



# A HISTORY OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA SOCIETY

## *Sons of the American Revolution*

---

Compiled by  
**James M. Herritage, SAR Compatriot No. 197216**  
*AI-Assisted Research and Composition*  
March 31, 2026 - WORKING DRAFT

---

## **PREFACE**

---

This history of the South Carolina Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SCSSAR) draws upon a combination of modern AI-assisted research tools—including ChatGPT, Gemini, and Claude—alongside established biographical and historical reference works, genealogical databases, and the *Official Bulletin of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution*. The information presented herein should be considered provisional and subject to verification. All findings must ultimately be cross-checked against the Society’s archival holdings once they are secured, organized, and made accessible for research.

The reader should further understand that the archival record of the Society’s first three decades is incomplete and fragmentary. Annual meeting minutes, correspondence, and officer lists from approximately 1889 through 1922 have not been fully preserved in publicly accessible repositories. As a result, this work necessarily relies on partial evidence—such as charter documents, national organization bulletins, published membership rosters, contemporary newspaper accounts, and biographical encyclopedias. Where gaps exist, they are acknowledged candidly, and every effort has been made to distinguish documented fact from areas where the historical record remains uncertain.

The present volume is offered not as a finished monument but as a foundation — solid where the evidence is solid, transparent where it is not, and open to revision and validation as additional sources come to light. <sup>JMH</sup>

## **PART I: THE REVOLUTIONARY LEGACY THAT CALLED THEM**

---

Few American states bear as profound a mark from the Revolutionary War as South Carolina. Of the original thirteen colonies, South Carolina witnessed more battles, skirmishes, and armed engagements than any other — over two hundred in total, by the most thorough scholarly tallies. According to United States Army official records, approximately thirty percent of all American casualties during the entire war occurred within the state's borders. From the palmetto-log fortifications of Sullivan's Island in June 1776 to the blood-soaked fields of Cowpens in January 1781 and the guerrilla swamps of the Pee Dee, South Carolina served as the central theater of the Southern Campaign — the phase of the war that most historians now credit with breaking the British Army's ability to sustain its colonial enterprise.

It was here that partisans under Thomas Sumter, Francis Marion, and Andrew Pickens demonstrated that an irregular, decentralized war of attrition could exhaust a professional European army. Marion's men struck from the swamps and vanished before the enemy could bring superior force to bear. Sumter's partisans struck supply lines and Loyalist strongpoints across the Midlands. Pickens organized the backcountry Whigs of the Upstate into an effective fighting force that culminated in devastating effect at Cowpens on January 17, 1781, where General Daniel Morgan's Continental regulars and militia routed Banastre Tarleton's force — beginning the chain of events that ended in Cornwallis's surrender at Yorktown nine months later.

The battles fought on South Carolina soil ranged across the full spectrum of Revolutionary-era conflict: the formal siege and defense at Charleston in 1780; the guerrilla engagements of the Pee Dee and Low Country; the savage civil war between Whig and Loyalist neighbors in the backcountry; and the set-piece clash at Eutaw Springs on September 8, 1781 — among the bloodiest single engagements of the entire war. The men who fought these actions left a legacy that their descendants, a century later, felt bound to honor with organized, deliberate commemoration.

This deep Revolutionary inheritance gave South Carolina men of the late nineteenth century ample reason to organize in memory of their forebears. In the spring of 1889, they did precisely that.

## **PART II: THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT AND SOUTH CAROLINA'S ROLE**

---

The founding of the South Carolina Society of the Sons of the American Revolution took place within a broader national movement of patriotic organization that swept the United States in the final decades of the nineteenth century. The same impulses that gave rise to the Grand Army of the Republic, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the Colonial Dames of America, and the Daughters of the American Revolution — a desire to honor ancestors, affirm social identity, preserve historical memory, and assert civic virtue — animated the formation of the Sons of the American Revolution as a national body.

The National Society was formally organized at Fraunces Tavern in New York City on April 30, 1889, later incorporated on January 17, 1890, and subsequently chartered by the United States

Congress on June 9, 1906. Its constitution established the organization's objects as 'patriotic, historical, and educational,' encompassing the perpetuation of the memory of those who achieved American independence, the promotion of fellowship among their descendants, the encouragement of historical research, the acquisition and preservation of records and relics, the marking of Revolutionary-era scenes with appropriate memorials, and the fostering of true patriotism.

