

## President's Message

**FREDERICK D. LEARNED**  
*President, NCSSAR*



Compatriots,

Our NC Society gained 175 new members in 2020.

The success we experienced in recruitment this past year during an international pandemic is worth shouting from the rooftop! An extraordinary achievement, we outperformed much larger State Societies. Congratulations to Chapter leaders and compatriots who keep membership growth front-and-center. Keep up the great work.

SAR membership is valid for one year and ends on December 31. Compatriots must pay their annual dues in order for their membership to be renewed. Dues collected to date are to be reported by each Chapter on a Reconciliation Report.

The Report includes new members inducted during 2020, members who have passed away, and members who have dropped (membership expired). A half dozen or so Chapters have not yet submitted their Reports, and, as of this writing, are officially late. Compatriots who have not yet submitted 2021 dues are urged to do so soon, and Chapters who are tardy with their Reports are to submit them right away.

New members must be formally inducted at a meeting held by their local SAR Chapter. Easier said than done in this day and time. Given the ongoing pandemic, we must be astute in modifying the way we conduct

SAR business, including the methods by which we communicate and reach out to new members.

Perhaps Chapters should consider getting on their 'horses' (tongue-in-cheek) as our Patriot forefathers would have done, and hand-deliver membership paperwork along with welcoming greetings the old-fashioned way—in person. True, this is more labor intensive, but the sacrifice of time and effort will be rewarding and will advance the growth of both SAR Chapters and our State Society.

Unfortunately, the digital age in which we live does not lend itself to personal, face-to-face interaction. Some, then, may be fearful of the more traditional, 'shoe leather' approach to communication.

*"It is impossible for the man of pious reflection not to perceive in it [the Constitution] a finger of that Almighty hand which has been so frequently and signally extended to our relief in the critical stages of the revolution."*

~John Madison, *Federalist Papers*, No. 45, January 26, 1788.

In his inaugural address to the nation in 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt famously said, "All we have to fear is fear itself." Practically a cliché, we should seriously take what he said to heart. We cannot be so fearful of the pandemic that we fail to exercise the recommended precautions, get outdoors, and seek potential members. There is absolutely nothing wrong with meeting them at their front doors just as pizza and package delivery workers continue to do.

As for upcoming events, the 240th Anniversary of the Battle of Cowpens ceremony is scheduled for January 16 via Zoom. Last year, I had



the great honor of attending the ceremony in person. This year, dressed in my uniform and with gratitude, I submitted a video on behalf of NCSSAR along with my

Chapter's wreath to the National Park Service to pay respects to those who served.

Finally, the Executive Committee has suspended in-person and indoor meetings for the first quarter of 2021. Therefore, the upcoming 240th Anniversary of the Battle of Cowpens Ford ceremony and the Winter Board of Managers Meeting, both scheduled for January 30, will be held via Zoom.

Until we meet again in person, stay healthy and safe. God bless you and yours this New Year.

Compatriotly yours,  
Fred

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## Membership Update

### NCSSAR Welcomes 33 New Members (September 25 through December 15, 2020)

ALEXANDER, Danny #217218  
BEATTIE, Gerald #217065  
EUDY, Keith #217216  
GASKINS, Jonathon D. #217317  
GEORGE, James R. #217050  
GEORGE, III, Alvis #217049  
HARRISON, Leslie #217219  
LONG, Jesse #217523  
LUCEY, David J. #217470  
LUCEY, David S. #217471  
LUCEY, John D. #217473  
LUCEY, Joshua #217472  
MATTHIAS, Norman #217474  
MAYHEW, Jr., David #217524  
NARUP, Donald #216968  
PERKINS, Daniel C. #217063  
PERKINS, Raymond #217064  
PENNY, Christopher #217401  
PRATHER, Michael #217051  
REED, Connor J. #217320  
REED, Davis T. #217319  
REED, Jason D. #217318  
ROBB, David W. #217052  
ROGERS, Casey M. #217060  
ROGERS, Jacob D. #217061  
ROGERS, Joseph D. #217059  
ROSE, William #216977  
ROSEMAN, Ernest D. #217055  
ROSEMAN, Glenn A. #217056  
SMITH, Evan #217402  
SPAIN, Holden P. #217217  
TURRENTINE, IV, T. #217057  
WILSON, Jared #217048

