



The Patriot Journal

Newsletter of the Raleigh NC SAR Chapter
North Carolina Society Sons of the American Revolution

Summer 2021

President's Corner

Richard A. Peña, President



One can distinguish the accomplishments of the Raleigh Chapter in the second quarter of 2021 as steady and productive. The Chapter continued to conduct successful Zoom Chapter and BOM meetings throughout the quarter. The Raleigh Chapter hosted a Genealogical DNA beginner's learning session attended by both DAR and SAR members. Members learned about the standards and science behind Genealogical DNA. Also, the attendees viewed the Raleigh Chapter's DNA Project and resources on (FTDNA) Family Tree DNA.

As President, I enjoyed the opportunity in the second quarter to attend five out of six patriotic events to present wreaths on behalf of the Raleigh Chapter honoring the sacrifices of patriots of the American Revolution. I also would like to thank Tom Davis for his participation in almost nearly every event sponsored by NC SAR. Our hats are off to Tom!

- 245th Halifax Resolves
- 246th Patriot Day
- San Diego Chapter, CA (CG) Memorial Day
- 241th Battle of Ramsour's Mill
- Waynes Crossing (CG) Fairfax Chapter, VA
- 246th Liberty Point Resolves - Lafayette

Another noteworthy mention is the Rumbaugh Oration committee finished their selection of finalists to receive awards.

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Registrar's Report & Welcome New Members

Bob Whitehead, Registrar

Since the last Registrar's Report on March 30, 2021, 8 New Member Applications and 1 Supplemental Application have been approved by NSSAR. They are listed below on the following page.

There are currently 2 New Member Applications and 5 Supplemental Applications under review at the National Society.

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President's Corner from Page 1

Jake Hessler, the Rumbaugh Oration finalist from Raleigh, performed his prize-winning speech on the "Importance of the Kentucky Long Rifle" at the Tara Farm Picnic on June 26. Jake's performance was not only educational but a brilliant oration.

The JROTC Committee is also hard at work, engaging with schools and identifying outstanding cadets in the program. The JROTC Committee delivered awards to 63% of all schools participating in the Raleigh Chapter JROTC program. Our hats are off to Compatriots Jeremy Hodges, Karl Feld, and all the volunteers that assisted the committees. Finally, I would like to thank our Communication Officer David Bamford for his extraordinary newsletter efforts.



Jake Hessler, the Rumbaugh Oration Raleigh Finalist
Tara Farm Picnic, June 26

Patriots are the foundation...

Each member of our chapter is very important to the Raleigh Chapter, North Carolina Society and also the SAR National Society. Thank you for your continued membership during this time. Please visit the [NC SAR websites](#) to keep informed, and thank you for keeping your 2021 membership renewal up to date.



Registrar's Report from Page 1

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS !

Since January 1, 2021, 15 New Member Applications and 2 Supplemental Applications have been approved by NSSAR

New Member Applications Approved (Since March)

- William Carleton Chandler, Patriot: Starling Gunn
- John Deans Eatman, Patriot: John Eatman
- Derek Keesling Feld, Patriot: Conrad Keesling
- Ryan Reeves Hutchinson, Patriot: John McAdams
- James Preston Parrish, Patriot: Charles Gwatkin
- John Michael Ranck, Patriot: Valentine Ranck
- Kenneth Donald Charles Van Valen, Patriot: John Van Valen
- Kenneth James Donald Van Valen, Patriot: John Van Valen

Supplemental Applications Approved (Since March)

- Karl Geoffrey Feld, Patriot: John Keesling

Member Death Notices

It is with a heavy heart that we report the death of 2 of our members this year. Keep the families in your prayers.

William "Bill" Northcutt passed away on March 22, 2021. Bill had been a member of the Raleigh Chapter since July 2004. More information can be found at this link:

[William Northcutt Obituary - Raleigh, NC \(dignitymemorial.com\)](https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/william-northcutt-raleigh-nc)

Past Chapter Treasurer **Howard Keefe** passed away on June 7, 2021. Howard had been a member of the Raleigh Chapter since November 2011. More information can be found at this link:

[Howard Keefe Obituary - Apex, NC \(dignitymemorial.com\)](https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/howard-keefe-apex-nc)



NEW MEMBERS' BIOS

William C. (Bill) Chandler, Ph.D.

Chandler was born in Danville, VA and grew up in Caswell County, NC.

Chandler holds a B.A., Political Science, Master of Public Administration and Ph.D. from NC State University. Chandler's doctoral dissertation examined the sale of alcohol to underage persons in NC, its causes and prevention. Chandler has taught public policy analysis in NCSU's MPA Program and public budgeting at Duke University's Sanford School of Public Policy MPP Program.

Chandler retired from the NC Alcohol Law Enforcement Division after over 30 years of service. He held the positions of Special Agent, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Acting Special Agent in Charge, Training Coordinator, Assistant Director, Deputy Director and retired as Director.

He is married to Anne Lackey Chandler and they reside in Apex, NC. They have one son Frederick Carlton (Chip) Chandler, who is married and has one son, Hayes Carlton Chandler. Hayes is the thirteenth generation Chandler born in America.

