



THE PATRIOT JOURNAL

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

Spring 2023

Our next chapter meeting is our 95th Annual Banquet on Apr. 28 at the North Carolina University Club. Read about the details, and

latest chapter news and events, at sarraleigh.org.

The President's Corner

Greetings Compatriots, my brothers,

We have a great many things going on, and we need your help! There are two HUGE events coming up in April. Our 95th Anniversary Banquet is a really big deal and I hope each of you will make plans to attend. RSVP cutoff date is April 20th. Read about it below. The very next day after the banquet, April 29th, we are hosting the [Colonel Joel Lane grave marking at City Cemetery](#). We will need several volunteers to help with some really easy tasks. This is the first grave marking we've done in a long time, and this is an incredibly important local figure. Many descendants of Joel Lane will be in attendance. Even if you aren't volunteering, make plans to attend, as this will count towards your earning the Patriot Grave Marking Medal. This event will be followed by lunch at Sam Jones BBQ. If you plan to join us for lunch, please email robert_sigmon@yahoo.com so that we can get an accurate headcount so that we've got enough food.



Raleigh Chapter President Gary Spencer

It has come to my attention that there are a number of folks that do not have the means to attend our meetings. They either are unable to drive, or do not have a vehicle. I would like to set up a ride-sharing program so that we can include

those that may not otherwise have the opportunity to participate in our meetings. If you would be willing to be a driver, or if you are in need of a ride, please reach out to me at gspencer1861@hotmail.com or call at 919-749-7967 and let me know.

Our Veteran's Affairs Committee got off to a great start, but sadly, Russell Chaffin's spouse is in poor health. As a result, Russell has stepped down as the Committee Chairman. This is an incredibly important committee with a lot of potential to make a difference. If you would be willing to step up to Chair this committee, please contact me at the points above. No prior military service required for this. Please keep Russell's wife, Patsy, in your thoughts and prayers.

My last topic is an open officer position. We need a Chapter Historian. You don't need to have a background in history for this, and it's not all that labor intensive, either. What is needed of the historian is to record our chapter's activities, accomplishments, and to give it more of a narrative as opposed to meeting minutes. It's been a while since we have had a Chapter Historian, and it is unknown what happened to those records. This is a fresh opportunity to craft something you can be proud of and something that will be a lasting legacy for our chapter. If you are interested in taking on this essential role, drop me an email or give me a call at the contact points above and on our chapter's new website: www.sarraleigh.org

Yours in liberty and patriotism,

President Gary Spencer



Meet at our 95th Anniversary Banquet on Apr. 28

The Raleigh Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution will be celebrating its 95th Anniversary with a social hour and banquet to be held at the North Carolina State University Club's University Room on Apr. 28. Cash bar begins at 5:30pm and dinner at 6:30. SAR members and their families and friends are invited, as are members of other patriotic organizations including the Sons of the revolution, Daughters of the American Revolution, Colonial Dames, Order of Founders and Patriots of NC, Society of Colonial Wars in NC, etc. Mark Pace will portray John Penn, one of NC's three signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Cost is \$40 per adult (\$20 if under 14). RSVP by April 20th to

robert_sigmon@yahoo.com to register yourself and family members, select your meal, and arrange payment. Payment can also be made to Robert via PayPal at robert_sigmon@yahoo.com.

For a full list of upcoming chapter meetings and events see sarraleigh.org.

Wreaths Across America Donations Open Early



The Raleigh Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution today announced its renewed support for National Wreaths Across America Day (NWAA) at [Historic Oakwood Cemetery](#). Wreaths Across America is a non-profit organization which encourages us to pause during the winter holiday season and give thanks to those who served in the United States military and have passed on by laying a wreath on the grave of a serviceperson in one of 2,500 locations in all 50 states, at sea, and abroad.

Members of the Raleigh Chapter will participate on Dec. 16 by laying wreaths on the graves of veterans beginning at noon at Historic Oakwood Cemetery. We invite Chapter members and friends of the Sons of the American Revolution to support our effort by funding at least one wreath for \$17 in remembrance as a way of honoring a deceased veteran in your family. The chapter has launched the website now to allow generous donors to give across the year as they have the resources.

