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To honor our Veterans, our *Compatriot Directory* has been updated to recognize their service with a Gold "V" on their photo.

The Godfrey Dreher Dispatch

Fall 2025

[Jim Herritage, Editor](#)



KEN BURNS: THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, a new six-part, 12-hour documentary series that explores

the country's founding struggle and its eight-year War for Independence, will premiere on Sunday, November 16, 2025 and air for six consecutive nights through Friday, November 21st at 8:00-10:00 p.m. ET (check local listings) on PBS.

The full series will be available to stream beginning Sunday, November 16 at PBS.org and on the [PBS App](#).

By President, NELSON MCLEOD



These Are the Times That Try Men's Schedules

In today's busy world, every day demands choices. Opportunities for work, volunteering, entertainment, socializing, worship, and hobbies

abound. Thank you for choosing to invest some of your time in membership in the Sons of the American Revolution. I have always believed it is vital to understand—and to teach others about—the founding of our nation and the Patriots who made it possible. Take time to participate in meetings. Take time to attend events. Take time to read and study. And most of all, take time to share your knowledge.

One of my recent choices was to visit the *South Carolina 250 Revolutionary War Exhibit* in the Ruff Building at the State Fair. It's an outstanding display designed to engage scholars of all ages. Incidentally, the Ruff Building—pronounced "roof"—was named for F. Burley Ruff, grandfather of Compatriot Burley Ruff Kennedy. This may also have been the first time Robin and I visited the

State Fair without children or grandchildren since 1989.

Another rewarding choice was attending the *Francis Marion Symposium* in Manning on Friday the 17th and Saturday the 18th. Secretary Carl Epps also attended, and together we enjoyed a day and a half of lectures, presentations, dramas, and demonstrations covering Francis Marion, the Revolution in South Carolina, and the realities of 18th-century life—camp life, daily routines, horses, uniforms, and more. We met numerous authors, artists, and lineage society representatives and shared the experience with several hundred fellow Swamp Fox enthusiasts. I highly recommend this annual event.

Closer to home, we've put the results of our *Future Focus Survey* and *Interest Survey* to work by forming thirteen committees, each staffed according to members' interests and experience. If you'd like to serve on one, speak with the committee chairman. The committee chairmen are:

Color Guard	Buck Shuler
Social Media	Aric Bruggeworth
Monthly Chapter Newsletter	Jim Herritage
External Communications	Harold Crawford
Eagle Scout Awards	Woody Carothers
Genealogy Team	Steve Preston
JROTC Awards Team	Hugh Ham
Meeting Programs	Aric Bruggeworth
Events and Development	Marc Hutchinson
America 250 Team	Marc Hutchinson
Fundraising	Jim Herritage
Veteran Support	Hugh Ham
Quartermaster Unit	Sam Powell

By Events & Dev VP, **HAROLD CRAWFORD**

Our Society exists to honor the memory of our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating future generations about the founding principles of our Republic. Each of us carries a sacred responsibility to ensure that their courage and sacrifice are never forgotten.



An essential part of fulfilling that mission is to attend observances and commemorations that pay tribute to the men and women who risked everything to secure the blessings of liberty. Across the Palmetto State, we are blessed with opportunities throughout the year to gather in remembrance—at battlefields, historic churches, and community events—where we can stand shoulder to shoulder with fellow citizens and renew our commitment to the ideals that shaped our nation.

Being a Son of the American Revolution means more than paying dues or wearing a badge of membership. It calls upon each of us to actively serve our chapters and communities—to teach, to inspire, to lead by example, and to pass along the flame of patriotism that burns in our hearts. Our ancestors pledged their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor to the cause of freedom; surely we can pledge our time and energy to preserve their legacy.



Let's take pride in attending ceremonies, supporting youth programs, and helping our Society grow in purpose and visibility. Through our shared efforts, we ensure that the noble deeds of our patriot forebears will continue to echo through the generations—and that all may know we are Americans not merely by birth, but by the enduring spirit and blood of our patriot ancestors.