Chandler's membership is based on his lineage from Starling Gunn, his fifth great grandfather. Gunn entered military service in 1780, at the age of 16, in Amelia County, Virginia. Gunn was in the infantry during several battles and skirmishes across Virginia and was transferred to the artillery under Captain Price and Col. Lamb at the Battle of Yorktown. Gunn's tombstone bears the following inscription: "Sacred to the memory of Starling Gunn a soldier in the war of Independence who fired the first cannon at York and was an eyewitness to the surrender of Cornwallis."

Kenneth (Ken) James Donald Van Valen

Compatriot Van Valen was born and raised in Bergen County, New Jersey, the "Crossroads of the American Revolution." In 1990, Ken earned the prestigious rank of Eagle with 5 Silver Palms. He has been actively registered in Scouting for 38 years. In 2010, Ken received a B.A. in History Education, Cum Laude, from Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ.

Ken is currently works as a Property Manager for Extra Space Storage in the greater Raleigh area. He has over 25 years of retail experience including working for the United States Post Office and teaching. In his spare time Ken is involved in, playing golf, working on his cars, working on various projects and expanding his family ancestry research.

He is married to Diana who is originally from Bergen County, New Jersey. They have been married for 10 years. He and his wife spend their days spoiling their fur-babies Cody and Snuggles. They are also in the process of adopting a child. Diana works as a LPN at a local senior facility.

Compatriot Van Valen's membership in The Sons of the American Revolution is based on his bloodline descent from Patriot John Van Valen. During the Revolution John Van Valen served in Dutchess County Militia in the 2nd New York Regiment under Col. Abraham Brinkerhoff for the years 1779-1780.



NEW MEMBERS' BIOS

Kenneth (Ken) Donald Charles Van Valen

Compatriot Van Valen was raised in Bergen County, New Jersey. In 1964, he became an Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America. In 1968, Ken received a B.A. from Kean University in Union, New Jersey. He started teaching in September of 1968 in the Paramus, New Jersey school system. He taught industrial art classes for 42 years and coached both football and winter track there.

Ken is currently retired from the Paramus school system but still does some substitute teaching. Ken is still involved with Scouting. He is currently a troop committee chairman and a unit commissioner. He and his wife, Susan, love to spend time with their grand children, Andrew, Benjamin and Alexandra. Ken and Susan had 5 children between them when they were married in 2005. Ken's children are Kenneth (also an Eagle Scout), Douglas (deceased Navy veteran) and Victoria. Susan's children are Stephanie and Shannon. Kenny, Vicky and Stephanie have degrees in education. Shannon's degree is in social work.

Compatriot Van Valen's membership in the Sons of the American Revolution is based on his bloodline descent from Patriot John Van Valen. During the Revolution John Van Valen served in Dutchess County Militia in the 2nd New York Regiment under Col. Abraham Brinkerhoff for the years 1779-1780.

John Michael (Mike) Ranck

Compatriot Ranck was raised near Hershey, Pennsylvania. He received a bachelor's degree in Geology from Michigan State University and a master's degree in Hydrology at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology in Socorro, N.M.

Mike is currently employed with the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality where he is the supervisor of the Groundwater Management Branch. Previously, he worked in environmental consulting for fifteen years with AECOM remediating groundwater at contaminated sites across North Carolina and the southeast.

He is married to his wife of 17 years, Rose Sydlowski Ranck, who is originally from Sylvania, Ohio. They have a 7-year old daughter, Clara, who is active in gymnastics and figure skating. They spend their remaining free time traveling and attending Carolina Hurricanes games.

Compatriot Ranck's membership in The Sons of the American Revolution is based on his bloodline descent from Patriot Valentine Ranck. During the Revolution, Pvt. Ranck served in the Pennsylvania militia in the First Company of the Fifth Battalion of Lancaster County under Captain Alexander McIlvain.



NEW MEMBERS' BIOS

John "Deans" Eatman

Compatriot Eatman was raised in Halifax County, North Carolina. In 2016 Deans received a B.A. from North Carolina State University. In 2013 he began working at the North Carolina General Assembly and has worked in state government relations since that time.

Deans is currently the Director of Legislative Affairs and Advisor to the Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR). A lifelong history enthusiast, Deans started working as a volunteer at Historic Halifax State Historic Site three days after his 14th birthday (the minimum volunteer age at the time). In his role with DNCR, Deans assists with planning for North Carolina's commemoration of the upcoming Semiquincentennial of the United States.

Deans lives in Wendell where he is active in Wendell United Methodist Church and local government. In his spare time Deans travels throughout North Carolina and researches state and family history.

Compatriot Eatman's membership in The Sons of the American Revolution is based on his bloodline descent from Patriot John Eatman. During the Revolution Eatman served as Overseer of the Road and Juror in Nash County.



Annual Tara Farm Chapter Picnic

Our Annual Tara Farm Picnic was held on Saturday, June 26, in Raleigh. It was kicked off by a call to order by our chapter president followed by a delicious catered chicken and barbeque lunch. There was a moving presentation on the [Veteran Smiles Foundation](#); chapter awards were handed out, and upcoming events were announced. It was great fellowship and fun for all. The event was attended by both SAR, DAR, and CAR members. The meeting closed with an invitational prayer by our chapter chaplain. This was our first in-person meeting since early 2020. We hope everyone can join us again next year. Thanks to those that hosted, organized, and planned the event!



