



# 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

Augustus E. Succop III, President

### Covid and Concord

Back in the mid-2000s, I had the opportunity to meet a man whose father was one of the protesters in the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests (a.k.a. the “June Fourth Incident”) in Beijing, China. For his involvement, the young man’s father was apprehended, questioned and placed under house arrest for a period of time. At one point in our conversation, the young man, who was 14 at the time of the protests, pointed out to me that “in the United States, you have freedoms that urge you to protest. In China, we have laws that prevent us from opening our mouths.” To say the least, that man knows *our* history. We do have rights that permit us if not compel us to act and to speak when we believe injustice has prevailed and rights have been trampled.



The July 4<sup>th</sup> observance and celebration is a vivid reminder of how blessed we are to be citizens of the United States. For some inscrutable reason, you and I were born in the USA and not in China. Such an “accident of birth” is something I cannot take for granted. At every opportunity, I will bear an enthusiastic and patriotic witness to the ancestors who helped bring our nation into being.

For the past 15-18 months, the SRNC has been muted because of the corona virus. Out of an abundance of caution, we have refrained from bearing collectively our patriotic witness. But things are returning to “normal.” With more and more vaccinations being given, restrictions are being lifted, and, now, we are permitted to gather in-person, which is what we will do on Nov. 20.

On Saturday, November 20, 2021, we hold our Annual Meeting @ The Carolina Country Club, Raleigh, NC. A Board Meeting will be convened at 10:30 a.m. followed by a patriotic social (cash bar) at 12 noon. Our luncheon (\$50/pp) will be served at 12:30 p.m. Reservation/payment for the luncheon may be made by check to our Treasurer: Mr. Charles Odom, 5233 N. Willowhaven Dr., Durham, NC 27712-1958; or, by PayPal *via* the SRNC website [www.nc-sor.org](http://www.nc-sor.org). Our keynote speaker will be Mr. Donald C. McLeod, a past President of the St. Andrew’s Society of NC. He will bring to us the presentation, *The Scottish Dilemma in NC During the American Revolution*.

When the shots rang out at Concord in April of 1775, the battle was engaged to secure and preserve for all time certain and inalienable rights. Since 1775, history has seen us defending those rights up to the present moment, rights that have been threatened by foes near and far, and, recently, from the realms of microbiology. Nonetheless, we remain in agreement that those rights are worth it, worth living for, worth speaking for, worth dying for, and worth bearing a patriotic witness for so others may come to know what my friend from China knows so well about the Spirit of ’76.

**Huzzah!**

**Sign up now**  
**2021 Yorktown & Annual**  
**Luncheon Meeting**  
**November 20, 2021**  
**Raleigh, NC. Register on [Web Site](http://www.nc-sor.org)**

## Looking Ahead in the Light of Liberty

Augustus E. Succop III, President

To celebrate our *re*-emergence from Covid, I want to cast before you my vision for what is ahead.

**First**, participate in those events that afford us opportunity to offer our patriotic witness. Whether the event be organized by the SRNC, the SOC, the SAR, the DAR, the SCW, or the CAR, any opportunity to bear a patriotic witness is worth the sacrifice of time and travel. How grateful we are to have such a heritage, and to know we have the freedom to celebrate that heritage, openly.

**Second**, invite neighbor, friend, relative and/or family member to join our witness. If your spouse is in the DAR, inquire about those husbands who are eligible. If you have a family member, sibling or cousin, keep your line “alive” by inviting him to join. Through your membership, the application process is expedited. Inviting and seeing through to membership a new member is *the* best way to perpetuate the Spirit of '76.

And **third**, offer your time and talent to the SRNC. We need to learn who has the skill to serve as treasurer and secretary, as newsletter reporter/editor, as creator of name badges, as transporter of flags; we need to know of your willingness to bear your patriotic witness in ways that keep our collective witness vivid and far more than merely “virtual.”

Do you have a vision for what lies ahead in the light of liberty? Let me hear from you!