South Carolina's founding on April 18, 1889 — twelve days before the formal organization of the national body — placed the Palmetto State among the very earliest societies in the country and established from the outset that South Carolinians would be active, not passive, participants in the national organization. The state society sent delegates to the April 30 convention at Fraunces Tavern, and those delegates carried with them the credentials of a Society already organized, already officered, and already committed to the Revolution's memory.

The context of the Society's formation deserves careful attention. Post-Reconstruction South Carolina was a society profoundly shaped by memory — of the Revolution, of the antebellum era, and of the Confederacy. Many of the men who founded and led the SCSSAR in its first decades were also veterans of the Confederate Army or sons of Confederate veterans, and the Society's founding coincided with a broader 'Confederate revival' in Southern civic culture. This intersection of Revolutionary commemoration and Lost Cause memory was not a contradiction to its participants: they saw themselves as heirs to a tradition of Southern martial virtue and civic independence that stretched from Cowpens to Gettysburg. The first president, Governor John Peter Richardson III, embodied this dual heritage precisely — a descendant of South Carolina's Revolutionary-era planter class who had served in the Confederate Army before ascending to the state's highest office.

## **PART III: FOUNDING — APRIL 18, 1889**

---

The South Carolina Society of the Sons of the American Revolution was organized on April 18, 1889, in a room at the State Capitol in Columbia. The gathering brought together men who were lineal descendants of patriots of the Revolution, united by a shared conviction that the memory, principles, and sacrifices of that generation deserved active, organized commemoration.

After organizing and electing officers, the founding group appointed delegates to the proposed National Convention in New York City, to be held later in the month. That national convention, held at Fraunces Tavern on April 30, 1889, formally organized the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. South Carolina's founding, therefore, predated the formation of the national body by twelve days — a distinction that places the Palmetto State firmly among the pioneer state societies of the organization.

Elected as the first president of the South Carolina Society was Governor John Peter Richardson III. Richardson (September 25, 1831 – July 6, 1899) served as the 83rd Governor of South Carolina from 1886 to 1890, making him simultaneously the sitting governor of the state and the inaugural president of the Society. His presence at the helm gave the new organization immediate prestige and visibility in South Carolina public life. Richardson was himself a fitting emblem of the Society's purposes: a descendant of South Carolina's planter class, a man who had served in the Confederate Army, and a political figure who embodied the conservative, ancestry-conscious culture

of post-Reconstruction South Carolina. He died in July 1899 and was buried at the Old Quaker Cemetery in Camden, South Carolina. In 2019, the South Carolina Society honored him with a formal grave-marking ceremony. Notably, no National SAR number appears to be recorded for him in the SAR Patriot Research System Database.

### **The Charter Roll: Nineteen Founding Members**

The first nineteen members enrolled in the Society constitute its charter roll, drawn from the officially documented membership roster. The table below presents all nineteen charter members with their State and National numbers as recorded in the Society's archives.

State No.	Charter Member	National No.
1	Dr. James B. Allison	23326
2	Capt. James B. Allison, Jr.	23327
3	Dr. Samuel C. Baker	23328
4	William Smith Bean	23329
5	William P. Conyers	23330
6	John Carroll Coulter	23331
7	Guy Butler Foster	23332
8	James Walter Gray	23333
9	Paul Trapier Hayne	23334
10	David Arnold Henning	23335
11	Robert Cathcart Lipscomb	20443
12	Oscar Kern Mauldin	23337
13	Lt. John Henry Moore	10413
14	John Henry O'Neill	23339
15	Clarkson Potter Ryttenberg	15562
16	William Moore Smoak	23341
17	James Mims Sullivan	23342
18	John Stewart Taylor	23343
19	Henry Keith Townes	23344

### **Notable Charter Members**

Among the nineteen charter members, several deserve extended notice. Paul Trapier Hayne (State No. 9, National No. 23334) was the son of the celebrated Southern poet Paul Hamilton Hayne and traced his ancestry directly to Colonel Isaac Hayne of South Carolina — a prominent

Revolutionary War officer who was captured by the British and executed in Charleston in August 1781. Hayne's death caused an international outcry and made him a martyr figure in American and European opinion. Paul Trapier Hayne's membership in the Society thus carried a direct genealogical link to one of the most dramatic episodes of the South Carolina war.

