



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

From the President:

They All Add Up, *Miraculously*

During any given year, the SRNC attends and observes a number of events that keep fresh to our memory the significance of the American Revolution. Not only do we seek to take into account the sacrifice rendered by our ancestors; we also seek to express appreciation for how and under what circumstances the Revolution was won by our patriotic ancestors.



During the year, and beginning each January with the Battle at Cowan's Ford held at the Hopewell Presbyterian Church's cemetery, the SRNC uses times of commemoration as teaching tools to pass on to the rising generation what we Americans are in possession of through our form of government. It cannot be stressed enough that our representative form of government is unique in the life of the world and in comparison to the forms of government of other nations.

We are well aware that there are other forms of government "out there." 90 miles from our Florida shore (Cuba) is one form of government while on the other side of the world (China) another form is to be found. How many different forms of government comprise the nations of the world; and yet, how blessed we are to have a form of government that is derived from the consent of the people, not some figure head, not by fiat, but by you and me.

When you take into consideration the American form of government and how it was established at such a

cost, it is then that a society such as the SR is seen in its particular light and its existence is understood as more than just a social means-to-an-end. What we seek to do at every gathering, at every commemoration, and through each new member is to highlight if not to *celebrate* the miracle of our nation's birth.

Historian David McCullough refers to the pivotal year of 1776 as a miracle, and with good reason. However, the case can and should be made for understanding the entire Revolutionary period, from Lexington/Concord to Yorktown, as no less miraculous. I hesitate to elevate the United States to a status of Divine favor. Rather, I am inclined to call for God's blessing upon all nations. I wish and I do pray that more and more nations would come to be governed on a comparable design as ours. Until that moment arrives, I continue to give thanks, as our Founders did continuously, for what was wrought by those who held determinately faithful to human freedoms and particular civil liberties.

Building upon our gratitude, we pass on a glorious SR spirit to a new generation, which I see as nothing more than an honored duty. That is why we are urgent to extend our welcome to a new member and to the future each new member represents for the cause of our freedom and for the freedom of those whose freedom has yet to be won.

Sign up now
2019 Yorktown Meeting
October 19
The Northridge Country Club
Raleigh, NC

September 2019

Annual Yorktown Luncheon

The annual Yorktown Luncheon will be held at The Northridge Country Club (Raleigh) on Saturday the 19th. The keynote speaker, The Honorable Gary Trawick, will speak on the Battle of Moore's Creek.

You may make your reservation on-line at:

www.nc-sor.org.



We have a great program scheduled for the event.

The Battle At Moore's Creek Bridge

On the morning of February 27th, 1776, at the bridge crossing Moore's Creek in what is now Pender County, a battle lasting only a few minutes may have determined the outcome of the American Revolution. That the battle was important is not debatable. It can be debated how important the battle was, but not that was important.

We will look briefly at the battle, but our focus will be on the leaders of those who fought there. What type of men were they that, as those who signed the Declaration of Independence, risked their lives, their fortunes and their sacred Honor, so that we are Americans and not British subjects.

In October the Country Book Shop of Southern Pines will release a new book by Gary E. Trawick, entitled: "Give Them Another Chance." For nearly two years Judge Trawick wrote and performed commentaries for WHQR Public Radio. He has now re-written twenty of these in essay form as the core of this book. An additional half dozen essays, not performed on WHQR, complete the book.



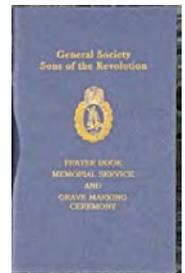
Bob Timberlake, renowned artist and author said of "Give Them Another Chance": "Gary's words bring back fond memories of growing up in the outdoors and ordinary folks who may have lived further apart—but closer together. They tell us the stories I hope to paint."

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



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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 3/4 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.

The Kentucky Rifle

By David Kopel

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Without firearms, there would have been no independence or liberty to celebrate on the Fourth of July. The most famous firearm of early America—the iconic Pennsylvania-Kentucky rifle—was created by American freedom and became central in the preservation of that freedom.

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In the days when the British ruled the American colonies, almost all the firearms in the UK were smoothbores. That is, the bore (the interior of the barrel) was smooth. Smoothbores are well-suited for bird-hunting and other short-range uses. Although their accuracy beyond 50 yards is poor, smoothbores were good enough for European-style fighting among standing armies.

Rather than taking aim, soldiers just fired in the general direction of the closely packed ranks of enemy troops. Today, the most common smoothbores are shotguns.



