

The Carolina Piper



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Donald C. McLeod, editor

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NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY OF NORTH CAROLINA

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Mu dheireadh (Finally)...stay-at-home orders and covid-19 apprehensions are easing but uncertainties abound. Unfortunately, all the scheduled regional highland games have been cancelled, including Grandfather Mountain, Loch Norman, Scotland County, Stone Mountain, Charleston and others. Luckily, several Robert Burns dinners were held in January, including the gala in Raleigh, and a dozen members participated in the 244th anniversary celebration of the Battle of Moore's Creek at Currie, near Wilmington.

Our health and economic concerns pale when compared to the difficulties faced ten generations ago by the Highland Scots pouring

through Wilmington into the Sandhills and the Ulster Scots descending down the Appalachians into Piedmont N.C. Malaria, smallpox, yellow fever, hurricanes and a looming revolution with divided loyalties were at hand. Today we still have our groceries and drugs, cell phones, streaming TV and the internet. And now Zoom! With our Blowing Rock dinner cancelled, the SASNC board will be meeting in Southern Pines on July 10 at Mid Pines Golf and Country Club. The scholarship, membership and finance committees are busy. Our financial position is still strong. Soon you will receive your annual dues notice and you can pay by check or PayPal. Please check the membership section of our website, standrewssocietyofnc.org to assure your data accuracy. Changes should be emailed to Mrs. Terry Smith at sasnc1972@gmail.com.

Special thanks go to James McCallum, Randall Madry and David McNeill who are leaving the board. Each has contributed greatly for six years. I have been honored to serve as president these past two years and I appreciate your confidence and support. Please contact me or incoming president Robert Boykin if you have interest in serving the Society. Meanwhile, wear the kilt! Gu durachdach (Sincerely)!

President
Charles King

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ROBERT BURNS DINNER

Raleigh area Society members organized the second annual Burns Dinner on January 25 at the venerable Carolina Country Club. Almost 100 tartan clad ladies and gentlemen enjoyed the camaraderie of the Scottish evening. Randall Madry and Glenn Davis welcomed everyone and discussed the future of the dinners. The Robert Burns Society of North Carolina has been formed as a means of conducting affairs for the dinner. Robert Boykin, president-elect of SASNC, quoted Burns' Selkirk Grace prior to Pipe Major William Caudill heralding the haggis presentation by Executive Chef Patrick Colley. Richard Gillespie did a fine enactment of Burns' "To a Haggis" and the toasts and dinner proceeded.



Glenn Davis, board member, introducing Robert Boykin, president elect of the Society



Keith Burns, toasting all Robert Burns lovers

Dr. Tiber Falzett, Gaelic Lecturer at UNC Chapel Hill, presented the traditional address to the immortal memory of Burns. Actually, the entire evening is very traditional. Gary and Laura Pendleton, respectively, gave the toast to the lassies and the lassies' response. Charles King, president of SASNC, and James Graham conducted a whiskey raffle. The evening ended of course with the piping and singing of Auld Lang Syne. No DUIs were reported that evening.



Randall Madry, board member



Pipe Major William Caudill



William Caudill and Tiber Falzett, Gaelic lecturer at UNC Chapel Hill



Richard Gillespie



James Graham, board member and chair of Scholarship & Awards Committee

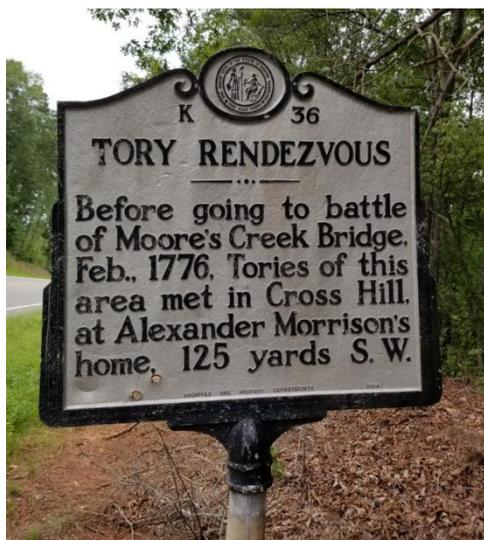
244th ANNIVERSARY BATTLE OF MOORE'S CREEK

A good day was enjoyed by a dozen Society members in February in recognition of the anniversary of the first N.C. battle in the American Revolution, the Lexington and Concord of the South.