Annual Tara Farm Chapter Picnic Pictures Continued

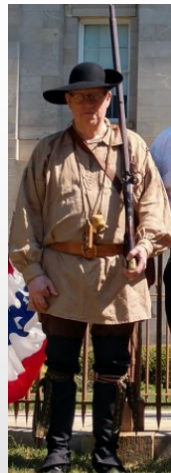


SAR° SONS OF THE
AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Annual Independence Day Celebration July 4

On Sunday, July 4, members of the Raleigh Chapter Color Guard participated in the Annual Independence Day Celebration and Naturalization Ceremony at the NC State Capitol. At the ceremony, our Color Guard presented and posted the colors; they also laid a wreath at the George Washington statue on the capitol grounds. Color Guard members present were: Bob Sigmon, Stephen Morris, Van Jones, Tom Davis, Tom Floyd, and John Harrod.

Also attending and in support were chapter members Richard Pena, Jeremy Hodges, Buck Anderson, and Glenn Sappie.



The Veteran Smiles Foundation

The Veteran Smiles Foundation (VSF) is a non-profit organization headquartered in Wake Forest, NC, and provides educational and financial support to at-risk veterans to improve their dental and oral healthcare. Most of these veterans do not qualify for free care at VA hospitals and clinics and cannot afford dental care on their own. VSF founder Ret. Colonel David E. McCracken became aware of the gap in veterans' services through his work with the Veterans Affairs Council and created a solution with VSF.

VSF's year-round Vet Smiles initiative is in partnership with the East Carolina University (ECU) School of Dental Medicine, NC Serves, and Veteran Service Officers throughout the state. ECU's School of Dental Medicine has eight satellite dental clinics located around the state in rural and under-served areas including Brunswick, Robeson, and Davidson Counties, and also in the communities of Elizabeth City, Ahoskie, Lillington, Spruce Pine, and Sylva.

After a veteran is determined eligible for services, the program begins with an oral exam and X-rays to outline a dental plan specific to their oral health needs. Dental plans include routine checkups, annual cleanings, and minor and major dental work. VSF provides financial support when the veteran enrolls in the program. The level of assistance is subject to funds available under VSF financial policies and agreements.

For the current fiscal year, the VSF has spent about \$10,700 for 21 veterans. The VSF's funding and day-to-day operations are dependent on grants, donations, individual dentists volunteering their services, and the ECU School of Dental Medicine.

How can you help? The VSF needs partners for funding and donations to expand the "Vet Smiles" program to help more veterans with gaps in their oral healthcare throughout North Carolina.

For more information on how to volunteer or to make a tax-deductible donation, please contact Ret. Colonel David E. McCracken at davide@vetsmiles.org or Ph. 984.233.3350, go to the VSF website at <https://vetsmiles.org>

Editor's note: Ret. Colonel David E. McCracken is a member of the Raleigh Chapter, North Carolina Sons of the American Revolution.

The two veterans pictured below, one an Iraq War Veteran and the other a Vietnam War Veteran, received needed dental services through the VSF "Vet Smiles" Program.



Raleigh Chapter Awards

The Raleigh Chapter awarded the **Bronze Good Citizenship Award** to Micah Hill, Corinth Holders High School in Johnston County, for his enthusiasm and engagement in the study of the founding principles of American government. Micah is a senior and completed the Advanced Placement course in American Government at Corinth Holders High School this year. He is planning to attend North Carolina State University in the Fall majoring in Political Science.

The Raleigh Chapter, under the leadership of ROTC/JROTC Awards Chairman Karl Feld and with the assistance of chapter volunteers, has distributed 19 medals and certificates to ROTC and JROTC commanders for award in Wake and Johnston counties this year. The recipients of the awards are selected by their commanders in recognition of their outstanding leadership qualities and military bearing.

The Raleigh Chapter ROTC / JROTC awards volunteers are:

- Jeremy Hodges (West Johnston High)
- David Bamford (Clayton High)
- Stephen Morris (Enloe and Knightdale High Schools)
- Karl Feld (South Johnston High, Smithfield-Selma High, Garner Magnet High, Sanderson High, Wake Forest High, North Johnston High, NCSU Air Force, Saint Augustine's University Army)
- Brett Russ (Millbrook High and NCSU Army)
- Clark Hemingway (Cleveland High)
- George Dolicker (Cary High)
- Tom Howard (NCSU Navy)
- Bradley Cook (Broughton High)

As of July 1, 2021, the following students have received the **ROTC / JROTC Outstanding Cadet/ Midshipman Award**.

