

Message from the President



Compatriots,

My tenure as your chapter president is rapidly coming to a close. While I don't think we have accomplished all of the goals that were set forth, but we have put a major dent in the list. The Halifax Resolves Chapter has become a force to be reckoned with in the State Society. We now have an active color guard that has participated in many events. They are scheduled to lead the Veterans Parade and

the Roanoke Rapids Christmas Parade for the third consecutive year. For the last two years we have been the most active small chapter in the state winning the Chapter Achievement Streamer in that category. Also during the last three years we have entered the scrap book competition at the state convention and have taken a first place and a runner-up streamer. Due to the numerous programs with various veterans' organizations, we will be receiving our third Partners in Patriotism Certificate in the near future. Our Flag Retirement programs have been very successful. The one area we have failed to move forward is membership.

For some reason we have been unable to attract and keep new members. To a certain extent every chapter goes through phases of being unable to attract new members, but we face a tough demographic and economic situation in the immediate area. People do not want to join any organizations. We need to find a solution to this problem. Our roots are in the Halifax area and we need officers who live in the immediate area who can maintain the contacts we have made over the last few years. The local populace now knows us and seeks us out to participate in various events. We must not let these contacts fade away. If they do, they will be twice as hard to re-establish. At our next meeting we need to explore some avenues to recruit new members.

The fall of the year is our youth essay competition time. Knight Essay, Enhanced JROTC and Eagle Scout contest material has been distributed to the various organizations with a 31 October closing date. It is hoped that we will have entries in all three contests this year. Between now and year's end we have numerous activities scheduled. In addition to the previously stated parades, we have the 9-11 Ceremony in Roanoke Rapids,

the Fall Board of Managers meeting in Burlington, two grave marking ceremonies, a flag retirement, numerous veterans' ceremonies to include Pearl Harbor Day, and possibly a Wreaths Across America ceremony. This is in addition to numerous state SAR events. I encourage each and every member to make an effort to join in these events.

Ken Wilson

The September chapter meeting will be held on **Wed., September 14**, at the Halifax United Methodist Church on **152 S. King Street (Main Street) in Halifax at 6:30 pm**. The cost of the meal will be \$10. **Reservations are required.** Please contact Ken Wilson or Steve Avent if you're coming. On the agenda:

A proposed slate of new chapter officers will be presented to the membership for consideration. (Officer elections will be held at the November meeting.) The program will be an open discussion on chapter activities, both past and future.

In this Issue...

- 1 Remarks from President Ken Wilson
 - 2 Highlights of July, 2011 meeting
 - 3 Recent Chapter Activities
- Upcoming NCSSAR Events

President Wilson reported on the following chapter activities since our May 2011 meeting:

- He attended the Patriot's Day Celebration at Alamance Battleground with Sec. Treas. Avent where we received the Chapter Achievement streamer for small chapters. Casie Crawley, our poster contest winner, placed 2nd at the state level.
- He participated in the Memorial Day ceremony at Cedarwood cemetery as a member of the color guard and also presented the chapter wreath.
- He participated in the June Veteran's ceremony at the Dallas Jones Veteran's Center & Museum accompanied by Sec. Treas. Avent as the color guard honoring Sgt. Willie McLawhorne of Northampton Co., who was killed in action in Afghanistan earlier this year.
- The Chapter held a Flag Retirement ceremony at the courthouse in Jackson with BSA Troop 834 in which 203 US flags were retired. He reported that YTD we have retired 402 flags, with 35 awaiting retirement.
- The Chapter Achievement Award Points total is 6425.

Past Chapter President Ron Jones reported that he has given recent talks to a DAR Chapter and the Albemarle SAR Chapter. He also recommended that the Chapter see if we can get the excellent singer who sang the National Anthem at the Jackson Flag Retirement to perform at our next Halifax Resolves commemoration. Ken then gave a most interesting presentation on the spectacular victory of Gen. Daniel Morgan at the Battle of Cowpens in January, 1781.

Chapter Activities

Ken Wilson and Steve Avent participated on behalf of the Halifax Resolves chapter in a grave marking ceremony for Patriot Gen. Isaac Gregory, sponsored by the Albemarle Chapter and held near Camden, NC, on 8/20. The featured speaker was local historian Alex Leary, a descendant of the General. The event was very well attended, in spite of the threat of rain, with good press coverage and was enjoyed by all.



(top left) a collage of the activities

(top right) Ken presenting the chapter wreath



(bottom left) Some of the participants

On October 22 at 2:00 pm the Halifax Resolves Chapter will be marking the graves of Patriot Burwell Davis and SAR member David Koontz at the Shady Grove UMC near Warrenton, NC. We hope you'll be able to come out to show your support for the chapter and to recognize these two outstanding patriots. Brief biographies are below.

