



Spring 2021



Message From the President

Gentleman and Compatriots,

As we continue to deal with the restraints of the pandemic there is still hope for a brighter future. My personal hope is that as more of us get vaccinated we will begin to feel more at ease and hopefully return to normal. It may be a “new” normal, but at least it’s not like the past year. The previous year has definitely been one that the Latin phrase “annus horribillis,” is most sufficient. There however is much great news to share. I was honored to attend the wreath-laying ceremony at the Hayes Station on March 6th. It was very fitting to be cold and cloudy as we gathered to remember our brave sons. This marked my first official duty as your state president. I am excited to share that our membership numbers continue to grow. It appears that a number of members are relocating to our beautiful state of South Carolina and are seeking to desire membership in our state society. We welcome them and eager to meet them in person. Please take time to consider those friends and family members whom you feel would be interested in becoming a member of our society. I’ve personally found great results by reaching out to close friends and the results are turning out to be very positive. The hope is to establish a chapter in Florence in the next year. We have a few upcoming events and I would encourage everyone to join us. The quarterly meeting to take place at Fort Granby on May 15th and Carolina Day on June 28th. Much gratitude is extended to Al Futrell and Tom Weidner for pushing forward with the monument at the Pickens Chapel. We anticipate the installation of the monument this coming winter! Great work, gentleman!

This past Sunday was Easter, a time we remember the accession of Christ into the heavens to be with his father. On Saturday, our beloved President Emeritus and Registrar Charles W. Swoope, died and we are grateful that he too has ascended to the heavens to be with his father. Our heartfelt sympathies are given to his wife Pat, his three sons, and many grandchildren. We are forever grateful for his work and contributions to The South Carolina Society Sons of the Revolution

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

Jeffery D. Murrie

Agenda

SCSR Membership Meeting

Cayce Historical Museum

1800 12th Street

Cayce, SC 29003

May 15, 2021 - 1:00-3:00

- Moment of Silence for Chuck Swoope
- Presentation of Colors
- Pledge of Allegiance to American Flag
- Pledge of Allegiance to SC Flag
- SR Pledge- William Suggs, Color Guard
- Invocation- Tom Hanson, Chaplain
- Call to Order and President Message- Jeff Murrie, President
 - * Proposal Formation Pee Dee Chapter
- Roll Call- Stephen Swoope
- I. Approval of Minutes November 14, 2020- Secretary Swoope
- II. SCSR Greenville Chapter Report - Albert Futrell, President
 - * Secretary and Treasurer Report- Tom Weidner
 - * Greenville Charter Approval- SCSR President Murrie and Secretary Swoope
 - * Pickens Chapel Cemetery Monument Project
 - * Wreaths Across America December, 2021
- III. Reports of Officers, Board and Committee Members
 - * President Murrie
 - * Vice President Breen
 - * Treasurer Bennett
 - * Registrar TBA
 - * Historian- Weidner
 - * Webmaster- Whatley
 - * Facebook- Bennett
 - * The Crescent Moon Newsletter- Bennett
- IV. Regional Reports
 - * Upstate - TBA
 - * Midstate- Summers
 - * Coastal- Suggs
- V. Old Business
- VI. New Business
- VII. Discussion Items
 - * Merchandise
 - * Socials
 - * ROTC
 - *Supplementals
- VIII. Adjournment- Next Quarterly Meeting Location / Date/ Time

Greenville Chapter SCSR Report
Author: Albert Futrell, President
Progress Report on Pickens Chapel Cemetery Monument

On March 11, 2021 Albert met with Edward Gravely and Sid Alexander of Alexander's Granite and Marble to make a down payment (50%) of \$1625 from the Monument Fund at First Citizens Bank. At this time there is a balance is \$400 on the remaining payment of \$1525.

The schedule for a dedication of the Monument is projected for earliest of May 2021 and latest of November 2021

The stone will be set on a poured concrete base with another stone between the concrete and the granite engraves stone. The engraving will be done with V cut engraving which is what is desired.

