



Raleigh Chapter NEWSLETTER

Spring 2012

Grant Mark Peterson, Editor

Raleigh, NC

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*The Raleigh Chapter Color Guard and the delightful Children of the American Revolution debutants at the CAR State Convention.
Photo courtesy of Bob Yankle*

Upcoming Event

SAR/DAR/CAR Annual Picnic—Tara Farm

June 9, 2012

Join us Saturday, June 9th for our annual SAR/DAR/CAR Picnic at Tara Farm. Again, this year we are extending the invitation to the CAR members, too. Mark your calendar now and plan to make it an annual family event!

The menu is Fried Chicken, pork BBQ, Cole Slaw, Potato Salad, Green Beans, Baked Apples and Pecan Pie and the delicious Banana Pudding from The Forks Cafeteria and Catering. The cost for lunch is \$13.50 for adults and \$6.50 per child under 22.

Tara Farm is located at 715 Newton Road between Six forks and Falls of the Neuse in North Raleigh (27615). Once on the property, follow the signs to the picnic area.

A special thanks is offered to Compatriot Dr. Watson Pugh for offering Tara Farm to us! .

Be sure to send your reservation by June 5, 2012—see the reservations form on page 13.



Raleigh Chapter

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2011-2012 State Officers:

President Glenn Sappie
 Registrar.....James Becker

Upcoming Events *(continued)*

2012 Raleigh Chapter meetings and events:

April 21 Noon	Informal Luncheons, Natty Greene's Pub & Brewing Co., 505 W. Jones St. Raleigh
May 12 Noon	Informal Luncheons, Red Hot & Blue, 6615 Falls of Neuse Road, Raleigh
June 9 Noon	SAR/DAR/CAR Annual Picnic, Tara Farm, 715 Newton Road, Raleigh
Aug 11 Noon	Informal Luncheons, Red Hot & Blue, 6615 Falls of Neuse Road, Raleigh

If you wish to receive e-mail reminders and updates in advance of Raleigh Chapter meetings and events, please send your e-mail address to Com-patriot John Harman Jr., at jrharman1@hotmail.com.

Newsletter Deadlines

The submission deadlines for publication in the Raleigh Chapter newsletter: are: January 1, 2012, April 1, 2012, and September 1, 2012.

Send articles and pictures for publication and requests for e-mail distribution to Grant Peterson at gmpeter@mindspring.com.

Message from President James Arthur Becker

Message from President James A. Becker

Compatriots – Warm wishes to you and your families. The idea of making the George Washington Birthday celebration a gala event resulted in attendance of 120 people. We have tested this concept and have been encouraged to repeat it next year by the positive comments that have been made to us by our members and the other organizational members and their leaders. We appreciated your support and appreciate your ideas and comments that can be used to ensure the success of this type of venture.

The Raleigh Chapter joined with the North Carolina Museum of History in holding a public ceremony formally recognizing our first African/American member on February 25, 2012. Brigadier General Gorham from the North Carolina National Guard was our keynote speaker at this event. Our new member Chaz Michael Moore provided history pertaining to his Patriot ancestor Toby Gilmore. We appreciate the attendance of all the members and the public that supported this event. Over 200 people filled the auditorium of the North Carolina Museum and enjoyed a program which paid tribute to the 15% of our total Revolutionary Army that had African/American lineage. Brigadier General Gorham's speech not only added to history of the moment, but made it possible for others to better understand the importance this type of recognition invokes. This provided us with a moment to share the credit that has been earned and to demonstrate how this sharing allows a culture to grow by respecting shared historical accomplishments.

We are very proud of the Color Guard activities our Chapter has added during the past years. The suggestion that we form a Blue Blazer Brigade to march with our Color Guard will result in a large unit. We have more Revolutionary War events to visit in North Carolina than most of the other thirteen original States. This can be a real challenge to organize our participation as Color Guard, and as events that we want to encourage our members to follow with their families. We are going to put together a planning committee so that we can better organize our chapter to support and participate in these important events. This is one of the things we will attempt to organize at our meeting on Saturday, April 21, at Natty' Greene's.