### NCSSAR Extends Deepest Thoughts and Prayers to the Families of the Following Com- patriots who Passed Away Since September 25, 2020

BRACKETT, Robert  
BURNETT, Gilbert  
PHILLIPS, Michael  
SISSON, Thomas  
FLOYD, Charles

## NCSSAR Membership Inquiries

Since September 21, NCSSAR has received 38 membership inquiries, with Chapter counts as follows: Battle of King's Mountain, 1; Bethabara, 2; Blue Ridge, 2; Catawba Valley, 1; Col. Alexander Erwin, 1; Gen. George Washington, 1; Lower Cape Fear, 1; Marquis de Lafayette, 2; Lt. Col. John Phifer, 1; Mecklenburg, 9; Old North State, 5; Nathanael Greene, 3; Raleigh, 7; Salisbury, 1; and Lt. Col. Felix Walker, 1.

## NCSSAR Membership Growth

Membership grew significantly in 2020, making it a bumper crop year. Growth was due in no small part to an increase in the use of DAR Finder Forms, which more than doubled in 2020 compared to 2019. DAR Finder Forms serve as source material and member assistance for some SAR applicants.

NCSSAR membership growth was particularly noteworthy for 2020, given the paralysis perpetrated on our country from the international pandemic. Nonetheless, our State competed incredibly well nationwide in new SAR memberships.

According to the latest information from the fall issue of *SAR Magazine*, total SAR membership numbered 37,447 as of November, 2020. North Carolina led the nation with 65 new members for the recent quarterly period, beating out the larger, more populous states of California (64), Texas (61), Florida (60), and Georgia (58).

JOHN O. THORNHILL  
*Membership Chair, NCSSAR*

# Chapter News

## Catawba Valley Chapter

Catawba Valley Chapter President Ben Setser presented the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal and Certificate to Catawba County Deputy Grayson Elliott on November 18, 2020.



Ben Setser (left) and Deputy Grayson Elliott

Officer Elliott was recognized for his outstanding dedication in saving an inmate's life at the Catawba County Detention Center in October, 2020.

In addition, the Martha Washington Medal and Certificate was presented to Greenlee Chapter DAR Regent Karen Sequin Barton via Zoom on November, 21, 2020. She was recognized



Ben Setser (left) and Karen Sequin Barton

for her service to NCSSAR and Catawba Valley Chapter and for her encouragement to several young men in joining the SAR and participation in Chapter activities. The hope is that NCSSAR and the Catawba Valley Chapter will support DAR equally as well.

Catawba Valley Chapter is a new sponsor of Wreaths Across America at Western Carolina State Veterans Cemetery in



Black Mountain, NC. Two new SAR members, Roy Lightfoot and Chris Stone, participated in the activity that occurred on December 19.

Because of the pandemic, only fifty people were allowed into the 42-acre cemetery to place wreaths at one time. With the



Compatriot, Chris Stone

exception of two, all wreaths were purchased by several area Masonic Lodges, with whom Chapter President Setser is either a member or associated.

One wreath placement was particularly touching. Mason Michael J. Matty placed a wreath on the grave of his late comrade, Sgt. Joseph R. Ray. Also a Sergeant, Mike served with Joseph in Afghanistan. Mike indicated, though, that Joseph's grave should have been his. On the day Joseph died,

Mike and Joseph had swapped Humvees, due to equipment redundancy. Driving in front of Mike, Joseph's Humvee was destroyed by an IUD, and he was tragically killed.



