



COL. MATTHEW SINGLETON



Dispatch

Vol. 2, No. 2

July 2025

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Greetings Compatriots,

Half the year is past us. Remember, 250 years ago the tension between Patriots, Loyalists and British was escalating. News of the clashes at Lexington and Concord reached SC in mid-May 1775 and scantily a month later the battle at Bunker/Breeds Hill occurred. The war drums sounding mightily; the American Revolution was happening. These sesquicentennial years are ours to celebrate and enjoy.

This is a great time to be alive and witness these living history commemorations 250 years later. Remember, what I said about community outreach; "activity breeds interest and interests lead to new members." That has proven itself to work this year.

In April, my wife and I, with friends from Tennessee, trekked to Boston and participated in the SAR Commemoration of Lexington and Concord. Given the scope of the event, we were limited to events in Concord, but we did attend several events sponsored by the Massachusetts Society of the SAR and America250. Next step, finding an event for 2026 and that is a task easy, the Battle of Sullivan Island and Commemoration of Carolina Day of June 28, 1776. Right there in Charleston!

Our chapter has been active. Art in the Park, this year led to several potential members. The SAR discount for National Society dues brought us two applicants whose paperwork is in review. We held our own chapter's **Fort Watson Commemoration** and participated in **Battle of the Waxhaws** also referred to "Buford's Massacre" where Tarleton earned the moniker of "providing Tarleton's Quarter."

This summer, we are participating in the Sumter Museum Backcountry events. This one day, 4-hour event, is popular. Our first event on June 21st went well, we are working on an application for a potential new member. The next Backcountry events are July 19th and August 16 from 10am to 1pm.

This brings us to our next big event, **Gen Thomas Sumter Commemoration** on **August 2nd** at 11am. It's right here in Sumter, just off Hwy 441 near the base. Also in August, the **Battle of Eutaw Springs Commemoration** is Aug 29-30.

There is much more to being a member of the Colonel Matthew Singleton Chapter than just attending our quarterly meetings. I hope you will find time to join us for other SAR extracurricular events and our organic events; ride sharing is encouraged.

Your Humble Servant,

Larry Gamble
President, Col. Matthew Singleton Chapter

Next Chapter 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:**

Welcome our new **Chapter Secretary**, Compatriot **Hal Gonzales!**

I'm sure Hal will do an outstanding job in this new role.

We currently have 47 members. Over the years, we have 51 members who joined and went inactive. If you know any prior members, invite them to attend a meeting.

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

Chapter Trivia:

Most Patriots Approved in our chapter?
Mr. Edgar Dallery, who passed away in 2018, had 21 total ancestors approved by National.

Larry Gamble
Acting Secretary

Registrar's Notes:**1) New Member**

a) Robert B. Sandifer

2) Submitted Applications

a) Larry Gamble (*Supplemental*)
b) David Durham (*Regular*)
c) Lucian Scott Kinder (*Regular*)

3) In Progress

a) Robert E. Richardson b) Alexander Jackson
c) Richard Neal Moore II
d) Steven H. Powell (Backcountry2025)

4) Initial Contact

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

Timelines for packages: (as of 7-3-2025)

- New Applications, approval time 12 wks.
- Supplemental Applications, 64 weeks

John Holmberg
Registrar

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Meeting Dates and Extracurricular Events

July 19	<i>Sumter Backcountry</i>	10am
August 2	<i>Gen. Sumter Com.</i>	11am
October 11	<i>Sumter Backcountry</i>	10am
October 14	Chapter Meeting	6pm
November 11	<i>Veterans Day Parade</i>	TBD
December 9	<i>Christmas Gathering</i>	6pm
December 13	<i>Sumter Backcountry</i>	10am
December ?	<i>Christmas Parade</i>	TBD

2026

January 13	Chapter Meeting	6pm
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 8	Christmas Gathering	6pm

*America 250th Moment***The American Revolution***A Quick Look Back at “How We Got in This Mess”*

The loudest calls for independence came in 1776, during the meeting of the Second Continental Congress on June 7th.

Richard Henry Lee read this resolution which today is referred to as The Lee Resolution. I quote, “Resolved: That these United Colonies are, and of right, ought to be free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to, totally dissolved.”

