



# The Halifax Dispatch

## HALIFAX RESOLVES CHAPTER, NCSSAR

Volume 3, Issue 2

HALIFAX, NORTH CAROLINA

May, 2005

### Charter Members

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Comp. James Becker

Comp. Robert L. Bowen

Comp. Walter W. Brewster

Comp. C. R. Casey

Comp. Harry K. Goodman

Comp. F. Grady Hall, III

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Comp. Randy D. Steele

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## Next Meeting Scheduled for May 11, 2005

The May, 2005 meeting of the Halifax Resolves Chapter will be held at Ralph's BBQ in Weldon, on Wednesday, 5/11/2005. It will begin at 6:00 p.m. and is expected to end around 7:30 pm. Our speaker for the evening will be Dr. R. Hardee Rives, a distinguished retired professor from ECU, now living in Enfield. He will be speaking on the Halifax Resolves. Dr. Rives is an engaging and interesting speaker, so much so that a chair has been endowed in his name at ECU, so this talk is not to be missed.

The cost of the meal is \$12.00 per person, payable by cash or check only. Please RSVP to Steve Avent by 5/6/2005 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. As always, guests and interested parties are cordially invited.

## Welcome to our new members!

Since our last meeting we have gained three new members: **Ed Garner, Carlton Garner and Bert Perdue**. We are planning to induct them at this meeting, with the help of Compatriot Joe Harris, who was elected President of the NCSSAR at the State Convention in April, and who is expected to be at the meeting. Come on out and welcome them to the Society.

## NCSSAR Website

Be sure to check out the NCSSAR website the next time you're online. The URL is <http://www.ncssar.com>

At the site you will find links to all the chapter websites, as well as a calendar of upcoming events. There are slideshows of NCSSAR activities, with photos of the following events:

- \* Halifax Day 2005, Halifax, NC - 4/12/05
- \* The 2005 NCSSAR Convention, Asheville, NC - 4/8-10/2005
- \* The 224th Anniversary Celebration of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse - 3/12/05
- \* The 229th Anniversary Celebration of the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge, NC - 2/26/05
- \* The 224th Anniversary Celebration of the Battle of Cowpens, SC - 1/15/05
- \* The 224th Anniversary Celebration of the Battle of King's Mountain, SC - 10/7/04.
- \* The 224th Anniversary Celebration of the Battle of Ramseur's Mill, NC - 6/12/04.
- \* Halifax Day 2004, Halifax, NC - 4/12/04.

In addition, there is a message board and guestbook, articles written by NCSSAR members and links to interesting sites relating to the Revolution. Let Steve Avent (NCSSAR Webmaster) know if you have any questions, comments or suggestions.

## *NCSSAR 2005 Convention and Annual Meeting*

The 2005 NCSSAR State Convention was held April 9-10 at the Renaissance Hotel in Asheville, NC, sponsored by the LTC Felix Walker Chapter and organized by its President, Comp. Bob Owens. This turned out to be a productive and enjoyable meeting for all, with shopping trips and tours of historic homes, including that of author Thomas Wolfe, scheduled for the ladies, as well as the Annual Meeting for the members present. (a slideshow of photographs of the Convention can be viewed at the NCSSAR website – [www.ncssar.com](http://www.ncssar.com)). Some of the things accomplished were the following:

\* NSSAR Secretary-General Roland Downing explained the new computer system which will allow the State Society and State Chapters access into the National SAR database, which will contain information on both members and their wives.

\* Compatriot Bob Owens reported for the Long Range Planning Committee. The Committee was given the task of developing ideas for encouraging donations to the NCSSAR from both members and non-members. The Committee's recommendation was to establish graduated levels of contribution to the State Society, with three levels of contributions: bronze (\$100–\$249), silver (\$250–\$499) and gold (\$500+). It was also decided that bronze-level contributors would receive a certificate of commendation from the NCSSAR, while silver and gold-level contributors would receive a certificate and lapel pin.

\* The Continental Committee report was given by Compatriot John Thornhill. This Committee was given the task of developing a medal to commemorate the 1911 founding of the NCSSAR. He reported that the Committee has initiated a design competition, open to all, with a prize to be awarded to the contributor of the winning design. Details of the competition are available on the NCSSAR website, <http://www.ncssar.com>.