Upcoming Events

- **Battle of Ninety Six** - Commemoration of the First Battle of the South – November 15, 2025, Ninety-Six Historical Site, 1103 SC State Route 248, Ninety Six, SC 29666, All Day
- **Battle of Blackstock** – November 22, 2025, 10:AM – 11:00 AM - The battle commemoration will be held at the Blackstock State Historic. Directly following the commemoration, there will be a seated Ranger Battlefield talk offered on the Blackstock

Battlefield which will cover the history of why the battle occurred, the specifics of the battle itself and the importance of this battle to the Patriot Cause.

- **Battle of Cane Break** - The Col. Robert Anderson Chapter of the SAR will commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Cane Break on 12/6, 10:00 AM, at Hopkins Farm, 3717 Fork Shoals Rd, Simpsonville, SC 29680. This was the only Revolutionary Battle fought in Greenville County, SC.
- **Granby Christmas Party** - Once again, the Granby DAR Chapter has graciously invited the Godfrey Dreher Chapter to join them for their annual Christmas Party — an event not to be missed! Please bring your families and enjoy a luncheon filled with good company, delicious food, and holiday cheer. It's truly a feast for both the appetite *and the senses*.

	<u>Granby NSDAR Christmas Luncheon</u> Country Club of Lexington 1066 Barr Road Lexington, SC 29072 December 6, 2025 Arrival Time 11:30 AM Cafeteria Style Buffet Lunch Noon Dress in Sunday best
Menu <u>Carving Station for Meats</u> Baked Ham with Dijon Mustard Sliced Roast Beef with horseradish cream on the side Bake Potatoes (cheese, butter, sour cream, bacon, scallions.) Southern Style Green Beans Penne Pasta Gratin Rolls Salad Bar Cost per person \$40.00 Please mail your check payable to Granby Chapter NSDAR to: Sheryl Gootee, 1538 Prosperity Hwy Prosperity, SC 29127-9640 The deadline for payment is 11/28/2025.	<u>Karen Petit</u> South Carolina author (Celebrate America) and SC DAR member (Issaqueena Chapter) will discuss "The Gift of Story Telling." <u>Jim Graddick</u> A local Fiddler who earned his degree in classical music from the University of South Carolina will entertain with classical and Christmas music. Raffles & Auction

Following are sources for additional upcoming events:

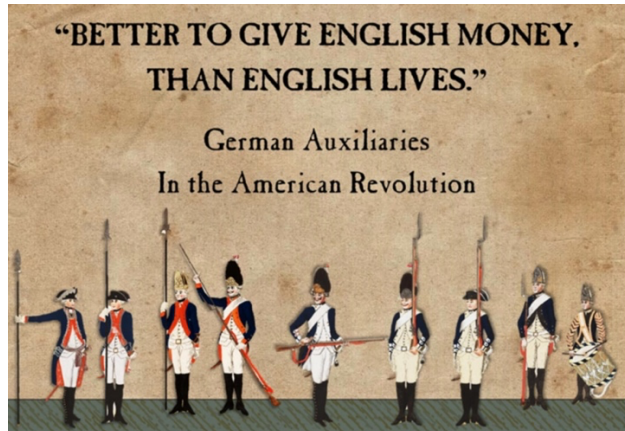
- The SCSSAR website
- The South Carolina 250 website

By Programs VP, **ARIC BRUGGEWORTH**

As your new Vice President of Programs, I'm looking forward to an exciting year filled with engaging presentations on the Revolutionary War and genealogy.



Our next speaker will be local historian Kenneth Robinson, who will discuss German auxiliaries in the American Revolution—a fascinating and often overlooked chapter of our nation's history.



In January, we'll welcome James Hull, whose presentation, *Fallen Gamecocks*, explores the lives and service of students, alumni, and faculty of South Carolina College and the University of South Carolina who served and died in uniform from the early nineteenth century to the present, with special focus on the Civil War.