Key acts by Great Britain that created unrest amongst the Colonists and led to their protesting, which under British law there was no Right of Free Speech or the Freedom to Peaceably Assemble, or to attempt to redress your grievances with the government. In Britain, you are a British Subject not quite the same as our interpretation of “citizen” where our rights are guaranteed by the US Constitution.

The following Acts were viewed as imposing taxes to raise revenue with the colonist’s consent and without representation in Parliament, even as “geographically separated” British Subjects. Colonial leaders sent letters to Parliament to protest this punitive taxation without representation.

Key Events and Acts: that led to the formation of the First Continental Congress in 1774.

Royal Proclamation of 1763 – act to restrict colonial settlement west of the Appalachian Mountains that colonist had fought for and felt they earned by winning the war with France.

Sugar Act of 1764 – response to the end of the Seven Years War (basically a world war of its time with Britain, France, Austria, and Prussia plus various allies at war) which was felt as the French and Indian War in the colonies. Britain needed money. The government reduced taxes on sugar and molasses but strengthened enforcement which led to boycotts of British goods.

Currency Act of 1764 – prohibited use of colonial paper currency, forced the use of British coin money. The effect on colonist was it became harder to pay debts and taxes (both jailable offenses).

Stamp Act of 1765 – basically a tax on all printed items, legal documents, newspapers, playing cards, etc. One of the taxes levied to help pay for the French and Indian Wars.

Quartering Act of 1765 – required colonial governments to provide public lodging and provisions to house (and feed) British Troops without compensation.

Repeal Act/Declaratory Act 1766 – British merchants convinced Parliament to repeal the Stamp Act. At the same time, it declared its right to “make laws and statutes” over America “in all cases whatsoever.”

Townshend Acts of 1767 – imposed taxes on goods, like tea, glass, and paper imported to the colonies with rapid collections and suspect enforcement methods against violators. This was another tax levied to help pay for the French and Indian Wars and keeping troops here.

American Revolution – continued:

Boston Massacre in 1770 – confrontation between nearly 300 colonists and 10 British soldiers who were trying to get them to disperse. Five colonists died and the event kindled anti-British sentiment for their punishment and perceived abuse of British Subjects in the colonies.

Tea Act of 1773 – Repealed the Townshend Acts, except the tax, but killed colonial businesses by granting the British East India Company a monopoly on tea sales in all the colonies. Effectively, the root cause of the **Boston Tea Party** earlier that year (*which happened after one in Charleston, SC*).

Intolerable (Coercive) Acts of 1774 – these were punishments for the Boston Tea Party and the unruly colonists who seemed to forget they were British Subjects.

- ***Boston Port Act*** – closed the harbor to all merchant traffic until payment for the destroyed tea.
- ***Massachusetts Government Act*** – reduced power of the colonial legislature and increased power of the royal governor.
- ***Impartial Administration of Justice Act*** – removed British officials accused of crimes from the colonies and returned them to Britain for trial.
- ***Quartering Act*** – expanded the mandate for private residences to be used by British troops.
- ***Quebec Act*** – granted political and religious protections to French Canadians plus expanded those borders to the dismay of colonists who were losing the same protections.

New England Restraining Act of 1775 – Parliament restricted all colonial trade from New England to only Britain and Ireland. In April, restriction was revised to all colonies except New York & North Carolina as those Royal Governors deemed, they had solid support for the Crown over the colonist.

On April 19th, 1775, the British were seeking colonial war supplies. They marched from Boston to Lexington where the “shot heard around world happened” then continued to their target in Concord to check a barn for the contraband. The anti-British sentiment flared with the attack on colonial militia in Lexington and Minutemen from all around mobilized to fight the British all the way to Concord and all 18 miles back to Boston. It would be mid-May 1775 before news of the action at Lexington and Concord would reach South Carolina.

On June 17th, 1775, British attacked Bunker (Breed’s Hill) near Boston. The British win a costly as the defeated colonial forces inflicted massive casualties on the British. In total, 19 British officers died and overall, they lost 30% of their forces. This led to them leaving Boston in March 1776.

