

President's Message

FREDERICK D. LEARNED
President, NCSSAR



NC Compatriots,

The NCSSAR Board of Managers (BOM) held its annual summer meeting on August 22. We met safely in-person and virtually

via Zoom. I am pleased to report we had the largest attendance ever! The BOM is the governing body of our State Society. Therefore, it is especially important that we have maximal attendance so we can vote on concerns and issues. The BOM is

"Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom, must, like men, undergo the fatigues of supporting it."

—Thomas Paine, *The American Crisis*, No. 4, September 11, 1777.

comprised of elected officers, the national trustee, chapter presidents, past State presidents, past national trustees and Society committee chairmen. The presence of 20% of the Board constitutes a quorum.

BOM meetings are open to NCSSAR members, too. More than 40% of the members of the newly-installed Sandhills Chapter attended the August BOM meeting in-person. The excitement that they alone brought to the meeting was truly inspiring. *THANK YOU!*

We awarded a myriad of chapter and individual honors that are normally presented only at the annual NCSSAR Convention. We honored two special DAR members: Donna Becker, wife of Past-President, Jim Becker who was awarded the Martha Washington Medal; and, Jo Thornhill, who was presented the SAR/DAR Certificate of Appreciation Medal for her service as President of the Ladies Auxiliary.

In addition, George Strunk was honored as Color Guardsman of the year. Mecklenburg Chapter captured the highest New Membership Growth streamer award with 24 new members. The considerably smaller Nathanael Greene Chapter earned second highest honors with 17 new members, which increased their Chapter's membership 40%. *AWESOME!*

Weeks after the BOM Meeting, I was saddened to learn of the passing of Compatriot Dr. Charles Lewis. For many years prior to his death, he served as President of the NCSSAR Old North State Chapter. He asked to resign from that role a year ago. Charles' personality was infectious, and he proudly wore his Continental uniform, the combination of which was pure magnetism. *We will surely miss this dear colleague!* A memorial to his life of accomplishment and service is available (see obituaries, <https://www.wilmingtoncares.com/>).

October kicks off the annual member dues collection campaign for NCSSAR. Dues collected must be reported on a reconciliation report, where we also add names of new members and those we lose to death or lapsed membership. Paying annual dues is a seasonal tradition, much like football, that culminates near Thanksgiving. A dues notice will be sent to you by October 1.

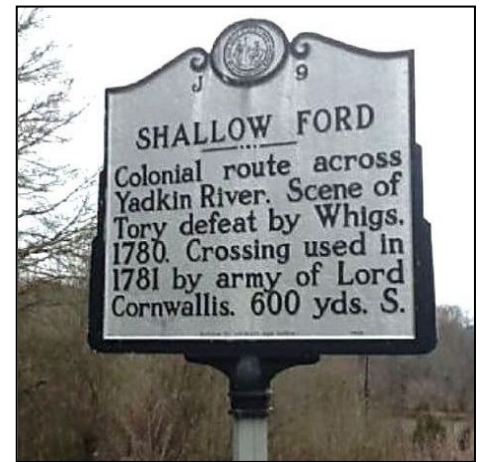


Kings Mountain monument

NCSSAR will be hosting the Battle of Kings Mountain ceremony October 7, so we ask you to save the date. The

event will be held virtually via Zoom. This is a national event (see calendar, <https://www.ncssar.org/>).

A mere three days after this event on October 10, I will be hosting the Battle of Shallow Ford live at Huntsville, a historic village on the Yadkin River west of Winston-Salem. These two



Shallow Ford State commemorative sign

battles turned the heart and soul of North Carolina. This is a State event (see calendar, <https://www.ncssar.org/>).

I encourage you to take full advantage of State and national SAR events via Zoom until we can meet face-to-face again. Remember to encourage relatives to join SAR and DAR. It's all patriotic!

Compatriotly yours,
Fred

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SONS OF THE AMERICAN
REVOLUTION**

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**Membership
Update**

**NCSSAR welcomes 87 new
members (June 1 through
September 9, 2020).**

- ALBERT, Jack #216507
- BLANKS, Ramsey #215715
- BROWN, James #216511
- BROWN, Justin #216512
- BRUNSON, Charles #216774
- CARDWELL, Cecil #215885
- CARL, William #215862
- CHARLES, Albert #216644
- COMFORT, David #215807
- COX, Brian #216173
- CROCKETT, William #215716
- CUNNINGHAM, George #215866
- DALTON, William #216769
- DORWOOD, John #216836
- DOWLESS, Jr., David #216277
- DOWLESS, Sr., David #216278
- DULIN, III, John W. #215865
- EUDY, Roger D. #215717
- FAULKNER, Dean #216429
- FAULKNER, Jason #216228
- FELD, Karl #215866
- FULLER, Carroll #215888
- FULLER, Neal #215887
- GILYARD, Peter #216182
- HALL, Robert #216424
- HALLEY, Michael #216508
- HANCOCK, Kevin #216180
- HINES, Leonard #216645
- HODGES, Jeremy #216509
- HUDSON III, Karl #216174
- JACKSON, Jr., Rodney #216648
- JONES, William #215883
- KELLEY, Tim #215864
- KYLE, William R. #215714
- LAWSON, Richard #216761
- LEEPER, Jr., Patrick #216426
- LIGHTFOOT, Roy #216768
- LINER, Brant #216651
- LINER, Daren #216652
- LOESER, William #216427
- LORD, Steven #216175
- McINNES, Thomas #215871
- McCRUMMEN, Rives #216767
- MACK, Channing #215884
- MARKS, James #216280
- MIDGETT, Jeffery R. #215805
- MIDGETT, Jeffery R., Jr. #215806
- MORTENSEN, Mark #216770
- MOYER, Eric #216510
- NORRIS, Mathew E #215718
- NUCKOLLS, Stephen #216771
- NUCKOLLS, Jr., Stephen #216772
- OSBORNE, William #216176
- OUTLAW, Dana #216177