Michael J. Matty, Conover Masonic Lodge

## Gen. George Washington Chapter

The Benjamin Sutton, Sr. Grave Marking held in La Grange, NC on November 7 was a great success. With clear weather, an unusually large crowd of about 150 descendants and guests were present. The ceremony was followed by a delicious BBQ and chicken lunch.

On November 11, the GGW Chapter laid a wreath at the Goldsboro Veterans Memorial Park. Compatriots, Ken Smith and Broughton Goodson escorted LaRose Sutton Daniels, Senior President of the Thomas Sutton Society, NSCSCAR, and Lisa Buchtman, Vice Regent of the David Williams Chapter, NCSDAR for the presentation.



Ken Smith (left), LaRose Sutton Daniels, Lisa Buchtman, and Broughton Goodson

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# Chapter News

*Continued from page 3*

## Gen. George Washington Chapter

Heading pandemic protocols, our Annual Meeting was held at the Greenville Church of God on November 19. After a wonderful catered dinner, Holden Spain was inducted as our 43rd member.



Holden Spain (left) and Compatriot, Ron Bonham

Various awards were then presented to deserving members by Chapter President, George Strunk.

Christopher Carraway and Donald Bonham received 5-year pins. George and Eric Strunk, along with Bob and Scott Newton (not present) received 10-year pins.



Christopher Carraway (left) and Chapter President, George Strunk

Charlie Alligood (not present) received his 20-year pin. Travis Putnam received the SAR War Service Medal and a SAR South-

west Asia Veterans Corp Certificate. James Gaddis (not present) received the SAR War Service Medal and a SAR Vietnam Veteran Corp Certificate. Dr. Joe Sutton received a Certificate of Appreciation for his service to the SAR in organizing the grave marking ceremony for his Patriot ancestor, Benjamin Sutton, Sr. The evening concluded with the installation of Chapter officers for next year.

Also at the meeting a request was made to create a subchapter of the State Ladies Auxiliary for the GGW Chapter. The National Ladies Auxiliary of the SAR was established to help with fund raising. The GGW Chapter's primary goal, however, is to seek assistance from our ladies in helping the Chapter with several family days during the year that will promote an interest in participation. They will be joining the NCSSAR Ladies Auxiliary Chapter for a cost of \$10 per year. Six ladies have expressed interest to date. Chapter leaders believe it is constructive to involve our ladies in a supportive role.

President Strunk plans to present the Americanism spreadsheet for 2021 at the next Chapter meeting. Members will learn how they can participate in the goals and activities of both the National and State Societies.

**BEN L. SETSER**  
*Consulting Editor, ONS*

## Chapter Level Training Material

*From the Senior Vice President*

Chapter level training material is now available on the NCSSAR Sharefile site. With the international pandemic curtailing many

of our activities, now is the time to invest in enhancing your knowledge of the SAR, its programs, and responsibilities of chapter officers. On the NCSSAR Sharefile site for NC members is a folder titled, 'Training/Instructional Material.' In this folder is a batch of newly-created training material in PowerPoint (PPT), Adobe Acrobat (pdf), or Word formats, for the following topics:

- New Member Guidebook (Word)
- Fundamentals of the SAR (PPT or pdf)
- Chapter Level Medals (PPT or pdf)
- Color Guard Basic Training (PPT or pdf)
- Chapter Officers (PPT or pdf)
- Chapter President (PPT or pdf)

State leadership recommends that the *New Member Guidebook* be tailored to each chapter's operations and needs, especially including chapter officers in Addendum I, and a list of all chapter events in Addendum II. The *New Member Guidebook* is great information to provide prospective members awaiting approval of their membership application. Forward any suggested changes or topics to [jaydeloach@aol.com](mailto:jaydeloach@aol.com).

