



COL. MATTHEW SINGLETON



Dispatch

Vol. 2, No. 3

October 2025

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Greetings Compatriots,

It's been a great year for the Col. Singleton Chapter. It's already time to have chapter elections again. Plus, this is Dues collection season. Please be on the lookout for the dues notice and remit early.

We've been active in so many events this year with another big one October 7th at The Battle of Kings Mountain and then there is the Francis Marion Symposium Oct 17-18 at Central Carolina Tech in Manning. We have our December Gathering coming on Dec. 2nd at The Restaurant at Second Mill.

As stated before, "activity breeds interest and interest leads to new members." That has proven to work this year with our participation at Art in Park, the Fort Watson Commemoration, and our Gen Thomas Sumter Commemoration, plus the Sumter Museum Backcountry events. We are still looking forward to possibly Veterans Day and Christmas parades plus Wreaths Across America.

Looking forward to 2026, this is the Big 250th Year for our Declaration of Independence! We really need to plan to capitalize on the publicity the chapter can earn. A few things I mentioned previously, George Washington's Birthday is Feb 22nd and having a dinner event. Also, we'll have the Fort Watson Commemoration and Gen Thomas Sumter Commemoration. Establishing a first annual, Thomas Sumter Symposium would be interesting. Plus, events sponsored by other chapters.

Now is a great time to build your own Patriot Ancestor kit. Being in period attire adds to the SAR experience, and you can make a backstory for your attire be it a backcountry hunter, a farmer, a tradesman, or mercantile outfit. Looking the part, you can participate in Color Guard as a flag bearer or you can mingle with the crowd and share your knowledge of your patriot ancestor.

Another consideration, I ask the membership if meeting just four times per year is enough? The idea is that less meetings opens more opportunities to participate in events. The minimum number of meetings is once per quarter which happens to be what we are doing. Would six times be better?

As the nation celebrates 250 years since our revolution and Declaration of Independence, I hope you will make time to join us at SAR meetings, extracurricular events and our organic events; ride sharing is encouraged as is bringing friends to learn more about us.

Your Humble Servant,

Larry Gamble
President, Col. Matthew Singleton Chapter
State Secretary, South Carolina Society

Chapter Quarterly General Meeting:

Tuesday, October 14, 2025

*The Restaurant at Second Mill @ 6pm
2390 Broad Street, Sumter, SC
Chapter Meeting Begins @ 7pm*

Chapter Business

Secretary's Notes:!

We currently have 51 members with 5 being life members, who are active dues paying members. We have 51 inactive members with 11 being out of state.

This year, the SC Society SAR is focusing on "Chapter Development" to encourage local chapters to be active in their counties and promote the SAR and share early American History. If you know any prior members or people with an interest in colonial history, invite them to attend a meeting or event.

If anyone needs a ride to events, putting together a ride sharing list might help anyone living a distance away or those uncomfortable with night driving.

It would be great to get more people attending our events and meetings.

Hal Gonzales
Secretary

Treasurer's Notes:

We made the initial \$600 payment towards the DAR/SAR monument at the Sumter County Museum. This leaves the final \$800 payment due in the spring of 2026. Please consider a donation to the SAR for 2026 to help support our educational mission, publicity efforts, and this monument.

We have gotten a \$25 donation from another TN Chapter for their customized pull up banner.

We are in the process of moving chapter banking to First Citizens Bank and our current balances are:

Synovus: \$ 500

First Citizens: \$ 125

Thomas Blackmon
Treasurer, Col. Matthew Singleton Chapter
Pee Dee Region VP, SCSSAR

Registrar's Notes:

1) New Members & Supplementals Approved:

- a) Robert B. Sandifer (*Regular*)
- b) David Durham (*Regular*)
- c) Lucian Scott Kinder (*Regular*)
- d) Larry Gamble (*Supplemental*)

2) Submitted Applications

- a) Steven H. Powell (Backcountry2025)

3) In Progress

- a) Robert E. Richardson
- b) Alexander Jackson
- c) Richard Neal Moore II

4) Initial Contact

- a) Robert Pack
- b) James F. Price
- c) Andrew Watcher

Timelines for packages: (as of 9-28-2025)