Any insignias will be set in a 6"x6"x4" backing stone and placed at the foot of the Memorial. Alexander's will do this free of charge except the insignias will need to be delivered to Alexander's for installation by the organizations. To date the organizations providing an insignia seal are General Society of Sons of the Revolution and Colonial Dames 17th Century.

A request has gone out to Daughters of the American Revolution for a contribution.

The SW University has established a component to their fund raising for donations to the Monument.

Pressing steps to be completed is to secure the balance of the funding, decide with SWU on the location of the monument at the cemetery and decide on a date for the dedication.



Report: Francis Marion Memorial Service
2/27/2021
Author: George Summers, SCSR Regional VP



Since 2007 the General Marion's Brigade Chapter, NSDAR, has sponsored a Francis Marion Memorial Service on South Carolina's Francis Marion Day, 27 February. From a modest beginning the Memorial Service has continued to grow with the assistance of the South Carolina Department of Parks, the Col. Hezekiah Maham Chapter, SCSSAR and the South Carolina Air National Guard (169th Squadron, Swamp Fox Wing).

Francis Marion's tomb is located in the family cemetery which is all that remains of his brother Gabriel's Belle Isle Plantation. The cemetery is located 3.6 miles west of Pineville, SC on SC 45, then 1 mile north to the end of General Francis Marion Ave.

As the Memorial Service grew and in 2012 the Washington Light Infantry Color Guard took on the presentation of the Colors. After being a speaker, the Commander of the 169th Squadron in 2018 committed to providing an F-16 flyover as part of the opening. Normally schools in the local area send students to observe the Service.

The opening this year included a salute by the SC Battlefield Preservation Trust Artillery, remarks by the DAR Regent, Invocation by the DAR Chaplain, Posting of the Colors by the Washington Light Infantry, Star Spangled Banner and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Wreath presentations were made by ten NSDAR Chapters, one NSSAR Chapter and five Allied Organizations that included SCSR with Colonel (Ret) George Summers making the presentation. The Battalion Commander of the Washington Light Infantry, Brig. General (Ret) Henry Siegling, Sr. was the speaker.

The Service was concluded with closing remarks, a Benediction, Retiring of the Colors and another cannon salute.

Following the Memorial service the nearby Bell Isle Presbyterian Church prepared a good BBQ.



Sample of the Greenville Chapter Charter that will be presented on May 15, 2021

THE SOUTH CAROLINA SOCIETY - SONS OF THE REVOLUTION
EXEGI MONUMENTUM AERE PERENNIS



KNOW all men by these presents, that by application duly made, the
Sons of the Revolution in the State of South Carolina
Greenville Chapter

organized March 14, 2020 and dedicated to perpetuating
the patriotic values derived from the sacrifices of our forefathers in the American Revolutionary War;
having fulfilled all requirements, is hereby chartered and authorized to function within the State of
South Carolina as a member of the General Society, Sons of the Revolution.

THIS CHARTER is granted to the members of the Greenville Chapter of the South Carolina Society
and to such other members as may subsequently be elected therein, subject
to the provisions of the By-Laws of the General and South Carolina Society
now or hereafter in force.

Dated this 15th day of May, in the year
of our Lord, Two Thousand & Twenty One



Accepted by

State President

State Secretary

Report: SCSR Hosted Event at Hayes Station on March 6, 2021

Author: Laurens County Museum Historian Durant Ashmore

Laurens County Museum's Historian Durant Ashmore presented the program on March 6, 2021 at the 2nd Annual SCSR Wreath Laying Ceremony "Hayes Station", the physical address is 300 Williams Road, Clinton, SC. At 10:00 am the wreath laying ceremony was conducted by the South Carolina Sons of the Revolution. SCSR provided Streamers of the Hayes Station event to societies in attendance, SR, DAR, SAR and CAR.

The SCSR President Jeff Murrie fulfilled the role of welcoming guests and handing out streamers. He was joined by SCSR members Tom Weidner, Albert Futrell and Tom Hanson.