**JAY DELOACH, RADM, USN (Ret.)**  
*Senior Vice President, ONS*



# New Inductees Sworn in at Battle of Shallow Ford 240th Commemoration Ceremony

By Andy Mooney

The Battle of the Shallow Ford 240<sup>th</sup> Commemoration Ceremony was held Oct. 10 at Huntsville United Methodist Church. The ceremony was originally planned outdoors in front of the historic church but was moved inside due to inclement weather.

The commemoration included the swearing in of new Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) inductees, including Dr. Pete Gilyard, who is owner of the Clemmons Veterinary Clinic, and his wife, Tabatha Freeman Gilyard, who was sworn in as a new member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

Her Patriot, Thomas Poindexter, fought in many battles for the N.C. militia. His wife, Elizabeth, and his daughters also served the Patriot cause by sewing letters in their petticoats, crossing enemy lines and delivering the letters to the proper parties. Thomas Poindexter and his family lived on the Yadkin River near where the Gilyards live today. He and Elizabeth are buried on a bluff of the Yadkin near Donnahana on what used to be their land.



Dr. Pete Gilyard, who is the owner of the Clemmons Veterinary Clinic, was among the Sons of the American Revolution inductees in the recent Battle of Shallow Ford 240th Commemoration Ceremony at Huntsville United Methodist Church. His wife, Tabatha, was sworn in as a new member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. They are standing in front of the SAR Color Guard. Submitted photo.

Other new SAR inductees who were sworn in included Stephen Rantz, Joseph Weaver and Weston Parsons –who couldn't attend, but his grandfather, Daniel, stood in for him.

The event was hosted by the Winston-Salem Bethabara Chapter of the Sons of The American Revolution, and attendees included Compatriots from the Alamance Battleground, Bethabara, Nathanael Greene, Catawba Valley, and Yadkin Valley Sons of The American Revolution chapters as well as Daughters of The American Revolution attendees from the Battle of Shallow Ford, Jonathan Hunt, Leonard's Creek, Colonel Joseph Winston and Old North State Chapters.

Fred Learned, president of the North Carolina State Sons of The American Revolution Society, and past president of the Bethabara Chapter, served as host of the ceremony, which included the memorial wreath presentations along with the presentation of colors by members of the SAR Color Guard.

Andrew Mackie, president of the Yadkin County Historical Society, Ann White of the Huntsville Historical Society and other visitors were among the crowd of 47 in attendance on the dreary day.

The Battle of Shallow Ford took place Oct. 14, 1780, exactly one week after the Battle of Kings Mountain. One Patriot (Whig) and 14 Loyalists (Tories) were killed during the battle. The Patriot, Capt. Henry Francis, was buried where he fell.

# Book Review

RALPH D. NELSON, JR., PhD  
Consulting Editor, ONS

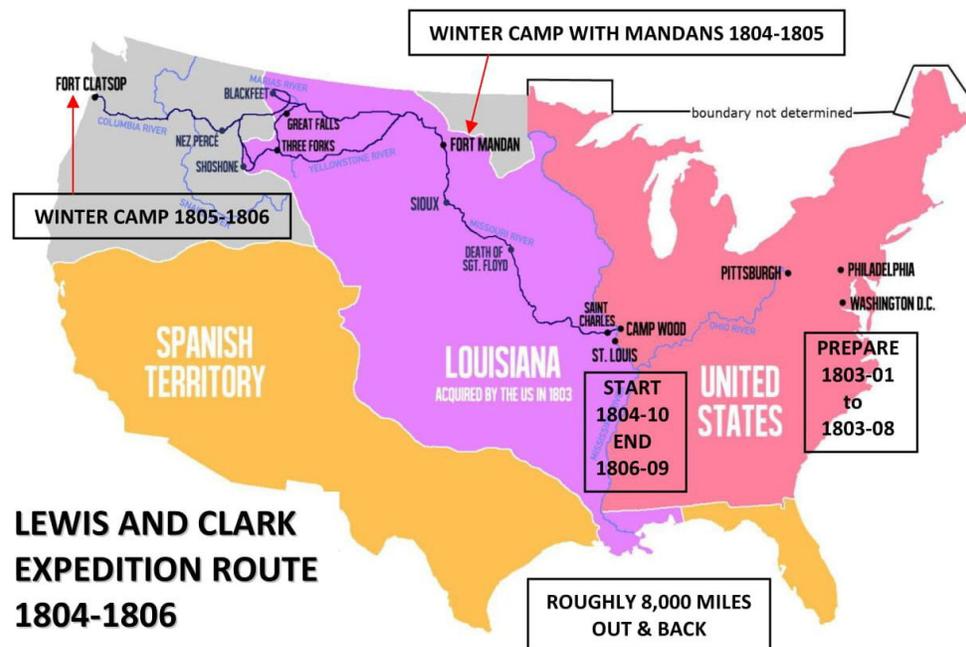
## Undaunted Courage by Stephen E. Ambrose (Simon & Schuster, 1997)