Patriot Burwell Davis was born August 14, 1756 in Granville (now Warren) County, NC, the son of Peter and Amy Davis. In the fall of 1778, Burwell was drafted to serve in the militia under the command of Captain Barton Harris assigned to a regiment of militia commanded by Colonel Thomas Eaton and General John Ashe. After marching from North Carolina to South Carolina and Georgia, he participated in the Battle of Briar Creek on March 3rd, 1779. He was discharged shortly afterwards. Burwell was again drafted in March of 1781 before the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. This time he was under the command of Colonel Thomas Alston, the Marquis Francis de Malmedy and Colonel Charles Eaton. He was marched to the area of the Guilford Courthouse battle, but did not participate. After marching to Ramsey's Mill and then to South Carolina, he was again discharged, this time just prior to the Battle of Hobkirk's Hill. He married Martha "Patsy" Hawkins about 1783 in Warren County, NC. This union produced seven children. Burwell Davis died on August 11, 1846, just 4 days short of his 90th birthday. A marker celebrating his life was erected in the Shady Grove United Methodist Church Cemetery in the Inez community of Warren County, NC.

Compatriot David Reynolds Koontz was born October 26, 1929, in Lexington, North Carolina. Mr. Koontz served as a past President and Chaplain of the Alamance Battleground Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), a past Historian and Genealogist Emeritus of the North Carolina Society SAR. He was a member of Wake County Historical Society and a trustee of Cherry Hill Foundation, Inez, N.C. Those of us who had the pleasure of knowing David know that he was a great guy and a stalwart of the SAR, and much deserving of recognition by the SAR.

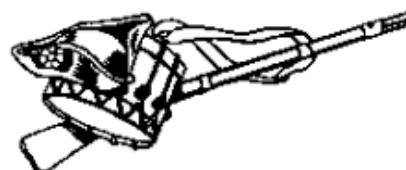
On November 19 at 2:00 pm the Halifax Resolves Chapter will be marking the grave of Patriot Nathan Boddie, at his home and burial place Rose Hill Plantation, located near Nashville, NC. Here is his biography:

Nathan Boddie was born 22 February 1732 in Isle of Wight County, VA, eventually settling in Edgecombe (present day Nash) County, NC. He became a dominant figure in local and state affairs, representing Edgecombe County in the Fourth Provincial Congress that assembled in Halifax, NC, on April 4, 1776 and adopted the Halifax Resolves. As a member of the First General Assembly of North Carolina in 1777, Nathan sponsored the legislation that created Nash County from a part of Edgecombe. In addition, he was one of five justices charged with finding a location in Johnston, Wake or Chatham counties for the capital of North Carolina. At his death in 1797, Nathan was accorded many accolades, including the title Father of Nash County.

Hope to see you at both of these events!

Upcoming NCSAR Events

- 9/17/2011 - The 231st Anniversary of the "Gathering at Sycamore Shoals", Sycamore Shoals State Historic Area, Elizabethton, TN
- 9/30/2011 - Fall National Leadership Meeting, SAR Headquarters, Louisville, KY
- 10/7/2011 - Battle of King's Mountain, King's Mountain, SC
- 10/8/2011 - NCSSAR Fall Board of Managers meeting—Burlington, NC
- 10/19/2011 - Yorktown Day, Yorktown, VA
- 10/22/2011 - The Lower Cape Fear Chapter will mark graves of the Ashe and Lillington families.
- 10/22/2011 - The Halifax Resolves Chapter will perform two grave markings at the Shady Grove UMC in Warren County. The ceremonies are in honor of Patriot Burwell Davis and Compatriot David Koontz.
- 11/5/2011 - Battle of Camden, Camden, SC.
- 11/13/2011 - "March of Patriots" Veteran's Day Parade in Roanoke Rapids, NC, presented by the Halifax Resolves Chapter.
- 11/19/2011 - The Halifax Resolves Chapter will mark the grave of patriot Nathan Boddie at Rose Hill Plantation, Nashville, NC.





The Halifax Dispatch

The Newsletter of the Halifax Resolves Chapter, NCSSAR

Steve Avent, Editor

P.O. Box 221, Red Oak, NC 27868



The Halifax Dispatch

A publication of the

Halifax Resolves Chapter

of the

NC Sons of the American Revolution

Volume 9—Number 5

September, 2011

Steve Avent, Editor

P.O. Box 221

Red Oak, NC 27868

(252) 459-9427

savent917@gmail.com



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

Chapter Officers

President: Ken Wilson

121 Northside Dr., Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870
(252) 537-5406, boxcar27870@embarqmail.com

Vice President: Acting VP: Steve Avent

Secretary/Treasurer: Steve Avent

P.O. Box 221, Red Oak, NC 27868
(252) 459-9427, savent917@gmail.com

Registrar: R. Allen Brahin, Waynesboro, VA
starline@ntelos.net

Chaplain: Rev. Duncan Jones

our website:

Go to: www.ncssar.com, "NC Chapters"
Click on our chapter name on the NC map.