Durant highlighted to the audience that Hayes Station, as of Tuesday (2/23), a deed for the one acre parcel has been transferred to the SC Battleground and Preservation Trust. This means the property will now be protected for "perpetuity".

Another resource organization, the SC Search and Rescue Dog Association, on Saturday (2/20), searched Hayes Station using cadaver dogs beginning the search for the 14 bodies buried there in 2 common graves. These bodies were chopped to pieces by British Bloody Bill Cunningham on November 17, 1781, one month after the surrender by the British at Yorktown.



SCSR President Murrie



Report: Jr. Membership

Author: Ivan Bennett, SCSR President Emeritus

The addition of two Junior Members representing the William and Amy Suggs family bring our Junior Membership Roster to eight.

William Suggs II is 2020Jr-07

Benjamin Suggs is 2020Jr-08

The Jr Members is a membership category to SCSR that entitles them to a Membership Certificate good through the age of 18, at which time they can transfer to a Regular Membership and pay the regular dues.

The membership has members in Maryland, South Carolina, and Georgia.

If you have a member who would like to apply, please contact Registrar Chuck Swoop.



**Newsletter Publication
Schedule and Deadlines**

Spring: Articles are due March 15 for print April 30

Summer: Articles are due June 15 for print July 31

Fall: Articles are due Sept. 15 for print Nov. 30

Winter: Articles are due Jan. 15 for print Feb. 28

Our Members

Report: Meet SCSR Member John Owings, ESQ. Knoxville, TN and Edisto Island, SC

Author: John Owings

I grew up in Roane County, TN. I am directly related to Captain William Sumter, a Patriot of the Revolutionary War and brother to Gen. Thomas Sumter, the "Gamecock of the Carolinas". William had a daughter, Elizabeth, who married Edward Owings in about 1787 in Burke, NC and soon moved to what would become Tennessee. She is buried in a cemetery at Post Oak Springs, a community just outside the city limits of Rockwood, TN in Roane County. She was a true daughter of the American Revolution. I have two recent Tennessee Rifleman Newsletters (from the Tennessee SR) which both contain stories that are very interesting, especially to me since they both mention Post Oak Springs. The family built a church there in around 1812, the post Oak Springs Christian Church, said to be the oldest Christian church in Tennessee, burned a few times, but the third building was erected in 1976 and a photo of it is below. My dad's younger sister, Rosemary Lynne Owings, was married in the church- when it was in better condition. The congregation now meets in a newer building across the street from it. The graveyards remain unchanged. My aunt was successful in getting it named in the National Register of Historic Places in 2007.



(Editor's Note: Recently returning from a KY SR George Washington Birthday Dinner in Lexington, I made a point to stop off in Knoxville at a Cracker Barrel and met John for lunch. My wife Susan took a photo of John and me as I presented him with a GSSR decal).



Report: Meet SCSR Member Patrick Swint, Austin, Texas and London, England

Author: Patrick Swint, Major, US Air Force, (Ret)

I joined the SR after my grandmother who raised me passed away in 2010 and I had retired from a 21 year military career in 2008.

Originally I joined the New York SR as a life member. I am a disabled veteran, retired US military living in London. I maintain a home in Austin to visit my children.

My ties to South Carolina are that I am a rare native (born there) to Charleston. My Italian lawyer wife in the photo loves Charleston, its unique history and excellent cuisine. Of course Texas has the best BBQ though!

I am looking forward to SCSR holding a social or formal event in Charleston. We would love to revisit the area again.



Report: SCSR Supplemental Applications

Author: Thomas Weidner, SCSR Historian

President Emeritus Weidner has created an application for SCSR Supplemental. The contact for these applications are Tom Weidner or Ivan Bennett, SCSR Treasurer.

The application cost is \$25 payable to SCSR.

The GSSR has an award of a "silver star" for each five supplemental approved.

Tom has kicked off these inaugural application with approval of two of his ancestors.