- PALMATIER, Robert #215983
- PERKINS, Jeffery #216178
- QUALLS, Ian #216647
- QUALLS, Jr., James #216646
- RANTZ, Steph #216506
- REEVES, Franklin #215868
- REEVES, John #215867
- REEVES, Stephen A. #215869
- ROOK, James #216504
- ROOK, Jr., James #216505
- RYAN, Daniel #216650
- SAUERWALD, John #215882
- SCOTT, Lloyd #216765
- SCOTT, Robert #216766
- SICKLES, Robert #215808
- SMITH, Ian #216179
- SMITH, William H. #216513
- SMITH, William N. #216773
- SPELMAN, Charles #215984
- STADING, Michael #215870
- STEWART, Robert #216764
- STONE, Christopher #216181
- SWINSON, Ralph #215612
- THOMPSON, Richard #216837
- TROWER, Jeffery #215889
- TROWER, Jr., George #215890
- VAN LEER, III, Blake #216649
- WATKINS, Sherrill #215863
- WILCOX, Gerald #216503
- WILKINS, III, John #216279
- WOODRUFF, Samuel #216245
- WOOLARD, Nicholes #216763
- WOOLARD, Scott #216762

**NCSSAR extends deepest
thoughts and prayers to the
families of the following
Compatriots who passed
away since June 1, 2020.**

- HERRING, Marion C.
- LEWIS, Charles A.
- HANCOCK, John
- MCDONALD, Alexander K.
- SISSON, Thomas, Jr.
- DALTON, William

Continued on page 4.

JOHN O. THORNHILL
Membership Chair, NCSSAR



Bylaws Amendments

At its August 22, 2020 meeting, the Board of Managers (BOM) voted to recommend to the general membership adoption of the following changes to the Bylaws of the NCSSAR. A formal vote by the general membership will be conducted before the end of the year.

Proposal 1. Change the fourth sentence of Article IV, Fees and Dues, to read "... to the Society Secretary in ~~by 31~~ December."

Rationale: In the present provision, submission of fees and dues may be delayed until the end of December. This allows insufficient time to comply with National Society requirements for dues submissions. The revised wording allows the Secretary to set an earlier date that will permit timely submission of national dues.

Proposal 2. Change Article XVI, Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest, by substituting the present text with the following:

The Society will maintain a Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest that is consistent with the Code of Business Ethics and Conduct and the Conflict of Interest Policy and the Code of Organizational Conduct of the National Society.

Rationale: The current article does not comply with the policies of the national society. A policy that does comply would be more appropriately contained in a separate section of the *NCSSAR Handbook*, to be prepared and promulgated in the future.

Proposal 3. Change § 5 of Article VI, Officers, Delegates and Trustees to read:

§ 5. Election. Members in good standing in attendance at the Annual Meeting, provided that there is a quorum, ~~defined in another section of these bylaws as defined in Article IX § 4~~, will elect the officers and delegates by a secret ballot in a contested election. Election requires

a majority of votes cast. Absentee and proxy votes are not allowed.

Rationale: Non-substantive technical correction.

Proposal 4. Add new § 6 to Article VI, Officers, Delegates and Trustees, to read:

§ 6. Procedure for an Uncontested Election When Exigent Circumstances Prevent or Render Inadvisable Regular Voting. If, after the close of nominations, there are no contests for any officer or delegate position, the sitting President will declare the nominees elected by acclamation.

Rationale: New provision. The ongoing pandemic has shown the necessity for an alternative to regular voting.

Proposal 5. Add new § 7 to Article VI, Officers, Delegates and Trustees to read:

§ 7. Procedure for a Contested Election When Exigent Circumstances Prevent or Render Inadvisable Regular Voting. If, after the close of nominations, there is more than one candidate for any officer or delegate position, an election for that/those positions(s) will be held using the following procedure:

a. The nominating committee will designate two of its members to function as tabulators and inform the Secretary of those so designated.

b. The Secretary will (i) provide a list of the email addresses of members to each of the tabulators and (ii) send an email message to all members announcing the contested position(s), the candidates for that/those position(s), the names and email addresses of the tabulators and a date and time, at least one week later, at which time the tabulators must receive email ballots.

c. Upon receipt of the Secretary's message, members will indicate their choice for each contested position in a message addressed to the two tabulators and transmitted on or before the date and time specified in the Secretary's message.

d. After passage of the specified date and time, the tabulators will tally the ballots received to determine the electee(s). The tabulators may rely on the presumption that the ballot received from an email address listed in the list of members' addresses was sent by the member listed.

e. The tabulators will (i) compare their respective vote tallies, (ii) resolve any discrepancy, and (iii) report the election result(s) to the Secretary. The tabulators will not divulge how any member voted to anyone except each other.

f. The Secretary, upon receipt of the result(s), will promulgate it/ them to all members by email. A similar procedure will be used for voting on other matters by the membership when a regular vote is not possible or is inadvisable.

Rationale: New provision. The ongoing pandemic has shown the necessity for an alternative to regular voting.

Proposal 6. Renumber present § 6 of Article VI, Officers, Delegates and Trustees, as § 8 and change it to read:

§ 8. Assistants to Officers. The President may appoint an assistant to aid a society officer in the performance of that officer's duties. Such an assistance is not a ~~society~~ Society officer.

Rationale: Non-substantive technical correction.