- Air Force Cadet Mason Berger, an NC State University junior, Lt. Col. John J. Dumont III commanding
- Army Cadet Brandon Sluss, an NC State University junior, Lt. Col. Andrew K. Sinden commanding
- Navy Midshipmen Tristan Seal and Marines Cadet Jack Wild, both NC State University juniors, Capt. Andrew Hertel commanding
- Air Force Cadet Theresa Jones of South Johnston High School in Johnston County, Lt. Col. Eric Brewington commanding
- Air Force Cadet Colin Culbertson of Sanderson High School in Wake County, Col. Patrick Davis commanding
- Air Force Cadet Katelyn Evans of North Johnston High School in Johnston County, Col. Peter Markle commanding
- Army Cadet Malcolm Johnson of Enloe Magnet High

School in Wake County, Maj. Peter Markle commanding

- Army Cadet Iyanna Jackson of Millbrook High School, Wake County, 1SGT Pablo Colon commanding
- Army Cadet Soorya Goli of Enloe High School, Wake County, Maj Charles S. Robertson commanding
- Midshipman Navy Master Chief Corey Moon of Clayton High School, Johnston County, Lt. Col. David Garnish commanding

Air Force Cadet Nayla Seda, Sanderson High School in Wake County, received the **Enhanced JROTC Outstanding Cadet Medal**. Col. Patrick Davis is commanding. The Enhanced Outstanding Cadet Award is competitive amongst the 14 JROTC units in Wake and Johnston counties of North Carolina. Cadet Seda ranked first for JROTC, extra-curricular, academic, and community leadership as well as military bearing.



Karl Feld presents Cadet Mason Berger with the SAR Outstanding Cadet Award



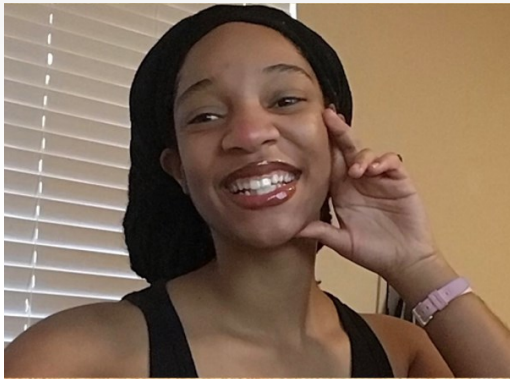
Brett Russ presents Cadet Brandon Sluss with the SAR Outstanding Cadet Award

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[Awards Continued from page 10](#)



Cadet Soorya Goli, Enloe High



Cadet Iyanna Jackson, Millbrook High



Karl Feld presents Air Force Cadet Nayla Seda with the Raleigh Chapter Enhanced JROTC Outstanding Cadet Medal

American Battlefield Trust Videos

[Race to the Dan \(Click\)](#)

[The Battle of Guilford Courthouse \(click\)](#)

[Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge \(Click\)](#)

“American Revolution Podcast”

by Michael Troy

Each Sunday a new episode, approximately 30 minutes in length, is posted that covers a specific topic on the American Revolution. These free audio shows are available at this link for both [IOS and Android](#). Or you can play the episodes directly from your computer by clicking this link: [American Revolution Podcast \(amrevpodcast.com\)](#) .

Episode 206– George Washington in Philadelphia: [American Revolution Podcast: ARP206 George Washington in Philadelphia \(amrevpodcast.com\)](#)



Veterans Life Center (VLC) in Butner, NC



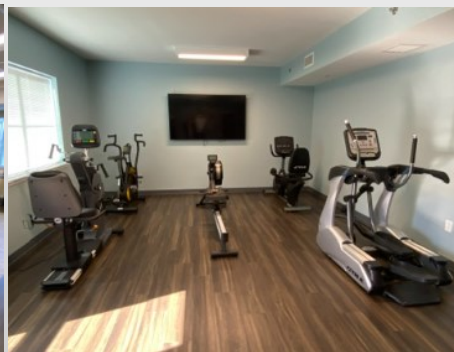
On Monday, March 8, 2021, Raleigh Chapter Representatives Richard Peña, Bob Sigmon, and David Bamford toured the Veterans Life Center (VLC) in Butner, NC, with Founder and Director, John Turner. Pictures taken Monday of the facility are below along with a link to a video slideshow.

The Raleigh Chapter started conversations with the VLC last year this time while they were still under construction about potentially being a contributing partner with the organization. After several presentations and a tour, the Executive Committee of the Raleigh Chapter is authorizing a Capital Campaign to raise sustainment funds for the VLC. The facility is completed and opened in the summer of 2020.

Please consider making a contribution (contact Bob Sigmon). The Raleigh Chapter will be sponsoring an office in the facility with a donation of \$7500. We will also be donating a George Washington portrait generously provided by Past President Stephen Morris and will also donate several US/NC flag sets for use within the facility.

All Raleigh Chapter Members were sent a private link by email to watch the recorded Special Meeting on March 10, 2021, where this was discussed in detail and where John gave a presentation with updates on the facility's needs and operations.

Please watch the video slide show—[Click Here](#)





Raleigh Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

to benefit the

VETERANS LIFE CENTER of NORTH CAROLINA

Yes, I wish to support the Veterans Life Center with the following donation:

\$25	\$50	\$100	\$500	\$1000	\$2000	OTHER

Please check if you wish to stay anonymous.

The Raleigh Chapter is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and your contribution may be tax deductible. Please consult your tax adviser for details. EIN: 56-6075402.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please make your check out to Raleigh Chapter NC SAR and mail your check to Raleigh Chapter Treasurer:

Robert Sigmon
 Raleigh Chapter SAR
 1104 Carrington Drive
 Raleigh, NC 27615

Or, you can pay via PayPal. Send to:

robert_sigmon@yahoo.com

Please use "friends and family option to avoid fees.