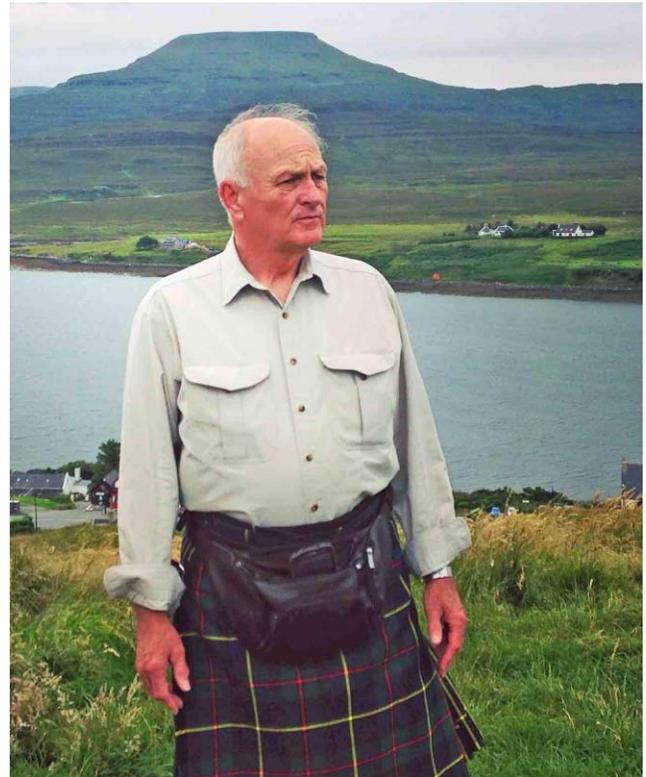
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### Yorktown/Annual Meeting Luncheon – Saturday, Nov. 20, 2021

On Saturday, Nov. 20, 2021, the 2021 Annual Meeting will be folded into the Yorktown Luncheon that will be held at Carolina Country Club, Raleigh, NC.



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 12:30 p.m. Following the luncheon, the primary business of the Annual Meeting will be held: the election of Officers and Directors. The 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.

In Memoriam  
**James Boyer Ebert, Sr.**

(<https://www.floydmortuary.net/obituary/dr-james-ebert-sr>)

Our Past President and dear friend, James Boyer Ebert, Sr., died in Lumberton, NC on May 23. He was 96. Born in Ashland, NJ, Jim served in the US Army Air Force during WWII. After the war, he received a degree in forestry from LSU, and would practice forestry in VA and NC. He would then receive the MA degree in Botany from Duke. He held memberships in numerous professional fraternities, and would serve for 47 years as professor of biological sciences at UNC-Pembroke, from which he received the honorary Doctor of Science Degree for superlative service.

Dr. Ebert is the author of **Laboratory Studies in Biology** that was used for many years. Outside of the classroom, Jim held membership in the Society of Colonial Wars, the Sons of the American Revolution, and was a life member of the Sons of the Revolution, serving as President of the NC Society (2000-2002) and VP of the General Society representing the southeast. Jim was awarded by the General Society its highest honor, the Patrick Henry Award. Notably, Jim organized and chaired the SRNC Scholarship for 11 years at UNC-P.

Due to pandemic restrictions, a private memorial service was held for Jim at Trinity Episcopal Church, Lumberton. Jim is survived by Eleanor, his wife of 70 years; daughter Nancy Gray (Verne Allen Gray); and, his son, James B. Ebert Jr., MD (Maria P. Ebert, MD); and two adult grandchildren.

At the June 12 Board Meeting, the motion was made and passed unanimously that a GSSR marker be

placed on Jim's headstone located at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Richmond, VA. Jim's leadership and spirit to serve sacrificially will be missed; however, his patriotic witness will live on through many of us who knew and were inspired by his example. Thank you, Jim!

**Huzzah!**

**North Carolina in the Revolutionary War**  
**The Battle of Kings Mountain**

Dan Hopping

The American Revolutionary War lasted eight long and bloody years during one of the coldest decades of the Little Ice Age. (Do a search on "Little Ice Age" then check out the painting of Washington crossing the Delaware. Notice that everyone else in the boat is pushing off large chunks of ice, the river was frozen.) The first three years of the war were mostly up in the north and the last five years were mostly down here in the Carolinas. By 1780 the war in the north had become somewhat of a stalemate so the British strategy moved south since the Carolina Provincial Governors promised that the Carolinas were mostly Loyal to the King.

Two hundred and forty-one years ago on October 7<sup>th</sup>, 1780 the Battle of Kings Mountain was fought on a low rocky hill just west of Charlotte. It was considered even at the time to be a major turning point in the war.

1780 had been a bad year for the patriots. In May the British had captured Charleston, SC and with it the southern patriot army of 2,500 Continentals who surrendered and most did not survive their imprisonment. The British captured over 300 cannons and 6,000 French Charleville muskets that had been given to Washington by the French, along with vast stores of gunpowder and supplies.

British General, Cornwallis wanted to pacify the Carolinas and he sent his army north in three columns. One went up the coast and one went up through the backcountry of the Carolinas.

The main army went up the middle towards Charlotte and met the patriot army of Major General Gates near Camden, SC. Due to extremely poor leadership, the patriot army was soundly defeated even though they outnumbered the British army.

Two entire patriot armies were destroyed in less than three months. American moral was very low and people started thinking they should take protection with the British army.