Proposal 7. Add new sentence to the end of § 2 of Article X, Budget, to read:

If exigent circumstances prevent or render inadvisable a regular vote on the budget, a procedure similar to that contained in Article VI § 6 or § 7 will be used to obtain membership approval of the budget.

Continued on page 4.

A. ROBERT "BOB" SIGMON
NE Region Vice President, NCSSAR

Bylaws Amendments

Continued from page 3.

Rationale: New provision. The ongoing pandemic has shown the necessity for an alternative to regular voting.

Proposal 8. Change § 4 of Article X, Budget, to read:

§ Off-Budget Expenditures. The Board must approve any proposed expenditure not in the current budget. A member proposing such an expenditure must notify the Secretary of that proposal at least 17 days before the meeting at which the Board will consider it. The Secretary will notify the Board no later than ten days before that meeting.

Rationale. The Secretary and the Treasurer need at least 17 days notice to process a proposal.

Proposal 9. Add new sentence to Article XVIII, Amendments:

If exigent circumstances prevent or render inadvisable a regular vote to amend, a procedure similar to that contained in Article VI §6 or § 7 will be used to approve Bylaws amendments.

Rationale. New provision. The ongoing pandemic has shown the necessity for an alternative to regular voting.

Proposal 10. Add new Article XX to read:

Article XX. Liability and Indemnification.

§ 1. Liability. The Society will maintain general liability insurance to protect itself, its officers and the officers of its chapters against any liability asserted against it or any of its officers or chapter officers who were acting reasonably in furtherance of the mission and goals of the society.

§ 2. Indemnification. No officer of the Society will be liable for an act or failure to act in the performance

of his duties if he acted or did not act in good faith and with reasonable care. Absent fraud or bad faith, no officer of the Society will not be personally liable for the debts, obligations or liabilities of the Society. The Society will indemnify an officer of the society for the reasonable expenses he incurs in any threatened, pending or completed legal proceeding that seeks to hold him liable because he was acting as an officer of the Society. The Society will indemnify an officer of the Society for reasonable payments he may be required to make in satisfaction of any judgment, fine, penalty or settlement for which he became liable. The Society will maintain directors and officers (D&O) insurance at its expense.

Rationale: New provision. Requires that the Society maintain insurance to cover liabilities arising from its activities. Requires that the Society maintain errors and omission insurance for its officers.

Membership Update

Continued from page 2.

Since June 1, North Carolina has received 61 membership inquiries. Count per chapter: Alamance Battleground, 2; Battle of King's Mountain, 3; Bethabara, 4; Blue Ridge, 3; Catawba Valley, 1; Col. Alex. Erwin, 1; Col. Alex. Lillington, 1; Gen. Frances Nash, 4; Gen. George Washington, 1; Halifax Resolves, 1; Lower Cape Fear, 6; Mecklenburg, 12; Old North State, 6; Nathanael Greene, 3; New Bern, 2; Raleigh, 12; Salisbury, 1; and Lt. Col. Felix Walker, 1.

Membership Renewal

Collection of membership renewal dues for 2021 has begun. For years, our State has suffered from membership drops. Nationally, it averages about 4 percent. NCSSAR Chapters should allow sufficient time to make personal contacts where necessary. Over the past five years, the primary reason shared

by members who have dropped has been failure to receive an annual renewal dues reminder notice. Chapter leaders should ensure that mailing lists are accurate and updated. When members do not respond to a written reminder, personalize the follow-up by making a phone call.

Chapter News

Halifax Resolves Chapter

The Halifax Resolves Chapter recognized Roanoke Rapids firefighters with the SAR Life Saving medal on September 2 during the City Council meeting. Roanoke Rapids Fire Chief, Jason Patrick nominated Dylan Clark, Vincent Mollicone, Lt. Brandon Shearin, and Jeffery Brown for the awards.

On Christmas Day, 2019, firefighters Clark and Mollicone responded to an unresponsive patient on Fourteenth Street.



L-R: Ken Wilson, Vincent Mollicone, Dylan Clark, and E. C. Bobbitt

On May 21, Lt. Shearin and firefighter Jeffery Brown were dispatched to Monroe Street to a woman who was unconscious and not breathing.



L-R: Ken Wilson, Jeffery Brown, Lt. Brandon Shearin, and E. C. Bobbitt

Compatriot Ken Wilson and Compatriot/City Councilman E. C. Bobbitt made the presentations.

More Chapter News on pages 6-7.

Historical Site

The Old State House

The Old State House was constructed in the center of the early colonial town of Fayetteville in 1788. The North Carolina General Assembly met there from 1789-1793, until Raleigh became the State Capitol in 1794 where it convened thereafter. It was also the site of the 1789 Convention to ratify the United States Constitution, which had been adopted in Philadelphia, PA by delegates of the 13 colonies in 1787.

The General Assembly in Fayetteville hosted 271 delegates from the 61 counties and 5 towns and districts of North Carolina. It was the second convention after the Hillsborough Convention in 1788 in which North Carolina failed to ratify the document. Gov. Samuel Johnston presided over the convention that was attended by delegates of the Philadelphia Convention that two years earlier adopted the U.S. Constitution, prior to ratification by the 13 states. North Carolina was the 12th state to ratify the document. Many NC delegates were housed at the Cool Spring Tavern, a nearby structure that remains along the banks of Cross Creek in downtown Fayetteville.

The Old State House was consumed by fire in 1831 as were several other structures in the town. A town hall known as The Market House was constructed in its place in 1832 and stands today.



The Market House

Sitting atop of the structure is a cupola with a clock which faces all directions. The Market House served as a town hall and city market for almost two centuries. Currently on the National Register of Historic Places, its construction is similar to various English Halls in Britain and is one of three structures of its kind currently in the U.S. The other two are Faneuil Hall in Boston, MA and the City Market in Charleston, SC.