SC Supplemental # 295-1 a descendant of Thomas Green, Corporal

SC Supplemental # 295-2 a descendant of Alexander West

Please contact either Tom or Ivan for your Supplemental Application.

Report SCSR 2021 Events

Author: SCSR Regional Vice Presidents George Summers and William Suggs

The events of Battle of Port Royal Island in Beaufort on February 3rd and Hayes Station Massacre in Clinton on March 6th have occurred and been reported in The Crescent Moon.

The upcoming events are:

May 15th Battle of Fort Granby in Cayce (West Columbia) will begin at 11:00 am with a Wreath Laying Ceremony, Program by William Suggs, Regional VP and Streamer Presentation to participating organizations (SR, SAR, DAR, CAR). That program will be followed by a social and lunch TBA. Beginning at 1:00 pm President Jeff Murrie will preside at the First Quarterly 2021 Membership Meeting. The location is Cayce Historical Museum, 1800 12th Street, Cayce, SC.

June 28th Annual Carolina Day according to the Palmetto Society the order of the day beginning with the church service at St. Michaels at 10:00 am, followed by the formation of societies and organizations in Washington Park and then the March to White Point Garden for the 1:00 pm Ceremony and Program. SCSR Vice President Matthew Breen is the society contact for this event. There are plans for a social and lunch after the march and a photo opt of SR members observance at the Liberty Street SCSR Bronze Plaque (1905) near Marion Square. Reference to the article by Matthew Breen, Esq. "Charleston Liberty Tree" page 8 in this newsletter.



In July the 4th Annual Fort Thicketty Wreath Laying and Program information, near Gaffney by the SCSR Greenville Chapter, will be provided in a future newsletter, SCSR Crescent Moon. Chapter President Albert Futrell and SCSR President Emeritus Tom Weidner are the society contacts for this event.

On August 4th, the inaugural Isaac Hayne Memorial event located at the Isaac Hayne Plantation Garden and Cemetery near Jacksonboro is scheduled. See attached flier for more information. This event has a wreath laying component with streamers presented to attending organizations (SR, SAR, DAR, CAR and Society of Cincinnati). A program speaker, Dr. CL Bragg is the speaker, (Book) "Martyr of the American Revolution, The Execution of Isaac Hayne, South Carolinian". SCSR will dedicate and lay their GSSR Grave Marker at the Monument to accompany the 2016 SAR Ceremony of their grave marker. After the event, a social and lunch will be held at the Jacksonboro restaurant, ACE Basin Fish Camp (Hwy. 17) with Dr. Bragg signing his books and an introduction by David Reuwer, SCBPT on the afternoon event Battle of Parkers Ferry. This event is also hosted by SCSR with Wreath Laying, Program and Streamer Presentations and Cannon Salute by SCBP Society Artillery. GSSR Regional VP Ivan Bennett is the society contact.



These events are posted on the SCSR Website Calendar. www.srsc1776.org

SCSR Membership Report

Author: Chuck Swoope, Registrar

On the SCSR website, the tab Membership, provides to its members the current directory and roster of officers. For the sake of privacy Samuel Whatley, our webmaster, has set up the use of a password. The password can be access by contacting the webmaster or the Executive Committee members of SCSR.

As of March 25, 2021 the membership of SCSR has achieved 48 current members. There are two additional prospects sent to the Williamsburg, VA Headquarters for their GSSR #, when granted the SCSR will proudly have 50 members!

In the Winter issue of The Crescent Moon newsletter you were introduced to SC #320 Gary Levan. SC #321 Alan Poore from Spartanburg was added in August 2020. SC #322 Nelson Weaver from Summerville was added in January 2021. SC #323 John Wingate from Simpsonville was added in January, 2021. SC #324 Thomas Barnett from Florence was added in January, 2021. SC #325 Dewey Ervin from Florence was added March, 2021.

The two applications pending GSSR #s are John Schrimpf from Summerville and David Kahn from Florence will likely become SC#326 and #327 in April, 2021.