THANK YOU from the
Raleigh Chapter SAR and the VETERANS LIFE CENTER!

Chaplain's Prayer

Van Jones, Chaplain



Painting By Arnold Friberg

I try to participate on three levels of membership. Sometimes the lines blur between the three levels.

First I participate on the State Level, based on being the State Chaplain.

Second, I participate on the Organization level as the Chapter Chaplain.

Thirdly and to me most importantly, I try to participate as an individual Chapter Member. As an individual member, I have been able to attend several events, mostly Zoom meetings around the east coast states and several in NC. These events have been great! So much history is involved. From individual history to sectional history, to NC state history, to national history, there has been much to learn. It is my wish and prayer that everyone try to attend SAR activities either in person or remotely on Zoom on the web.

At this time, I ask each member to please let me know when you know of another member who is sick or laid up, whatever the reason. Do they need prayer or a phone call? Please let me know.

I close with this prayer:

Lord, help each of us be friends with each other, and where we can't, help us to be amicable with each other. Help us to share our concerns with each other. Help us to show our concern through our nation's ideals and direction. Help us to support each other and offer encouragement. In your name I pray!

Get your children and grandchildren involved !

Your children or grandchildren qualify for membership in the **National Society of the Children of the American Revolution (C.A.R.)** if they are ages 0 to 21. This is an excellent youth program for them to gain valuable life skills and leadership experiences; they also learn American heritage, history, and patriotism. Many C.A.R. members have moved on to become leaders in the S.A.R. and D.A.R. Membership is open to descendants of patriots of the American Revolution. Encourage them to join today. More information can be found at this link:

[N.C.S.C.A.R. – North Carolina Society of the Children of the American Revolution](#) .



What flag are you flying at home?

Send your flag photo submissions to the editor ([Click here](#)) if you want it in the next newsletter!

“Real men despise battle, but will never run from it.” - George Washington

Upcoming SAR Events

Event Description	Dates - 2021	Calendar URL
The Ringing of the Liberty Bell - Raleigh	Sunday, July 4, 2021	Click Here
240th Battle of Rockfish Creek (CG) - Col. Lillington	Saturday, July 31, 2021	Click Here
240th House on the Horseshoe (CG)	Saturday, August 7, 2021	Click Here
246th Signing of the Tryon Resolves (CG)	Saturday, August 14, 2021	Click Here
Summer Board of Managers' (BOM) Meeting NCSSAR	Saturday, August 21, 2021	Click Here
247th New Bern Resolves (CG)	Saturday, August 28, 2021	Click Here
241st Crossing of Catawba River at Greenlee Ford (CG)	Saturday, October 2, 2021	Click Here
241st Battle of King's Mountain (CG)	Thursday, October 7, 2021	Click Here
241st Battle of Shallow's Ford (CG) 200	Saturday, October 9, 2021	Click Here
Yorktown Victory Day (CG)	Tuesday, October 19, 2021	Click Here
Patriot Abner Nash Grave Marking (CG) - New Bern	Saturday, November 20, 2021	Click Here
246th Battle of Great Bridge, VA (CG)	Saturday, December 4, 2021	Click Here

June & July in Revolutionary War History

June 28, 1778 - Battle of Monmouth, NJ

Painting By Hugh Ditzler



July 4, 1776—Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence.

Painting By John Trumbull





Patriot Robert Brevard was born on July 17, 1763, northeast of Charlotte in Rowan County, NC. A few months after his 16th birthday in 1779, his services in the American Revolution began. He served a total of 6 tours in the militia with 4 times as a volunteer and 2 times as a draftee.

Up until this point, the war had been raging on for about 4 years with neither side having a decisive advantage. Major battles had taken place up north in and around New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. The British suffered a major embarrassing defeat with the surrender of Burgoyne's army at Saratoga on October 17, 1777. With Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben's arrival at Valley Forge in February 1778, Washington's army began its transformation into a well-disciplined fighting force, learning to make effective use of the bayonet. The Continental Army became a serious force to be reckoned with. With the war settling into a stalemate, the British shifted their attention to the southern colonies, particularly North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. They believed that major military operations there would bring a swift end to the war; they were also banking on large numbers of loyalists and Tories to come out in support (which never happened). The action in the south heated up with British forces capturing Savannah, GA, in December 1778; the British also had troops on the ground near Charleston, SC.

In the fall of 1779, a call for volunteers was made in North Carolina for the defense of the state against a feared British invasion. Robert answered the call and volunteered as a private in a company of the Rowan County Militia Regiment under Captain John Dickey. The volunteers marched out without any organization to a place called Phifer's and then proceeded on to Charlotte where the invasion of the state was expected. After arriving they learned that the British had no immediate plans for an invasion, and they were discharged to return home after 1 week in the field. Brigade General Griffith Rutherford of the Salisbury District Brigade of Militia was in command of this expedition.