Dr. James B. Allison (State No. 1, National No. 23326) held the distinction of carrying the first membership number in the Society's rolls, a distinction recognized in the documented membership roster. His son, Capt. James B. Allison, Jr. (State No. 2, National No. 23327), joined simultaneously, making them the first father-son pair in the Society's membership.

William Smith Bean (State No. 4, National No. 23329) claimed descent from Josiah Bean of New Hampshire — a reminder that the Revolution was a genuinely national undertaking and that South Carolina's Revolutionary memory was not parochial but connected to the broader continental war. Other charter members traced lines to Virginia, North Carolina, and other colonies, reflecting the mixed ancestral streams that had settled South Carolina's diverse communities.

Lt. John Henry Moore (State No. 13, National No. 10413) and Robert Cathcart Lipscomb (State No. 11, National No. 20443) carried unusually low national numbers relative to their state enrollment position, suggesting prior affiliation with the national organization before the South Carolina Society was formally constituted — consistent with the historical record showing that some South Carolina men had affiliated with existing northern state societies before the 1889 founding.

## **PART IV: MISSION, OBJECTS, AND EARLY STRUCTURE (1889–1910)**

---

The Society's founding mission was stated in the constitution of the National Society, which the South Carolina Society adopted. Its objects were described as 'patriotic, historical, and educational,' encompassing the perpetuation of the memory of those who achieved American independence, the promotion of fellowship among their descendants, the encouragement of historical research, the acquisition and preservation of records and relics, the marking of Revolutionary-era scenes with appropriate memorials, and the fostering of true patriotism. These purposes — preservation, genealogy, education, and civic engagement — defined the Society's work from its earliest days and have continued to shape it ever since.

In its initial period, from 1889 through approximately 1910, the South Carolina Society functioned as a single, centralized organization operating at the state level without local chapters. Membership was held directly in the state society rather than through subsidiary chapters, a model common among patriotic lineage organizations of the era. The roster grew gradually through these years, with new members joining by establishing their lineage to documented Revolutionary patriots and satisfying the eligibility requirements of the national body.

The documented membership roster from this period — compiled in 1977 by State President Samuel S. Wood and State Secretary-Treasurer Carl H. May, and publicly preserved in genealogical records — lists members numbered sequentially from the original nineteen charter members through the Society's first several decades. The names on this roster represent a cross-section of South

Carolina professional and civic life: physicians, attorneys, clergymen, planters, merchants, and military officers, drawn from communities across the state from Spartanburg to Charleston.

Throughout this early period, the Society's activities are not extensively documented in publicly available records. The Society participated in commemorative events, maintained membership rolls, and sent delegates to the annual congresses of the National Society. The complete internal records of the Society from 1889 to 1910 are not preserved in accessible public repositories, and the precise record of annual meetings, presidential succession, and programmatic activities during these years remains imperfectly known.

### **Presidential Succession: Two Accounts of the Early Leadership**

Two parallel traditions preserve the names of the Society's early presidents, and both are presented here because the historical record does not conclusively adjudicate between them. The primary source — the official Society record compiled under State President Samuel S. Wood and preserved in the membership roster — provides the following early presidents: Governor John Peter Richardson III (1889), Col. Wilmot G. DeSaussure (1890), Dr. Joseph Johnson (1891), Col. Ellison Capers (1892), Gen. Edward McCrady Jr. (1893), Col. John B. Cleveland (1894), Col. A. C. Haskell (1895), Maj. John Stoney (1896), Col. William Wallace (1897), Gen. John D. Kennedy (1898), Col. J. Foster Marshall (c.1899), and Dr. Y. J. Pope (c.1900).

A second historical survey of the Society provides a different and more complete roster for the same period, including a broader list of officers across two-year terms: Judge Samuel McGowan (c.1889–1891), Hon. John C. Haskell (c.1891–1893), Hon. T. C. Robertson (c.1893–1895), Rev. William B. Corbett (c.1895–1897), Captain W. W. Vance (c.1897–1899), Rev. J. A. Wallace (c.1899–1901), and continuing through the twentieth century. This second account appears to reflect a reconstruction from institutional memory or alternative records and may represent a reorganized or parallel leadership sequence.