**Report of the March 1, 2021 SCSR American History Classes
at the Southern Wesleyan University, Central SC**

Author: Thomas Hanson, SCSR Member and Public Relations

SCSR President Emeritus Tom Weidner spoke to the Southern Wesleyan American History Classes on March 1, 2021. Dr. Kenneth Myers, Chairman of the SWU History Department arranged for Tom Weidner and Tom Hanson to address 40 students in two American History survey classes. Tom Hanson videotaped the presentation at the 11:00 am class. It can be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/518285207>.

Weidner spoke about his Patriot ancestor, Samuel Franks, the Battle of the Great Canebrake in South Carolina in which his ancestor fought, how to conduct genealogical research to find a Patriot ancestor, and the history of the Sons of the Revolution. Weidner thinks one student in Class I and maybe three in Class II may follow through with research on ancestors starting with family, nuclear and extended, members. Weidner handed out SCSR applications to get the search started. Tom Hanson as witnessed by the video also provided valuable education with his ancestors.

The classes are taught by Dr. Kenneth Myers, Chairman of the SWU Humanities and History Department. Members of the SCSR and Greenville Chapter have been seeking this opportunity to speak to history students at the college level for several months. On March 1st the opportunity was presented and it the society hope that students may pursue researching their genealogy for their own education and in the end apply and join the Sons of the Revolution in South Carolina.

Photos: Tom Weidner (center) Dr. Kenneth Myers (left) Ivan Bennett (right) Credit: T. Hanson

Signage of the SWU entrance in Central, SC. Credit: Ivan Bennett



Contacts and References:

- President Jeff Murriejefferymurrie@gmail.com
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- Chaplain Tom Hansontom.hanson@hansoncommunications.org
- Historian Tom Weidner handcock1776@charter.net
- Regional VP Williams Suggs wasuggs@hotmail.com
- Regional VP George Summers gcsommers@ftc-i.net
- Webmaster Samuel Whatley samster286@proton.com

In Memoriam

Mr. Charles W. “Chuck” Swoope, CLU, 77, passed away Saturday, April 3, 2021.

Mr. Swoope was a native of Pinehurst, NC and was the son of the late Charles W. Swoope, Sr. and Elizabeth Hogg Swoope. He was a United States Navy veteran serving during the Vietnam era. As a member of Saint Anne Catholic Church, he served as past president of the Parish Council, Lector, Eucharistic Minister, Perpetual Adoration and greeter. He was a Silver Beaver recipient for 30 years of service as the prior Scout Master of Troop 277 and York district Eagle Advisory chair. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus and was past president and current Registrar of the Sons of the Revolution. Mr. Swoope was a New York Life agent and owner of the Charles W. Swoope Insurance Agency.

Mr. Swoope is survived by his wife of 54 years, Patricia Swoope of the home; three sons, Steve Swoope (Amy) of Lake Wylie, SC; Scott Swoope (Claudia) and Sean Swoope all of Rock Hill; four sisters, Cathy Smith of Dallas, TX; Susanna Blinn of Ontario, Canada; Pam Matthews of Pinebluff, NC; and Penny Smith of Elkton, KY; 12 grandchildren, Scott Swoope, Jr. (Brittney), Casey Woodruff (Jesse), Seth Swoope, Corey Swoope, Hannah Swoope, Samuel Swoope, Drew Swoope, Megan Swoope, Nicholas Swoope, Sarah Swoope, Ryan Swoope, Kannon Swoope, and one great-grandson, Jaxson Karnes.

Memorials may be made in Mr. Swoope’s name to Boy Scout Troop 277 or Saint Anne Catholic Church, both at <http://www.saintanne.com/> or Sons of the Revolution, SC Society, c/o Ivan Bennett, 12 Highbush Drive, Hilton Head, SC 29926 or at <https://www.srsc1776.org/>.