DAVID L. MANN
Consulting Editor, *ONS*

Board of Managers Meeting

The summer NCSSAR Board of Managers (BOM) meeting was held on August 22 at the 1776 Sporting Club in Burlington. Hosted by Dr. Sam Powell, State Treasurer, and son, Chris, the meeting was called to order by Fred Learned. The invocation was provided by Mike Aycock. Under the command of George Strunk, the colors were presented by the State Color Guard. Kevin Graham led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the salute to the NC flag by Ron Bonham. Reciting of the SAR pledge was led by Bruce Fensley. After appointment of a parliamentarian, the winter BOM meeting minutes were amended and approved.

The first Board action of the day was granting of a charter to the new Sandhills Chapter and adoption of their Bylaws. NCSSAR goals were then acknowledged, which included 250th Anniversary preparations, membership growth and investment strategies, and SAR-DAR partnership enhancements. The lunch meal featured a video of the State winner of the Rumbaugh Oration Contest, Ryan Lanford of Chapel Hill.



State Secretary, Jack Bowman, with his hands full of awards to present.

The afternoon agenda began with a short presentation by Jim Lindley, compatriot running for the NCSSAR office of Historian General. National and State awards were then presented.

Fred Learned gave highlights of the South Atlantic District Meeting, after which George Strunk presented the Trustees Report. Dr. Sam Powell discussed the State Treasurer's Report, which was followed by State Committee and chapter reports.

Upcoming events announced were the Annual Reconciliation from Jack Bowman, the Battle of Kings Mountain on October 7 via Zoom from Clark Summers, the Battle of Shallow Ford on October 10 (to be determined), and the 2021 Annual NCSSAR Convention on April 2-3 from Ed Hosmer.

Closing out the meeting agenda was a discussion of unfinished business as follows: Capt. George Dickey Chapter update from John Boyd; proposed Bylaws amendments from Charles Adams; motion and discussion for NCSSAR to submit a proposal to host the 2026 National SAR Congress from Jay DeLoach; and national and State fees from Fred Learned.

Presented by Jay DeLoach, new business included *NCSSAR Handbook* changes, current and 2021 general/director-officer liability insurance, and the SAR Pyramid of training model with particular emphasis on compatriot training.

The meeting concluded with the SAR recession led by Rod Herbig, the benediction by Mike Aycock, and adjournment by Fred Learned.

GEOFFREY S. PITTARD
Consulting Editor, *ONS*



Chapter News

Catawba Valley Chapter

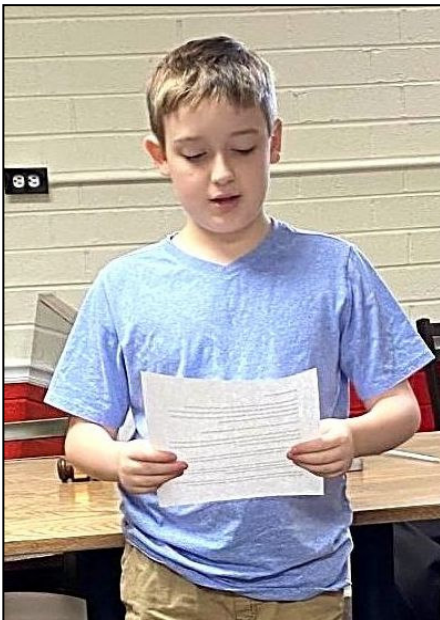
Catawba Valley Chapter President, Ben Setser and Vice President, John Jay Cline attended the Board meeting of Thunder Over Carolina, Inc. in Lincolnton on July 2, 2020. The



Ben Setser and Robby Buff

meeting was a basic debriefing of what worked (and did not work) with our joint, Virtual Ramsour's Mill Commemoration this past June 20. President Setser presented Board Chairman, Robby Buff with a Certificate of Appreciation and affirmed Catawba Valley Chapter's continued support of Thunder Over Carolina.

Bi-monthly meetings resumed this past July 18 with a wonderful talk from local historian and Executive Director of the Historical Association of Catawba County, Bo Teague, concerning the use of the ford next to



Will Barton

present day Bunker Hill Bridge after the Battle of Kings Mountain. There was also a report by Will Barton on activities of CAR. Chapter President Ben Setser inducted new Compatriot, Sherrill Watkins into NCSSAR. It was great to be back together.



Bo Teague



Ben Setser and Sherill Watkins

Catawba Valley Chapter, Mecklenburg Chapter, and Thunder Over Carolina participated in the 131st Old Soldiers Parade in Newton on August 20, 2020. Due to pandemic restrictions, the week long Old Soldiers Reunion celebration had been truncated to a parade around the Historic Courthouse Museum in order to keep the oldest Veterans parade in the nation alive. The event was hosted by American Legion Post 544.



Combined members of Catawba Valley Chapter, Mecklenburg Chapter, Tryon County Militia, Thunder Over Carolina, Greenlee DAR, and John Hoyle DAR

Patriot Isaac Carter Chapter

Assisted by genealogist, Cynthia Marlowe, Jeffrey R. Midgett of New Bern was the first to trace his heritage to Patriot William Dove and has become the newest member of Patriot Isaac Carter Chapter of NCSSAR. The Patriot Isaac Carter Chapter is the first National SAR chapter in the nation to be comprised primarily of descendants from a free man of color, Patriot Isaac Carter, one of the '14 forgotten men' of the War.

In the early 18th Century, a group of families who were 'free men of color' from Maryland and Virginia migrated to the eastern NC in search of new farmland, a place to live in peace, and to be free of oppressive, race-related laws. They eventually settled in the area of Harlowe which is now part of Carteret and Craven Counties.

