

Message from the President



Compatriots,

The first couple of months of this year have been both very busy and very rewarding. We have been fortunate in that our classroom presence has increased and we are now reaching more students than ever. It looks as though all the past hard work is finally starting to pay off. Participation in the Americanism Poster and Brochure contests is greater than in past years. We have also been notified that our Knight Essay entry and our American History teacher entry advanced to the National level of their respective contest. We are still awaiting word concerning our JROTC entry.

During the Board of Managers meeting at Cowan's Ford I picked up the JROTC Medals for the Spring awards ceremonies. We have received the dates and times of a couple of schools and more will be announced soon. I hope we will have some volunteers to assist the officers in attending these awards ceremonies and presenting the medals.

There are going to be some changes in the Halifax Day Ceremony this year. The first change will be the hosting of a Reception for the National officers and attendees on Friday at the Hilton Gardens Inn followed by a dinner at Ralph's BBQ. We have only done this once before when PG Wilcox attended the ceremony. In conjunction with this we have set aside a block of rooms at the Hilton Gardens, at a reduced rate, for attendees. Comments in the past about Halifax being an all day event seem to be a contributing factor in the reduced attendance over the last couple of years. That being said,

we will move the start time to 10:30, followed by a luncheon at 12:00. This will give out of town guests an earlier departure time for home, especially those from out of state. Currently, South Atlantic VPG Ed Rigel and wife Joan will be attending. We have also received a verbal commitment from Sec.-Gen. J. Michael Tomme and wife Cilla and Past PG Lindsey Brock and wife Billie. More have expressed interest, but have not as yet committed. Additional assistance in the set-up and execution of the reception, the ceremony and the luncheon will be needed this year. The most demanding will be getting everything set up for the ceremony. I would recommend everyone helping be at the site NLT 9:30 on April 9th.

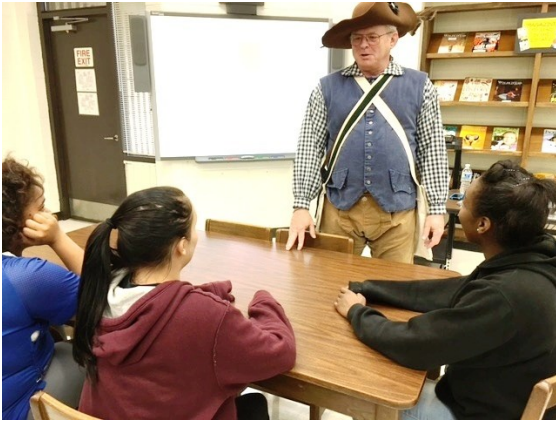
We will have a very long agenda for our March meeting so I encourage you to arrive early to look over the posters and brochures we will be judging. This will reduce the time somewhat for the actual judging process.

Fraternally,

The March meeting will be **Wed., March 9**, at the Halifax Baptist Church on **131 Prussia Street in Halifax at 6:30 pm**.

On the agenda: Our guest speaker will be Comp. Chris Grimes, who will speak on medical care during the Rev War. We will also be inducting 2 new members and selecting the Chapter winners in the brochure and poster contests.

The cost of the meal will be \$10. **Reservations are required.** Please contact Ken or Steve Avent if you're coming.



Above (top to bottom, l-r): 1/15/2016: Ken Wilson spoke to the Roanoke Rapids HS honors history class about the U.S. flag, its history, flag etiquette, and proper folding; 1/16: Ken spoke to the five 5th grade classes of Belmont Elementary School in Roanoke Rapids on the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge and the Chapter's Americanism Poster Contest; 1/24: Ken spoke to the 4th grade classes of Belmont Elementary School in Roanoke Rapids on the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge and the Chapter's Americanism Poster Contest; 2/1: Ken presented a program entitled "From Mecklenburg to Halifax" to Chaloner Middle School 8th graders, which covered a period in NC history from the creation of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence to the adoption of the Halifax Resolves. He also presented three American History DVD's produced by the National Society to the 8th grade Social Studies teachers; 2/17: Chapter VP R.J. Myrick awarded the SAR Flag certificate to the Lake Gaston Baptist Church. Associate Pastor Brady Glaser accepted the certificate on behalf of the church. 2/17: Chapter VP R.J. Myrick awarded the SAR Flag certificate to the Lakeside Lutheran Church on Lake Gaston. Church Secretary Mandy Mathews accepted the certificate on behalf of the church.



and lead them in subduing NC and returning it to British rule.