The discrepancy between these two accounts is typical of early organizational records in fraternal and patriotic societies of the period, where annual elections sometimes produced unclear succession, and where the reorganization of 1911 may have obscured earlier leadership sequences. Both sets of names are included in the comprehensive Presidents Table in the Appendix of this volume. Researchers are encouraged to consult the primary archives of the South Carolina Society and the National Society in Louisville, Kentucky, to resolve these discrepancies definitively.

Several figures in the early presidential succession merit particular notice. General Edward McCrady Jr. (president c.1893) was one of South Carolina's most distinguished historians of the Revolutionary period, author of the four-volume *History of South Carolina in the Revolution* (1901–1902) — a work that remains a standard reference to this day. His presidency of the Society was thus a union of institutional leadership and scholarly authority uniquely suited to the organization's mission. General John D. Kennedy (c.1898) was a Confederate veteran and South Carolina politician. Col. Ellison Capers (c.1892) later served as the Episcopal Bishop of South Carolina. The presence of such figures in the early leadership roster confirms the Society's standing as an organization of substantial civic weight in late nineteenth-century South Carolina.

## **PART V: THE 1911 REORGANIZATION AT GREENVILLE**

---

By 1911, the South Carolina Society underwent a significant structural development. According to the Official Bulletin of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, the report of the Committee on Organization showed that on March 22, 1911, the South Carolina Society was formally reorganized at Greenville with twenty charter members. The National Society's bulletin described this as a reorganization effort coordinated by Commander John H. Moore, U.S.N., Chairman of the Committee on Organization, South.

At this same period, Paul Trapier Hayne — the charter member who had held State No. 9 since the Society's founding in 1889 — served as the South Carolina representative to the national organization, listed in the Official Bulletin with his address in Greenville, South Carolina. Hayne's presence in Greenville and his role in the reorganization was consistent with a broader effort by the national society during the 1908–1911 period to complete and strengthen its state-level organization across the South.

The Greenville reorganization represented an attempt to revive and consolidate the Society following what appears to have been a period of diminished activity in the years following 1900. The precise circumstances that led to the need for reorganization in 1911 are not fully detailed in surviving published records. What is clear is that the effort was undertaken with twenty charter members in Greenville and with the active involvement of the national body's organizational committee — an indication that the national SAR regarded the reconstitution of the South Carolina Society as a matter of institutional priority.

## **PART VI: A PERIOD OF DIMINISHED ACTIVITY, CIRCA 1912–1922**

---

Following the 1911 reorganization, the South Carolina Society again appears to have curtailed or suspended its organized activities. The exact date and circumstances of this cessation are not documented in the Society's publicly available historical accounts, and the internal records of this period are not accessible for full examination. What the historical record does establish is that the Society experienced a hiatus of organized activity lasting approximately a decade, beginning around 1912.

This pattern was not unique to South Carolina. Other state societies of the SAR experienced similar periods of dormancy in the years surrounding World War I — a period of intense national focus that temporarily displaced many fraternal and genealogical organizations from active operation. The war years from 1917 to 1918 in particular absorbed the civic energies of men who might otherwise have sustained fraternal programming, and the immediate post-war years of 1919 through 1922 were marked by social and economic disruption that further hindered organizational recovery.

The presidential record for this period remains incomplete in both of the primary sources consulted for this history, and no confirmed list of presiding officers for the years approximately 1912 through 1922 is available through public repositories at the time of writing. Researchers are directed to the archives of the South Carolina Society SAR and the National Society for any surviving records of this interval.

## **PART VII: THE REVIVAL AND THE CHAPTER SYSTEM, BEGINNING 1923**

---

The most consequential structural transformation in the South Carolina Society's history came in the early 1920s, when the organization was revived and reconstituted on a fundamentally new model. The South Carolina Society began granting charters to local chapters in 1923. This marked the transition from the earlier centralized model — in which all members belonged directly to the state society — to a chapter-based system, in which local groups organized around geographic communities or specific Revolutionary-era figures would form the Society's primary unit of membership.

This shift mirrored the structure that had proven successful for kindred organizations such as the Daughters of the American Revolution and aligned the South Carolina Society more closely with the organizational model favored by the national SAR. Chapters would now serve as the vehicles for local commemorative events, membership recruitment, genealogical assistance, and educational programming, while the state society would function as the coordinating and representative umbrella.