In 1776 the twelve colonies in revolt claimed land bounded on the west by the watershed line of the Appalachian Mountains. In 1783 the Treaty of Paris set the western boundary at the Mississippi River, roughly doubling the previous claimed area. In 1803 the Louisiana Purchase moved the western boundary to the eastern side of the Missouri River, again doubling our claimed area. Of course, many other societies lived within these newly-obtained boundaries. They invariably claimed the land supporting their hunting and farming area and fought off outsiders.

The task that President Thomas Jefferson set before Meriwether Lewis was to find an all-water route to the Pacific Ocean and to gather information on this vast territory, including geography (maps, weather), economic potential (hunting, farming, waterpower, mining), and peoples (languages, social practices, area claimed, relations with neighboring peoples). Lewis chose William Clark as his co-leader. They were assigned 27 volunteers from the army and 16 contractors to form the Corps of Discovery.

Facing a daunting task, Lewis had a year to learn biology and geology, to draw and preserve plants and animals, to create scale maps, and to gather supplies. From May, 1804, to September, 1806, the little band traveled some 8,000 miles, mostly by keelboat, up and down the Missouri River, with Lewis walking along the shore to collect plants and animals. They had trade goods and awards to foster peaceful relations with the Amerindians through whose lands they passed. They knew from the start that they would be among the world's greatest explorers, if they survived.

The author writes a riveting tale of nearly impossible treks with their boat around rapids and waterfalls, and up shallow creeks. He describes the diseases they suffered, the hostility between neighboring Amerindian societies, yet a willingness to help the travelers for pay, the vast natural beauty of the West, the losses of equipment, the internal group conflicts, and several fortuitous events that saved the group from annihilation, starvation and freezing in the mountains.



**LEWIS AND CLARK  
EXPEDITION ROUTE  
1804-1806**

Readers will be swept along through a series of events to the final return landing and reports to Congress. Further, readers will be moved by the author's discussion of some of the longer-term results of the expedition, one of which was the death of Lewis, only three years later, at age 35.

Those who love the outdoors and tales of true adventure in the building of our nation will enjoy reading this book, available from most libraries.

### Reference (Image)

van Werkhoven, Victor. "Map of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, 1804-1806," *SCRC Virtual Museum at Southern Illinois University's Morris Library*, accessed December 31, 2020, <https://scrcexhibits.omeka.net/items/show/845>.

# Preservation of Democracy

Another national election is behind us. As expected, about half the country is jubilant, and the other half is irritated. It has been a painful season for our nation that has, at times, brought out the worst in our character as a country.

The year, 2020 has been an eye-opener for many about how fragile democracy truly is. The delicate experiment in representative democracy for America begs the question—Is it worth preserving?

In June of this year, a Gallup poll discovered our national sense of pride was at an all-time low. Of those surveyed, only 21 percent felt 'very proud' to be an American, a low that hasn't been seen since 2001. Further, nearly 10 percent of those surveyed said they were 'not proud at all' of being American.