These are programs you won't want to miss!

By Registrar, **MIKE GILLIS**



It was both a pleasure and a privilege to help welcome eight new members to our chapter at the September meeting. That brings our total to nine new compatriots this calendar year—and we're hoping for a few more before year's end!

The Sons of the American Revolution holds very high standards for membership approval, so it's no small achievement to earn acceptance. In recent years, the process has become even more rigorous, requiring each applicant to carefully document every fact on their lineage. It takes real patience and perseverance to see an application through to completion, and our newest members deserve sincere congratulations for their success.

One of the things I enjoy most about serving as Registrar is meeting prospective members and learning about their ancestors—their Patriots—and the sacrifices they made to secure our independence. Each story adds new depth to our shared heritage. I look forward to welcoming many more members in the year ahead as we continue to grow our chapter and honor the legacy of those who made our freedom possible.

By SCSSAR 1st VP, **GARY BLANPIED**



South Carolina Society
Sons of the American Revolution
Annual Meeting and Nominations

In the SCSSAR, officers serve one-year terms. Members attending the Annual Meeting have the opportunity to nominate candidates from the floor, while the State Nominating Committee presents its slate of recommended candidates for all elected positions. The Bylaws specify which offices are elected and include prior service requirements for the positions of President and Senior Vice President.

The Nominating Committee's recommendations will be announced at the Board of Governors Meeting on January 10, 2026, at Shandon Methodist Church in Columbia. Offices to be filled include:

President, Senior Vice President, five Regional Vice Presidents, Vice President for Chapter Renewal, Vice President for Chapter Formation, Secretary, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar, Chaplain, Historian, Chancellor, and Genealogist.

The Awards Banquet (Friday evening 4/17/2025) and the Annual Meeting (Saturday morning 4/18/2025) will continue to be held at the same venue for the next three years — the Hilton Garden Inn Columbia NE on Farrow Road. All members are encouraged to attend and participate in voting for our state officers. Committee chairs and members are appointed positions.

Membership and Dues Coordination

The Senior Vice President also chairs the Membership Committee, currently led by Chairman Clyde Howell. Together, we prepared the dues spreadsheet now being used by all 24 state chapters to record member payments. The State Secretary collects dues from at-large members.

Using the National Society's Blue Database, the Senior Vice President generated the official membership report as of June 23, 2025, along with a reconciliation covering September 1, 2024, through June 23, 2025. Clyde

reviewed last year's records to identify discrepancies and determined that a dual-state-member report was also needed.

While the national report includes National Life Members, there is currently no online record for State Life Members. To address this, Clyde Howell and State Secretary Larry Gamble may assign a letter prefix to the state member number to help correctly calculate dues for life members.

Communications and Website Development

The Communications Committee is working on a new SCSSAR website, and updates will be shared soon.

Volunteers for state committees are always appreciated. Your participation strengthens the Society and ensures its continued growth and vitality.

By Treasurer, **NORMAN SMITH**



Chapter Dues Update

As of today, dues have been received from **38 members**, representing **65.5%** of our membership. That means **34.5%** of members have not yet submitted their annual dues. If you plan to attend our November meeting, please remember to bring your check for annual membership dues.

Dues Breakdown:

- National: **\$50.00**
- State: **\$20.00**
- Chapter: **\$35.00**
- Total: \$105.00**

Be sure to include your **membership number** on the memo line of your check. Let's work together to achieve **100% member retention** this year!

Coffee Mug Fundraiser

All 25 mugs have been reserved!

They will be available for **\$20.00** each at the November meeting for payment and pickup.



Thank you for your continued support of our chapter and its activities.

Norman Smith
15 Tigger Crossing Rd.
Blackville, SC 29817



The Godfrey Dreher Dispatch

The Godfrey Dreher Dispatch is the official newsletter of the **Godfrey Dreher Chapter, South Carolina Society, Sons of the American Revolution**, published in the fall, winter, spring and summer.