The early chapters organized under this new system took their names from prominent South Carolina patriots of the Revolutionary era — a deliberate act of historical commemoration in keeping with the Society's core mission. The chapter-based structure proved significantly more resilient than the earlier centralized model, providing local anchors for membership that helped sustain the organization through the economic disruptions of the Great Depression, the exigencies of the Second World War, and the social transformations of mid-twentieth-century American life.

### **The Early Chapters and Their Patriots**

The Thomas Taylor Chapter took its name from Colonel Thomas Taylor of Richland District, a militia officer who served under General Thomas Sumter and participated in numerous engagements of the Southern Campaign, including the Battle of Blackstocks in November 1780. Taylor's career exemplified the citizen-soldier tradition that the SAR was founded to honor: a planter who set aside his civilian life to serve the Patriot cause through years of grinding partisan warfare.

The William Bratton Chapter honored Colonel William Bratton of York County, the officer whose men fought the celebrated engagement known as Huck's Defeat on July 12, 1780 — a battle widely recognized as a turning point in the backcountry war that helped set the stage for the Patriot victory at Kings Mountain three months later. Captain Christian Huck, a Loyalist officer notorious for his brutality toward Presbyterian settlers, was killed in the engagement, and the Patriot victory electrified resistance across the South Carolina Upstate.

The Major Thomas Young Chapter commemorated Major Thomas Young, another backcountry partisan figure of the Revolution who left a valuable memoir of the Southern Campaign and participated in the engagement at Kings Mountain. A Spartanburg Chapter reflected the strong Patriot tradition of the Upstate region, where communities of Scots-Irish settlers had provided many of the militia fighters who clashed repeatedly with Loyalist and British forces in 1780 and 1781.

The Philemon Waters Chapter, named for a South Carolina Revolutionary patriot, was chartered at a later date and organized in Newberry, South Carolina; the specific charter date is not established in sources available for this history. The William Rhett Chapter in Charleston (chartered 1926) honored Colonel William Rhett, an early South Carolina colonial defender.

## PART VIII: GROWTH THROUGH CHAPTERS — CHRONOLOGICAL RECORD

The following table presents the chronological record of chapter charters in the South Carolina Society, from the original state society through the most recently organized chapter as of the time of writing. Dates marked 'c.' are approximate based on contextual evidence; dates marked '1923+' fall within the post-revival period but are not confirmed to a specific year in available records.

Charter Date	Chapter Name	Location / Notes
1889	<b>South Carolina Society (Columbia)</b>	Original state society, chartered April 18, 1889
c. 1910	<b>William Bratton Chapter</b>	York/Lancaster/Chester area; first distinct local chapter
1923+	<b>Thomas Taylor Chapter</b>	Named for Col. Thomas Taylor of Richland District; early revival-era chapter
1923+	<b>Major Thomas Young Chapter</b>	Named for backcountry partisan Maj. Thomas Young; early revival-era chapter
1923+	<b>Spartanburg Chapter</b>	Upstate Scots-Irish Patriot tradition; early revival-era chapter
1926	<b>Colonel William Rhett Chapter</b>	Charleston
c. 1930s	<b>Philemon Waters Chapter</b>	Newberry, South Carolina; exact charter date not confirmed
1938	<b>Colonel Lemuel Benton Chapter</b>	Pee Dee Region
1948	<b>General Andrew Pickens Chapter</b>	Upstate/Anderson
1952	<b>Daniel Morgan Chapter</b>	Spartanburg
1956	<b>General Thomas Sumter Chapter</b>	Midlands/Sumter
1964 (1939*)	<b>Major General William Moultrie Chapter</b>	Charleston
1973	<b>Colonel Joseph Glover Chapter</b>	Walterboro
1977	<b>Dr. George Mosse Chapter</b>	Hilton Head Island
1980	<b>Colonel Robert Anderson Chapter</b>	Greenville
1981	<b>General James Williams Chapter</b>	Laurens
1982	<b>Battle of Eutaw Springs Chapter</b>	Orangeburg
1983	<b>Mount Pleasant Chapter</b>	Mount Pleasant
1986	<b>Battle of Kings Mountain Chapter</b>	Rock Hill
1988	<b>Battle of Cowpens Chapter</b>	Spartanburg