Continued on page 7.

BEN L. SETSER
Consulting Editor, ONS



Chapter News

Patriot Issac Carter Chapter (cont.)

As the Revolutionary War began, the settlers of Harlowe, mostly farmers, chose 14 men to represent their community in the conflict. Following the War, these 14 Patriots returned to Harlowe and soon faded into obscurity.



Jeffrey R. Midgett and Cynthia Marlowe

In 2014, NCSSAR conducted a ceremony to dedicate a marker to the 14 free men of color who served in the Revolution. In 2016, NCSSAR chartered the Patriot Isaac Carter Chapter, the first chapter of the NCSSAR composed predominantly of Black-American men. The majority of charter members were descendants of Isaac Carter.

The 14 Patriots who served so honorably were Martin Black, Isaac Carter, John Carter, Joshua Carter, William Dove, John Gregory, Absalom Martin, Simeon Moore, George Perkins, Isaac Perkins, Aaron Spelman Spelmore, Asa Spelman Spelmore, Hezekiah Stringer, and Mingo Stringer.

Gen. George Washington Chapter

At the recent NCSSAR Board of Managers meeting, Chapter Secretary-Historian, Ron Bonham,



Fred Learned and Ron Bonham

accepted the Chapter's President General's Education Streamer that would have been presented at



Fred Learned and George Strunk

NSSAR Congress for participation in Outreach to Schools. He and Chapter President, George Strunk both received Liberty Medals as well. George also received a Certificate of Appreciation for Service as the State Color Guard Commander.

The Chapter received the NCSSAR New Membership Growth Award Streamer for Small Chapters. On August 21, Ron presented the SAR Bronze JROTC Medal at Hunt High School to Lt. Col McCormick for presentation to Cadet Tiffany Santamaria. Once more on August 24, Ron Presented the SAR Bronze



Tiffany Santamaria

JROTC Medal to Capt. Breaux for later presentation to Cadet Kightlinger.

Chapter leadership met at Greenville Church of God on September 17 to induct two new members, Mike Halley and Gerald Wilcox.

Col. Alexander Lillington Chapter

On July 18, Vice President Matthew Ezzell presented an Eagle Scout Certificate and a SAR Boy Scout Partnership for Good Citizenship patch to Benjamin Gonzales, a member of BSA Troop 35 of Wallace. The grandson of John Thornhill, Benjamin is the first Eagle Scout recognized by the SAR in Duplin County. Seven more Eagle Scouts from Wallace that will receive their certificates and patches from the Chapter in November.

The second annual celebration of the Battle of Rockfish Creek occurred on August 15. In addition to the members of the Col. Lillington Chapter, the Lower Cape Fear Chapter was represented. Three Chapters of the DAR were represented by their Regents. Susan Corliss-Bland, Regent of the Battle of Rockfish Chapter of the DAR recorded the event and attempted to get the ceremony broadcast live over the Internet. Following the celebration, members of BSA Troop 35 and the Lillington Chapter held a Flag Retirement Ceremony.

Four members of the Chapter recently purchased Revolutionary War uniforms, and the Chapter has formed a Color Guard. Members are David, Michael, Eric and Mark Murphy, a three generation family affair. After a couple of practices, the new unit presented the Colors at the Battle of Rockfish ceremony. The Chapter hopes to enlarge the Color Guard and provide a Color Guard as needed in the area.

The gravesite of Patriot Barnet Brock will be marked on October 10. Barnet served as a Private in the New Hanover County Militia in the Company of Captain Isham Sheffield, Colonel James Kenan's Regiment. The grave is located in a family cemetery that is still being used today.

In July, the Chapter lost a member, Carlyle Herring, to the pandemic.

JOHN O. THORNHILL
Consulting Editor, ONS

OLD
NORTH
STATE

OCT
2020

NC Society Sons of the American Revolution

The First U.S. Flag

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



Young Nation Needed a Flag

Once the U.S. declared independence from Great Britain on July 4, 1776, each ship captain needed a flag to identify its nationality when approaching another ship or port. A ship that displayed no flag was considered a pirate ship. Each Continental Army regiment had its own battle flag for recognition; therefore, a national flag was not needed at the time.

Hopkinson, Educated Statesman

Francis Hopkinson was born on October 2, 1737 in Philadelphia to English immigrants. His father was an English lawyer. In 1757 Francis became the first graduate of the College of Philadelphia (now the University of Pennsylvania). In addition to studying writing, heraldry, and art, he studied and practiced law in Philadelphia.

He married Anne Borden and moved to her hometown of Bordentown NJ. The couple were blessed with five children. In 1776, at the age of 39, Francis was appointed to the Continental Congress as a delegate from New Jersey. He was also a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Insignia Designed by Hopkinson

As chairman of the Navy Board, Francis designed many seals and insignia for the new navy. Included was a design for a flag that had thirteen alternating red and white stripes, and thirteen white stars in a field of blue. The Navy Board, which reported to the Marine Committee, recommended that the Continental Congress authorize a national flag that included Hopkinson's design. Congress approved the proposal on June 14, 1777, as the first Flag Act. Two additional Flag Acts followed in 1794 and 1818.

Arrangement of the Stars

The Flag Act of 1777 did not specify the arrangement of the stars on the flag. Contemporary letters and paintings show no clear evidence for a linear or circular distribution of stars. Several flags of that era had staggered rows of six-pointed stars, a design credited to Hopkinson by many historians.

The thirteen stars in early Navy ensigns were arranged in a 3-2-3-2-3 pattern. In 1778 Hopkinson submitted a design that included a seal with 13 six-pointed stars on a solid field to the Continental Board of War and Ordinance. Since Hopkinson's seal design used six-pointed stars, the Flag Guys (a New York company) used this pattern and stars in their Francis Hopkinson flag.