The British “Brown Bess”

Unlike smoothbore muskets, rifles have spiral grooves (rifling) cut in the bore. The grooves make the bullet spin on its horizontal axis, so the bullet's flight is more aerodynamically stable, and thus superior for longer-range shooting. Since the late 15th century, rifles had been made in the mountainous regions of southern Germany and northern Switzerland. But they hadn't caught on in Great Britain.

Early in the 18th century, rifle-makers from Germany and Switzerland began settling in Pennsylvania, in the Lancaster area. America was attracting skilled craftsmen immigrants who wanted to set up their own businesses, free from the repressive controls of the homeland.

In the UK or Germany, gunmakers usually had to belong to a trade guild. Entry into the guild was constricted. Guilds, as with other limits on suppliers, create oligopolies that reduce supply to consumers and increase profits to the limited number of suppliers. But in guild-free America, gunmakers could manufacture affordable arms for as many customers as they could find. The absence of guilds was one reason for the prevalence of guns in the American colonies.

Thanks to the tolerant vision of William Penn, the colony of Pennsylvania offered everyone religious freedom. When George Hanover, a German prince, became King George I of Great Britain in 1714, many Germans peaking gunsmiths decided that the time was right to emigrate to America. In Pennsylvania, the émigrés wouldn't be forced to join the government-established Lutheran or Catholic churches of the German states.



Early 1700 German Jaeger Rifle

The Pennsylvania rifle-makers initially produced the Jaeger model, which they had made in central Europe. The demands of the American market led to the creation of a new type of rifle, the first distinctively American gun: the Pennsylvania-Kentucky rifle. Pennsylvania was the primary place where it was made, and Kentuckians became the most famous users. Originally, “Kentucky” referred to an area extending from southern Ohio and Indiana all the way to northern Tennessee.



1770 Style Long Rifle

The Pennsylvania-Kentucky rifle (called a Long Rifle at the time) was longer than its European ancestor. The long barrel improved balance, and helped the user obtain a more accurate sight of the distant target. While European rifles generally had a caliber (interior bore diameter) of .60 or .75 inches, Americans preferred a smaller caliber, usually around .40 to .46, and sometimes as low as .32. A smaller caliber meant smaller bullets. One pound of lead will make 16 bullets for a .70 caliber gun, and 46 bullets for a .45 caliber. With the smaller caliber, a person on a hunting expedition that might last for weeks or months could carry a greater quantity of ammunition. Riflemen were careful to learn the exact quantity of powder their rifle needed, so that no powder was wasted. They could then adjust the quantity as appropriate, such as adding more powder for an especially long shot. Among America's riflemen, “a cult of accuracy” developed, according to Alexander Rose's book, “American Rifle: A Biography.”

Over the 18th century, knowledge of riflemaking was diffused nationally, as apprentices who trained in Pennsylvania moved to Maryland, Virginia, the Carolinas, and other colonies.

Long-distance shooting contests were major events in rural communities. Everyone was expected to be a master of precision shooting—not just for prestige, but also for dinner. For example, in squirrel shooting, a shot to the center of the body would ruin much of the meat. So Americans could “bark” a squirrel: shooting just under the tail to knock the squirrel off a tree branch, making the squirrel fall to the ground intact.

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As the most accurate firearm produced up to 1800—and not surpassed for accuracy until well after that—the Pennsylvania-Kentucky rifle was ideal for hunting mammals and for the irregular tactics of Indian-fighting. Indians preferred the rifles for the same reasons. It fit the forest.

Rifles were important on the frontier and were common west of the Hudson River. Until the Revolution, they were rarely seen in New England, where smoothbore muskets continued to predominate.

For European-style fighting, rifles had several disadvantages compared to shorter, sturdier muskets. First, rifles needed more labor to produce and were consequently more expensive. Second, they took longer to reload. Under optimal conditions with expert use, the maximal rate of rifle fire was about three shots per minute, compared to four or five for the musket. Third, rifles were too delicate to use with a bayonet.

A bayonet is a dagger or other straight knife that is attached to the front of a gun. The word comes from Bayonne, France, the bayonet-manufacturing capital. In a typical European battle, fought with linear tactics, musket-armed infantry lined up three-deep in rows. Without bothering to aim at a particular target, the first row would fire a volley at the opposing army. The first row would then step to the rear and begin reloading. The second row would step forward, and fire its volley. The three-row cycle made it possible to fire a volley every several seconds.