- New Applications, approval time 17 wks.
- Supplemental Applications, 5 weeks

John Holmberg
Registrar

Registrar's Report

Col. Mathew Singleton Chapter SCSSAR
14 October 2025

SUBMITTED: (TO NSSAR)

- Steven H. Powell (*Backcountry25*)

SUBMITTED: (TO SCSSAR)

PREPARATION/SIGNING:

IN PROGRESS: (*Documentation Required*)

- Robert E. Richardson (*SumFair22*)
- Richard Neal Moore II (*ArtPark25*)
- Alexander Jackson (*SumFair23*)

RESEARCH: (*Documentation Research*)

INITIAL CONTACT: (*Initial Package Emailed*)

- Robert Pack
- James F. Price
- Andrew Watcher

HOLDING:

- Henry Todd (*Doug Foxworth*)
- Holden Trimnal
- McFadden (*Lucius Bullock*)
- McLeod (*Amy Vaughn-DAR*)
- Steven Schumpert
- Blake Ward
- Jerry Bellamy
- Zack Cook
- Matthew Byers
- Stephen Dooley
- Aubrey Jeffcoat
- Lacie Cannon
- Bobby Nesbitt II (*Doug Foxworth*)
- John Gurtcheff (*John Summerford*)
- Henry Moore Enterline III (*SCSSAR*)

APPROVED:

- Paul Harvin
- Coke S Dent
- Robby Sisco
- Charles Sisco
- Guiffre Kilgren
- George Kilgren
- William Kilgren
- David Abercrombie
- L Harvin Bullock
- Lucius H Bullock, Jr
- Doug Foxworth
- David Nelson
- Larry Gamble
- Frank Martin
- CD Ford
- Marion Cain
- Dennis McLallen
- James Ingram
- David Ingram
- Eric Shumpert
- Maxie Shumpert
- Thomas Shumpert
- Joshua Shumpert
- Richard Halferty
- Lawrence Evanda McCoy
- William Daniel Vinson III
- Ralph Sandifer (*2 Sups*)
- Robert B. Sandifer
- Larry Gamble (*Sup*)
- David Durham
- Lucian Scott Kinder

REGISTRAR COMMITTEE:

- John W Summerford
- Larry Gamble
- Doug Foxworth
- Frank Martin
- James Ingram
- David Abercrombie

John O Holmberg, Registrar

Chapter Officers and Elections for 2026

President - duties include leading meetings, appointing committees, managing chapter business and finances with the Board of Managers, promoting membership, ensuring compliance with bylaws, serving as a liaison, and representing the chapter to the state and national societies.

Executive Vice President - (often called First Vice President) primarily assists the President, acts in the President's absence, and is often responsible for the chapter's membership recruitment efforts, including identifying and encouraging new members. May participate as Chapter representative to Board of Governors.

Second Vice President - fills in for the President and First Vice President when they are unavailable and often chairs the chapter's Education Committee, leading youth-focused Americanism programs and the teacher award program. May participate as Chapter representative to Board of Governors.

Chapter Secretary - primary duties include recording and preserving meeting minutes, conducting general correspondence, providing meeting notices, maintaining the chapter's official records (including the Constitution and bylaws), preparing quarterly reports of the chapter, and furnishing mailing lists to the Registrar.

Treasurer - collects and safeguards chapter funds, manages dues and fees, deposits money into an approved bank account, pays authorized expenses, and provides regular financial reports to the chapter's Board and members. They are responsible for maintaining accurate financial records, preparing an annual report, submitting accounts for an annual audit, and ensuring funds are used in accordance with the chapter's bylaws and budget.

Registrar - guides prospective members through the application process, reviewing applications for completeness and accuracy, maintaining Chapter records, ensuring compliance with NSSAR documentation standards, and submitting completed applications to the State Registrar for further processing. They serve as a local contact and sponsor, helping applicants find a SAR sponsor and understand the genealogical requirements for membership.

Chaplain - duties primarily involve providing spiritual care to members, opening and closing meetings with prayer, coordinating memorial services and resolutions for deceased members, and serving as the chapter's religious and spiritual leader. They also advise the chapter on spiritual matters, consult with families of the deceased, and coordinating with chapter Secretary to report deaths to the state chaplain.