Charter Date	Chapter Name	Location / Notes
1991	<b>Little River Chapter</b>	Horry County
1993	<b>General Francis Marion Chapter</b>	Myrtle Beach
1996	<b>Colonel Hezekiah Maham Chapter</b>	Moncks Corner
1999	<b>Gov. Paul Hamilton Chapter</b>	Beaufort
2003	<b>Colonel Thomas Taylor Chapter</b>	Columbia
2007	<b>Colonel Elias Horry Chapter</b>	Florence
2013	<b>Major General Nathanael Greene Chapter</b>	Gaffney
2024	<b>Fort Dorchester</b>	Summerville

\*This chapter was originally chartered as the Citadel Charleston Chapter was in 1939. <sup>JMH</sup>

## **PART IX: GROWTH AND CONTINUITY, 1923–1950**

In the years following the establishment of the chapter system, the South Carolina Society grew steadily, though the pace of expansion was measured rather than rapid. The Society's activities during the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s were shaped by the broader national context: the economic disruptions of the Great Depression constrained organizational growth and member engagement, while the Second World War again redirected national attention and limited the social and civic programming of fraternal organizations.

Nevertheless, the chapter structure proved more resilient than the earlier centralized model. Local chapters provided anchors of community identity and historical consciousness that survived even when state-level coordination was difficult. Members who might not travel to Columbia for a statewide meeting could gather with neighbors in Spartanburg, York County, or Charleston to mark a Revolutionary anniversary, clean a patriot's grave, or hear an address on local Revolutionary history.

The period from 1927 through 1950 produced several confirmed state presidents: Major John F. Jones (1927), Robert Moorman (1936), and General Charles P. Summerall (1948). General Summerall is among the most distinguished figures to have led the South Carolina Society — a decorated career Army officer who had served as Chief of Staff of the United States Army from 1926 to 1930 and as President of The Citadel from 1931 to 1953. His presence at the helm of the Society in 1948 reflected the organization's continued ability to attract figures of national as well as state distinction.

The second source consulted for this history provides a detailed list of Society presidents across this same period, attributing two-year terms to a succession of officers from the mid-1920s through 1950. While the specific names cannot all be cross-referenced against primary documents available for this writing, the list — running from J. E. Belser (c.1925–1927) through W. F. Dargan (c.1947–1949) and W. T. Cothran (c.1949–1951) — is presented in the Appendix as a research resource pending archival verification.

By the period immediately following World War II, the Society was positioned for more sustained expansion. The patriotic climate of the postwar years — marked by heightened national

consciousness and renewed interest in American history and ancestry — provided favorable conditions for lineage societies. The Society's core mission of commemorating the Revolutionary generation, preserving genealogical records, and educating the public about the principles of American independence resonated powerfully with the spirit of postwar American civic life.

The membership roster compiled in 1977 by state officers Wood and May documented over three thousand individuals who had filled the membership ranks since the Society's 1889 founding — a cumulative testament to the organization's endurance across more than eight decades and through periods of both vitality and dormancy.

## **PART X: MILESTONES, MISSION, AND ONGOING ACTIVITIES**

---

Throughout its history, the South Carolina Society and its local chapters have engaged in a consistent set of activities that give institutional expression to the founding mission of patriotic commemoration, historical preservation, genealogical scholarship, and civic education. These activities have evolved in form across the decades but have remained remarkably consistent in purpose.

### **Dedication of Monuments and Markers**

The SCSSAR and its local chapters have been instrumental in erecting and maintaining monuments and historical markers at key Revolutionary War sites across South Carolina. This includes the battlefields of Cowpens, Kings Mountain, Eutaw Springs, and many lesser-known engagements that collectively shaped the war's outcome. These physical reminders serve as vital educational tools and tributes to those who served, and their installation has often required years of sustained advocacy, fundraising, and coordination with state historical agencies.

### **Grave Protection and Marking**

A cornerstone of the SAR's national mission is the location and restoration of the final resting places of Revolutionary War patriots. The SCSSAR has actively participated in and supported projects to clean, mark, and honor these gravesites across the state — including the 2019 grave-marking ceremony for the Society's first president, Governor John Peter Richardson III, at the Old Quaker Cemetery in Camden. Ensuring that the final resting places of these individuals are treated with dignity and respect remains an ongoing commitment.

### **Historic Preservation**

The SCSSAR has collaborated with other historical and preservation organizations, often leading or supporting efforts to save and protect key structures and locations from encroachment or decay. This has included advocating for the conservation of historic battlefields, encampment grounds, and structures related to the Revolutionary era across South Carolina.

