



# The Fife & Drum

The official publication of the  
**The Sons of the Revolution**  
in the State of North Carolina

A 501(c)(3) Non-profit Corporation

<http://www.nc-sor.org/>

## From the President One Self-Evident Truth

The current unrest resulting from the death of George Floyd has caused many of us to question the ubiquitous police motto, *To Serve and Protect*. In time, and through countless investigations into Floyd's death, we will come to see whether or not law enforcement can truly serve and protect the larger community to the benefit of people like you, me and countless other George Floyds.



Until then, there is another set of words echoing in my mind and heart:

*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men [sic] are created equal.* Could it be that the brutal and tragic death of George Floyd is a subtle reminder of what the Founders embarked upon in Philadelphia in 1776? Could it also be that Floyd's death is but an unfortunate "birth pang" of what is meant not only in the **Declaration of Independence** but in every document that sets forth, announces, and clarifies our democratic American society?

From the vantage point of two-plus centuries of American government and in light of Floyd's death, perhaps it is prudent if not necessary to connect the dots and to recognize the lesson before us: until May 25, it was not self-evident, by some, that George Floyd was their equal by sheer weight of his humanity; but, since May 25 many of us have been reminded that what makes Americans equal is our humanity. Yes, I am saying that *all American citizens ARE created equal* not by skin color or gender or education or privilege but by our shared humanity.

It is to the equality of people like George Floyd and people like you and me that these certain words, *all Americans are created equal*, must now apply without exception, at least for the America of today, the America you and I wake up to each day and for which, in our heart of hearts, we are willing to sacrifice "our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor."

Hopefully, the healing that will follow from George Floyd's death, the investigations, the prosecutions and the reform of law enforcement will deliver us a step closer to the Founders' vision of a nation where equality is just as blind as justice.

Only through such blindness will the true colors of the United States be recognized and embraced, colors that will remind us that *E Pluribus Unum* has so little to do with uniformity and everything to do with unity. To that end, the Sons of the Revolution in North Carolina find its purpose and discern its calling for generations to come. On July 4, 2020, when I feel the not so subtle birth pang of American democracy I will recall Americans who have paid the ultimate price so you and I might not forget that all Americans are created equal, at least and at last in the very *human* United States of America.

Sign up now  
**2020 Yorktown & Annual  
Luncheon Meeting**  
**November 14, 2020**  
Raleigh, NC. Register on [Web Site](#)

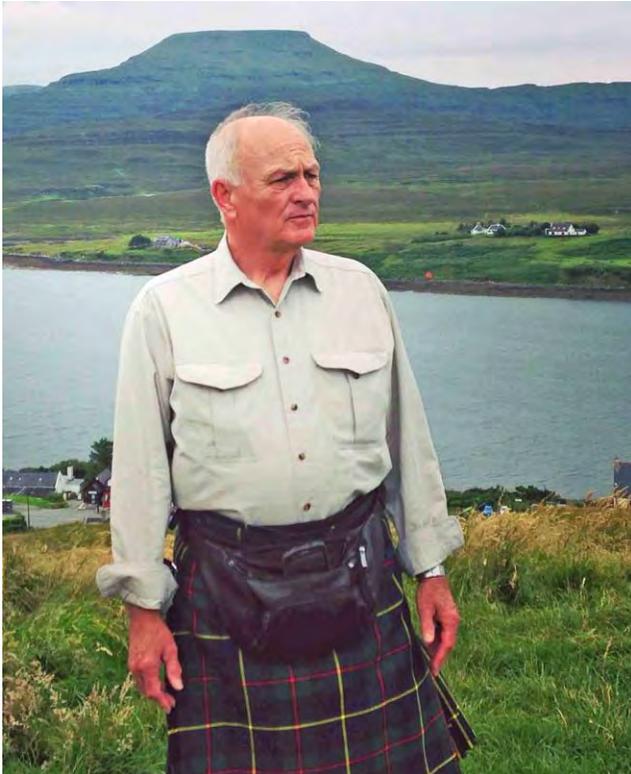
## Yorktown/Annual Meeting Luncheon – Saturday, Nov. 14, 2020

On Saturday, Nov. 14, 2020, the 2020 Annual Meeting will be folded into the Yorktown Luncheon that will be held at The North Ridge Country Club, Raleigh, NC.