We are also going to attempt to organize a program committee, so that we can appropriately support historic activities that include our chapter. This is thought to include the development of a Speakers Bureau with the SAR, DAR, SR, and other heritage based organizations needing programs in history. Many of our members have significant expertise in the heritage and founding of our country and we believe that they can be of service to the community.

Gary Horne has agreed to fill Michael Taylor's term as Secretary. Gary has been a very active parent in the CAR and served as our Newsletter Editor prior to taking on the CAR activities. We are very pleased to be able to continue in this manner.

Our chapter has become active in the North Carolina State Chapter leadership. We take pride in the recent installation of Glenn P. Sappie as President of the NCSSAR. Glenn has progressed thru the State Secretary chair and the Vice President chair and knows he can count on our support as a chapter. The Raleigh Chapter is 138 members strong and the largest chapter in the State of North Carolina. There are now 25 Chapters and 801 members in the NCSSAR. We have been growing!

With my most humble regards,

Compatriot James Arthur Becker



*President James A. Becker presents the George Washington Birthday guest speaker Scott Miskimon with a Certificate of Appreciation.
Photo courtesy of Bob Yankle*

Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard Road Trip

By Dr. Scott Kennedy, Treasurer NCSSAR, Raleigh Chapter

It's 5 o'clock on a chilly Saturday morning, this coffee tastes good, and I'm making sure I have my uniform laid out properly from the night before. A good friend, NCSSAR Vice President Glenn Sappie, will pick me up in an hour and I want to be on time. I can't believe I am up this early on a Saturday. I only do this for special things like fishing, hunting, and of course our beloved Sons of the American Revolution.

Today's going to be a great day. We're heading to Huntersville, North Carolina to take part in the 231st Anniversary ceremonies of the Battle of Cowan's and pay homage at a 231 year old grave. This grave belongs to a General whom I know nothing about, and I've never been to Huntersville. Raleigh Chapter Vice President Dan Hopping tells me it's going to be a two and a half hour drive (but I have never had a long drive with the SAR). Our conversations are so wonderfully intense that it seems like only 30 minutes. Today, I get a chance to hang out with some of the most intelligent men I know.



I meet Glenn out in the front yard in his Revolutionary War uniform and a big smile. We get to Dan's perfectly at 6 AM. I know Dan will already have his van loaded with a flintlock long rifle, 'Brown Bess' musket, Charleville musket, swords, colonial artifacts, directions and complete with snacks and drinks. Dan programs the GPS and we're off for a great day of learning history, exploring North Carolina, and fellowship. I know our conversations will range from North Carolina's water quality to world issues, new technologies, and historical battles. We talk freely, and everyone is on a first-name basis.

Our objective today, along with other SAR chapters, is to represent the NCSSAR Raleigh Chapter by placing a wreath at a Revolutionary War grave. I'm beginning to know the faces and the names of a few of these people after two years. We'll stop for a quick lunch somewhere today, but we're always on time when the program begins.

After reaching Huntersville, we find ourselves at the beautiful old brick Hopewell Presbyterian Church organized in 1762 and the burial place of nine signers of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence and Revolutionary War Patriots. There's coffee, doughnuts, and sausage biscuits in the fellowship hall. Most men are wearing blazers; a few women are dressed in Revolutionary attire, and about twenty men are in Revolutionary uniforms. It is not neces-



sary to have a uniform to go on a road trip and participate as a member of the Color Guard.

The meeting takes place in a beautiful sanctuary from the early 1800s. The woodwork amazes me and I realize that if I were not a part of the Color Guard, I would not be seeing what I am seeing and having such a great day. And it's not even 10 o'clock in the morning yet. The Color Guard organizes itself for a procession into the sanctuary, and the posting of colors is important to all. The speaker is Michael C. Scoggins and it's obvious that he has done his research. The theme of his talk is "The Militia in the Carolina Backcountry". After the speaker's presentation, we retire the colors and move outdoors to the ancient

cemetery where General William Lee Davidson lies.