Slate of Nominees, and current incumbent officers agreeing to serve another term:

President	Larry Gamble	Registrar	John Holmberg
Executive VP	John Raffield	Chaplain	Richard Halferty
Secretary	Hal Gonzales	Seeking Nominations for:	
Treasurer	Thomas Blackmon	Second Vice President	

Volunteer Positions Needed to be more effective in our mission.

Children of the American Revolution – Sumter previously hosted the *Gamecock Chapter* CAR. Revitalizing this chapter is a pathway to recruiting younger generations, their parents, and advancing the SAR education mission.

Americanism Committee - promotes the principles of American freedom and liberty by fostering patriotism and educating the public, particularly youth, on constitutional ideals through initiatives like history contests, youth awards, and flag presentations.

Youth Programs Committee - duties include promoting patriotism, fostering appreciation for American history, educating future generations about founding principles, providing community service opportunities, and ensuring a safe and positive experience for youth through adherence to Youth Protection Policies. Chapters fulfill these duties by organizing educational programs, sponsoring youth contests like essay and oration, serving as role models and mentors, and engaging in community and civic activities that align with the broader SAR mission.

Flag Committee - promotes respect for the U.S. Flag through community recognition, educational outreach, and proper disposal of old flags.

Please Consider this:

Six Chapter Meetings per year – we have 4 meetings plus our Christmas gathering. Per the SAR, the quarterly meeting is the minimum acceptable. The new proposal would be six or seven total meetings either adding or including the Christmas gathering.

One option (7 meetings):	Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sept, Oct, and Dec.
Second option (6 Meetings):	Jan, Apr, Jun, Sept, Oct, and Dec.
Third option: (6 Meetings):	Mar, Apr, May, Oct, Nov, and Dec
Fourth option: 7 Meetings):	Jan, Mar, Apr, May, Sep, Oct, and Dec

Developing two sponsored events for the Chapter:

George Washington's Birthday Celebration – Feb 22nd is the birth of the first President, Commanding General of the Revolutionary War, and this is open to the community.

Thomas Sumter Symposium – Following our educational mission, this shares the life and career of Thomas Sumter.

*America 250th Moment***Getting to The Declaration of Independence**

Last edition, I focused on the years of intolerable acts that motivated the colonists to seek a better way than living as subjects under a monarch. As 1775 is ending, the British troops are on edge and Colonists this far away from the hot bed of revolution in the New England colonies are preparing for the war to start in the south. During the coming weeks, the question of war will be clearly answered.

As a Sons of the American Revolution Chapter, we should be in the forefront of a civics revival and out there celebrating our history and the American ideals our Patriot Ancestors fought to attain. This coming year should be a celebration of all thing's liberty minded and patriotic. We must celebrate some of the key phrasing of the great Declaration of Independence.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

"That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed"

"Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes"

The founding fathers studied the great thinkers of their time and the earlier periods of the Enlightened Age when progressive thoughts centered on the power of individual people to improve society when they understand the ideals of Liberty, Individualism, Self-reliance, and blended that with a healthy skepticism of concentrated authority. Starting with the United Kingdom's 25 Barons wrote the **Magna Carta** (1215), coerced the king to sign it thus establishing the precedence that the King's power and government are not absolute and that citizens have guaranteed rights clearly stated in 63 clauses and sadly only 3 of them remain in force today.

The American Revolution was more than just a Declaration of Independence, it was ushering in the "Era of American Enlightenment" that builds upon the Age of Enlightenment started in Europe. The following are a few of the most outspoken proponents of the rights of citizens the founders studied.

Cicero, (106-43 BC), a Roman statesman, lawyer, and philosopher whose writings were a keystone for colonial leaders. Cicero wrote about Natural Laws and blended elements of monarchy, aristocracy, and democracy to create a "mixed state" utilizing these classical theories.

Sir Edward Coke (1552-1634), an English judge whose interpretations of Common Law are still commonplace and foundational in American Law today. In his writings, he taught people how the Magna Carta was a source of these common law rights.

John Winthrop (1588-1649), a founder of the Massachusetts Bay Colony and Colonial governor, he was a Puritan and his visionary "City upon a Hill" sermon pictured pious, tightknit communities serving as models for other towns and cities.

Roger Williams (1603-1683), was banished from Massachusetts for controversial sermons, he founded Rhode Island based on religious freedom along with the separation of Church and State both of which were ideas far ahead of his time.