In June 1780 news came that the Tories (loyalists) were gathering under Lt. Colonel John Moore at a place called Ramsour's Mill in Lincoln County to join up with the British. The loyalist camp would eventually grow to about 1,300 strong. Another call for volunteers was made to disperse the enemy, and Robert rejoined Captain John Dickey's Company of the Rowan County Militia. They joined up with other militia units that answered the call near Cowans Ford on the Catawba River, numbering about 300 to 400 men all under the command of Lt. Colonel Francis Locke. On the evening of June 19, patriot militia forces began their march of about 15 miles towards Ramsour's Mill. On the morning of June 20, Locke ordered an attack on the Tories that numbered about 3 times the size of his army. The courageous actions of Captain Dickey that day led to the Tories' defeat, with many killed, captured and dispersed. Robert was in the field for 1 week on this tour. Detachments of the following militia regiments were present in this Ramsour's Mill action: Rowan, Surry, Mecklenburg, Burke, Lincoln, Rutherford, Orange, and Edgecombe. Also present were several South Carolina militia regiments including the 2nd Spartan, New Acquisition District, Turkey Creek, Little River, and Upper Craven.

Later that summer in 1780, Robert volunteered again when a call was made by Colonel William Richardson Davie. Robert was still a private in Captain John Dickey's Company. The militia was ordered to intercept and stop the British foraging parties who were now advancing in the state. The patriots marched from about 8 miles north of Charlotte under Colonel Davie to the swamp of Sugar Creek which was south of the town. British troops had possession of Charlotte. Colonel Davie described Charlotte as a town of about "twenty houses, built on two streets, which cross each other at right angles, at the intersection of which stands the court-house" (Norris & Barefoot, 2006). The volunteers under Davie remained for about 3 days when it was determined that Cornwallis's men had abandoned the town. Robert was dismissed after another tour of 1 week.

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Afterwards in the fall of 1780, Robert was drafted and mustered into the company of Captain David Ramsay of the Rowan County Regiment of Militia. They mobilized in a place called New Providence south of Charlotte near the South Carolina state line. The troops formed their camp at Six Mile Creek where Robert remained in service until the expiration of the 3 months tour. At the beginning of the tour, General William Lee Davidson held the immediate command. A short time later, General William Smallwood took command of the troops; they were joined by General Daniel Morgan. Robert was discharged by Captain Ramsay.

In early 1781, a call for volunteers was made, and Robert, still a resident of Rowan County, entered as a private in the militia company of Captain John Dickey. Robert noted that he was under the command of Lieutenant Robert Ramsey. All the militia units in this action were under the overall command of General William Lee Davidson, and they organized at Beatie's Ford on the Catawba River. Their objective was to hinder the British advancing into the state under British General Cornwallis. They marched to Cowan's Ford on the Catawba River to oppose the British crossing. Robert noted that he saw General Nathaniel Greene on this tour. An engagement took place at Cowan's Ford on February 1, 1781. The British succeeded in crossing the river and dispersed the militia volunteers after killing General William Lee Davidson who bravely attempted to hold the line against the overwhelming British numbers. The death of General Davidson caused panic among the patriots. Detachments of the following militia regiments were present in this Cowan's Ford action: Surry, Johnston, Montgomery, Rowan, Mecklenburg, Lincoln, Burke, Orange, Caswell, and Wake.

That same day, an attempt was made to reorganize the dispersed militia at Tarrant's Tavern about 8 or 10 miles from the Cowan's Ford action. Cornwallis had dispatched Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton and his cavalry legion to find the fleeing militia. Tarleton captured several prisoners and learned of the planned rendezvous at Tarrant's Tavern later that afternoon around 2 p.m. and scattered the patriot militia again. Detachments of the following militia regiments were present in this Tarrant's Tavern action: Surry, Rowan, Mecklenburg, Lincoln, Burke, Randolph, Orange, Caswell, and Wake. Robert noted in his soldier's pension file that after the militia was dispersed again, he returned home but had to leave and hide during the approach of the British army. This early 1781 tour for Robert lasted 6 days.

Robert's last tour was in late summer and fall in 1781 when he was drafted for 3 months. This time he was mustered into a company of cavalry under Captain George Cathy near Fayetteville. The militia detachments gathered for this expedition were under the command of General Griffith Rutherford. They marched to a place near Wilmington. It was here that news of Cornwallis' defeat at Yorktown was communicated. After a few days, the patriots marched back west to Salisbury where Robert was discharged. Robert was about 18 years old at the conclusion of his last tour.

After the war, Robert at the age of 31 married Nancy Hackett in 1794. Robert moved his family in the fall of 1827 to the County of Cape Girardeau, Missouri, where he lived out the rest of his life. At the age of 69 on December 22, 1832, Robert applied for a Revolutionary War soldier's pension by appearing before the justices of the court in the County of Cape Girardeau by making a sworn statement of his services, most of which was used as the source for this article. This was in response to the Act of Congress on June 7, 1832. This Act provided every surviving officer and soldier who served at least 2 years in the Continental Army with a pension of full pay for life, and those who served for a period less than 2 years but more than 6 months were granted partial pay based on the period that they served.