The State Color Guard Commander gives us instructions and lines us up for a short procession to the grave marking. Dan Hopping and I wear similar militia uniforms. Dan spent months acquiring information about my Revolutionary ancestors and what uniform a Scottish officer would have worn at the Battle of Moore's Creek where my ancestor fought as a Lieutenant under Col. Caswell. He ordered this uniform from 5 different states. Our coats are identical to what George Washington ordered as the official uniform of the Continental Army for the first two years of the war and for the fatigue uniform for the entire war. My Tam o' Shanter (Scottish cap) represents my ancient Scottish clan, while Dan's hat represents his Western North Carolina Militia ancestor. Today, Dan is carrying a .50 cal. Pennsylvania long rifle he made himself by hand in the style of 1770, and I am carrying a 1763 .75 cal. Brown Bess that Dan found for me, complete with bayonet. This gun shoots and Dan helped me acquire the antique tools to clean and maintain this firelock.



honored. The cabin logs are dovetailed by hand. There are several log buildings on this farm with furnishings, spices, and implements.

Outside behind the potato bin are five soon to be Eagle Scouts working on projects. Inside a log corral are some of the most unusual cows I have ever seen. The youth attending the farm that day say they are Scottish cows. The fur on the cow's head naturally falls forward like a young person's long banded hair cut. I just went back 231 years in time and continue to learn more on each Color Guard road trip.

The Sons of The American Revolution Color Guard road trips are unique and unforgettable. Once you have been on a Color Guard road trip it changes your life.

Sincerely,
Scott Kennedy



The flags are now posted and the men are at attention, Dan and I facing each other from 10 yards away. As members, both male and female, from many patriotic organizations in NC, we march to the grave and curtsey or salute the dead General. Dan and I do an authentic rendering of the "Present Arms" of 1780 (salute) for each wreath layer, as it would have been done 231 years ago. Speeches are made, patriots listen with intent enthusiasm, and there is a silence of respect in the air. At the conclusion of the program, the colors are retired and we march away, thus ending the ceremony.

We leave to go to lunch with the others from the SAR and on the way Glenn leads us to a beautiful Revolutionary War farm that used to belong to the General we just



Inspirational Quotes:

“My policies are based not on some economics theory, but on things I and millions like me were brought up with: an honest day’s work for an honest day’s pay; live within your means; put by a nest egg for a rainy day; pay your bills on time; support the police”

Margaret Thatcher



*British troops advance in the reenactment of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse
Photo courtesy Grant Peterson*

The NSSAR Premium Membership Medal

The Premium Membership Medal Committee is pleased to announce the production of a high quality replica of the original 1890-1894 Tiffany style membership medal struck in gilt silver.

This Medal is not being offered as a part of the regular NSSAR Merchandise, rather it is being offered and sold by the Premium Membership Medal Committee. If you have questions please do not contact the Merchandise Department, contact the Premium Membership Medal Chairmen. Contact Information is located on the NSSAR website.

For orders received before January 31, 2012, a donation of \$100 to the CASSAR Premium Medal Die Fund, which will be used to create the dies and molds for creating the medals. All donations received over and above what is needed to create the dies will be donated to The Center for Advancing America's Heritage (CAAH). Once they have received enough donations, they will order the creation of the dies. Once they are created and ready to produce the medals, they will obtain a current market price for the medal. At that point, those who have made the initial \$100 donation will be permitted to order the medal at the market price (currently \$500 with silver at \$35/ounce). There is also a shipping fee of \$8.50 to have the medal shipped directly to you when they are struck and assembled



*The Raleigh Chapter Newsletter
has won*

“The Carl F. Bessent Award”

To the editor of the most outstanding multiple sheet chapter newsletter 2009—2010

Welcome New Members

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Member No:</u>	<u>Ancestor Information</u>
David Brian Ewing	182162	Capt. Charles Anderson
Jack William Snodgrass	182165	Leath Ingram
Christopher Stephen Snodgrass	182166	Leath Ingram
Jeremy Morris Strickland	182374	John Smith
John Carpenter Converse	183097	Joshua Converse

Supplemental

Henry Edward Phillips III	169280	Jonathan Davis
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Raleigh Chapter Spring Activities



Raleigh Color Guard members Scott Kennedy and Dan Hopping stand 'at presentations' at the commemoration of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse

Photo courtesy of Grant Peterson

SAR members pose of a group photo at the George Washington Birthday Celebration.