Wreaths may be funded at the Wreaths Across America webpage of the Raleigh Chapter. Donations go directly to [Wreaths Across America](#) and provide the wreaths volunteers from the Chapter will use to recognize veterans buried in Historic Oakwood Cemetery on Dec. 16.



Richard Bolyard accepts the Military Service Medal.

Awards Made to Chapter Members

At the February Chapter meeting Immediate Chapter Past President Richard Pena was presented with the Meritorious Service Medal and Chapter Chaplain Van Jones received the [War Service Medal](#) for his overseas military service against an enemy of the US in a war or action..

Richard Bolyard and Ronald Hill were each

presented with the [Military Service Medal](#) at our March meeting for their prior military service to the United States.

For a full list of upcoming chapter meetings and events see sarraleigh.org.

One Patriot Ancestor's Story

John McCoy (abt.1750 - 1781)

John McCoy served as a private with NC 1st Regiment when it was reconstituted in 1781. While serving in an advance party at the Battle of Eutaw Springs, South Carolina John was shot and killed by British regulars. A fellow soldier described in written testimony how John McCoy was killed in action. "Just before the commencement Captain Raiford and twenty four men, of whom this applicant was one, were ordered by Col. Armstrong to advance ahead with two field pieces and the officers belonging to the artillery, and when we had advanced some distance in a run we discovered an advanced party of the British foot on our left in ambush just ready to fire and at that moment Capt. Raiford, commanded us to squat, and as we were in the in the act of doing so, the British fired and killed John McCoy and John Russel, two of my mess-mates."

[Read about more of our Patriot ancestors.](#)



Chapter Members Speak on Revolutionary History

At the February monthly chapter meeting, chapter Vice President David McCracken presented [on the events leading up to the Battle of Guildford Courthouse](#). Though the

battle was a British victory, the British casualty rate and depletion of supplies drove General Cornwallis to retreat to Yorktown. He was defeated there in October, 1781 by the combined French and American armies leading to the British surrender and end of the war.

At the March meeting, Compatriot Bruce Hustis spoke on the Army's third winter encampment which took place at [Valley Forge](#). Approximately 2,000 soldiers succumbed to illness and other maladies during the winter at Valley Forge. Another 3,000, a quarter of the men who marched into Valley Forge in December, were lacking the essentials of clothing in some manner. Those six

months saw a transformation of the American army. On June 19, 1778, approximately 15,000 men, larger than the number agreed upon by historians that marched into Valley Forge, broke camp and headed toward the summer campaigning season which started with the Battle of Monmouth nine days later.

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Raleigh Chapter Marks Seven Springs Patriot Grave

On March 11, the Raleigh Chapter, in partnership with The Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge (DVF), performed a grave marking ceremony for Patriot Benjamin Taylor Smith at his family plot in Seven Springs, NC. Private Smith served in the 10th North Carolina Continental Line, wintered at Valley Forge, fought at the Battle of Monmouth, and was taken prisoner after the siege of Charleston.



SAR Compatriots Remember Patriot Smith's Service

Raleigh Chapter member Rev. Van Jones led the invocation and benediction, while Compatriot Gary Horne served as Master of Ceremonies. Chapter President Gary Spencer led the Color Guard and Tom Davis commanded the Volley Firing Squad. North Carolina Society Vice President General George Strunk also participated and Raleigh Chapter Past President Richard Pena and his wife Bette of the Daughters of the American Revolution were in attendance. Special thanks go to Raleigh Chapter member Bob Sigmon for setting the marker in concrete prior to the event.



Joel Lane Graving Marking Planned for Apr. 28

The Raleigh Chapter of the SAR will be hosting a grave marking ceremony in downtown Raleigh for Revolutionary War patriot Joel Lane on Apr. 29. Joel Lane is considered a founding father of both Wake County and Raleigh.