Robert died in January 1847 at the age of 84. Nancy lived until October 1853. They are both buried at Jackson Cemetery in Cape Girardeau. Robert is listed as Patriot # P-120567 in the SAR Patriot Research System. This database does not currently show any SAR members that have joined on Robert's record.

The sources for this article are on the following page.

Continued on next page

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Patriot's Spotlight Article Sources:

[Display Patriot - P-120567 - Robert BREVARD \(sar.org\)](#)

[Robert Brevard \(1763-1847\) - Find A Grave Memorial](#)

[R1181 Robert Brevard \(revwarapps.org\)](#)

[The North Carolina Patriots - Capt. David Ramsey \(carolana.com\)](#)

[The North Carolina Patriots - Capt. John Dickey \(carolana.com\)](#)

[Display Patriot - P-120567 - Robert BREVARD \(sar.org\)](#)

[NC Revolutionary War Military Districts – Nash County, NCGenWeb](#)

[William Richardson Davie, 1756–1820 – Charlotte Museum](#)

[The Battle of Ramsour's Mill \(June 20, 1780\) - North Carolina History Project](#)

[Battle of Ramsour's Mill - Wikipedia](#)

[Charlotte, Battle of | NCpedia \(Norris & Barefoot\)](#)

[Battle of Cowan's Ford \(February 1, 1781\) - North Carolina History Project](#)

[The American Revolution in North Carolina - Tarrant's Tavern \(carolana.com\)](#)

[Pension Act - Wikipedia](#)

AN APPEAL TO HEAVEN



Honoring their Patriot Ancestors at the 241st Anniversary of the Battle of Ramsour's Mill



Pictured are Color Guard Members Bob Sigmon (Right), Raleigh Chapter NC SAR and Gordon Woodard (Left), Button Gwinnett Chapter GA SAR. Bob's patriot ancestor is Nathaniel Vannoy (1749-1835) who was a soldier in the Wilkes County NC Regiment of Militia under Colonel Benjamin Cleveland and who fought at the Battle of Kings Mountain. Gordon's patriot ancestor, Thomas Maxwell, Jr (1742-1837), was imprisoned by the British for preaching the Baptist denomination. He was also a soldier in the VA Culpeper County Militia.

The 241st Anniversary of the Battle of Ramsour's Mill was sponsored by the Catawba Valley Chapter of the NC Sons of the American Revolution on Saturday, June 5th, at 10 am in Lincolnton, NC. This was a National Color Guard event commemorating the battle on June 20, 1780.



Road Trip- Colonial Williamsburg ■ Submitted by David Bamford

Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia, is an interesting place to visit. We were there in the summer of 2019. Looking back, the middle of summer with the excessive August heat wasn't probably the best time to go. Keeping hydrated and searching for bottled water was unfortunately more of a focus at times than the historic sights and scenes. For overnight accommodations, we decided on the Williamsburg Lodge Autograph Collection which was right next to the historic area within walking distance. While I would recommend the lodge we stayed at, there are other hotels around the area too. If you do visit, I recommend staying within walking distance. At our lodge, we were able to purchase day passes to access the exhibits. We walked out of our hotel room, down the sidewalk about 300 feet, and crossed the street to the historic area.

If you haven't been before, it is about 300-acres centered around E Duke Gloucester Street (no vehicle traffic) about 1/2 mile-long from one end to the other. The road is lined on both sides with exhibits, gardens, taverns, old buildings, shops, and things to see. There are some original structures still standing after all these years, surviving both the Revolutionary and Civil War, like the Public Magazine built around 1715 and the old Court House built in 1770. This [website](#) indicates that there are about 500 original and reconstructed structures at Williamsburg, along with a list of the few original structures still standing.

There is no main gate or entry like you might find at other entertainment, amusement or historic parks. You can wander in and out at your leisure, accessing the historic area from any direction. Once you get to E Duke Gloucester Street, you are now emersed in a living history time machine environment. There is a daily schedule of events where the militia performs drill and artillery fire at the Public Magazine. The fifers and drummers come down the street about once a day in the afternoon. There are persons in period clothing wandering around in character going about their business that you can stop and ask questions. It's a bustle of activity that you can simply observe at a distance or interact with. I tried my best to get a Continental officer out of character by asking questions about the area; he maintained not only a straight face but also his aristocratic accent.

The Court House holds session several times a day, and you can go in and watch actors in period dress conduct town business and legal proceedings just like in the 1770s. If you sit too close to the front in the courtroom, you might get conscripted to participate in the skit. If you are an introvert like me and would rather be left alone, the back row is



where you want to sit and watch. There are several historic homes you can enter and look around too. Some exhibits like the book maker and gunsmiths are off the beaten path. Make sure you get a map of where things are otherwise you may miss some hidden gems. The flag that we saw posted everywhere was the Grand Union Flag which was adopted in June 1775.

Williamsburg was the capital of Virginia from 1699 to 1780; it was the center of government, education, and culture in the state. The prestigious college of William and Mary is there. In July 1781 the Continental Army led by General George Washington and French General Rochambeau, occupied Williamsburg. The army was following British General Cornwallis and his troops on their way toward Yorktown. Williamsburg is definitely a place to visit. The Yorktown battlefield is about 10 miles away, and that visit will be featured in the October issue in time for the 240th Anniversary of Cornwallis' defeat.