## **Educational Initiatives**

The Society sponsors numerous annual programs aimed at fostering historical knowledge among younger generations. These include the Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest, which challenges high school students to research and deliver speeches on Revolutionary War themes; the George S. and Stella M. Knight Essay Contest, open to high school students; and the SAR Youth Awards for middle school students. Flag retirement ceremonies, conducted in accordance with the United States Flag Code, are regularly organized by chapters as both an act of civic respect and an opportunity for public education.

## **Commemorative Events**

The SCSSAR remains a prominent participant in and organizer of annual commemorative events celebrating key moments in the American Revolution. These include local and state celebrations of Independence Day, Veterans Day, and the anniversaries of key Southern Campaign battles: Cowpens (January 17), Kings Mountain (October 7), and Eutaw Springs (September 8). Society members, often in historical regalia, participate in honor guards, wreath-laying ceremonies, and reenactments.

## **Genealogical Research and Scholarship**

The Society provides resources and guidance for individuals seeking to document their lineage from Revolutionary War ancestors. This dedication to accurate genealogical research preserves family histories and connects current generations with their past. The documented membership roster — maintained from the Society's founding through the present — constitutes a significant genealogical resource in its own right, linking thousands of South Carolina families to their documented Revolutionary ancestors.

## **The 250th Anniversary and Looking Forward**

As South Carolina and the nation prepare to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026, the SCSSAR's role is more vital than ever. The Society is actively engaged in planning and supporting statewide initiatives to mark this monumental occasion, ensuring that the sacrifices, ideals, and achievements of South Carolina's Revolutionary generation continue to be remembered, understood, and cherished for generations to come.

## **CONCLUSION**

---

The South Carolina Society of the Sons of the American Revolution was born in the spring of 1889 from a conviction both well-founded and well-timed: that the state which had borne more Revolutionary War combat than any other deserved a dedicated organization to honor those who had fought and sacrificed in that cause. Under the first presidency of Governor John Peter Richardson III, nineteen charter members — among them Paul Trapier Hayne with his direct descent from the martyred Colonel Isaac Hayne, Dr. James B. Allison holding the Society's first membership number, William Smith Bean linking the local Society to the broader national struggle, and their sixteen fellow Compatriots — established an institution that would endure through reorganizations, lapses, and renewals across more than a century.

The transition to a chapter-based structure beginning in 1923 gave the Society the organizational architecture it needed to survive and grow across a diverse state. Chapters bearing the names of William Bratton, Thomas Taylor, Major Thomas Young, Andrew Pickens, Francis Marion, Daniel Morgan, and other Palmetto State and national patriots carried the Society's work into communities across South Carolina, sustaining the memory of men who, in the words of the National Society's constitution, 'by their services or sacrifices during the war of the American Revolution, achieved the independence of the American people.'

By mid-century, the South Carolina Society stood on firmer organizational ground than at any point in its history. The chapter system had demonstrated its resilience through depression and war. The membership rolls had grown to thousands. Distinguished figures — from General Charles P. Summerall to the long succession of dedicated officers documented in the presidential record — had lent their energy and reputation to the Society's mission. And the organization had established itself as a permanent fixture of South Carolina's civic landscape, connected both to the national SAR body and to the state's own deep Revolutionary heritage.

The history recorded in this volume is partial and imperfect, as all history must be when primary sources are incomplete. It is offered as a foundation, not a finality — a record of what is known, an acknowledgment of what remains uncertain, and an invitation to future researchers to carry the work forward. The flame of inquiry, like the flame of liberty the Society was founded to honor, must be tended continuously if it is to endure.

---

## APPENDIX: COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF PAST PRESIDENTS

The following table presents the most complete compilation of Society presidents available from the sources consulted for this history. Entries are marked to indicate whether they derive from the primary official record (confirmed) or from the complementary historical survey (alternative source). Where the two sources provide different names for the same period, both are listed. The 'c.' prefix indicates an approximate date. Gaps in the record are acknowledged rather than filled with speculation. The names must be crosschecked with the SCSSAR archives once they are opened for accuracy.