From investigative journalism endeavors like The 1619 Project, a *New York Times* (NYT) selection of articles and essays which focuses on America's 400 year-long involvement with slavery and anti-black racism, to a renewed understanding of America's long history of genocide and war as well as embedded prejudice, it seems that America's values have been called into question.

The issue before us now is how do we renew a sense of national pride while still recognizing our flaws and imperfections? Is there a way to reconcile both the good, the bad and the indifferent in our nation's past? Can we recognize both our nation's more appalling history and still appreciate the noble efforts of brave men and women whose desire was to create a more just and fair land?

For me, the answer lies in the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), a uniquely American organization. I was recently honored to be a part of founding a SAR chapter in the Sandhills.

The SAR organization's mission is to spread awareness of the history of the Revolution by convening members whose ancestors fought for American independence. For me, that ancestor is William Andrews, who served as a Sheriff in the St. Thomas community in present-day Orange County. The SAR brotherhood hopes that dialogue and community service will lead to the mission set out by our forefathers for *a more perfect union*.

The origins of the NCSSAR Sandhills Chapter go back about three years, when a group of local retirees met for lunch at the Table on The Green at the Midland Country Club in Pinehurst. This cadre of men were history buffs who enjoyed sharing stories while lunching. When these gentlemen realized they were all descendants of Patriots of the American Revolution, they decided to press forward in organizing a SAR chapter, an effort that took about two years.

One of those gentlemen, Bruce Fensley, is now Chapter President, who relayed to me, "This organization can help increase the patriotic activities in the Sandhills area and to educate the public about the sacrifice our forebears made to fight for freedom and liberty."

Our Chapter is committed to spreading awareness about the Revolutionary War and Constitutional and Colonial history in North Carolina. The SAR takes great pride in helping to organize battle reenactments, writing contests with cash prizes, and producing historical literature for educational purposes. We also endeavor to mark patriot graves in our area in recognition of veterans' service during the Revolution.

To SAR compatriots, America's true beginning is July 4, 1776, not August 1619, when the first slave ship arrived in Virginia as the NYT essay collection posits. But our view in no way diminishes the reality of the painful history of our country. Rather, we seek mutually respectful acknowledgment and dialogue on what is noble and good about America and how imperfect men rose up for the purpose of creating *a more perfect union*. By understanding our good as well as our unseemly attributes, SAR compatriots aim to elevate patriotism through the brotherhood of Revolutionary War descendants.

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# Benjamin Sutton, Sr. Grave Marking

A grave marking ceremony honoring Revolutionary War Patriot, Benjamin Sutton, Sr. (1752-1837) and beloved wife, Sarah Hardy Sutton (1759-1846) was held on Saturday, November 7 at the Hardy Sutton Cemetery in the Bucklesberry community of La Grange. Hosted by the Gen. George Washington (GGW) Chapter, the event was heralded as a notable success.



Touted as one of the largest-attended NCSSAR grave marking ceremonies in State history, about 150 descendants and guests eagerly gathered for the mid-day event. The Honorable James E. Ragan, III, Judge (Ret.), N.C. Superior Court, fourth great-grandson of Benjamin and Sarah Hardy Sutton, opened the ceremony by declaring, "Welcome....good morning! Please rise for the posting of the colors." A regal procession by the NCSSAR Color Guard (pictured) promptly commenced.

GGW Chapter President, George Strunk, SMSgt., USAF (Ret.) facilitated the ceremony by presenting the history and mission of the SAR. Music was performed by professional bagpiper, Robert J. White, retired Army veteran and Green Beret of Garner, NC. Several elected officials and dignitaries were in attendance, including Linda Rouse Sutton, Chairman, Lenoir County Board of Commissioners, who provided brief remarks. Also present was the Honorable Imelda J. Pate, Judge, N.C. Superior Court, Bucklesberrian and fourth great-granddaughter of Benjamin and Sarah Hardy Sutton.