Gov. Martin believed 10,000 Loyalists could be recruited in the colony. The governor had friends in Cross Creek (now Fayetteville), so he sent representatives there to recruit supporters, but they recruited only 1600 Loyalists to fight, the majority of whom were Scots. These Scots were to receive 200 acres of land, would not have to pay taxes for 20 years, and be reimbursed for the supplies they used. The Loyalists then set out for the coast near Wilmington.

The Patriots learned of Martin's plan. Three officers were deployed: Colonel James Moore, Colonel Richard Caswell and Colonel Alexander Lillington. Colonel Moore, the commander, blocked the most direct route to the sea at Rockfish Creek near Cross Creek, thus forcing the Loyalists to use the road that crossed Moores Creek. Col. Lillington and his 150 minutemen were then sent to block Moores Creek Bridge. Lillington's men built earthworks on the east bank of the creek, in sight of the bridge. Caswell and his 850 militiamen were the next to arrive at the creek. They brought two pieces of artillery. Old Mother Covington was a 2½ pound cannon and her "daughter" was a ½ pound swivel gun. Col. Caswell and some of his men set up camp on the west bank of the creek.

Meanwhile, the Loyalists had traveled within six miles of the bridge and sent a messenger to the Patriot camp under a flag of truce. The messenger informed the Patriots that they would be pardoned if they would surrender and declare their loyalty to the king. The Patriots refused and sent the messenger back. However, the messenger had secured important information for the Loyalists and reported that the Patriots were camped with the creek to their backs.

Later that evening, Caswell moved his men to the east bank of the creek joining Col. Lillington's Patriots. After everyone was across, Caswell's men removed some of the planks from the bridge and greased some of those that remained. They left the tents up and the campfires burning on the west bank to make the Loyalists believe they had just left the camp.

On February 27, 1776, at 1 am, the Loyalists started their march to Moores Creek, arriving at daybreak to find Caswell's camp empty. A Loyalist Officer saw some men on the other side of the bridge, who asked him if he was a friend. He replied, "to the King" and the men fell back to the earthworks. He realized the men were Patriots and reported this to the Loyalist commander. The Loyalist troops were rallied and moved to the bridge, and to the cry of, "King George and Broadwords," the Loyalists attempted to cross. As they charged along the causeway, they met the cannon and musket fire of the Patriots. Loyalists fell along the road and on the bridge, some drowning in Moores Creek.

Within minutes the battle was over. Over 30 Loyalists were killed and one Patriot, John Grady, died from wounds sustained in the battle and one other was injured. The remaining Loyalists fled for safety but many were captured and imprisoned. The Patriots, who numbered about 1000, had defeated 1600 Loyalists. The Patriot victory at Moores Creek convinced NC to instruct its delegates to the 2nd Continental Congress to vote for independence from Great Britain, which made NC the first of the colonial governments to call for total independence. In May 1776, the British fleet, after battling high winds and heavy seas for more than two months, finally dropped anchor in the Cape Fear River. After hearing of the Patriot victory at Moores Creek Bridge, the British fleet sailed for Fort Sullivan, near Charleston, SC. On June 28, the British ships opened fire upon the half-completed fort and its 413 patriot defenders. From 11:00 a.m. to about 9:30 p.m., the British ships continuously fired, and the patriots returned fire with their twenty-five guns. The fort's palmetto logs did not splinter when hit and the sand absorbed the shots. The British fleet abandoned the fight and sailed to the North where the war would be fought for the next four years. The British would not invade the South again until 1780.

Upcoming Statewide Activities

March 12, 2016: 235th Anniversary of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, Guilford Courthouse National Military Park, Greensboro, NC, 10:00—10:45 am.

April 9, 2016: 240th Anniversary of the Adoption of the Halifax Resolves, Halifax, NC, 10:30—11:30 am.

April 29—May 1, 2016: NCSSAR Annual Meeting, Hilton Charlotte Executive Park, Charlotte, NC.



The Halifax Dispatch

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Steve Avent, Editor



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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 120-year history, the SAR has admitted more than 155,000 members. Among them are 16 **PRESDENTS** 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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