Charleston's Liberty Tree ***By Matthew Breen, Esq.***

Charleston's Liberty Tree was a majestic live oak that shaded many important events associated with the American Revolution. Because of this, British soldiers felled the tree when Charleston fell in 1780. Thanks to the work of Sons of the Revolution in the State of South Carolina some 116 years ago, citizens will never forget where that tree stood as a rallying point for resistance against tyranny that led to the birth of our nation.

Background

The roots of the liberty-tree tradition in British North America spring up from the protests against the Stamp Act of 1765. The earliest public demonstrations against the Stamp Act occurred in Boston, Massachusetts, in the late summer of 1765. On September 11th, anti-Stamp-Act demonstrators affixed to an elm tree a large copper plaque with gold letters declaring it "the Tree of Liberty." When news of the parliamentary repeal of the Stamp Act arrived in the spring of 1766, Boston revelers returned to their Liberty Tree, as it became known, and continued to meet at that site in subsequent years to celebrate a variety of patriotic occasions. ¹

Charlestonians likewise felt these same sentiments. Sometime in the autumn of 1766, after the repeal of the Stamp Act, a group of twenty-six men gathered under the branches of a large live-oak tree just outside of urban Charleston to discuss the politics of the times. The only record of this seemingly inauspicious meeting is a few sentences left by the last surviving participant, George Flagg (1741–1824). Flagg places Christopher Gadsden (1724–1805), a distinguished patriot of the American Revolution, appears at the head of the list of participants. Flagg's recount details in part: "On this occasion Mr. Gadsden delivered to them an address, stating their rights, and encouraging them to defend them against all foreign taxation. Upon which joining hands around the tree, they associated themselves as defenders and supporters of American Liberty, and from that time the oak was called Liberty Tree—and public meetings were occasionally holden [sic] there."²

The Reading of the Declaration of Independence

After adopting a final draft of the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia on July 4th, 1776, the Continental Congress sent printed copies of the document to the capital of each of the States. The copy sent to South Carolina arrived in Charleston on Friday, August 2nd, and the state government immediately made plans for a formal public reading of the document on Monday, August 5th. The sole documentary source to describe the three successive readings of the Declaration of Independence in Charleston on 5 August 1776 is the Diary of William Tennent.

Tennent describes that the Declaration of Independence was read aloud to members of the public on three separate occasions in Charleston on August 5th. The first reading took place at noon in front of the State House (now the Old Charleston County Courthouse), located at the northwest corner of Meeting and Broad Streets. The second reading was from the western steps of the Old Exchange and Provost Dungeon at the east end of Broad Street. A third reading of the Declaration took place on the northeastern fringes of Charleston, under the canopy of the Liberty Tree. A general order issued by Major General Charles Lee directed all the Continental soldiers in the town, who were not otherwise on duty, to assemble beneath the live oak at 3 p.m. that day to hear Major Barnard Elliott read the Declaration aloud, and to hear the Reverend William Percy preach a sermon suitable to the occasion. After the conclusion of these solemn proceedings, the soldiers in blue responded with musket volleys and outbursts of patriotic fervor.³

In the several years following the reading of the Declaration of Independence in August 1776, Charlestonians

¹For more information about the genesis of the Boston Liberty Tree, see Arthur M. Schlesinger, "Liberty Tree: A Genealogy," *The New England Quarterly* 25 (December 1952): 437; Vaughn Scribner, "'They will begin to think their united power irresistible': The Stamp Act and the Crisis of Civil Society," *Inn Civility: Urban Taverns and Early American Civil Society* (2019): 122–23.

²R. W. Gibbes, ed., *Documentary History of the American Revolution* (New York, 1855), 10–11. A more accurate rendering of the list of twenty-six men appears in Joseph Johnson, *Traditions and Reminiscences Chiefly of the American Revolution in the South* (Charleston: Walker and James, 1851), 27–28.

³Diary of William Tennent, entry for 5 August 1776, held by the South Caroliniana Library at the University of South Carolina. Digital access: <https://digital.tcl.sc.edu/digital/collection/wtj/id/246/rec/13>.

continued to gather at Liberty Tree to celebrate patriotic occasions including the victory at the Battle of Sullivan's Island, now celebrated every June 28th as Carolina Day.