In 1780 Francis sent a letter to Continental Admiralty Board stating that he had designed a flag (and many other items) for the United States, for which he requested extra compensation. His request was rejected on the grounds that too many others had worked on the designs to give him full credit for them. A letter and reply to this effect were discovered in 1917 and are now in the National Archives.

Francis Hopkinson died in 1791 at the age of 54. He is the only person ever to have claimed to have designed the first U.S. national flag.

Betsy Ross Flag

Although Betsy Ross was a well-known commercial seamstress in Philadelphia, there is no documentary evidence that she either designed or made the first U.S. flag. The flag that the family said Betsy created had a circle of stars in the blue field. However, there is no historical evidence for such a design before the 1790s. The purported claim was not known until her descendants reported it around 1870 during the Centennial of the Revolutionary War. This was 90 years after James Hopkinson claimed to have designed the original U.S. flag.

Further, there is no historical evidence of who made (sewed) the first U.S. flag. Perhaps Betsy Ross sewed the first Hopkinson-designed flag. Interestingly, both Ross and Hopkinson attended Christ Church in Philadelphia.

Definitive Evidence, Two Maps

The earliest clear depiction of the first U.S. flag may be found on the 1783 Wallis map housed at the Library of Congress. The map shows the recent treaty-set boundaries of the United States (see accompanying image).

Continued on page 9.

SAR Veteran Recognition

The SAR (www.sar.org) is a patriotic organization that promotes member participation in many civic and patriotic events and observances. In addition to its pro-active outreach programs to support non-member veterans, the SAR goes above and beyond in recognition of SAR members who are military veterans and active duty personnel. Through the SAR Veterans Recognition Committee (VRC), members are served and recognized in the following ways:

Newsletter: *The Bugle* is a VRC periodic newsletter that includes editorials, articles, and other veteran and patriotic information. Past/current copies of *The Bugle* can be found by signing on to the NSSAR website, searching 'veterans committee,' and then clicking on the 'Veterans Recognition Committee' link.

Certificates: The VRC awards SAR Certificates of Patriotism to member veterans.

Service Medals: The SAR awards two medals that recognize military service: Military Service Medal; and War Service Medal. These medals with accompanying certificate may be obtained through a state chapter, a state society, or the VRC. The Military Service Medal recognizes military service of a compatriot who would not otherwise qualify for the War Service Medal. The War Service Medal may be presented to members who served during conflicts, starting with the Spanish-American War through World War I, World War II, and beyond. Following World War II, the NSSAR authorized a generic War Service Medal with specific service periods indicated by bronze bars.

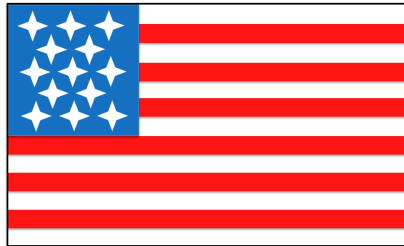
Veterans Corps: The SAR also recognizes members who have served or are serving in the military through Veterans Corps. SAR members may join Veteran Corps for World War I, World War II, Korean Service, Vietnam War, Special Ops, Southwest Asia (Middle East/Afghanistan), and Military Service.

Continued on page 10.

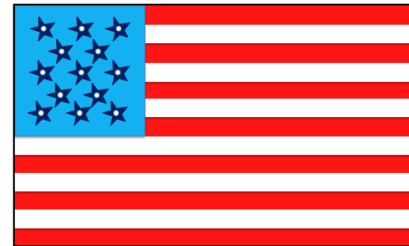
The First U.S. Flag

Continued from page 8.

A second clear depiction of the flag is the 1784 Buell map (see accompanying image) showing the boundaries of the new American nation. This was the first map of the U.S. printed in North America. Both maps clearly suggest that governmental authorities of 1783 considered the official standard of the U.S. flag to have a 3-2-3-2-3 configuration of stars, a design originated by Hopkinson.



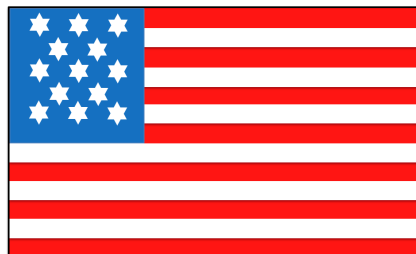
Wallis flag reproduction



Buell flag reproduction

Conclusion

The charming story of Betsy Ross discussing the flag with General Washington has captured public interest for generations. For many years, most flags representing the U.S. during the Revolutionary War used the circular arrangement (Ross version) rather than the staggered-row arrangement (Hopkinson version).



Hopkinson flag reproduction

The recent publicity surrounding, and re-publication of, the 1783 and 1784 maps has made a solid case that the Hopkinson version was the first national U.S. flag. Increasing numbers of National Historic Parks with Revolutionary War themes are now flying Hopkinson-design flags.

References

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3. The Flag Guys, www.flagguys.com/hop.html; www.usflag.org/francis.hopkinson.html
4. National Association of Vellixologists, 2014, No. 216, p 7, by Earl P. Williams, Jr. URL: https://nava.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/NAVANews_2012_no216.pdf
5. Library of Congress: Title: The United States of America laid down from the best authorities, agreeable to the Peace of 1783. Contributor Names: Wallis, John, 1714-1793. Created and Published London, 1783. <https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3700.ct000080/?r=0.104,0.087,1.226,0.661>
6. David M. Rubenstein, Co-founder and Managing Director of The Carlyle Group, gave the Library of Congress stewardship of the Buell map. Citation: Abel Buell map: A New And Correct Map of the United States of North America. https://www.loc.gov/rr/geogmap/images/ct003267Buell_cartouche.jpg

SAR Veteran Recognition

Continued from page 9.