Photo courtesy of Bob Yankle



So You Want To Be In The SAR Color Guard...

By Dan Hopping, VP Raleigh Chapter, NCSSAR

The Color Guard is the face of the SAR to most people. It is our advertisement, our public brand as it were. It is the most public way that we honor our ancestors. It's also a lot of fun.



We march in processions and lay wreaths at Revolutionary War events and battlefields. We lay wreaths and fire volleys at the Raleigh National Cemetery on Memorial Day. We march in the Veterans Day Parade. We have a booth at the Bennett Place State Historic Site on Memorial Day when we educate the public and fire volleys on the hour. We perform the opening ceremonies at dinners, museums and historical events. We have a booth and some of us are docents at the NC Museum of History. You don't have to be in all the events. You can pick and chose what you have time for.

You also don't have to have a fancy uniform to participate. You can use a blue blazer, slacks, shirt and tie and participate in almost all the events. Many people chose to obtain colonial civilian dress or a Revolutionary War uniform, they are not as expensive as you might expect.

If you are in the SAR you have an ancestor who was involved in the war so why not recreate his dress or uniform. If you recreate his civilian dress it is easy. Accurate information abounds on the Web and in books. If you want to recreate your ancestor's uniform, you will need to do a little research. What unit was he in and in what state did he serve? Also what time period in the war did he serve? The uniforms changed dramatically during the eight years of the war. If your ancestor was in the militia, your choices are simple and inexpensive. If your ancestor was in the Continental Line, everything depends on the regiment, state and time frame in which he served.

There is a great deal of information on-line and in books. Of course we will help you with the details to make it easy. We will also provide you with the details of where to buy the uniform and accouterments to keep the cost down. The companies that sell uniforms and accouterments are called sutlers and they usually are on hand with their goods at Revolutionary War events such as the Guilford Courthouse battle reenactment and the Southeast Primitive Rendezvous (Oct 19 to 26 in Near Yadkinville, NC).

We recommend that you take enough time to obtain as authentic an outfit as possible. You will be proud of an authentic uniform and will be welcome at every historical event. You will also learn a great deal about your ancestor in the process.

We should advise you of a controversy about the color guards of heritage societies. Historians and re-enactors despair of our "Polyester Generals" and complain that the heritage societies such as the SAR has many orders of magnitude more generals than Washington, France and England together ever had in the entire war. Remember that over 90% of the soldiers were privates. If your ancestor was an officer or if you were an officer in the service of the US – great, recreate that uniform. Also, remember that polyester or gabardine did not exist in the 1700s. You should try to use cloth similar to what they would have used. The NSSAR has a great "*Color Guard Handbook*" available for download from this site.
<http://www.sar.org/sites/default/files/nssar-color-guard-handbook-2011-07-10.pdf>

The Handbook has a great deal of useful information and clearly states that polyester is OK for our ceremonial purposes.
"Due to the time and expense of obtaining an uniform made from natural and more authentic material, many color guard members chose to obtain a less expensive uniform made from modern fabric, most often polyester or gabardine. These uniforms made from modern fabric are perfectly acceptable for all events except for those where the guardsman will fire a musket. For safety reasons, the SAR does not allow guardsmen in modern fabric uniforms to fire a weapon due the danger of melting fabric causing severe burns."

The NCSSAR also has a "*Standing Operational Procedure for Color Guard*" downloadable from:
<http://www.ncssar.com/NCSSAR%20Color%20Guard%20SOP.pdf>

Very accurate and authentic uniforms may be purchased from many suttlers over the Internet after entering your measurements on line. You can buy 'off the rack' uniforms from suttlers like GG Godwin or you can buy custom made uniforms from a number of suttlers. You can also buy the patterns and have the items made. Buying a pattern and having it made is by far the least costly way to get a quality uniform.

Let's start with the decisions you might want to make.

