



HALIFAX RESOLVES CHAPTER, HALIFAX, NC

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May, 2003

Charter Members

Comp. Steven F. Avent

Comp. James Becker

Comp. Robert L. Bowen

Comp. Walter W. Brewster

Comp. Harry K. Goodman

Comp. F. Grady Hall, III

Comp. Joe E. Harris, Jr.

Comp. Franklin N. Horton

Comp. Wallace G. Johnson

Comp. Larry McClanahan

Comp. G. Steven Pittard

Comp. Lee W. Porter

Comp. Randy D. Steele

Comp. Clark Wiser

This list is not final – if anyone is not listed who should be, please contact Comp. Avent. Any prospects whose applications are currently in the pipeline will be considered Charter Members as well, once their membership is approved.



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Now it's official...

On Saturday, April 12, 2003, the Halifax Resolves Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution was presented with its charter and became the newest chapter in the North Carolina Society, SAR. This was an exciting moment, and all present recognized the importance of the occasion. What this means, however, is that the real work has just begun. We are still a chapter in name and on paper only. Here are some of the tasks before us:

First off, we need to create and adopt a set of bylaws and a constitution. As a part of this process, we will need to select the officers of the Chapter. During the organizational meeting held April 12th, Compatriot Steve Avent was elected President of the Chapter, and Compatriot Frank Horton graciously agreed to serve as the Secretary/Treasurer. We still need to fill the following posts: First Vice President, Second Vice President, Registrar, Chaplain, and Historian. Compatriot Horton is doing the Chapter an immense service in serving as Secretary/Treasurer, but as he does not live in the area we will need to fill these posts with local members as soon as we are able. Not all these posts have to be filled immediately, and the Chapter may want to create other officer posts not mentioned here. We need to select a Board of Managers, which will be responsible for the general superintendence of the interests and business of the Chapter. We need to decide on the fee structure; admission fees for new members, and annual dues. We need to decide when and where to meet, and how often (monthly, quarterly or semi-annually).

This will not happen overnight. Before we can begin to organize the Officer Corps and create the structure of the Chapter, we need to have a sufficient number of local members who will be able and willing to attend the meetings. The Chapter is very fortunate in having a number of Charter Members who signed on to get the Chapter off the ground and who have expressed a willingness to serve the Chapter as much as possible, but, since many of them live some distance from the Halifax area, they cannot realistically be expected to attend many Chapter meetings, or to do much of the work that can only be done locally. In order for the Chapter to survive and prosper we need a solid core of local members. There may be some Charter Members who live in the Halifax area, but most of the active membership will end up coming from men who are not now SAR members, but who have expressed interest in joining the Halifax Chapter. With that in mind, if you are one of these prospects, *please* get to work on your application as soon as possible. There are many highly skilled genealogists in the NCSSAR who have expressed a willingness to help us out with applications. If you need a copy of the application worksheet, or have started on your application but have hit a roadblock, if you have any questions, contact President Avent (contact information is on the last page of this newsletter) and let him know. Joining and becoming active in the Chapter now will let you have a voice in the formation of the Chapter and give you the opportunity of setting the course of the Chapter in the direction you would like to see it go.

The Chapter has already begun its work: we presented JROTC Commendation Certificates and Medals to two students in Rocky Mount and Halifax County High Schools in April and we have been requested to place a Patriot grave marker on the grave of Henry Green, a Halifax County Revolutionary Soldier buried in the County. There is much that we can contribute to the local community, but we need you to make it happen.

Col. Joseph Montfort grave marking ceremony

On April 12, 2003, the Marquis de Lafayette Chapter, NCSSAR, recognized the contributions of Col. Joseph Montfort to the Revolutionary cause by placing a SAR patriot grave marker at Col. Montfort's grave, located on the grounds of his Masonic Lodge, Royal White Hart No. 2, in Halifax, NC. This event was held in conjunction with the "Halifax Day" celebration held every April 12th to commemorate the signing of the Halifax Resolves, the first effort of one of the thirteen colonies to declare their wish for independence from Great Britain. It was a beautiful spring day, and the event was well attended by members of SAR chapters from around the state, the DAR, the CAR, many current members of Royal White Hart Lodge, as well as 50-75 passers-by who were there to attend Halifax Day.