Westmoreland Award: Each year, the SAR recognizes one of its members who has provided outstanding support to his veteran community with the distinguished General William C. Westmoreland Award.

GARY GILLETTE
Veterans Committee Chair, NCSSAR

Barnet Brock Grave Marking

The Col. Alexander Lillington Chapter of NCSSAR will host a grave marking for Patriot Barnet Brock on October 10, 2020 at 10:00 AM. See Calendar for directions at www.ncssar.org. If you wish to attend or want to present a wreath, notify Michael Murphy by Oct. 3 at mmurphy@ec.rr.com to be placed on the program.

Benjamin Sutton Grave Marking

The Gen. George Washington Chapter of NCSSAR will host a grave marking for Patriot Benjamin Sutton on Saturday, November 7, 2020, 11:00 AM. If you wish to attend or want to present a wreath, notify George Strunk by Nov. 1 at gkstrunk@iglide.net in order to be placed on the program. A BBQ meal will be served after the ceremony at the local Ruritan Building. All are invited. RSVP and get directions at the Calendar link at www.ncssar.org.



National News NC Places in NSSAR Contests

The NSSAR Americanism Committee sponsors national contests annually. The *Americanism* Award recognizes top chapters and State Societies that participate in various education outreach programs of the SAR. The *PG Streamer* Award is presented to top chapters and State Societies that record the best efforts in advancing various administrative goals that contribute to the success of the SAR. The *PG Cup* Award is presented to top chapters that earn points in 75% of the categories on the combined Americanism and PG Streamer score sheet (see <https://www.sar.org/committees/americanism-committee/>).

100+ Member State Societies (8 entries)

Americanism: NC finished 4th (38,609 total points; 71,363 out of 1st).

PG Streamer: NC finished 5th (33,015 total points; 41,918 out of 1st).



1-49 Member Chapters (92 entries)

Americanism: New Bern 2nd; Halifax Resolves, 3rd; Gen. George Washington, 9th; Alamance Battleground, 12th; Salisbury, 18th; Col. Alexander Lillington, 25th; Bethabara, 26th; Albemarle, 31st; Gen. Francis Nash, 37th; Yadkin Valley, 43rd; Catawba Valley, 44th; Col. Alexander Erwin, 46th; Lt. Col. John Phifer, 62nd; Colson's Mill, 69th; Lt. Col. Felix Walker, 70th; Western Waters, 75th; Battle of Kings Mountain, 78th; Lumber River, 86th; Capt. George Dickey, 88th.

PG Streamer: Alamance Battleground, 2nd; New Bern, 4th; Gen. George Washington, 7th; Col. Alexander Lillington, 10th; Bethabara, 16th; Halifax Resolves, 19th; Salisbury, 20th; Catawba Valley, 24th; Gen. Francis Nash, 28th; Battle of Kings Mountain, 37th; Yadkin Valley, 48th; Col. Alexander Erwin, 49th; Western Waters, 59th; Albemarle, 63rd; Lumber River, 72nd; Colson's Mill, 73rd; Lt. Col. Felix Walker, 78th; Lt. Col. John Phifer, 80th; Capt. George Dickey, 81st.

PG Cup (17 entries): Halifax Resolves, 2nd; New Bern, 3rd; Gen. George Washington, 6th; Col. Alexander Lillington, 8th; Alamance Battleground, 9th; Salisbury, 13th; Bethabara, 17th.

50-99 Member Chapters (58 entries)

Americanism: Blue Ridge, 42nd; Nathanael Greene, 47th; Lower Cape Fear, 49th; Le Marquis de Lafayette, 53rd; Old North State 57th; Patriot Isaac Carter (58th).

PG Streamer: Le Marquis de Lafayette 35th; Lower Cape Fear 36th; Blue Ridge 40th; Nathanael Greene 46th; Old North State, 55th; Patriot Isaac Carter, 58th.

PG Cup (32 entries): No entries for NC.

100-199 Member Chapters (31 entries)

Americanism: Mecklenburg, 8th.

PG Streamer: Mecklenburg, 19th.

PG Cup (20 entries): No entries for NC.

GEOFFREY S. PITTARD
Consulting Editor, ONS

Sandhills Chapter Holds Charter Ceremony

The NCSSAR Sandhills Chapter held their charter ceremony on September 22 at the Pine Crest Inn in Pinehurst. This date was selected by Chapter officers to coincide with Constitution Week.

The ceremony began with presentation of the colors by the State Color Guard under the command of George Strunk and supported by



NCSSAR President, Fred Learned (center), presents the Sandhills Chapter charter to President Bruce Fensley (left) and Vice President Rod Herbig (right).

NCSSAR and Sandhills Chapter Officers. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Chapter's most senior Compatriot, William L. Rose, age 95, from Southern Pines. A WWII Navy veteran (Pacific Theater), William was thrilled to finally join the SAR and complete a lifetime dream on his 'bucket list.' Also leading the Pledge were the Chapter's most junior members, Compatriots, John and Joshua Wilber, ages 11 and 12, respectively.



Swearing-in of Compatriots (L-R) Ramsey R. Blanks, William E. Carl, John C. Laflin, William A. Loeser, Thomas M. McInnis, William L. Rose, Charles H. Spelman, John F. Wilber, and Joshua A. Wilber.

The Chapter was honored by the presence of eight NCSSAR Officers from across the State, along with

representatives from the North Carolina State Society of the DAR, including Daughters from the Alfred Moore DAR Chapter, the Temperance Smith Alston DAR Chapter, and the Pvt. John Grady DAR Chapter. Also present was Southern Pines Mayor, Carol Haney and Aberdeen Mayor, Robert Farrell.