Blazer verses civilian verses military uniform

Blazer: Most people already have a blue blazer, grey slacks and a shirt and tie. This is easy, just show up and participate with us. We would love to have you there.

Civilian: There are a number of suttlers who provide the normal clothes of the colonial period and colonial dress is appropriate for almost all occasions. This works very well for docents and living history educators. The cost of an authentic civilian outfit will generally be from \$300 to \$500 if you buy it and just the cost of the cloth if you make it. (Of course for most of us we would have to be real nice to someone who has talent and a sewing machine).

Uniform: Being in a Revolutionary War uniform is a lot of fun and is always in demand. You can buy it from \$400 to \$800. So, which type of uniform would you like? You have a lot of choices and we will help you with the decision process whether you are just learning about the Revolutionary War or whether you are upgrading your uniform and want to make it more authentic.

Continental line verses militia uniform



Continental: The continental line uniform looks real sharp and everyone will understand what you represent. It is appropriate for all processions, ceremonies, parades and most wreath laying ceremonies. The continental uniform is not appropriate for recreating many of the southern soldiers and their battles (such as Kings Mountain) which were fought by militia. The continental uniform can be hot in the summer and the tri-corner hat collects water in the rain and then pours it out when you bow your head in prayer. The continental uniform consists of coat, waistcoat, shirt, stock (precursor to the tie), breeches and long socks or trousers, shoes or boots and lastly a tri-corner hat. If you are representing an officer then you would need a sash, spontoon and sword. The officer's coat would have shiny buttons and one or two silver or gold epaulets. The shirt would have ruffles at the cuff and neck. The non-commissioned officer's coat would have red or green epaulets or cloth strips on the shoulder.

Militia: The militia uniform is the most representative of the Southern battles and is appropriate in all NC events. It is the most comfortable and least expensive. You add layers underneath in the winter and wear just a cotton shirt under the breathable frock coat in the summer. The basic militia uniform is what the average farmer or merchant person wore year round. The frock coat or hunting shirt was as common then as baseball caps are now. The frock coat was the standard uniform of the first two years of the war and was the field coat for the entire war. The Eastern NC militia might have worn the frock coat or the normal waistcoat, shirt, breeches and socks they wore every day. The Western NC militia would have worn the frock coat. The most common militia uniform consists of a round hat turned up on the left, frock coat (also called a hunting shirt) shirt trousers, gaiters or spatterdashers, wide belt and shoes.

Lieutenant Lefferts wrote:

“The rifle dress or hunting frock was preferred by Washington, and was worn by most of the army throughout the war. It was the field dress of almost the entire army. The hunting shirt was made of deer leather, linen, or homespun, dyed in various colors, in the different regiments, such as tan, green, blue, yellow, purple, black or white. They were all of the same pattern, but some had capes and cuffs of different colors. With the hunting shirts were worn long leggings or overalls, also preferred by Washington in place of breeches and stockings. They were made of linen or duck undyed, or of deer leather, and later in the war were furnished at the ankle with four buttons and a strap under the shoe.”

“Uniforms of the 1775 – 1783 American, British, French and German armies in the War of the American Revolution” by Lt. Charles M. Lefferts, Published by WE Inc., Old Greenwich, CN Page 11

Recreate your ancestor's uniform or obtain a generic uniform?

Generic Uniform: You can purchase the classic Continental uniform 'off the rack' at several sutlers. This is the blue coat with buff or red facings (\$295) with knee breeches and socks or trousers. Just pick a state uniform to recreate and go for it. I was lucky; I am the same size as the average department store window dummy and could buy a standard coat without having to have it altered.

Recreate your ancestor's uniform: Do the research and find out what he would have worn. The information is online and in many books. This can consist of modifying the generic to include the unit and time frame or adding an ethnic background to the uniform. If your ancestor was Scottish you might change the round militia hat for the Scottish bonnet in your clan plaid and change your accouterments to the Scottish dirk, claymore and sporran. If your ancestor was Hessian you will change to the Hessian helmet and coat. Sometimes this is simple, just change the coat to be the right state. If your ancestor was Massachusetts, you will need to have a light blue coat with white facings. If your ancestor was cavalry or artillery you will need a very different coat, hat and boots. A custom coat will cost more like \$495.

