



The Halifax Dispatch

HALIFAX RESOLVES CHAPTER, NCSSAR

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HALIFAX, NORTH CAROLINA

Oct., 2003

Charter Members

Comp. Steven F. Avent

Comp. James Becker

Comp. Robert L. Bowen

Comp. Walter W. Brewster

Comp. C. R. Casey

Comp. Harry K. Goodman

Comp. F. Grady Hall, III

Comp. Joe E. Harris, Jr.

Comp. Cleveland Hawkins

Comp. Franklin N. Horton

Comp. Wallace G. Johnson

Comp. Larry McClanahan

Comp. Kenneth Odom

Comp. G. Steven Pittard

Comp. Lee W. Porter

Comp. Randy D. Steele

Comp. Rhoderick Williams

Comp. Clark Wiser



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First Chapter Meeting Held 9/13/2003

The inaugural meeting of the Halifax Resolves Chapter was held at Ralph's BBQ in Weldon, on Sat., 9/13/2003. Turnout was excellent, with 21 members, guests and prospects present. It was a busy meeting with a full agenda, and much was accomplished. After the call to order by Comp. Steve Avent, the invocation was given by the Chaplain, Comp. Clark Wiser. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited, followed by the SAR pledge. Comp. Avent welcomed all present, and gave a report on membership. He reported eighteen Charter Members in the Chapter, nine of whom were present at the meeting. There are around eight prospects who have expressed serious interest in membership, four of whom were present. He also reported that two of these prospects are wrapping up the final touches to their applications, and expect to be submitting them shortly.

Comp. Avent then reported on the activities of the Chapter, including the presentation of two JROTC Awards to area cadets, one at Rocky Mount Sr. High School and the other at the NW Halifax County Sr. High School. Members and guests were then introduced.

The proposed Chapter Bylaws and Constitution were next discussed. Following the discussion, it was moved that they be adopted, and this motion passed unanimously. Copies were later emailed to all Chapter members not present at the meeting who have access to email, and hard copies were sent to those not online. The Bylaws and Constitution, along with the newsletters, can be viewed or downloaded from the Chapter's website:

<http://www31.brinkster.com/halressar>

Comp. Cleveland Hawkins was then inducted into the SAR according to the official induction ceremony. The following Compatriots were nominated to serve as Officers, and then approved by a unanimous vote of the membership present:

Comp. Rhoderick Williams: Vice President
Comp. Cleveland Hawkins: Secretary/Treasurer
Comp. Franklin Horton: Registrar

They were then duly installed by Comp. Avent according to the SAR ceremony. Chapter dues were then discussed, and, after discussion and a vote, it was decided that Chapter dues would be set at \$10.00 annually, **payable by December 1st of each year**. Members are also responsible for payment of National dues, in the amount of \$25.00, and State dues in the amount of \$11.00. Dual members who have their primary membership with another Chapter are only required to pay the \$10 Chapter dues to the Halifax Chapter, and they will pay the National and State dues to their primary Chapter. **2004 dues are now payable. Checks should be made payable to "Halifax Resolves Chapter, NCSSAR" and sent to your Secretary/Treasurer, Comp. Cleveland Hawkins, at the following address: 023 Atlantic St., Sunbury, NC 27979.**

It was also agreed that the Chapter should request donations from all interested parties, to help

(First Chapter meeting – cont. from previous page)

the Chapter get off the ground. There are many expenses associated with a new chapter – Secretary supplies, rosettes for new members, banners and flags and many other expenses. The \$10.00 we receive in dues annually from each member will hopefully cover our regular operating expenses, but will not cover our startup costs. It was decided at the meeting that a donation of \$20 would be requested, though more will be gratefully accepted. Please send any donations to your Secretary/Treasurer, Comp. Cleveland Hawkins, whose address is given on the previous page.

Our speaker for the evening was Comp. Carl Witt, from the Historic Halifax Museum, who gave a most interesting and informative talk on the history of Halifax, and its important role during the Revolution. Comp. Joe Harris, Vice President of the NCSSAR, then spoke, giving an overview of the SAR and some of its activities. He was followed by Comp. Steve Pittard, President of the Marquis de Lafayette Chapter in Fayetteville, who gave an overview of application procedures. It was decided that meetings would be held quarterly, with the next Chapter meeting planned for January of 2004. More details on this meeting will be sent out as the date approaches. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m., at which time all present enjoyed a delicious meal of eastern-NC style BBQ at Ralph's buffet.

Halifax during the Revolution

On April 4, 1776, North Carolina's Fourth Provincial Congress met in Halifax. It had been nearly two months since the colony's rebellious Whigs were victorious at the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge, and the delegates in Halifax were in no mood for compromise. Samuel Johnston of Edenton, President of the Congress, wrote soon after his arrival in Halifax that "all our people here are up for Independence." A committee of seven began investigation into ". . . the usurpations and violences . . . by . . . Great Britain against America . . .," and on April 12 the committee submitted a report then adopted unanimously by the eighty-three delegates present. Later called the "Halifax Resolves," the last paragraph of this report read in part: "*Resolved, that the delegates for this Colony in the Continental Congress be empowered to concur with the delegates of the other Colonies in declaring independency . . .*" It was the first official provincial action for independence in all the colonies.