The ceremony was kicked off in spectacular fashion by the arrival of the 6th NC Regiment, a group of re-enactors who depict a Revolutionary War unit. Its arrival was heralded by fifes and drums as they marched up in formation, wearing the uniforms of Revolutionary War soldiers, and formed an honor guard by the grave. Comp. Joe Harris, a Charter Member of the Halifax Resolves Chapter, as well as the driving force behind the grave marking ceremony and the creation of the Halifax Chapter, welcomed all present to the ceremony. An opening prayer was given by Comp. Clark Wiser, followed by a moving and dramatic recitation of a poem entitled 'A Toast to the American Flag' by Comp. Harris. Remarks were given by Right Worshipful Leonard Y. Safrit, Jr., Deputy Grand Master of Masons in NC, who expressed the apologies of Most Worshipful Charles L. Lewis, Jr., Grand Master of Masons in NC, who was unable to attend due to illness. He spoke on the contributions made by Col. Montfort as the first and only Grand Master of Masons for the thirteen colonies. Comp. F. Grady Hall, III then read a proclamation by Gov. Mike Easley, naming April 12, 2003 'Sons of the American Revolution Day' in NC, after which he and Comp. Steve Avent ceremonially unveiled the grave marker. Wreaths were then laid at the grave by representatives of many SAR chapters from around the state, as well as several DAR and CAR chapters. A salute was fired by the 6th NC Regiment, and the ceremony was ended with a benediction from Comp. Clark Wiser.

The event was a most fitting tribute to the contributions and memory of Col. Montfort. There are photographs of the event on the following page, courtesy of Comp. Bob Bowen.

What next for the Halifax Resolves Chapter?

As mentioned on the previous page, the real work of the Chapter has just begun. We need to get input from **you** to know where we now stand and how best to get where we want to go. It would be a great help if everyone reading this would contact Comp. Avent with answers to the following questions:

- Do you live near enough to Halifax to regularly attend Chapter meetings? (Please answer yes or no). You are welcome to attend even if you are not yet a member, as long as you are working on your application or the guest of a member.
- Would you be willing to serve as an officer? Again, starting out, even if you are not yet a member (as long as you are in the process of completing and submitting your application) you are welcome to participate in an active way in the activities of the Chapter.
- Do you have any ideas for community activities for the Chapter? There are many possibilities – educational programs in the schools and elsewhere, sponsorship of a Boy Scout troop, marking Patriots' graves, commendation certificates and medals for local law enforcement officers and JROTC cadets (law enforcement organizations are very appreciative of recognition from community groups, and it is good both as a means of expressing our appreciation for their sacrifices and as a means of increasing public awareness of the Chapter).
- Do you know of any friends or relatives who are eligible and may have an interest in joining the Halifax Chapter?
- Do you have any suggestions as to group activities you might like to see the Chapter engage in? Group visits to Revolutionary war battlefields, formation of a Chapter color guard are a couple of possibilities.
- Do you have any suggestions concerning interesting speakers/presentations/activities for the meetings? Discussions of strategy and tactics of the Revolutionary War, the history of the local area, topics on genealogy, the life of a member's Revolutionary War ancestor are a few possibilities. Would you like wives and/or other family members to attend our meetings, or would you prefer it to be restricted to members and guests only?

Hopefully, you can answer **Yes** to one or more of these questions. The sooner you can respond to Comp. Avent with your ideas, the sooner the Chapter will get off the ground.



Comp. Avent welcomes all present on behalf of the Halifax Resolves Chapter.



Comp. F. Grady Hall, III speaks.



Comp. Hall presents a wreath.



Comp. Harris speaks on the Flag.



Comps. Avent and Hall unveil the marker



The 6th NC prepares to fire a salute.



Comp. Clark Wisner gives the benediction.



Comp. Hall presides at the organizational meeting of the Halifax Resolves Chapter



Comp. Hall presents the charter of the Halifax Resolves Chapter to Comp. Avent. (Col. Montfort looks on over Comp. Hall's shoulder.)



Comp. Joe Harris, in uniform.



Comp. Harris, Deputy Grand Master Safrit, and Comp. Bob Bowen.

**HALIFAX RESOLVES CHAPTER,
HALIFAX, NC**

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<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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