**British Major Patrick Ferguson**

The force moving through the Carolinas back country was led by a British Major by the name of Patrick Ferguson. After the fall of Charleston, Major Ferguson was sent to the back country with his 100 man American Loyalist force to capture patriots and enlist loyalists to be a Loyalist Militia.



**The 1768 Charleville Musket, .69 caliber using a .65 caliber ball**



**The British Pattern 1776 Rifle,**

He took 300 of the captured French muskets from Charleston and ten wagons of supplies. His 100 Provincial Volunteers were armed with the British Pattern 1776 Rifle which can use the same ammunition as the French muskets.

Major Ferguson was to form into Corps all the young or unmarried men of Georgia and the two Carolinas. The recruits were to sign a document that they were not a regular British soldier, but a six-month militia man. It was hard to recruit since no one wanted to join the regular British Army which could get shipped off to anywhere in the world on a days' notice and was very hard to get out of.

By the time Major Ferguson had moved into North Carolina his force had fought many small battles and was up to about 1,100 men. He had run the patriots out as he went. Most went over the mountains to the Sycamore Shoals area (Johnson City TN). When he came across a patriot farm, he burned it and took everything he wanted.

He camped at Gilberttown which was the county seat of Rutherford County, NC. He was angry at the

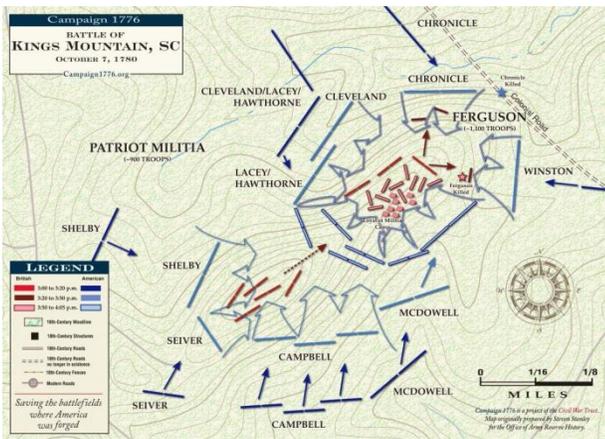
“Banditti” as he called the Patriots, so he sent a message over the mountain to get them to come begging for mercy.

*If you do not come over here and swear allegiance to the King and help me put down the rebellion, I will come over there with fire and sword to lay waste to your lands, destitute your women and children and hang your leaders.*

It didn't work. These independent frontiersmen were not found of the British anyway. Many of them came here to escape British tyranny. They decided that they would not wait for Ferguson to come to them. They gathered up almost 2,000 men and chased him down for two weeks to catch him on Kings Mountain.

It was very cold and had been raining for several days before the battle and on the 6th of October, the patriot army was camped at a place called the Cowpens some 30 miles west of Kings Mountain when they finally found out which way Ferguson went. The horses were almost run into the ground and the men had had little sleep and little to eat for days. They had no tents, just a blanket and their hunting frock laying out in the cold rain. They decided to press on as fast as possible so they picked 910 of the best horses and the best men and left the Cowpens at about 9:00 pm to ride all night through the forest in the rain with no light of the moon or stars. They could not see the horse in front or back of them. They were lost for a while but they arrived at the Cherokee Ford on the Broad River around dawn. The river was swollen from the rain and they posted the strongest horses and men down stream to catch anyone who was washed away from the ford.

They came near a farm house and decided to see if they could find out more details of where Ferguson went. They sent a skinny young man named Enoch Gillmor ahead to inquire at the house. He went to the door and knocked. Two women came to the door and Enoch said “my name is Enoch, and I'm looking to join Ferguson's army but I don't know here he is. They let the poor boy in and gave him food and told him that Ferguson was on Kings Mountain and that they had just yaken some eggs up to them. After a while the patriots rode up fast, busted in to the house and yelled “now we have you, you da\*\*ed rebel. We'll hang you from the gate”. The women started to wail and plead “he's just a boy, don't hang him”. The patriots said, let's not disturb these ladies, let's take him down the road and hang him. When they got out of site of the ladies, they took off the noose and Enoch told them where Ferguson was.



They knew about Kings Mountain since some of the patriots had used it as a hunting camp. It had been raining for days and the damp allowed the Patriots to approach without being discovered until they had surrounded the mountain. The battle was sharp and fast. Several bayonet charges forced the patriots to retreat down the side of the mountain but when the loyalist went back up, the patriots followed firing as fast as they could. The loyalists on the top, which was bare of trees, were outlined against the sky while the Patriots coming up the sides were hiding behind the trees and rocks to reload. Almost 2,000 black powder muskets and rifles firing for almost an hour can cause a lot of smoke.