DAR Daughters, Ann Yamrus of Cameron, NC DAR District V Director and Harriet Riley of Silver City, Regent of the Alfred Moore DAR Chapter, offer best wishes and comments for future cooperation and collaboration between the DAR and SAR chapters.

NCSSAR President, Fred Learned shared congratulatory messages conveyed to Sandhills Chapter Compatriots from North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper, NSSAR President General, Jack Manning, NSSAR Treasurer General, C. Bruce Pickette, NSSAR Chaplain General, Rev. David J. Felts, NSSAR Registrar General, Douglas T. Collins, and NSSAR Historian General, Bill Stone.



President Learned, recognizes DAR Daughter, Carolyn Loeser.

President Learned presented several awards. A SAR Medal and Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Past Regent of the Alfred Moore DAR Chapter, Carolyn Loeser of Whispering Pines. In addition, he awarded Roger Sherman Silver Medals and Certificates for Faithful Services to

Sandhills Chapter Vice President, Rod Herbig and Chapter President, Bruce Fensley.



Swearing-in of Chapter Officers (L to R), Tom M. McInnis, Chaplin; Michael R. Fusselbaugh, Secretary; Ramsey R. Blanks, Treasurer; Bruce A. Fensley, President; John C. Laflin, Registrar, and Fred Learned, NCSSAR President.

Compatriot Rod Herbig of Pinehurst shared a short story about the history of establishing the first SAR Chapter in the Sandhills area of North Carolina. A Past President of the Fox Valley SAR Chapter in Illinois, Rod relocated to Pinehurst after his retirement to be closer to family. Involving himself in SAR activities proved to be a significant



Compatriot Rod Herbig

challenge, however. The closest chapter was an hour and a half drive away, which prevented his continued involvement in SAR.

Not one to give up, Rod went to work and obtained a list of SAR Compatriots in the Sandhills area. He began contacting them and connected with a few. After nearly three years of conducting monthly meetings, assisting interested men with SAR applications, and participating in area patriotic events, the chapter-forming group reached the required membership to establish a new chapter under Rod's leadership. The Sandhills Chapter gratefully acknowledges Rod's determination, knowledge, and positive outlook for future growth.

BRUCE FENSLEY
President, Sandhills Chapter

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NC Society Sons of the American Revolution

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NCSSAR Calendar

Oct. 7: 240th Anniversary, Battle of Kings Mountain, NCSSAR, 10:30 AM-11:30 AM

Oct. 10: 240th Commemoration, Battle of Shallow Ford, Huntsville, NC, Bethabara Chapter, 11:00 AM; Barnet Brock Grave Marking, Kenansville, Col. Alexander Lillington Chapter, 10:00 AM

Oct. 17: Raleigh Chapter Zoom Meeting, 12:00 PM-1:00 PM

Nov. 7: Benjamin Sutton Grave Marking, Hardy Sutton Cemetery, La Grange, NC, Gen. George Washington Chapter, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM

Nov. 12: Capt. Jack Sculptor Visits Mecklenburg, Hilton Charlotte Executive Park Hotel, Mecklenburg Chapter, 6:00-9:00 PM

Nov. 21: Lunch Meeting, Golden Corral Buffet & Grill, Capitol Blvd., Raleigh, Raleigh Chapter, 12:00 PM-1:30 PM

Dec. 12: Charlotte Wreaths Across America, Forrest Lawn East Cemetery, Matthews, NC, Mecklenburg Chapter, 12:00 PM-1:00 PM; Raleigh Wreaths Across America at Oakwood, Raleigh Chapter, 11:30 AM-1:00 PM

Dec. 19: Lunch Meeting, Golden Corral Buffet & Grill, Capitol Blvd., Raleigh, Raleigh Chapter, 12:00 PM-1:30 PM

In Memoriam

Charles A. Lewis, PhD 1937-2020

We lost a great friend last month. Born July 14, 1937, Dr. Charles A. Lewis died August 5, 2020. He enjoyed his last few years as a member of the Lower Cape Fear Chapter. He remarked once that he particularly enjoyed how active we were as a chapter. Initially, Charles did not want to wear ceremonial attire or participate in the chapter color guard, although he already owned a revolutionary war marine uniform. He eventually capitulated and decided to join us in some chapter activities in uniform.

In the early period of our relationship, when I would inform him that I was going to attend a grave marking or other NCSSAR event, he would ask to ride along. Grateful for the company, we had several high level discussions about topics of interest to us both. Charles became an active chapter member, serving as President and later Chaplain. After a little arm twisting, he later agreed to serve as President of the Old North State Chapter.

He advised me when he first joined the chapter in the early 1980s that our meetings were essentially a "coffee-drinking breakfast club." Admittedly, there were no chapter activities at the time. He eventually remarked that he liked the good changes that had occurred in the Lower Cape Fear Chapter.



Compatriot Dr. Charles A. Lewis

Charles was a decorated compatriot. He earned the Robert E. Burt Boy Scout Volunteer Medal (GASSAR) in 2010, the Patriot Medal (NCSSAR) in 2018, followed by the chapter Bronze Color Guard and National Silver Color Guard medals in 2018. Of all his awards, though, he was most proud of the National Patriot Grave Marking Medal, awarded in 2019. He earned that medal by accompanying me to many remote areas.

A man of great character, Charles' service to NCSSAR was exemplary and worthy to be emulated. We honor his memory. Go in peace, Dr. Charles.

GARY O. GREEN, LT. COL., USAF (RET.)
VP/Registrar, Lower Cape Fear Chapter

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