Leaders from companion lineage societies offered support by presenting wreaths. Included were Valerie Howell, Moseley-Bright Chapter, N.C. Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NCSDAR), Mary Lee Howell, National Society of the Children of the American Revolution (NSCAR), and LaRose Sutton Daniels, Thomas Sutton Chapter, NCSCAR. Accompanied by George Strunk, Kathleen Benedict, State President, NCSCAR (pictured) offered congratulatory comments. Representing NCSSAR State leadership was Jay DeLoach, RAdm, USN (Ret.), Senior Vice President. Joining him was Bob Rigg, Color Guard Commander, New Bern Chapter.

Local Bucklesberrian and fourth great-grandson, Dr. Joe Sutton delivered special remarks about his Patriot ancestor. The ceremony culminated with unveiling of the memorial marker. Third great-grandson, Dr. Mike Arnette of Kinston (pictured, left) and Broughton Goodson of the GGW Chapter. fired muskets to commemorate the event. The invocation and benediction were provided by Pastor Robert Flynn of the Hickory Grove Methodist Church of Bucklesberry.



Prior to enjoying a meal hosted by area descendants, several ceremony participants paused for a picture, including (left to right) bagpiper, Robert J. White, and compatriots George Strunk, Ron Bonham, Jay DeLoach, Dr. Joe Sutton, and Broughton Goodson.

BBQ/chicken plates were prepared for all attendees at the local Ruritan Building. Patriotic decorations were designed by third great-granddaughter, Cile Sutton Beman. Fifth great-grandsons, Jason Wesley Sutton (pictured, left) and Jared Paul Sutton, sons of Dr. and Mrs. Joe Sutton, traveled from Upstate South Carolina to attend the ceremony and enjoy the scrumptious rations. Photographs and a video of the ceremony are available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?t=1&v=CJFVmMz8Iwc>.



## Preservation of Democracy

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This all leads back to the question posed earlier—Is democracy worth it? Is an organization like the SAR a useful tool to encourage healthy, patriotic, civic engagement? This writer enthusiastically affirms that it is. In fact, SAR is needed now more than ever. Instead of focusing solely on the honorable versus abhorrent elements of America's founding, we should instead view America's origin through the lens of those whose families fought and endured the struggle to create the most unique experiment in democracy known to man.

Despite our flaws, the rich history of America deserves to be preserved and remembered. We should diligently study the Constitution, read more about key figures in our history, and participate in conversation about the direction we want our country to go. Wrote William Faulkner, "The past is never dead. It's not even the past." Let us learn to be better American citizens and global participants in the midst of such troubled, yet hopeful times.

If you are a descendant, or you know someone who is a descendant of a Revolutionary War Patriot, and you wish to join the SAR, contact North Carolina SAR President Fred Learned [fdlearned@gmail.com](mailto:fdlearned@gmail.com) or NCSSAR Sandhills Chapter President, Bruce Fensley at [b0408fensley@gmail.com](mailto:b0408fensley@gmail.com).

NOTE: Edited for ONS, this article was originally published by the contributor in *The Rant* news blog ([www.rantnc.com](http://www.rantnc.com)), Sanford, NC on December 11, 2020.

CHARLES T. PETTY  
Sand Hills Chapter, NCSSAR

## Moving Forward

### A Special Message from NCSSAR State Secretary, Jack Bowman

Fellow Compatriots,

As I was thinking of a message to share, the first thought that came to mind was the ongoing international pandemic. Frankly, though, that topic wearies me. But, then, I began to reflect on two personal friends who recently passed away, and how angry it has made me that I was unable to talk to them or be with them in recent days because of this insidious virus.

