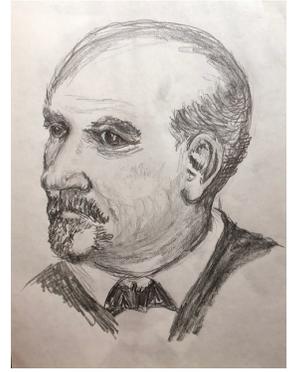


**A Compatriot Grave Marking Ceremony
Honoring a Co-Founder of the
South Carolina Society, Sons of the American Revolution
and its First President:**

Governor John Peter Richardson, III

25 September 1829 to 6 July 1899



Founding of the South Carolina Society, Sons of the American Revolution

On 18 April 1889 twenty-five men met in the State House in Columbia, South Carolina, for the purpose of considering the forming of a state society dedicated to perpetuating the patriotic ideals that had led to the American Revolution and the founding of the United States of America. This meeting was called in response to an invitation from a special committee of the “Society of the Sons of the Revolution of New Jersey” to attend a meeting on 30 April 1889 (as a part of the centennial celebration of Washington’s inauguration as our first President) at the Fraunces Tavern in New York City. That day the men decided in favor of the formation of the state society and organized by appointing officers (including delegates to attend the meeting in New York City). Governor John Peter Richardson, III, was appointed the first President of the South Carolina Society. At the New York City meeting the National Society Sons of the American Revolution was formed and the South Carolina Society was one of the eleven State Societies who had organized prior to and supported the organization of the National Society.

Governor John Peter Richardson, III



John Peter Richardson, III, was the 83rd Governor of South Carolina from 1886 to 1890. It was during his term of Governor that the South Carolina Society SAR was founded and he was appointed its first President.

Richardson was born in Clarendon County, South Carolina to John Peter Richardson, II, a former Governor of South Carolina, and Juliana Augusta Manning. After graduating from South Carolina College in 1849, Richardson managed Elmswood Plantation in Clarendon County. He was also elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives during antebellum South Carolina.

With the outbreak of the American Civil War, Richardson enlisted in the Confederate Army in 1862 and was on the staff of Brigadier General James Cantey until the end of the war. After which, he was re-elected in 1865 to the South Carolina House of Representatives and later that year to the South Carolina Senate. Richardson was inactive in politics when Radical Republicans ruled the state during Reconstruction, but returned in 1880 on the Democratic ticket running unopposed for state Treasurer.

In 1886, Clarendon County Democrats endorsed Richardson in his candidacy of governor. His nomination proceeded forward to the state Democratic convention where Lieutenant Governor John Calhoun Sheppard, who had the backing of Benjamin Tillman, opposed him. The recently formed Farmers' Association had a major influence in the nomination and backed Richardson despite an attempt by Tillman to force them to support Sheppard. Richardson won the nomination on the third ballot and went on to win the gubernatorial election of 1886 to become the 83rd governor of South Carolina.

Again opposed by Tillman for the gubernatorial election of 1888, Richardson managed win the Democratic nomination for a second term as governor with the support of 60% of the delegates and ran unopposed in the general election that fall. During his time as governor, agitation from the farmers of the state for reforms increased leading to the foundation of Clemson College in 1889 and the political rise of demagogue Ben Tillman.

On July 6, 1899, Richardson died in Columbia and was buried at Old Quaker Cemetery in Camden.

The Ceremony

The ceremony will begin at **9:30 AM** on **Saturday, 2 November 2019** in the front yard of the Old Quaker Cemetery located at **713 Meeting Street, Camden, SC**. If you will be presenting a wreath or participating in the Color Guard, you are requested to register by 9 AM. The ceremony is hosted by the Compatriots and men forming a new chapter in Florence, SC; the Compatriots and men revitalizing the Colonel Joseph Kershaw Chapter in Camden, SC; the Compatriots of the Colonel Matthew Singleton Chapter in Sumter, SC; the Compatriots of the Colonel Thomas Taylor Chapter in Columbia, SC; the Compatriots of the Godfrey Dreher Chapter in Lexington, SC.



Please remember that we will be honoring our first State President, every chapter in South Carolina should be represented at this ceremony! So please attend!

Directions

Traveling either east or west on I-20, take Exit 98 on to US-521 towards Camden. Keep right onto US-521 North towards Camden Revolutionary Park for about 1.5 miles, the turn left onto Meeting Street. After about 0.25 miles your destination (713 Meeting Street) is on your left.



Governor Richardson Compatriot Grave Marking Wreath Registration

Registration information should be returned to guyhiggins@gmail.com

(Any questions about the event should be directed to the same)

Deadline for registration so that it will appear in the printed program is Saturday, 26 October.

Society Name: _____

Chapter Name: _____

Name of Presenter: _____ Title: _____