley, Governor of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 12, 2003, as "*Sons of the American Revolution Day*" In North Carolina, and commend This observance to all our citizens.

*Michael F. Easley*

**HALIFAX RESOLVES CHAPTER,  
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**Our website:**

<http://www.csb.uncwil.edu/people/gowanj/projects/ncssar/chapters.htm>



The Sons of the American Revolution is a patriotic organization formed in 1889 and chartered by the United States Congress in 1906, with more than 25,000 living members from all 50 states and 23 foreign countries. Throughout its 114-year history, the SAR has admitted more than 155,000 members. Among them are 16 Presidents of the United States, including George W. Bush and his father George H. W. Bush, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Harry Truman and Theodore Roosevelt. The SAR also has had among its members Sir Winston Churchill and King Juan Carlos I of Spain, both of whom trace their ancestry to Revolutionary War patriots. Membership requires proof of descent from a person who aided in the Patriot cause. Some of the activities we engage in are:

- \* commemoration of patriot graves and monuments
- \* educational programs in the schools and elsewhere on the ideals of our Patriot ancestors and the American Revolution
- \* recognition of outstanding law enforcement officers and JROTC cadets
- \* sponsorship of Boy Scout troops



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