In South Carolina, the Council of Safety started organizing militia in September 1775 with calls for troops to join newly formed South Carolina Regiments starting in October 1775. By March 1776, the communications networks of the Committee of Correspondence and the Council of Safety knew of British movements to the south. In June 1776, British ships would appear off the coast Charleston and Lord Cornwallis’ forces would repel in their attack on Fort Moultrie.

June 28th, 1776 is now recognized as Carolina Day because the professional military of Britain was defeated at the Battle of Sullivan’s Island. It would be 1780 before Britain mounted another challenge in the southern colonies. By 1783, more battles, skirmishes, and encounters would happen in South Carolina than another state with the next closest being New York and New Jersey.

Creating “Your SAR Kit” on a Budget

You don't have to spend thousands on “period correct” military attire to participate in the SAR. 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 an ancestry conversation. It might be just the spark to create interest in a new member joining us.

Remember, Sumter was the backcountry, and civilization was Charleston in the 1700s. Also, militia members were self-provisioning. Meaning, 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 start.

What's our most basic need? 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 “patriot part” with a basic hunter's outfit for attending events or being a Color Guard member. You don't need a complete 2nd SC Regiment uniform along with an expensive Pedersoli reproduction 1777 musket. For Color Guard, we need four flag bearers, just two musket bearers and maybe one person as a sword bearer.

Pants of the era were typically canvas either in breeches (knee high) or overalls (full length pants). You can find white canvas at Tractor Supply in your size. Have the back pockets removed and those can be used to create a drop front look to modern pants. Add gaiters for the lower leg and plain toe shoes and you have footwear and pants. If you want breeches, have your favorite seamstress cut the legs about 1 to 2 inches below the knee and hem with either buttons or a draw string to keep them in place. Use the material from the legs (and removing the back pockets) to create drop front breeches.

For the upper body, a linen shirt available from many online sellers at a reasonable price. Plus, you need a linen waist coat (what we'd call a long vest today) it was a required item of the era or a hunter's frock. Add in a period correct hat, 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 men wore as regular clothing and as a militia uniform prior to 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. The idea of this list (in no particular order) is showing you vendor options for a reasonably priced character outfit.

1. www.newacquisitionmilitia.com/men-clothing/ - good information about 18th Century clothing
 2. www.thequartermastergeneral.com/store/ - even has patterns for sewing era correct clothing
 3. www.jarnaginco.com/revwarframe.html
 4. www.crazycrow.com/mountain-men-clothing
 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/
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Compatriots Promoting the SAR:

“April 26th, Fort Watson Commemoration”



May – Photos JROTC at Lakewood, Compatriot Gonzales presenting.



June – Sumter Museum Back Country =>

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

SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA

 **JOIN US!** 

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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COMMEMORATION

 

THOMAS SUMTER MEMORIAL PARK
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DALZELL, SC

SATURDAY
AUGUST 2, 2025
11AM

BATTLE OF EUTAW SPRINGS CHAPTER SCSSAR



244TH ANNIVERSARY

BATTLE OF EUTAW SPRINGS COMMEMORATION



AUGUST 29-30, 2025

A National SAR Recognized Event

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28th

RECEPTION

Clark's Inn and Restaurant, Santee, S.C.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 29th

MORNING NARRATED TOUR

Fort Motte, Fort Watson and Eutaw Springs Battle Sites

EVENING DINNER PROGRAM

Clark's Inn and Restaurant, Santee, S.C.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30th

PATRIOTIC PROGRAM WITH SPEAKER

Historic Church of the Epiphany, Eutawville, S.C.

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

Battle Monument Park, Eutawville Community

HONOR WREATH CEREMONY

Gen. Francis Marion 's Tomb, Pineville, S.C.

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For information, contact Douglas Doster

<dosterdouglas@gmail.com> or call 803-456-5015

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The Washington Light Infantry Color Guard and
the S.C. Battleground Preservation Trust Cannon Team

will be in attendance at the Saturday Wreath Laying Ceremony.

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These events are open to the public. Registration with payment (\$50 pp) for the dinner is required. by August 21th. Make checks out to Battle of Eutaw Springs Chapter SCSSAR and mail to Douglas Doster, 480 Winding Brook Drive, Cameron, S.C. 29030



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**BELLS MARINA
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