<https://www.northridgecountryclub.org/>.



A Board of Directors' Meeting will be convened at 10:30 a.m. followed by a Patriotic Social at 11:30 a.m. The buffet luncheon will commence at 12:15 p.m. Following the luncheon, the primary business of the Annual Meeting will be held: the election of Officers and Directors. Andy Smith, chair of the Nominating Committee, will bring the committee's report before the membership. Other business as befitting the SRNC will be acted upon before the keynote speaker, Donald C. McLeod, is introduced.



Don McLeod, a past president of the St. Andrew's Society of North Carolina, will present a fascinating program entitled, *The Scottish Dilemma in North*

*Carolina During the American Revolution*. Bringing to our attention that in 1776 almost half of white North Carolinians were of Scottish ancestry, Don will lay out for us the two significant streams of immigration from Scotland, namely, those from the Highlands and those from Ulster (Scot Irish) or the Lowlands. Citing the reasons for immigrating to the American colonies, Don will detail for us the role Scots played in strategic Revolutionary battles, notably the Battle of Moores Creek, and the tragic consequences of Scot-against-Scot at battles such as Ramsour's Mill and Kings Mountain. Raised in the Sandhills of North Carolina, Don received his pharmacy degrees (B.S., M.S.) at UNC-CH. He went on to serve as the assistant director of pharmacy at Duke University Medical Center and then as director at Buffalo General Hospital, Buffalo, NY, where he served also on the faculty of the College of Pharmacy, SUNY. He would later go on to become a tenured professor at The Ohio State University. Don is a member of Brownson Memorial Presbyterian Church, Southern Pines, and he is active with the Southern Pines Rotary Club. His passion, however, rests with his participation in the St. Andrew's Society of NC and specifically through the philanthropic arm of Clan MacLeod, the Dunvegan Foundation. Don is married to Priscilla Hager McLeod. They have two children and four grandchildren.

Knowing we will be well informed by Don, we look forward to Don's presentation to the SRNC. *Céad Míle Fáilte!*

Register at <http://www.nc-sor.org/> or e-mail <mailto:odom41@earthlink.net> to register.

## Past Events

### 239<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of Cowan's Ford

The 239<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of the Battle of Cowan's Ford, a battle waged on Feb. 1, 1781, at which Gen. Wm. Lee Davidson gave his life for the cause of independence, was held at the Hopewell Presbyterian Church on Jan. 25, 2020.

Organized by the Mecklenburg SAR and officiated by President Stephen P. McKee, the commemoration was highlighted by a first-person presentation of Benjamin Franklin.



Afterwards, compatriots assembled in the cemetery for the presentation of wreaths at Gen. Davidson's grave site. In attendance were SRNC members (l-r) John Misenheimer, Ken Luckey and Russ McCullough. SRNC President Gus Succop gave the closing Benediction.

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### **Moore's Creek 244<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle**

Attending the 244<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Moore's Creek, Currie, NC, were SRNC President Gus Succop and President Emeritus Dan Hopping. Fought on Feb. 27, 1776, the battle was one of the first skirmishes between NC Patriots and Loyalist militia forces who were mostly Scottish Highlanders wielding broadswords.