Eventually, one army would march quickly toward the enemy ranks, absorbing some volleys on the way. Then, the battle would be decided by hand-to-hand combat, not gunfire. The soldiers would stab and slash each other with the bayonets at the end of their muskets. They would also use their muskets as clubs.

In such a melee, the rifleman was at a disadvantage. Although riflemen carried tomahawks, hatchets, or other bladed weapons, their adversaries who had a bayonet at the end of their muskets had a much longer reach.

Accordingly, when Americans had to fight European armies—such as the French in 1744–45 (King George's War) and 1754–63 (French and Indian War), or the British from 1775–83—the musket was the more important arm. The American Revolution was won mainly with muskets, not rifles.

During the Revolution, rifles did play a decisive role in the West. There, forces led by Gen. Daniel Morgan defeated the British and their Indian allies, securing

American claims to the vast lands between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River.

Decades later, the Pennsylvania-Kentucky rifle was the firearm of the 1815 Battle of New Orleans, where Americans led by Gen. Andrew Jackson routed the best forces in the British army.

On Jan. 8, 1815, the British army attacked New Orleans, aiming to choke off western America's commerce. The British Redcoats, fresh from victories in Spain, were the best in the world, and they far outnumbered the Americans.

For three sleepless days on horseback, Jackson worked frantically to organize the American defenders—a diverse combination of professional soldiers, militia, irregulars, free blacks, whites, Creoles, Cajuns, Spaniards, Frenchmen, Portuguese, Germans, Italians, Indians, lawyers, privateers, farmers, and shopkeepers.

The Americans didn't look impressive to the British Redcoats, who called them "dirty shirts." The Tennessee militia arrived in raccoon caps, while the Kentucky militia was clad in rags.

The American militiamen brought their own hunting guns, because the federal government lacked the resources to supply them with military weapons. The Americans were skilled marksmen accustomed to shooting squirrels and other small targets in distant trees.

On the day of battle, the outnumbered Americans, firing their rifles from improvised fortifications, demolished the British, while themselves suffering hardly any casualties.

Unbeknownst to the combatants, a U.S.—British peace treaty had already been signed in Ghent, Kingdom of the Netherlands. However, given that the British had violated the 1783 Treaty of Paris (which had settled the American War of Independence) by refusing to evacuate their forts in the western United States, if the British had won at New Orleans, they probably would have kept the city and port, thereby choking off international commerce for most of the western United States.

The victory in the Battle of New Orleans became central to American patriotism. Until the Civil War, it was celebrated nearly as much as the Fourth of July.

For a while, "The Hunters of Kentucky" was the most popular song in the nation, exulting: "For Jackson he was wide awake, he was not scared of trifles. Full well he knew what aim we'd take with our Kentucky rifles."

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The Pennsylvania-Kentucky rifle became the first iconic American firearm. The American “cult of accuracy” that began with the Kentucky rifle has persisted ever since.

The Americans of the 18th century had won their first war of independence against Britain because, as historian Charles Winthrop Sawyer put it, “The Colonists in America were the greatest weapon-using people of that epoch in the world.”

Decades later, when the British again threatened American independence, Americans preserved their freedom in the War of 1812 because they were the best marksmen in the world. Then and now, responsible firearms ownership and skilled marksmanship are part of the culture of civic virtue that safeguards our freedom.

David Kopel is an associate policy analyst at the Cato Institute in Washington. His most recent book is “The Morality of Self-Defense and Military Action: The Judeo-Christian Perspective.”

Views expressed in this article are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Epoch Times.



Our display attracts the crowd. If they have small children, we offer the parents a “Tootsie Roll Pop” to give to their children. That gets them to linger longer and to learn about the Sons. We ask them if they have a Revolutionary War ancestor. If they say yes, we ask for their contact information and follow up with an invitation to join. If they are from out of state, we get the information to the appropriate state society.

The event starts with a Parade of all the living Historians in order and the SRNC leads the parade.

Past Events

Memorial Day Remembrance The American Soldier Through the Ages May 25-26, 2019

Each year on the Memorial Day weekend, the Bennett Place NC State Historical Site holds a Memorial Day Remembrance to honor the American Soldier from April 19, 1775, to the present.

Following the American Civil War, a “Decoration Day” began in communities across America to remember soldiers who gave the ultimate sacrifice. Senator John A. Logan, a former Union officer and Senator from Illinois, was instrumental in making the day a formal National day to honor fallen soldiers. That day eventually became Memorial Day. We join with military living historians representing the American soldier of all time American periods.