Road Trip- Colonial Williamsburg



Getting involved!

There are many ways you can get involved in S.A.R. activities and projects. Here are just a few.

Meeting Programs

Chapter meeting programs are always welcome by members and guests. If you or someone you know would like to do a program (historical battle or figure or other topic of interest), please contact **Richard Peña**, at richardapena@hotmail.com so we can schedule this for an upcoming meeting.

Newsletter Submissions

We invite members to submit write-ups or articles for the chapter newsletter. These can be on patriot ancestors, a historical battle or research topic, or anything else that would be of interest to the chapter. Perhaps you are knowledgeable on a particular subject matter. Please send your submissions to **David Bamford** at dmbamford71@icloud.com.

SAR Patriot Research System (PRS)

Volunteer

Join hundreds of other compatriots across the country working together on this project by becoming a PRS volunteer. You will receive a special password log-in access to the PRS dashboard on the national S.A.R. web-site. Using your computer, you will transcribe lineage data from approved membership application records into the PRS as well as updating and verifying patriot service and burial info using a variety of on-line tools like "Find A Grave." This PRS database, linking members to their patriots, is searchable on-line for members and the public, and is a great resource for prospective S.A.R. members. Contact PRS Chairman **Gary Green** to assist in this worthwhile effort at garyogreen@gmail.com and visit <https://sarpatriots.sar.org/> for more info.



Getting involved!

Chapter Color Guard

The chapter color guard serves an important ceremonial role at SAR events including patriot grave markings, annual celebrations and memorials, and Revolutionary War battle remembrances. If representing the chapter at these events in period dress interests you, please contact **Bob Sigmon** at rob-ert_sigmon@yahoo.com for more info. Additional resources: **National Color Guard Manual**— [Click here](#), **Society Color Guard Manual**—[Click here](#).

State and chapter funds are available to help offset the cost of purchasing an outfit. First-Time Revolutionary War Outfit Reimbursements - On February 1, 2020, the NC SAR Board of Managers approved a \$100 financial incentive to help re-



build the Color Guard of the NC Society by encouraging Compatriots to acquire and wear a Revolutionary War outfit at events. The form is now available to obtain a \$100 reimbursement from the State. Reach out to the Raleigh Chapter leadership. To do so, (1) a Compatriot acquires a complete Revolutionary War era uniform or outfit for the first time; (2) participates in a Color Guard function or other SAR related activity (i.e.,

giving an award, giving a presentation, manning a recruiting table, etc.) wearing the RW era outfit, (3) has the form verified with a signature from your Chapter President, Vice President, or Chapter Color Guard Commander; and (4) sends form to our State Treasurer Sam Powell for reimbursement. Reimbursements are retroactive to September 1, 2019.



"We fight, get beat, rise and fight again." —**General Nathanael Greene**

SAR° **SONS OF THE
AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

UPCOMING MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

July 01	Frieda, H. D. "Mike" Jr.
July 01	Utter, Williams Reilly
July 02	Goodwin, David Loftin
July 06	Clay, Ryan Joseph
July 08	Boykin, Jesse Robert III
July 09	Pugh, Walter Kirkpatrick
July 10	Clay, Alan Bruce
July 12	Higdon, Robert Jack Jr.
July 14	VanRoekel, Clinton Roy
July 17	Bolyard, Richard Harrison
July 18	Sauter, Paul Wilbur
July 18	Van Valen, Kenneth Donald Charles
July 23	Rich, Frederick Ashburn
July 26	Booth, Harrison Corbett
July 28	Brock, Peter Joseph
July 29	Jasper, Joseph Andrew III
July 30	Hemingway, Matthew Clark
August 04	Drew, Thomas Champion III
August 06	Lucey, David John
August 11	Goodwin, Connor William Brian
August 12	Van Valen, Kenneth James Donald
August 14	Hemingway, Clark David
August 15	Munford, Ray Donavon Jr
August 15	Sigmon, Algernon Robert
August 18	Epley, Dr Phillip Russell
August 18	Williams, Hugh Alexander Jr
August 19	Barlow, Robert Fred
August 19	Newkirk, Arthur Wilkings III
August 25	Speights, John Peurifoy
August 25	Toth, Douglass Scott

August 30	Fuller, Carroll Buck
September 02	Chewning, Charles Henry Jr.
September 02	Mathews, Rand Lee
September 04	Hopping, Albert Earl
September 05	De Tenley, David Dodge
September 05	Reed, Bruce Allen
September 06	Rackley, Charles Ray
September 07	Jackson, Rodney Frederick Jr.
September 10	Floyd, Charles Thomas
September 10	Morris, Stephen Allen
September 10	Schaaf, Robert Gwinn
September 11	Manning, Gary Lee
September 12	Becker, Jon Edward
September 13	Russell, Roger Howard
September 14	Williams, Robinson Whitmell JD
September 17	Jones, William Calvin Jr
September 18	Pugh, Vernon Watson III
September 19	Lennon, George Wright
September 20	Rudisill, Edward Lee
September 26	Roseman, Ernest Darwin
September 27	Rowe, Neal Edward
September 28	Lee, James Oscar