These are more contemporary to the founding fathers, also advocates for free people in a free society.

John Locke (1632-1740), an English philosopher, he argued people are born with inalienable rights to “Life, Liberty, and Property” which became *Happiness* in the 1776 Declaration of Independence.

Baron de Montesquieu (1689-1755), a French philosopher who argued that political Liberty requires a separation of powers with distinct Legislative, Executive, and Judicial branches. This is a core concept our Constitution with its checks and balances on government excesses.

James Oglethorpe (1696-1785), British general and philanthropist, founded the Georgia colony as a social experiment for debtors and the poor.

Adam Smith (1723-1790), a Scottish economist who introduced the idea that individual self-interest in a free market benefits society.

Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790), a prolific author, inventor, scientist, diplomat, and statesman was very influential with his writings, inventing the improved cast iron stove, his influence in the colonial government, plus securing our alliance with France and negotiated the Treaty of Paris to end the war.

Thomas Paine (1737-1809), a writer and political pamphleteer was a strong advocate for independence with his 1776 writing, *Common Sense* grounded in Enlightenment principles with a healthy dose of rationalism and republicanism he argued for American independence.

Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826), the principle author of the Declaration of Independence to articulate the core American ideals of Liberty, Equality, and Natural Rights.

James Madison (1751-1836, called the “Father of the Constitution” for being a central figure in drafting it, he was a tireless advocate for ratification with the first ten amendments being the Bill of Rights to protect Liberty. He authored 29 of the 85 *Federalist Papers* using the pseudonym “Publius”.

John Adams (1735-1826), a lawyer and diplomat, his 1776 pamphlet, *Thoughts on Government* influenced many state constitutions with his advocating three independent branches of government.

Benjamin Rush (1746-1813), a doctor and leading medical scientist advocated for public health, improved treatment for mental illness, and researching common diseases like yellow fever..

These are a sample of the extraordinary people and great thinkers who articulated their ideas about Life and Liberty which fueled the American Ideal of the government answering to the people. We should be celebrating these ideas and concepts while reminding others of this history in founding our nation.

Jeff Sikkenga and David Davenport of the Ashbrook Center wrote, *A Republic, If We Can Teach It*, shared this, “[C]ivic education should be an ‘all hands on deck’ project, not just a school curriculum. Civic education needs to be embraced and encouraged in families and civic associations and by government and other leaders in our society. It needs to be understood as a high priority for the nation, embraced and encouraged by everyone. Civic education needs to be ‘caught’ as well as ‘taught.’”

Our patriot ancestors risked their lives, their fortunes, they put their honor on the line supporting the American Cause. We should be willing to put our skin in the game to help others understand Colonial History and inspire their want to learn more about the history of our Republic.

According to Martin Luther King, Jr, “Liberty has never come from the government. Liberty has always come from the subjects of it. The history of liberty is a history of resistance.” Our educational outreach must teach the younger generations to understand *Liberty* as the founders envisioned it.

###

Creating Your SAR Kit

Being in colonial clothing character can really add to your experience as a chapter member. Being “in character” invites people to start a conversation about who you are, your outfit, and you can work that into a conversation about ancestry. It might be just the spark to create interest in a new member joining us.

You don’t require exact “period correct” military attire to participate in the SAR. Sumter was in the backcountry, and civilization was Charleston in the 1700s. Also, people were subsistence living and the militia members were community defense forces. They were self-provisioning to survive. They are purchasing their own firearms and the necessary equipment including details like having 12 flints, at least 20 musket balls, one pound of powder plus a powder horn, and cartridge box to store pre-prepped ammunition. For foot soldiers, items like a pistol, bayonet, or sword were not required. Building a minimal kit that puts you “in character” is a great start to do more.

Our most basic needs do not require a fancy military uniform or a musket. Color Guard members and event participants, those are the forward projection of our chapter or what the public sees or thinks of when the SAR is mentioned.

You can “look the part” of a patriot part with a basic hunter’s outfit. You don’t need a complete SC Regimental uniform along with an expensive Pedersoli reproduction 1777 musket. For a complete Color Guard team, we need four flag bearers, just two musket bearers and maybe one person as a sword bearer.