Everyone was looking for Ferguson since they knew he had on a red and white checked overcoat, rode a white horse and had a sword in his left hand. When he finally tried to escape though the Patriots line and came out of the smoke, within seconds he had eight bullets through him. The horse was not harmed, the men would not hurt a horse but they really did not like the man who threatened their families.



**Dan Hopping and Bill DiBenedetto with the OVTA at Ferguson's grave. Photo by Tom Davis**

Ferguson was trained by the British army to take the high ground and that he did. He had stated that God almighty and all his angels could not get him off the mountain. He was right, he is still there to this day. When you bury an enemy in the old days it was customary to put rocks on the grave to keep him down. Notice the pile of rocks on the grave.

It was ten days before Cornwallis found out that he completely lost his left flank. He was afraid that the Patriot army was larger than it was and that it was coming for him. He burned a lot of his baggage and hurriedly turned south out of North Carolina. In January, he lost another third of his army at the battle of Cowpens and then another third of his army at the battle of Guilford Court House before he ended up at Yorktown twelve months and twelve days after the battle of Kings Mountain with his world turned upside down.

The [Overmountain Victory Trail Association](#) (OVTA) every year recreates the march to Kings Mountain by retracing the path taken by the Patriots in 1780. They camp every place the original patriots camped for those two weeks and they put on a living history education program for all the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in the area. They dress as the Patriot Militia of 1780 and tell the story of the Revolutionary War and the founding of America. The OVTA pays for the bus driver's salary and the bus's gas so that the kids get a free field trip. The school teachers know when we are coming and teach the Revolution for the week before we get there. The OVTA is a partner of the National Park System.

## Past Events

### Rev War Archeology Project

Dan Hopping

The SRNC continues to work with the Wake County Historical Society to direct the recovery of artifacts from an important Revolutionary War tavern building site. The site is now lost to a major development called The Midtown Exchange. This will be a major shopping center, business office park, five star hotel and restaurant site. It will be one of the largest shopping centers in Raleigh. We thank the Developer for allowing the recovery of artifacts and the loan of serious heavy equipment to ensure complete recovery.

We have recovered a large number of nails and artifacts from the site. We are documenting the site

as a historically important location for future generations.

The finished development will feature a display on the tavern and its importance to the location of the Capital of North Carolina by the legislature of the new state of North Carolina.

Recent recoveries include a broken 1700s sword blade and parts of a chest from the 1700s. We are still sorting the nails by decade to make sure we have the nails of the original tavern building. The tavern was in operation from 1762 until the early 1800s and was then a tenant farmer building and finally used as a barn until the mid 1900s.

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## OVTA March to King's Mountain

Dan Hopping

The Sons of the Revolution in the State of North Carolina is a Supporting Partner of the OVTA. In this reporting period, we did over a dozen presentations during the March and participated in firing volleys such as this one at McDowell house in Marion, North Carolina on the first of October.



**The OVTA firing a volley at the McDowell House with SRNC participation**

This year with the Covid keeping the public schools from participating, we still reached over 10,000 fourth, fifth, and eighth grade children and their parents with the story of the founding of the United States.

Dan Hopping, Tom Davis and prospective member Bill DiBenedetto participated on the march. Bill DiBenedetto and Tom Davis provided the photography.

The OVTA recreates the original march of the Patriots who chased British Major Patrick Ferguson and his Tory Militia for over two weeks and caught them on Kings Mountain to fight a battle that lasted only 55 minutes and eliminated the threat.

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**Loading and firing the firelock for a demonstration**



Presenting to Rutherford County Elementary school



Presenting at Walnut Grove Plantation



Firing a volley



Morn Arms while Taps play

## Wreaths Across America

Dan Hopping

December 19, 2020, The SRNC cosponsored the Wreaths Across America Event at the Raleigh National Cemetery. Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach is carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as at more than 2,100 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad.

The SRNC laid a wreath for all the Soldiers of the American Revolutionary War and at the end of the ceremony, the SRNC Color Guard fired a volley and went to Morn Arms as Taps played out across the cemetery.

## Battle of Alamance 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The SRNC participated in the Wreath presentation and volley at the May 16, 2021 Annual Patriots Day Ceremonies Commemorating the two 1781 Battles that took place in Alamance County, NC and the regulator Battle of Alamance that took place on May 16, 1771. Some regard the Regulator Battle of Alamance to be the first battle of the Revolution.



**Wreath laying and volley firing at the Battle of Alamance 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration**

**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**

### **Col. 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 Allen James 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 President, Allen James at [eajames@bellsouth.net](mailto:eajames@bellsouth.net).

**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.

**Upcoming events**

**2021**

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

- Oct 23 [Hart Square Village Festival](#)
- Nov 20 SRNC Yorktown & Annual Meeting and Luncheon
- Dec 18 Wreaths Across America at Raleigh National Cemetery

### 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)).