The Fourth Provincial Congress adjourned May 15, 1776, having appointed a single Council of Safety to rule the entire colony. This council was meeting in Halifax when, on July 22, it received news that the Declaration of Independence had been signed in Philadelphia. The council immediately adopted a resolution declaring North Carolinians "*absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown,*" and on August 1, council president Cornelius Harnett read the Declaration to a large crowd gathered in Halifax. It was the first time the document was read publicly in North Carolina.

In November, 1776, the Fifth Provincial Congress assembled in Halifax and on December 18, this Congress adopted North Carolina's first constitution. The body adjourned that same day, its last piece of business being the appointment of Richard Caswell as the new state's first governor.

Meanwhile, in 1775, Halifax had become a battalion headquarters for the state militia, both the militia and the Continental Army. An much controversy, Colonel Nicholas Long of North Carolina, took charge of the factory and the factory employed three armourers, four twenty wagoners, and four wagonmakers.

Volunteers came to Halifax, enlisted, and camps on the outskirts of town and would summer of 1780, there was a smallpox epidemic removed. By the spring of the next year, only town while, at his headquarters in Wilmington-Virginia. As the British general began his hastily evacuated from Halifax.



Lt. Col Banastre Tarleton

district recruiting center for Continental soldiers, and a powder magazine and supply depot for arms factory began operation in the town. After Halifax, Deputy Quartermaster General for expanded its operations. Called "Public Works," blacksmiths, nine carpenters, three tailors,

were paid bonuses. The recruits then set up later march off to join other troops. In the late epidemic in Halifax, and Continental troops were a small number of ragged militia protected the town, Lord Cornwallis was making plans to enter march northward, supplies and materials were

Colonel Banastre Tarleton led the Tory cavalry unit advancing northward ahead of Cornwallis. Easily beating back two small groups of local militia below Halifax, Tarleton later received word that a large group of militiamen were assembling in the town. The cavalry began a dash, approaching Halifax from the west rather than from the south where the main road lay. Arriv-

ing sooner than expected and from an unexpected direction, Tarleton routed the militia and pushed them across the river. The main army reached Halifax several days later. By that time Tarleton's men had committed such outrages against Halifax citizens, that Cornwallis court-martialed and hanged two of his men.

In early May, 1781, the British army left Halifax, having damaged little except Public Works, which was soon in operation again. Five months later, at Yorktown, Virginia, Lord Cornwallis surrendered to General Washington. However, the British still were active in South Carolina; and the "Tory War" still raged in North Carolina, so the operations of the store house and Public Works continued at Halifax until May, 1783, about one month after the Continental Congress had ratified articles of peace with England.

(from the website of the NC State Library: <http://statelibrary.dcr.state.nc.us/nc/ncsites/halifax.htm>)

The Halifax Resolves Chapter is now online...

If you have access to the Internet, pay a visit to our new home in cyberspace:

<http://www31.brinkster.com/halressar>

At the site you'll find information about the Chapter, the SAR, Flag etiquette, as well as copies of Chapter documents (such as the Bylaws, Constitution, and the newsletters) that can be viewed or downloaded. Pictures of our first meeting will be posted there soon. Email to the Chapter can be sent to: halressar@mail.com. Please let Comp. Steve Avent know if you have any suggestions for the site.

The National SAR recognizes April 12...

At the September meeting of the NSSAR Board of Trustees in Louisville, KY, it was decided to add April 12th, the anniversary of the signing of the Halifax Resolves, to the National SAR calendar. This is a very big deal, and offers a tremendous opportunity to publicize Halifax and the Halifax Resolves Chapter. The Chapter will be hosting a commemoration during the Halifax Days celebration each April 12th, and we can expect participation by color guards and SAR chapters from around the country. We have already been in communication with the State Department of Tourism and the State Division of Historic Sites and expect to be working with them to make the event as interesting and well-publicized as possible.

Some Famous SAR members...

President George W. Bush
President George H. W. Bush
President Harry S Truman
Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller
William Randolph Hearst

Sen. Sam J. Ervin, Jr.
Sen. Barry Goldwater
Sen. Strom Thurmond
Sen. John G. Tower
President Theodore Roosevelt

Sir Winston Churchill
Rev. Norman Vincent Peale
Gov. Robert W. Scott (Gov. of NC)
Adm. Alan B. Shepard (astronaut)
President Dwight D. Eisenhower

Pledge to the SAR

We the descendants of the heroes of the American Revolution who, by their sacrifices, established the United States of America, reaffirm our faith in the principles of liberty and our Constitutional Republic, and solemnly pledge ourselves to defend them against every foe.

The SAR Recessional

Until we meet again, let us remember our obligations to our forefathers, who gave us our Constitution, the Bill of Rights, an independent Supreme Court, and a nation of free men.

HALIFAX RESOLVES CHAPTER, NCSSAR

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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 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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