Once again the SRNC placed a Sons of the Revolution recruiting booth at the entrance to the event. We are in the shade and out of the rain, but that’s beside the point. The event draws over a thousand visitors.



We lay a Wreath at the Unity Monument



Also, we give short seminars on the soldiers of the Revolution which includes firing a volley. The weekend is a fun two-day event, and it helps to raise awareness of the SRNC. Our booth gets a lot of attention as do our seminars.

SRNC Speaker's Bureau

The SRNC Speaker's Bureau presented the story of the March to Kings Mountain to the 119th NC State DAR Conference in Raleigh, NC. The SRNC actively supports the North Carolina DAR, which has a long and distinguished history of keeping the story of the American Revolution alive and relevant.



SRNC Holds Enthusiastic 2019 Annual Meeting

By Gus Succop, President

On Saturday, June 15, the SRNC convened its Annual Meeting at The Holly Inn, Pinehurst, NC. The Holly Inn and the SRNC hold a unique relationship: both came into being the same year of 1895.



Prior to the luncheon, the SRNC Board of Directors' met.



The Directors were shown three prototypes of grave markers. After helpful and deliberate discussion, the Directors approved a plan by which the markers would be made available to the General Society, and that information about the grave markers would be available at the GSSR's October Board of Managers Meeting in Richmond.

State Registrar, John Harman, brought before the Directors four gentlemen for membership. All four were duly elected into active membership.

After the business of the Directors was concluded, a time of patriotic fellowship was held, after which President Gus Succop convened the meeting. The 50+ gathering enjoyed a first-class luncheon. VP Randall Sprinkle introduced Ms. Samantha Pilkenton, the SRNC's scholarship recipient.



Samantha provided a summary of her paper, "Thomas & Patsy: *The Jeffersons and Gender Norms in the Early Republic.*"

The keynote speaker, Mr. Steven Campbell, was introduced by Immediate Past President Dan Hopping. Mr. Campbell spoke about Washington's crossing of the Delaware, and how that deep-winter strategy proved decisive to giving the colonists the advantage.



Christmas of 1776 was one of the coldest decades of the little Ice Age. If you look closely, you will notice that the men in the boat in Emanuel Leutze's famous painting are breaking and pushing away large blocks of ice as they cross the river. That crossing was one of the most daring and risky campaigns Washington undertook. This was a fantastic look at the time of the event with much little known information.



Before the Benediction was spoken by Robert Boykin, New Members were presented and new Officers/Directors were installed.

Gratitude was expressed to Director Allen James for coordinating with the capable and courtesy staff of The Holly Inn. For the 2020 Annual Meeting, the SRNC will once again be convened in Pinehurst in June.

Chapters News

Gen. Wm. Lee Davidson Chapter Charlotte

Gus Succop, President

The Gen. Wm. Lee Davidson Chapter will hold its annual Chartering Dinner on Wednesday, September 25 at Dressler's Restaurant, Metropolitan, Charlotte, at 6:30 p.m. The cost of the dinner is \$60/pp.

The keynote speaker is Mr. Tweed Roosevelt, the great-grandson of the 26th President, Theodore Roosevelt. Mr. Roosevelt is a graduate of Harvard and the Business School at Columbia University. He serves as the CEO of the **Theodore Roosevelt Association**, an organization chartered by Congress in 1920 to perpetuate the late President's memory and ideas.

Tweed's topic is entitled, *Rebel Roosevelts in the American Revolution*. In time, reservations may be made on-line at: www.nc-sor.org or www.generaldavidson.org.

Serving the Davidson Chapter as officers are: Augustus E. Succop III (Pres.), David C. Boggs, Esq. (VP), Randolph M. Lee (Sec.) and Jay A. Joyce (Treas.) Please contact Mr. Succop (gus@qhpc.org) regarding details about the dinner.

Colonels Hinton & Polk Chapter

Allen James, President

The Colonels Hinton & Polk Chapter is making Sons of the Revolution Shirts available to the SRNC membership. The order form is included with this Newsletter. 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. The order form will accompany this newsletter.



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

2019

- Oct 5 GSSR Annual Board Meeting
- Sep 22 -Oct 7 OVTA March to Kings Mountain
- Oct 7 Kings Mountain
- Nov. 9 Veteran's Day
- Dec. 8 Christmas Parade
- Dec.14 Wreaths Across America

2020

- Jan 11 Cowpens
 - Jan 25 Cowan's Ford
 - Feb 1 Crossing the Dan
 - Feb 22 Moores Creek
-

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

A bequest is one of the easiest and most meaningful way 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.

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).