**SRNC members John Misenheimer, President Gus Succop and Dan Hopping**



**Dan Hopping and President Gus Succop with the swivel canon called "Mother Covington's Daughter" which was a gift to the park by the SRNC.**

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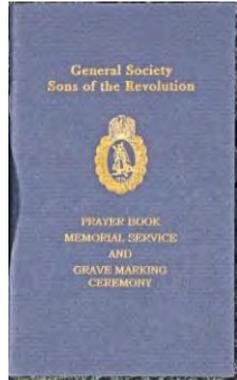
### **Sons of the Revolution Grave Markers Are Back!**



After an absence of nearly a century, grave marker medallions are being made available to all Sons of the Revolution (SR) state societies.

The Reverend Augustus E. (Gus) Succop III, North Carolina Society President, spearheaded an effort to bring back these markers. He had enthusiastic support in the effort from GSSR President Larry Simpson, GSSR Regional VP Ivan Bennett and GSSR Executive Director Jeff Lambert. Special thanks go to the New York society, which graciously loaned its antique marker from the Fraunces Tavern Museum to be used to make the mold pattern. The museum piece is a significant historical marker and it is thrilling to see replica commemorative medallions being made available to state societies. The SR has long been without a general embodiment for state societies to honor ancestors or to publicly identify membership in this distinguished organization. This announcement remedies that.

Grave marking ceremonies are one of the more visible events that promote the society and honor our ancestors. The process is straightforward and the General Society has a book titled *“Prayer Book Memorial Service and Grave Marking Ceremony”*. This short book is available for \$5.00 plus shipping and handling from the GSSR Williamsburg Office. The book has an outline and a script for the participants. The ceremony is short, simple and reverent.



It is most important that we continue to renew and grow the society – especially as many older members are passing on.

If the public is unaware that the society exists, there won't be new members. Publicity is key, but society publications are internal and of themselves of little help in promoting the SR to prospective members.

The public face of the SR today most often rests on the state color guard units. New York's and Pennsylvania's color guards are well regarded and maintain a high visibility, for example. Color guards are not required to be in Revolutionary War attire - blazers with matching pants and/or hats are perfectly acceptable. It is the professionalism of the color guard in public

events and parades that attracts public attention and reflects positively on the organization.

Grave marking ceremonies provide additional high profile color guard opportunities to enhance a state society's visibility. But a grave marking ceremony does not necessarily require a color guard to be present, and it can be done in conjunction with other hereditary societies. It does need to be done with descendants of the patriot and the cooperation of the cemetery, however.

Publicity is key to visibility and needs to be arranged weeks before. Local newspapers, TV and social media should all be utilized.

For state societies that have not done a grave marking ceremony in the memory of the current members, an easy start is with an ancestor of one of its members. Identifying a standing group of descendants for an eligible ancestor is an even better starting point.

Cemeteries will have rules for graveside ceremonies. Representatives should be contacted before working with the family.



Many cemeteries do not allow markers to stick up where a mower might hit them. Most markers are attached to a grave stone and the cemetery will likely have a company that they recommend to do the work. Grave markers that mount on a rod with room for a flag to be put on top are not in favor with cemeteries, since they are often stolen and can interfere with maintenance.

The new SR grave markers are bronze, 5 ¾ inches in diameter and have two lugs for screws on the back. To mount to a stone, two half inch

holes are drilled into the stone to a depth of about an inch. Cement or epoxy is put into the holes and screws placed into the back of the marker are pressed into the filler. This makes the marker permanent. In the case of a fragile gravestone or a stone with no room, a concrete pad of about twelve by eighteen inches can be buried in the ground so that a mower can pass over it without damaging it. The local society can add an inscription to the pad as desired.

Lighter aluminum markers with an adhesive backing are also available. These can be placed on a wood backing with a plate or certificate as an award or recognition of membership. The aluminum marker has a bronze finish.

Orders can be placed for the aforementioned ceremony book from the GSSR Headquarters by going to the GSSR website (<http://www.sr1776.org/>) and clicking on the Merchandise link on the right side of the page.