Charleston's Liberty Tree, like similar wooden symbols in Boston, Newport, and other communities, served as a sort of lightning rod for the patriotic vigor that bound like-minded Americans to the cause of liberty and independence in the 1770s. For these very reasons, people opposed to the ideas discussed beneath the various American Liberty Trees viewed them as obnoxious venues for seditious behavior. Charleston's Liberty Tree remained standing until British military forces overwhelmed the American defenders in the summer of 1780. Sometime after capturing the colonial capital of South Carolina on May 12th, General Henry Clinton ordered his troops to chop down the majestic live oak and burn it into oblivion. While no contemporary source for this order/event is extant, it is certain that the British made quick work of this task.

The Tree Itself

Our ability to discern exactly where Charleston's Liberty Tree stood today is quite difficult, especially given the immense development of Charleston in recent years, but all is not lost. Thanks to small clues discovered over the years, we are able to come up with a good idea of its location.

The tree is most certainly a *Quercus virginiana* that was large enough to shade and give reprieve to dozens of people from the humid Lowcountry climate. Reports from the late-colonial era describe the location of Charleston's Liberty Tree in very sparse language. A pair of newspaper descriptions published in October 1768 described it as "a most noble" and "large live-oak tree, in Mr. Mazyck's (pronounced "Muh-Zeek") pasture." A similar pair of newspaper notices published in 1769 both identified Liberty Tree as standing "in Mr. Mazyck's pasture."⁴

Mr. Mazyck's pasture was a large parcel of land on the east side of the Charleston peninsula, adjacent to the Cooper River, that encompassed all the land now bounded on the south by Calhoun Street, on the north by Chapel Street, on the west by Elizabeth Street, and on the east by the Cooper River.

The SR Monument

The vacant lot containing the Liberty stump was among several Mazyck lots sold at auction near the Exchange building on October 9th, 1794. William Johnson (1741-1818), was born in New York and came to Charleston in 1764. He was a participant in the Charleston Sons of Liberty and a patriot in the American Revolution.⁵ Most importantly, he shared memories and stories with his two sons, U.S. Supreme Court Justice William Johnson (1771-1834) and Dr. Joseph Johnson (1776-1862). The younger William Johnson incorporated some of his memories and stories heard from his father into his *Sketches of the Life and Correspondence of Nathanael Greene* (1822). Similarly, his brother Joseph Johnson compiled many anecdotes and observations into a publication titled *Traditions and Reminiscences, Chiefly of the American Revolution in the South* (1851). In addition, Joseph Johnson's 1851 book included a small depiction of the Liberty Tree on a map of the Charleston peninsula as it appeared during the time of the Revolutionary War, but this illustration is imprecise and provides only a vague reference of its location.

From time to time, folks would remember the Liberty Tree and its former glory. In 1901, the publication of Edward McCrady's history of early South Carolina very might have been the final push of inspiration to mark the place of the Charleston Liberty Tree.⁶ Gathering in Charleston in December 1904 for its annual meeting, the South Carolina Society of the Sons of the Revolution asked a committee of its members to outline some educational objectives

⁴See issues of *South Carolina Gazette* relating to this period. Many historical texts describe the location of Liberty Tree as being "at Hampstead," but that description is not entirely accurate. Hampstead Village, created in 1769, was located a small distance to the north of Mr. Mazyck's pasture. Because the pasture surrounding Liberty Tree didn't have a proper name until the creation of Mazyckborough in 1786, it makes sense that contemporary observers would have invoked the nearest legitimate place name, despite its inaccuracy.

⁵For references to William Johnson, see, for example, Edward McCrady, *The History of South Carolina under the Royal Government, 1719-1776* (New York: Macmillan, 1899), 589; Joseph Johnson, *Traditions and Reminiscences*, 52-54.