Both men were Vietnam veterans. Compatriot Bob Bowen was a combat photographer. He snapped many pictures of celebrities who visited the war zone. He also took extraordinary photographs that made one wonder how a man could be in the thick of the battle, take pictures, and live to share them. As a SAR member he was always ready to render assistance and received many awards from the SAR including the honored title of Minuteman. In recent days, he took his wife to the doctor's office, came home and realized he was sick. He passed away four hours later from the virus after driving himself back to the hospital.

Compatriot Mike Phillips was a Purple Fox helicopter pilot in Vietnam. In-between his stories about going into a hot landing zone, he shared how he had to fly through that 'Orange Stuff.' I was aware that Mike was always very ill. Yet, amidst his suffering, his emails cheered me, even if they weren't politically correct according to many. But I read them and chuckled, and I knew he was probably fine. Not long ago, it occurred to me that I had not heard from him in awhile. Then I read his obituary dated months ago. I still have his 20-Year SAR Pin slated to have been awarded to him this past August, which never happened because of the disruption to our lives that the pandemic has caused.

My message, then, to fellow compatriots is that we must earnestly dedicate ourselves to resuming SAR chapter meetings, if not in person, then by Zoom or another virtual meeting platform. Moving forward, we need to meet with friends and compatriots in any way safely that we can.

The President of my Chapter has held three meetings since the shutdown. Only a few 'masked' compatriots showed at the first meeting. The last two meetings were held in a combined Zoom/in-person format. It was good to see so many old friends. My heart was saddened, though, that two of my compatriot friends—Bob Bowen and Mike Phillips—are forever absent.

Fraternally yours.

JACK BOWMAN  
State Secretary, NCSSAR



OLD  
NORTH  
STATE

JAN  
2021

NC Society Sons of the American Revolution

6

# NCSSAR Calendar

**All events will be held via Zoom, unless otherwise indicated.**

**Jan. 30:** 240th Anniversary of Cowans Ford, NC

**Jan. 30:** NCSSAR Board of Managers Winter Meeting

**Feb. 6:** 242nd Battle of Kettle Creek, GA

**Feb. 13:** 240th Anniversary of the Crossing of the Dan, VA

**Feb. 22:** President George Washington's Birthday

**Feb. 27-28:** 245th Commemoration of the Battle of Moores Creek Bridge, NC

**Mar. 4-6:** National SAR Leadership Meeting

**Mar. 13:** 240th Anniversary of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, NC

**Mar. 13:** NC Children of the American Revolution Conference

## Historic Sites

The town of Hillsborough, N.C. was an important colonial center of law and politics during early N.C. recorded history. Established in 1754 where the Great Indian Trail crossed the Eno River, it was the site of several significant events before and during the American Revolution.

The War of Regulation ended there after the Battle of Alamance, considered by some historians to have been the first armed conflict of the American Revolution. Hillsborough hosted the third Provincial Congress, after the first two which took place in New Bern, and before the fourth in Halifax. The Congress in Halifax resulted in what has become known as the Halifax Resolves, the first official act in the colonies calling for independence from Great Britain.

Hillsborough was also the site of the N.C. Constitutional Convention in 1788. Five N.C. General Assembly meetings took place there from the late 1770's until the early 1780's. William Hooper, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, lived in Hillsborough. Numerous significant colonial structures and sites are located there, including the Orange County Courthouse (pictured here) that was constructed in 1844.



Orange County Courthouse

**DAVID L. MANN**  
*Consulting Editor, ONS*

## Free Online Genealogical Conference

"Even a pandemic may produce something good," wrote Larry McRae of the Forsyth County Genealogical Society in an email notice to friends of the Society about the upcoming RootsTech Conference on February 25-27. A variety of classes, workshops and lectures will be available completely online and free. Topics will focus on DNA, technology, heirlooms, genealogy, and Census. Go to [www.rootstech.org/?lang=eng](http://www.rootstech.org/?lang=eng) for more information and registration.

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