Orders for grave markers can be made by downloading the order form from the NCSR Web site at: <http://www.nc-sor.org/>

Bronze grave markers are \$85.00 plus shipping and handling. The lighter aluminum markers for awards and plaques are \$50.00 plus shipping and handling. You can have the wood plaque and sublimated plates done locally.

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**Chapters News**

**Cols. Hinton and Polk Chapter**

**SRNC Shirt**

The Colonels Hinton & Polk Chapter is making Sons of the Revolution Shirts available to the SRNC membership. The order forms can be found on the SRNC Web site.

Once you fill out the order, send it to Harley Walker at the address on the form with your check.

You can pick up your order at the next meeting. There will be a small shipping charge if you want it sent to you. There are a number of summer

weight Navy blue shirts that will be available at the Annual Meeting meeting.



The shirts are high quality Port Authority polo and oxford shirts than can be ordered in several colors and sizes.



Contact Raleigh Chapter Treasurer, Harley Walker at [harleywalkerjr@icloud.com](mailto:harleywalkerjr@icloud.com)

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**Gen. Wm. Lee Davidson Chapter**

Gen. Wm. Lee Davidson contacts:  
Gus Succop (Pres. [gus.succop@gmail.com](mailto:gus.succop@gmail.com));  
David Boggs (VP)  
Jay Joyce (Treasurer)

## Consider a Bequest to the Sons of the Revolution in North Carolina

A bequest is one of the easiest and most meaningful ways to make a gift to the SRNC. Gifts of any size made through a bequest help to ensure that the society receives valuable ongoing support that will benefit generations far into the future.

The SRNC is a 501(c)(3) Corporation and all donations and bequests are tax deductible.



You may make a bequest by including a provision for the Society in your will or trust. You may also choose to give the society a specific dollar amount, property, or a percentage of an estate. Your bequest is a gift to the future of the society and to the preservation of the story of our ancestors who fought to create our nation.

For more information, please contact our Treasurer, Charles Odom or Dan Hopping.

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## Upcoming events

### 2020

Unfortunately, the COVID 19 Virus has put all events on hold until the NC Governor releases the state from Quarantine. We will provide information on upcoming events as they become available.

- July 25 Ft Thicketty Ceremony in SC
  - July 25 OVTA Board meeting at Carson House, Marion, NC
  - Aug 1 House in the Horseshoe
  - Sep (TBA) Davidson Chapter Chartering Dinner
  - Sep 19-Oct 7 OVTA Annual March to Kings Mountain
  - Oct 7 Kings Mountain Anniversary
  - Nov 14 SRNC Yorktown & Annual Meeting and Luncheon
  - Dec 12 Wreaths Across America
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## Preamble from our By-Laws

The Society of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of North Carolina, Inc. has been chartered and organized to perpetuate the memory of the men who, in military, naval, or civil service, by their act or counsel, achieved American Independence.

### Objectives of our Society are:

- To keep alive the spirit of patriotism
- To foster devotion toward the institutions of our country
- To encourage historical research in relation to the Revolution
- To preserve documents, relics and individual records of the Revolutionary period
- To promote the celebration of patriotic anniversaries
- To impress the importance of these subjects upon the rising generation



## Like us on Facebook

Sons of the Revolution  
in the State of North Carolina  
*And receive periodical updates*  
**Our Facebook group is at 157 members**

## Article submission Guidelines

Font	Arial
Font size	11
Space before paragraph	None
Space after paragraph	None
Line spacing	1.0
Columns	one
Alignment	left
Images	prefer .jpg
Title	Bold 12 point center
Author	10 point center

Please do not use a low resolution phone for the images. We will resize the images to fit the format.

Please send the photos separate from the text rather than in-line with the text. Attach them to the note. I can rarely do anything with an imbedded image.

Please send the article with "SRNC Newsletter" in the subject line. Articles are due by the Friday evening after the monthly board meeting.

Please send submissions to Editor, Dan L. Hopping ([hopping@nextretailgroup.com](mailto:hopping@nextretailgroup.com)).