The original family cemetery of 8 plots was found during house demolition on South Boylan Avenue, Raleigh in 1969. Raleigh Chapter Compatriot Richard Booth recalls playing under the house as a child and hearing stories about graves. "We were told that there was an ancient graveyard under the house. Boys being boys, we would go way up under the house and lay in the shallow depressions which we imagined were graves." Lane was moved to City Cemetery, Raleigh in 1975 to make way for a parking lot. Items from the original grave plot are now on display at Joel Lane House.

The Apr. 29 ceremony will include the installation of a new headstone and a presentation by a Joel Lane descendant, restoring some dignity to his final resting place. It will be held at Joel Lane's grave at City Cemetery, 500 East Hargett Street, Raleigh, NC at 11am and is open to the public.

Lane introduced the legislation to found Wake County in 1771 and sold 1,000 acres of land to North Carolina on which to build Raleigh as the new capital. He was a member of the Colonial Assembly for Johnston (1770-71) and Wake (1773) counties, a colonel in the militia, justice of the peace for Wake and Johnston counties, and served Wake County as senator in the North Carolina General Assembly for eleven terms (1782-85, 1787-95).

During the Revolutionary War, Lane supported North Carolina's break from the Kingdom of Great Britain. In 1775 he was appointed a member of the Council of Safety for the Hillsborough District of North Carolina, the wartime governing body that oversaw the new State of North Carolina when the Provincial Congress was not in session. In August of 1776, he hosted the Council's meetings in his home at Joel Lane House. Lane was also made responsible for distributing 100 bushels (800 gallons) of very valuable confiscated Loyalist salt to local Patriot soldiers.

Joel Lane was a delegate to the 1788 Constitutional Convention in

Hillsborough, NC where he voted along with the majority of North Carolina delegates to “neither ratify nor to reject the U.S. Constitution,” which lacked a Bill of Rights. North Carolina and Rhode Island were the two states who did not accept the original document. Both he and his son Henry Lane were delegates to the subsequent 1789 Constitutional Convention at Fayetteville, NC which did ratify the U.S. Constitution with its new Bill of Rights amendment.

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Chapter Makes First Flag Award of 2023

On March 10, Raleigh Chapter President Gary Spencer presented a Flag Certificate to Cindy Nameth, Manager of the Ramada by Wyndham Raleigh, on Blue Ridge Road. The Ramada has consistently done an exceptional job of proudly flying the American flag in front of the hotel, and doing so according to the regulatory statutes.



Ramada Manager Cindy Nameth receives SAR Flag Award.



Welcome Kerney Allen Peoples

Compatriot Peoples was raised in Warren County, North Carolina. He joined the North Carolina Army National Guard in 1950 and was employed by the American Tobacco Company in Leaf Purchases during the period 1953 to 1970. Peoples was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the North Carolina Army National Guard in 1958 after attending

officer basic course at Fort Benning, Ga. In 1970 he was employed as a National Guard Technician in the State Headquarters in Raleigh where he held numerous positions culminating as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Training. He is a graduate of The US Army War College and retired with rank of Colonel in 1989. After retiring from the military, Kerney worked for the State of North Carolina and retired in 2004 as Assistant Secretary, Department of Crime Control and Public Safety.

Kerney is married to Beverly Dean Peoples. They have 5 children, 5 grandchildren and 4 great grand-children. Kerney and Beverly have traveled to all 50 states, 87 countries, and the major rivers of the world. Compatriot Peoples' membership in the Sons of the American Revolution is based on his bloodline descent from Patriot Private Abner Aycock. Aycock was called up for battle five times before the war ended in 1783. He served under Captain Wren at Halifax and Captain Thomas Alston at the Battle of Guilford Court House.

Welcome Paul Sappie

Paul was born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where he received his Bachelors Degree at Carnegie-Mellon University, double majoring in Electrical Engineer and Business Administration. He later received a Masters in Business Administration from the Virginia Tech satellite campus in Northern Virginia.