The editor acknowledges the assistance of various AI platforms in the design, writing, proofreading, and layout of the material contained herein.

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www.sarlexingtonsc.org

By Secretary, **Carl Epps**



Some of you may be wondering — what exactly does a chapter secretary do?

Based on our bylaws, the Secretary is responsible for maintaining accurate records of our chapter's activities and ensuring that our administrative affairs run smoothly. Duties include recording and preserving attendance for all meetings, preparing and maintaining minutes, and providing copies of both to the webmaster at least one week before the next scheduled meeting. The Secretary also maintains the Chapter Bylaws and official records, notes any approved changes, and ensures updated versions are furnished to the webmaster.

Also, the Secretary serves as a member of the Executive Committee and records minutes for those meetings as well.

In addition to serving as Secretary, I am pleased to serve on the **Education Committee**. Recently there has been renewed interest in the Benjamin Franklin Youth Reading Program, an award program supported by the South Carolina Society (though not by National). The website link for this program is currently not functioning properly, so I reached out to Compatriot Ted Walker, who kindly provided me with a helpful handout.

This year-round program is open to elementary and middle school students, with no deadline for participation. To qualify, students must read five non-fiction books or pamphlets related to the American Revolution and/or the Founding Fathers.

A parent, guardian, or teacher certifies that the student has completed the readings and submits a statement to the SCSSAR point of contact (me) including the student's name, the book titles and authors, and an email and home address where the Reading Certificate and \$25 award check should be sent.

Lastly, I recently had the pleasure of attending the 23rd Annual Francis Marion Symposium in Manning with our esteemed chapter president, Nelson McLeod. It was a wonderful opportunity to be surrounded by a wealth of knowledgeable historians and enthusiasts — and to learn so much history in just a day and a half.

By TECH VP, Jim Herriage

So, how many members should our chapter have? The “Perfect Number” may surprise you.

Every Sons of the American Revolution chapter is unique—shaped by the local community, its history, and the energy of its members. But it's a question worth asking: What is the perfect size for a chapter?



Is it 25 deeply committed compatriots who know one another by name? Or 200 members filling a hall with a full color guard in crisp uniforms? The answer, it seems, lies somewhere in between—and in the meaning we each attach to our membership.

What the Data Tells Us

SAR doesn't define an official “ideal” size. Instead, it groups chapters by broad membership ranges for Americanism and President General awards:

- Small: <40 members
- Medium: 41–90 members
- Large: 91–150 members
- Extra Large: >150 members

Why 75 to 100 Members Often Feels “Just Right”

At about 75–100 members, a chapter is big enough to accomplish great things but small enough to keep a sense of fellowship.

At this size:

- There are enough hands to fill officer and committee roles without burning out a few volunteers.
- Meetings and events have good attendance, creating energy and momentum.

- Members can still know one another personally—building the camaraderie that makes SAR more than just a name on a roster.
- Projects such as youth outreach, color guard events, grave markings, or public ceremonies can be organized efficiently.

It's Not Just About Numbers—It's About Engagement

Numbers alone don't tell the whole story. A chapter of 60 members where 40 actively participate is far stronger than a chapter of 200 where only a dozen show up.

“Active” can mean many things:

- Attending chapter meetings
- Participating in events around the state
- Serving on committees or as an officer
- Recruiting new members
- Presenting JROTC or Eagle Scout awards
- Helping with genealogy and application mentoring
- Supporting our youth contests or patriotic outreach

The heartbeat of the SAR lies in engaged compatriots, not in raw statistics.



The American Revolution

An Overview Review

The Aftermath of the French and Indian War

When the French and Indian War finally ended in 1763, few British subjects on either side of the Atlantic could have foreseen the coming conflicts between Great Britain and its North American colonies. Yet the seeds of those conflicts had already been sown—both during the war and as a result of it.