⁶See, for example, Charleston Mercury, 18 February 1824, page 2, "Liberty Tree"; *Charleston Courier*, 15 August 1868, page 2, "Charleston in Olden Times"; *Charleston News and Courier*, 1 January 1899, page 9, "Liberty Tree"; Edward McCrady, *The History of South Carolina under the Royal Government, 1719-1776* (New York: Macmillan, 1899), 589-90; Edward McCrady, *The History of South Carolina in the Revolution, 1775-1780* (New York: Macmillan, 1901), 39-40, 179.

for the coming year. The Reverend Dr. John Johnson (1829–1907), son of Dr. Joseph Johnson and grandson of the patriotic blacksmith William Johnson, recommended the society make an effort to mark the site of Charleston’s Liberty Tree. His colleagues adopted his suggestion and empowered Rev. Johnson’s committee to set a plan in motion. Nine months later, in mid-September 1905, the Sons of the Revolution in the State of South Carolina gathered at Alexander Street to witness the unveiling of a handsome bronze tablet containing a brief text commemorating the famous tree. To this day, the SR monument remains proudly affixed to a brick column near the façade of No. 80 Alexander Street, opposite the rear driveway of the Charleston County Public Library.⁷⁸



Photo Credit: Matthew Breen, Esq.

⁷*Charleston Evening Post*, 19 December 1904, page 5, “Will Mark Site of Liberty Tree”; *Charleston Evening Post*, 29 June 1905, page 5, “Sons of Revolution Met”; *Charleston Evening Post*, 13 September 1905, page 5, “Liberty Tree’s Site is Marked.” Note that the address of the bronze marker in 1905 was No. 22 Alexander Street, which was altered to No. 80 Alexander when the street was later renumbered. The marker’s brief text is factually imperfect, but it conveys the appropriate sentiment: “Near this spot once stood the Liberty Tree. Where Colonial Independence was first advocated by Christopher Gadsden, A.D. 1766. And, where ten years later the Declaration of Independence was first heard and applauded by South Carolinians. Erected by the Local Society of the Sons of the Revolution. A.D. 1905.”

⁸Many thanks are given to Nicholas Butler, PhD. Dr. Butler is an Archivist for the Charleston County Public Library and is a prolific presenter of all topics relating to South Carolina history. For further information on Charleston’s Liberty Tree please see his series: Remembering Charleston’s Liberty Tree, Part 1 & 2.

Annual Carolina Day

*Tribute to June 28 1776 Americans held off the First
Siege of Charleston by the British Navy on Sullivan Island
at Ft Sullivan and the British Army at The Breach Inlet*



South Carolina & Georgia Compatriots!
Please join us
Monday, June 28th at 11 am
for our

Carolina Parade

Dress is seersucker suits or jackets—
If no seersucker, then Navy Blazer and SR tie.

The route is modest in length to
allow nearly everyone to participate.

The GSSR Region 3 is host lunch after the events at
39 Rue De Jean Restaurant
39 John Street

Please plan on partaking of the incomperable Charleston Cuisine

Let's have a great turnout!

"After the Annual Address at White Point Garden, Compatriots who wish to travel to 80 Alexander Street, Charleston, SC 29403 for a picture with the SRSC Liberty Tree Plaque from 1905 will depart and take picture. After this, Compatriots will gather for lunch."



We offer Sons of the Revolution hats and shirts.

The hat price is \$20.

The shirt price is \$35.

For ordering, contact: Jeff Murrie

Cell 1.843.615.6899 Jefferymurrie@gmail.com



Item	Size	Quantity	
100% Cotton Navy Polo	Adult S-XXL		\$35 each
Insignia Decal	NA		\$5 each
Cotton Hat	NA		\$20 each
TOTAL			

Order Form

Please submit your national number with the order

Name _____

National # _____

Please make checks out to South Carolina Sons of the Revolution (SCSR)

Shipping Address: _____

Submit to:
 Jeff Murrie
 308 Winston Street
 Florence, South Carolina 29501