



# The Halifax Dispatch

HALIFAX RESOLVES CHAPTER, NCSSAR

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HALIFAX, NORTH CAROLINA

December, 2004

## Charter Members

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Comp. Robert L. Bowen

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Comp. Randy D. Steele

Comp. Rhoderick Williams

Comp. Clark Wiser



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## Next Meeting Scheduled for December 15, 2004

The December, 2004 meeting of the Halifax Resolves Chapter will be held at Ralph's BBQ in Weldon, on Wednesday, 12/15/2004. It will begin at 6:00 p.m. and is expected to end around 7:30 pm. Our speaker for the evening will be **Patrick O'Kelley**, author of '*Nothing but Blood and Slaughter*', which will be a four-volume series covering every battle and skirmish of the Revolutionary War in North Carolina. The first two volumes (1771-1779 and 1780) have so far been completed. Mr. O'Kelley is retired from the U.S. Army Special Forces, is currently a Junior ROTC instructor and has been a Revolutionary War re-enactor and living historian for over 25 years. He will have signed copies of his books available for sale. I've heard him speak and he's an excellent and interesting speaker. If you have any interest in the Revolutionary War in NC, these books are required reading, as they are the first to attempt to document, in a detailed and thorough way, every battle and skirmish of the War, including orders of battle as well as names of officers and soldiers.

Mr. O'Kelley is coming some distance to speak for us so hopefully we can get a real good turnout. Please feel free to invite anyone to the meeting who has any interest in the Revolutionary War or history in general. The cost of the meal is \$12.00 per person, payable by cash or check only. Please RSVP to Steve Avent by 12/10/2004 at 252-459-9427, by email at [savent@mindspring.com](mailto:savent@mindspring.com) or by the US mail at P.O. Box 221, Red Oak, NC 27868. If you forget to RSVP, come out anyway.

## Welcome to our new members!

Please welcome two new Compatriots to our ranks. Tom Skinner is retired and lives in Williamston, and Jim Stone works in real estate and lives on the Outer Banks. Comp. Skinner was unable to make our October meeting but Comp. Stone drove two hours to be with us, and was inducted into the Society that evening by Chapter President Steve Avent. Pictured below is Steve Avent presenting Jim Stone with his membership certificate.



## *New NCSSAR website*

The website for the NCSSAR has been recently redesigned and can be found at <http://www.ncssar.com>. On the site you can find links to all the other SAR chapters in NC, copies of *The Old North State* magazine in Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) format, articles relating to the Revolutionary War, links to other sites of interest, and information on the activities of the SAR and on the Revolutionary War in NC. Please check it out when you get a chance and pass along any comments or suggestions to Steve Avent, who is the NCSSAR Webmaster.

While you're online, don't forget the website for the Halifax Resolves Chapter, which can be found at <http://www31.brinkster.com/halressar>. The site contains information about the Halifax Resolves and the SAR in general, as well as past issues of the chapter newsletter, also in Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) format for viewing or downloading.

## *2005 Dues*

Dues for 2005 are now payable. National dues are \$25, State dues are \$15 and chapter dues are \$10.

According to the regulations of the National Society any Compatriot that has not paid their 2005 dues by December 31, 2004 will be considered dropped. After this date a reinstatement form and payment of all overdue amounts will be required, so it will be to your advantage and the chapter's to get them in as soon as possible.

## *Chapter Officers for 2005*

**President:** Steve Avent, P.O. Box 221, Red Oak, NC 27868, (252) 459-9427, [savent@mindspring.com](mailto:savent@mindspring.com)

**Vice President:** Dr. Rhoderick Williams, 114 Woodland Rd., Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870 (252) 535-2351 [rbwms@charter.net](mailto:rbwms@charter.net)

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Cleveland Hawkins, 023 Atlantic St. Sunbury, NC 27979, (252) 465-8333, [hawkinscd@coastalnet.com](mailto:hawkinscd@coastalnet.com)

**Registrar:** Frank Horton, 3812 Ithaca Pl., Fayetteville, NC 28311, (910) 630-0875, [BushBar@aol.com](mailto:BushBar@aol.com)

**Chaplain:** Clark Wisner, 110 Pine St. East, Lillington, NC 27546, (910) 893-6989, [elwiser@earthlink.net](mailto:elwiser@earthlink.net)

## *Upcoming Events*

**December 15, 2004: December chapter meeting, Ralph's BBQ, Weldon, 6:00 pm.**

**January 15, 2005: 224th Anniversary Celebration of the Battle of Cowpens, Cowpens, SC.**

**February 27-28, 2005: 229th Anniversary Celebration, Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge**

**March 12, 2005: 224th Anniversary Celebration, Battle of Guilford Courthouse, Greensboro, NC.**

**April 8-10, 2005: NCSSAR State Convention, Asheville, NC.**

**April 12, 2005: Halifax Day Celebration, Halifax, NC.**

**May 14, 2005: Patriot's Day Celebration, Alamance Co., NC.**

### **The American's Creed**

I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic; a sovereign nation of many sovereign states; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its Constitution; to obey its laws; to respect its flag; and to defend it against all enemies.