\* It was decided that the State Conventions for the next three years would be held in the following locations:

**2006** – Raleigh Chapter will host in Raleigh

**2007** – Nathaniel Greene Chapter will host in Greensboro

**2008** – Catawba Valley Chapter will host in Hickory.

The CEO of the NSSAR, Jim Randall, gave a short talk on what was happening at National Headquarters:

\* The Genealogy department is now on a 19 day turnaround for primary applications and a 21 day turnaround on supplemental applications

\* From 1998 to the present time the Society dropped 10,000 Compatriots from its rolls. A program has been put in place to encourage them to re-activate their membership, and thus far 400 of these have been reinstated.

\* They are focusing on creating a better outreach program to educate the general public on the SAR and its mission.

\* The newly-instituted Blue Star Salute program will hopefully assist in bringing about better cooperation between the SAR and the American Legion.

\* The Center for Advancing American Heritage is the biggest project underway at the National level and one which all will benefit from. Members should be encouraged to participate by pledging their support. The goal of the Center is to ensure that America's Revolutionary history and heroes, and the lessons they teach us, are not forgotten

\* Officers for 2005-2006 were then elected and President Joe Harris spoke on the goals he has set for his term in office.

## *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)

## *Upcoming Events*

**5/14/05: 9th Annual Patriot's Day Celebration, Alamance Battleground State Park, Burlington, NC**

**6/11/05: The 225th Anniversary Celebration of the Battle of Ramsour's Mill, Lincolnton, NC**

**8/20-21/05: The 225th Anniversary Celebration of the Battle of Camden, Camden, SC**

**10/15/05: Fall NCSSAR Board of Manager's Mtg., Salisbury Visitors Center, Salisbury, NC**

## *The significance of Halifax, NC in the American Revolution*

*Joe Harris/President/NCSSAR*

During the Revolutionary War period, this place – this community – was the scene of several events of huge significance. Today’s generation would label Halifax a “happening place.” The North Carolina 4th Provincial Congress met here in the spring of 1776. Two hundred twenty nine years ago on this day, that provincial congress adopted the “Halifax Resolves.” It was the first written document by an entire colony to publicly proclaim that it had become an independent state and thus should be liberated from England’s colonial control. Later that same year, the 5th Provincial Congress met here. That group of delegates drafted and approved North Carolina’s first state constitution and appointed Richard Caswell as the first governor.

During the Revolutionary War, this place was the site where many Continental Line and militia units bivouacked and trained in preparation for future action in both the Northern and Southern Campaigns. Though no land battles were fought here, British General Charles Cornwallis briefly occupied Halifax in 1781 on the northward march of his army and eventual surrender to American General George Washington at Yorktown, Virginia.

All that is left of the original Halifax is just what you can see. But over two hundred thirty years ago this community was a “happening place.” When you leave this place today, leave it with one thought in mind. It was here – RIGHT HERE – where a group of North Carolina citizens stood up and became the very first to declare their complete and unconditional break from Britain’s dominance and control. Think how bold this action must have been and how brave they were to sign the Halifax Resolves Two Hundred Twenty-Nine Years ago right here in this spot of North Carolina.

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### *Halifax Day, 2005*

The 2nd Annual Commemoration of the signing of the Halifax Resolves was held during the Halifax Day celebration, April 12, 2005. The weather was cool and rainy, but the crowd assembled was small but enthusiastic. Steve Avent opened the ceremony with a brief talk about the Halifax Resolves and the significance of the colonial courthouse site where the ceremony was held. He explained that the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence in NC was given by Cornelius Harnett from the steps of the old courthouse. NCSSAR President Joe Harris then spoke on the significance of the Halifax Resolves and the town of Halifax in the Revolution (see above). The Halifax Town Crier then read the text of the Resolves, which was followed by a wreath-laying ceremony by the assembled SAR and DAR members. VP Rod Williams presented the wreath for the Halifax Resolves Chapter.



NCSSAR President Joe Harris defies the rain to deliver his talk.



Participants gather following the ceremony.

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## **HALIFAX RESOLVES CHAPTER, NCSSAR**

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***<http://www.ncssar.com>***

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The Sons of the American Revolution is a patriotic organization formed in 1889 and chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1906, with more than 25,000 living members from all 50 states and 23 foreign countries. Throughout its 116-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, Jimmy Carter, 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 in which we engage 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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