Create your simple backcountry outfit: Pants of the era, typically canvas, either in breeches (knee high) or overalls (full length pants). You can find white canvas at Tractor Supply in your

size. Get two pairs and have the back pockets removed. To create breeches, have your favorite seamstress cut off the legs of one pair about 1 to 2 inches below the knee then add a hem with either buttons or a draw string to keep them in place below the knee. Use the material from the legs to create drop front look for both pants options. Get knee high stockings to go with the breaches and gaiters for the lower pants leg along with plain toe shoes, faux shoe buckles, and you have footwear and pants for the Patriot Ancestor look at SAR functions.

For the upper body, a linen shirt is available from many online sellers at a reasonable price. Finish your look with a Hunter’s Frock and pants (gaiters optional). For an alternative look with your breaches, a waist coat was a required item of the era along with a top coat. Add in a period correct hat (hunter or tricorn), and you’re ready to participate in Chapter events “in Colonial Attire.” All totaled, you can assemble a reasonably priced kit to be a hunter or backcountry man which was basically what these Patriots wore as their regular clothing and militia uniform prior to and during the war.

Here are some links to online vendors (this is not an endorsement of them). You should ask other member and do your own research to assemble your kit.

1. www.newacquisitionmilitia.com/
 2. www.thequartermastergeneral.com/store/
 3. www.jarnaginco.com/revwarframe.html
 4. www.crazycrow.com/
 5. www.smilingfoxforge.com/shop/index.php
 6. www.townsend.us/
 7. www.militaryuniformsupply.com/
 8. www.gggodwin.com/
 9. www.fugawee.com/
 10. www.samsonhistorical.com/
 11. Local Source for Tricorn Hats – Amy Vaughn
-

*** Meeting Dates and Extracurricular Events *****2025**

October 11	<i>Sumter Backcountry</i>	10am
October 14	Chapter Meeting	6pm
November 11	<i>Veterans Day Parade</i>	TBD
December 2	<i>Christmas Gathering</i>	6pm
December 7	<i>Christmas Parade</i>	1pm
December ?	Wreaths Across America	TBD
December 13	<i>Sumter Backcountry</i>	10am

2026

January 13	Chapter Meeting	6pm
February 21	<i>George Washington Day</i>	TBD
March 28	Art in the Park	9am
April 14	Chapter Meeting	6pm
April 18	<i>Fort Watson Com.</i>	11am
July 14	Chapter Meeting	6pm
August 1	<i>Gen. Sumter Comm.</i>	11am
October 13	Chapter Meeting	6pm
December 1	Christmas Gathering	6pm

* Expect additions to the calendar during the year.

Compatriots Promoting the SAR:

“Battle of Eutaw Springs Commemoration”



Battle of Camden Commemoration



Backcountry Events



General Thomas Sumter Commemoration



Proof you don't require a fancy military uniform to play a part in our history.



Upcoming Events:



SUMTER MUSEUM

BACKCOUNTRY DATES 2025

SPRINGTIME
MAY 10TH

JUNE 21

JULY 19

AUGUST 16

HARVEST
OCTOBER 11

CHRISTMAS
DEC 13TH


SUMTER
MUSEUM

122 NORTH WASHINGTON STREET, SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA

SUMMER SOUTH CAROLINA

 **JOIN US!** 

★★★★★

 

245 COMMEMORATION OF THE

**SIEGE OF
FORT WATSON**



SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026 AT 11AM

★★★★★

**FORT WATSON BATTLEFIELD
SANTÉE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
1142 FORT WATSON RD
SUMMERTON, SC**

SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA

 **JOIN US!** 

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

  

Thos. Sumter
COMMEMORATION

 

THOMAS SUMTER MEMORIAL PARK
7120 ACTON ROAD
DALZELL, SC

**SATURDAY
AUGUST 1, 2026
11AM**

Colonel Matthew Singleton Chapter
Agenda, Oct 14th Meeting

6:00pm – Doors open, Social time and Meal

7:00pm – Welcome – followed by: Pledge of Allegiance, SAR Pledge, and Invocation

7:15pm – New Members Induction: Compatriots Sandifer, Durham, and Kinder

7:45pm – Awards

8:00pm – New Proposals for chapter meetings, extra events, and mission of the chapter

8:15pm – Elections for 2026 Chapter Officers, terms start Jan 1st through Dec 31st.

8:30pm – SAR Recessional and Benediction