Accouterments

Continental: The continental soldier carried a musket and bayonet. The most common model carried by both sides throughout the Revolutionary War was the .75 caliber Short Land Pattern musket commonly referred to by the nickname 'Brown Bess'.



There were also many locally made muskets that were relatively close copies. The Brown Bess firelock was the standard weapon of the British Army from about 1710 to 1839. It had several models over time that differed primarily in the barrel length. A little later in the war the Charleville .69 caliber Musket was imported from France. Charleville is a town about 65 miles east of Paris which had a large arms manufacturing plant. The Charleville firelock was easier to clean and being of a slightly smaller caliber, allowed the soldier to carry more ammunition. Supporting accouterments are the bayonet, cartridge box, haversack and canteen.

Militia: Early in the war, the militia carried whatever the soldier used at home. In the east, this was often a fowling piece used to put dinner on the table. This smoothbore could use small pellets for birds and rabbits or a single ball for deer. In the backcountry of Pennsylvania, Virginia and the Carolinas, the long rifle was popular for deer, turkey and defense. The long rifle was made by gunsmiths in almost every county. The counties around Philadelphia were famous worldwide for their gunsmiths who made rifles of graceful design and superb accuracy. These Pennsylvania long rifles were often made for use in the wilds of Kentucky.



Hence they are interchangeably called Kentucky long rifles or Pennsylvania long rifles. The accouterments of the militia soldier are a long rifle or musket, possible bag, powder horn, tomahawk, wooden canteen and haversack.

The Revolutionary War uniforms evolved significantly over the eight years of the conflict. Here are some snapshots of the dress of the war.

April 19, 1775 Lexington and Concord

The Minute Men wore what they always wore day to day. When called out, they grabbed their firelock and rushed to the muster point.

Washington's General Order of July 24, 1776

Washington recommended hunting shirts as part of the clothing bounty to be provided by the Continental Congress. He considered it the most practical garment for troops. In his July 1776 General order, he wrote:

"No dress can be cheaper, nor more convenient, as the wearer may be cool in warm weather and warm in cool weather by putting on under cloaths which will not change the outward dress, Winter or Summer – Besides which it is a dress justly supposed to carry no small terror to the enemy, who think every such person a complete marksman."

Washington's General Order of October 2, 1779

This order set the standard for the "classic" Revolutionary War uniform that the modern observer recognizes. It fixed blue as the color for all forces in the Continental line.

Blue coat with white facings

New Hampshire
Massachusetts
Rhode Island
Connecticut

Blue coat with buff facings

New York
New Jersey

Blue coat with red facings.

Pennsylvania
Delaware
Maryland
Virginia

(This was also the primary uniform of the colonial troops in the French and Indian Wars.)

Blue coat with blue facings and buttonholes edged with narrow white tape

North Carolina
South Carolina
Georgia

*These are from the Varick transcripts of Washington's
General Order of October 2, 1779, Library of Congress*

Regardless of the general orders, there was considerable diversity of uniform styles in the various states and regiments based on what material was available at the time. While it is very dramatic for a Color Guard to be in matching uniforms, diversity represents the reality of the War.

Future articles will provide choices for acquiring these uniforms and accouterments along with sources.



SAR/DAR/CAR Tara Farm Picnic Reservation Form

Date: June 9, 2012

Time: 12:00 Noon

Place: Tara Farm
715 Newton Road
Raleigh, NC 27615

Menu: Fried Chicken, Pork BBQ from “The Forks Cafeteria & Catering”

Cost: \$ 13.50 per adult, \$6.50 /child under 22

Member / Guest Name:

Send to: Scott Kennedy
2809 Anderson Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27608

Or, call or e-mail your reservation to Scott
On 919-789-4080, or swkennedy1@gmail.com

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Make check payable to “Raleigh Chapter NCSSAR”

Tara Farm is located at 715 Newton Road between Six Forks and Falls of the Neuse in North Raleigh (27615). Once on the property, follow the signs to the picnic area.