Known in Europe as the Seven Years' War, this global conflict ended with Great Britain's victory over France and its allies. The triumph, however, came at tremendous cost. By January 1763, Britain's national debt had soared to more than 122 million pounds—an enormous sum for the time—with annual interest payments exceeding 4.4 million pounds. Merely finding

the funds to cover the interest consumed the attention of the King and his ministers.

Financial strain was not the only problem confronting British leaders. Maintaining order in North America after the war posed a significant challenge. Although Britain gained control of Canada from France, relations with Native American tribes remained unstable. To preserve peace and protect the frontier, the British decided to maintain a standing army in America—a move that would generate widespread resentment among the colonists.

Further unrest erupted on the western frontier when Pontiac's Rebellion broke out in 1763, prompting the Crown to issue the Proclamation of 1763. This decree forbade settlement west of the Allegheny Mountains, angering land-hungry colonists and speculators such as George Washington.

At the same time, British leaders felt compelled to tighten control over their empire. Laws regulating imperial trade and navigation had long existed, but American merchants were notorious for evading them—often trading with the French even during wartime. From Britain's perspective, it was only fair that the colonists contribute to the costs of their own defense. Moreover, stricter enforcement of trade laws promised much-needed revenue for the Crown. Thus began a series of reforms designed to strengthen imperial authority.

In 1764, Parliament enacted the Sugar Act, designed to raise revenue through a tax on molasses. Although a similar tax had existed since the 1730s, smuggling and lax enforcement had rendered it ineffective. This time, however, enforcement would be strict. The resulting outcry led to organized protests and boycotts of British goods.

The following year, Parliament passed the Stamp Act of 1765, imposing taxes on paper, playing cards, and virtually every legal document in the colonies. Because it affected nearly everyone and extended taxation to goods produced and consumed within the colonies, opposition was immediate and widespread. The Stamp Act crisis marked the first major clash in what would become a long and escalating struggle between Britain and her American colonies.

Abridged from the Library of Congress

<https://www.loc.gov/classroom-materials/united-states-history-primary-source-timeline/american-revolution-1763-1783/>

SC rolls out new SC250 license plates

New SC license plates feature the Moultrie Flag and the phrase "Where the Revolutionary War Was Won."

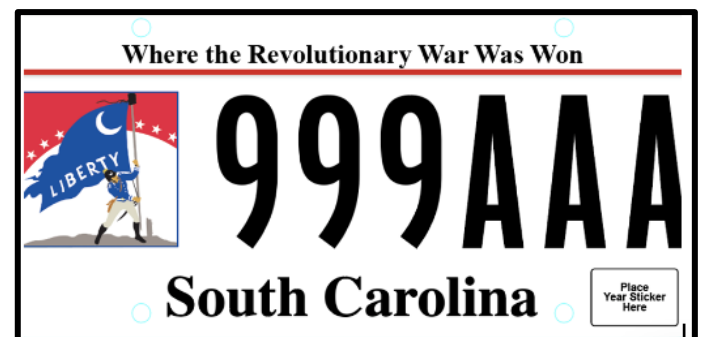
October 20, 2025

COLA Today

[David Stringer](#)

Bid farewell to South Carolina's signature blue "While I Breathe, I Hope" license plate. Beginning Jan. 1, the SCDMV will begin issuing a new standard design — the SC250 plate, created to honor the state's pivotal role in the Revolutionary War.

The new plate features the Moultrie Flag waving below the phrase "Where the Revolutionary War Was Won," referencing Sgt. William Jasper's flag-raising during the 1776 Battle of Fort Sullivan. Designed by the South Carolina Revolutionary War Sestercentennial Commission, the update coincides with a state law requiring plate redesigns every 10 years.



Drivers will automatically receive the new plate when renewing registrations starting next year. Because plate numbers are issued in sequence, most motorists will get a new number unless they've purchased a personalized tag.

The SAR Pledge

We, descendants of the heroes of the American Revolution who, by their sacrifices, established the United States of America, reaffirm our faith in the principles of liberty and our Constitutional Republic, and solemnly pledge ourselves to defend them against every foe.