Paul worked for IBM for 36 years before retiring in 2017. His career included assignments in Manassas, Virginia and Gaithersburg, Maryland before relocating to Cary in 1993. We worked in Systems Engineering, Software Development, and Management. His projects included sonar for US fast-attack nuclear submarines, digital imaging and working, and various enterprise softwares including internet protocol, terminal emulation, and Customer Relation Management.

Paul currently works part-time as a personal trainer at the Northwest and Kraft Family YMCA. He volunteers as a member of the Town of Cary Greenway Committee and is an elementary school tutor for the Wake County schools system HELPS program. Paul participated in running, cycling, and triathlons for many years, finishing five marathons and two Ironman triathlons, and continues to enjoy swimming, weight training, and cycling on the Cary and Raleigh greenway. He has been married to his wife Kerry for 36 years. His daughter

Alison has a doctoral degree in Counseling Education from North Carolina State University and works as a therapist at Counselors Near Me. His son Brian received his bachelors degree in Visual Arts from North Carolina State University and is a photographer and videographer providing architectural, real estate, aerial, food and product, portrait, sports, wildlife, and landscape services.

Compatriot Sappie's membership in The Sons of the American Revolution is based on his bloodline descent from William Tate's payment of Supply Tax in Delaware in 1780.



Welcome Bill Springer

Compatriot Springer was born and raised in Ligonier, Pennsylvania; a town that was a fort in the French and Indian War. In 1986 Bill received a B.S. from the University of Pittsburgh, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Bill moved to Raleigh in January of 1987 and has lived in the area since.

Bill currently works for Mutual Drug in the DEA Compliance group. In his spare time he enjoys working outside, metal detecting, and more recently researching his family's history. Bill is married to Tonja Springer who is originally from North Carolina. Tonja is an auditor with the state of NC and has been with the state for 29 years. They have a 22-year-old daughter named Brianna Kai Springer who is a recent graduate of UNC-Wilmington with a B.S. in psychology and a minor in criminology. She is currently employed working with the homebound elderly.

Compatriot Springer's membership in The Sons of the American Revolution is based on his bloodline descent from Patriot Andrew Emerick. During the Revolution Private Emerick served as a private in the Berks County (PA) Militia under Captain George Miller.

Welcome Davis Brehm DeFoe

Compatriot DeFoe was born in Raleigh, NC in June 2012 to parents Michele & Ben DeFoe. He is one of three children: twin sister, Adele, and 7 year old sister, Celia. Davis is currently in the fifth grade at Abbotts Creek Elementary where he is a member of the Chorus and excels in math and science. He enjoys



swimming and is on the Hasentree summer swim team and the YMCA of the Triangle "YOTA" swim team where he specializes in breast stroke and backstroke. Davis will be completing his first year of Junior Cotillion in March. Davis enjoys reading and learning about luxury cars, especially Porsches, building Lego, and playing video games.

Benjamin and David DeFoe were inducted by President Spencer

Davis is also a member of the Joel Lane Chapter of the Children of the American Revolution where he joined under his mother's Daughters of the American Revolution Patriot, Private Robert Blair. [Read more about Blair.](#)



Welcome Benjamin John DeFoe

Compatriot DeFoe (pictured left above with Davis DeFoe and President Spencer) was born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana. In 2005, Ben received a B.A. in History from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, NC.

Ben and his wife, Michele Aldridge DeFoe, have been married since 2007. They have three wonderful children; Adele & Davis (ten year old twins) and Celia (7). Adele and Celia are rising soccer stars with NCFC youth soccer. Davis currently swims competitively with the YMCA of the Triangle "YOTA" swim team.

Ben has been in software sales since 2006 and is currently employed as VP of Sales for the software company Gainsight. Ben has been playing golf since he was twelve years old and in his free time, Ben continues to enjoy playing golf at Hasentree Country Club.

Compatriot DeFoe's membership in The Sons of the American Revolution is based on his bloodline descent from Patriot Samuel Sackett. During the Revolution, Sackett served as a Justice of the Peace in New Haven, CT.

Do You Have A Story To Share?

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