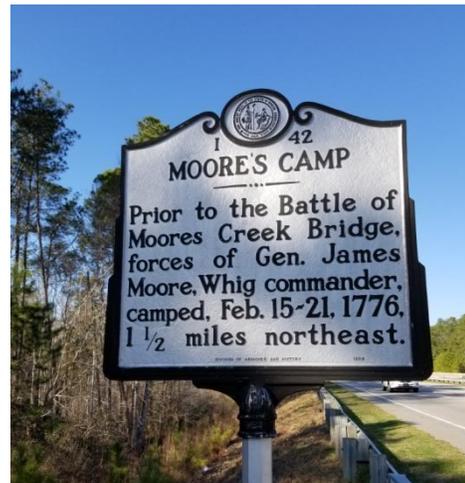
SASNC members at battlefield

Recently arrived Scottish Highlanders had taken oaths of loyalty to the Crown as a condition of immigration. Some had fought for the successful British in the recent French and Indian War. Their pride, smashed after Culloden, was bolstered by magnificently kilted and piped Highland regiments now embraced by the Crown.



Tory (Loyalist) rendezvous marker near Carthage

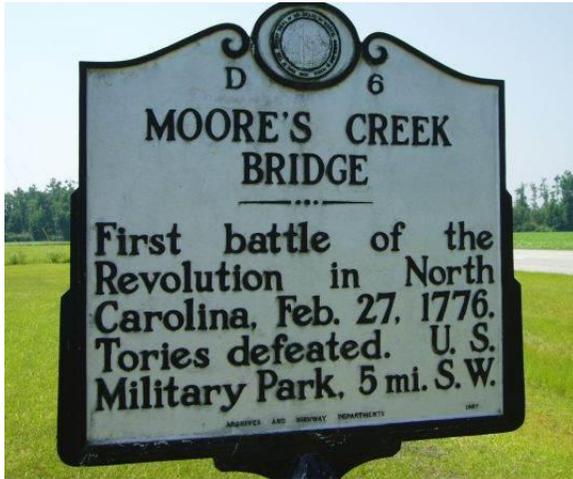
As fighting snarled in the North, safety committees and militias in N.C. were formed in defiance of the Royal colonial government. Gov. Josiah Martin, in exile, called for all loyal subjects to serve as troops. The Royal Standard was raised in Cross Creek (Fayetteville) and 1600 Highland Scots and loyalists mustered. The loyalists were led by Brig. Gen. Donald McDonald and Lt. Col. Donald McLeod who were sent to N.C. to raise Highland troops. Their goal was to cross the Cape Fear River and join British forces at Brunswick Town in the mouth of the Cape Fear. Col. James Moore, commander of the patriot militias in SE N.C., trailed McDonald and the loyalists and repeatedly blocked the river crossing. Militias led by Richard Caswell and Alexander Lillington assembled on the banks of Moore's Creek, a logical crossing point to Wilmington 20 miles away.



Col. James Moore militia camp blocking loyalist crossing of Cape Fear, southeast of Fayetteville

McDonald was ill and McLeod was in command as the loyalists went after the militias they thought were retreating. The planks on Moore's Creek bridge were removed and the girders greased. At daybreak on a cold day in a swampy wilderness, the loyalists, with broadswords leading the charge, met a quick disaster. McLeod and at least 50 loyalists were

killed, McDonald and 859 more taken prisoner and the rest disappeared into the wilds.



Moore's Creek Bridge Battlefield marker



Current Moore's Creek bridge

Why was this battle important? It marked the permanent end of Royal authority in N.C. In less than two months the Provincial Congress met in Halifax and instructed the N.C. delegation to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia to vote for independence (The Halifax Resolves). Strategically it prevented the British from controlling the South at the onset of the Revolution.

The Moore's Creek Battleground Association is open to membership and information is available from the secretary at lairdpm@yahoo.com. More than 400 enthusiasts attended the 244th anniversary celebration. Make your plan for the 245th next February.



Wreath laying ceremony

*"My heart's in the Highlands, my heart is not here;
My heart's in the Highlands a-chasing the deer;
A-chasing the wild-deer, and following the roe,
My heart's in the Highlands wherever I go."*

Robert Burns



Patriot monument to James Grady, only patriot who died due to battle



*Loyalist monument
(Debra McCloud, president of Cape Fear Valley Scottish Clans, and Donald McLeod)*



*Loyalist reenactor
(there was a piper but no kilts probably)*



*Patriot cannon affectionately known as
"Mother Covington" facing loyalist
bridge crossing*