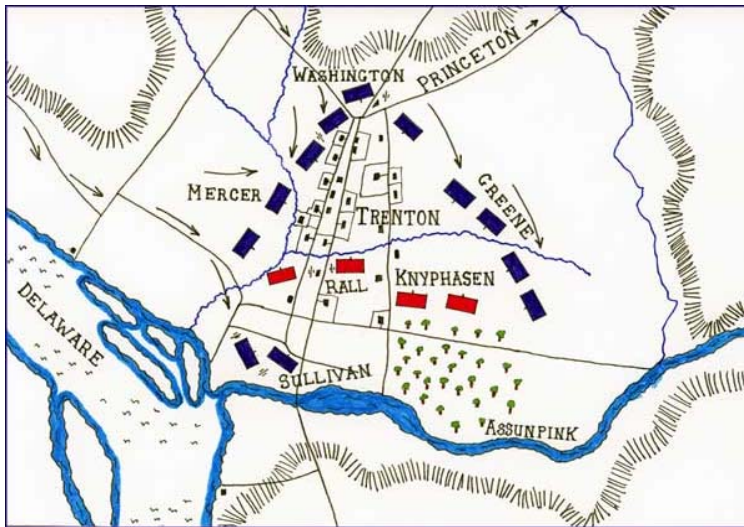
## *The Battle of Trenton, NJ (December 26, 1776)*

After being driven out of New York by the British and forced to retreat to the West bank of the Delaware during the late summer of 1776, the American cause was at a low ebb. In the harsh winter Washington was faced with the annual crisis of the expiry of the Continental Army's period of enlistment. He resolved to attack the Hessian position at Trenton on the extreme southern end of the over extended British line along the Delaware, before his army dispersed.

Washington's plan was to cross the Delaware at three points with a force commanded by Lt Col Cadwallader with a Rhode Island regiment, some Pennsylvanians, Delaware militia and two guns, a second force under Brigadier Ewing of militia and the third commanded by himself which would cross the river above Trenton and attack the Hessian garrison in the town. Washington had as his subordinates, Major Generals Nathaniel Greene and John Sullivan. Washington had some 2,400 men from Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut and New York. The force paraded in the afternoon and set off for the Delaware where they embarked in a flotilla of the characteristic Delaware river boats.

It was a cold dark night and the river was running with flowing ice. At about 11pm a heavy snow and sleet storm broke. Washington's force did not reach the east bank until around 3am. His soldiers were badly clothed and many did not have shoes. Washington's men then marched to Trenton, some of the men leaving traces of blood on the snow.

The German garrison comprised the regiments of Rall, Knyphausen and Lossberg, with Hessian jaegers and a troop of the British 16th Light Dragoons. The Hessian commander Colonel Rall had been ordered to construct defence works around the town but had not troubled to do so. On the night before the attack Rall was at dinner when he was brought information that the Americans were approaching. He ignored the message which was found in his pocket after his death.



The main American force under Washington entered Trenton from the northwest. Sullivan marched around the town and attacked from the south. The remainder took a position to the northeast – cutting off the Hessians' retreat. One of the American artillery sections was commanded by Captain Alexander Hamilton. Captain William Washington and Lieutenant James Monroe were wounded in the battle, the only American officer casualties.

The Hessians attempted to form in the town but were under artillery fire and attack from front and rear. The Americans occupied the houses and shot down the German gunners and foot soldiers during which Colonel Rall was fatally wounded. Rall's troops retreated to an orchard in the South East of the town where they surrendered.

Ewing and Cadwallader failed to make the river crossing and took no part in the attack. Casualties: The Americans suffered 4 wounded casualties. It is said that in addition two American soldiers froze to death. The Hessians suffered 20 killed and around 100 wounded. 1,000 were captured.

The effect of the battle of Trenton was out of all proportion to the numbers involved and the casualties. The American effort across the colonies was galvanized and the psychological dominance achieved by the British in the preceding year overturned. Howe was stunned that a strong German contingent could be surprised in such a manner and put up so little resistance. Washington's constant problem was to maintain the enthusiasm of his army for the war, particularly with the system of one year recruitment and Trenton proved a much needed encouragement.



## **HALIFAX RESOLVES CHAPTER, NCSSAR**

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**Our website:**

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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 115-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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