Year(s)	President	Notes
1889	<b>Governor John Peter Richardson III</b>	<i>First President</i>
1890	<b>Col. Wilmot G. DeSaussure</b>	
1891	<b>Dr. Joseph Johnson</b>	
1892	<b>Col. Ellison Capers</b>	
1893	<b>Gen. Edward McCrady Jr.</b>	
1894	<b>Col. John B. Cleveland</b>	
1895	<b>Col. A. C. Haskell</b>	
1896	<b>Maj. John Stoney</b>	
1897	<b>Col. William Wallace</b>	
1898	<b>Gen. John D. Kennedy</b>	
c.1899	<b>Col. J. Foster Marshall</b>	
c.1900	<b>Dr. Y. J. Pope</b>	
1901–1922	<b>[Records not yet confirmed]</b>	<i>Gap in confirmed record</i>
c.1889–1891	<b>Judge Samuel McGowan</b>	<i>Alt. source: Founding President</i>
c.1891–1893	<b>Hon. John C. Haskell</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
c.1893–1895	<b>Hon. T. C. Robertson</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
c.1895–1897	<b>Rev. William B. Corbett</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
c.1897–1899	<b>Captain W. W. Vance</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
c.1899–1901	<b>Rev. J. A. Wallace</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
c.1901–1903	<b>Col. R. Wofford</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
c.1903–1905	<b>Hon. W. L. Thomas</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
c.1905–1907	<b>W. C. Miller</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
c.1907–1909	<b>W. J. Duffie</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
c.1909–1911	<b>T. R. Waring</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
c.1911–1913	<b>Col. G. P. Elliott</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>

Year(s)	President	Notes
c.1913–1915	<b>T. S. McMillan</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
c.1915–1917	<b>Col. M. O. Dantzler</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
c.1917–1919	<b>Col. R. M. Kennedy</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
c.1919–1921	<b>Judge G. S. Mower</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
c.1921–1923	<b>Dr. S. C. Mitchell</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
c.1923–1925	<b>Dr. F. C. Withers</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
c.1925–1927	<b>J. E. Belser</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
1927	<b>Major John F. Jones</b>	<i>Confirmed in primary record</i>
c.1927–1929	<b>A. S. Salley</b>	<i>Alt. source — noted historian</i>
c.1929–1931	<b>Maj. J. B. Faison</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
c.1931–1933	<b>Judge W. H. Grimball</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
c.1933–1935	<b>H. G. Senseney</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
1936	<b>Robert Moorman</b>	<i>Confirmed in primary record</i>
c.1935–1937	<b>G. R. Rembert</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
c.1937–1939	<b>Col. A. J. Settle</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
c.1939–1941	<b>Maj. T. G. McLeod</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
c.1941–1943	<b>T. L. Gadsden</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
c.1943–1945	<b>W. C. Smith</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
c.1945–1947	<b>Maj. R. C. Wright</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
c.1947–1949	<b>W. F. Dargan</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
1948	<b>General Charles P. Summerall</b>	<i>Confirmed in primary record</i>
c.1949–1951	<b>W. T. Cothran</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
c.1951–1953	<b>F. G. Cain</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
c.1953–1955	<b>E. W. Moise</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
c.1955–1957	<b>Maj. G. R. P. Wright</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
c.1957–1959	<b>H. B. Robinson</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
c.1959–1961	<b>Col. W. D. Workman</b>	<i>Alt. source — journalist and writer</i>
c.1961–1963	<b>E. H. Folk</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
c.1963–1965	<b>Dr. C. C. Fishburne</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
c.1965–1967	<b>H. E. Wood</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
c.1967–1969	<b>Lt. Col. F. H. Smith</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
c.1969–1971	<b>Col. H. G. McCartha</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
c.1971–1973	<b>W. L. Morris</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
c.1973–1975	<b>Col. J. D. Duffie</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>

Year(s)	President	Notes
c.1975–1977	<b>Col. G. T. DesChamps</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
c.1977–1979	<b>L. C. Henderson</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
c.1979–1981	<b>Lt. Col. P. C. Thomas</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
1980	<b>Julian V. Brandt III</b>	<i>Confirmed in primary record</i>
c.1981–1983	<b>Col. D. S. McCarthy</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
c.1983–1985	<b>Dr. G. W. Thomas</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
c.1985–1987	<b>Dr. J. G. Smith</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
c.1987–1989	<b>Lt. Col. J. C. Funderburk</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
c.1989–1991	<b>R. B. Jenkins</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
1991–1992	<b>William T. Allgood</b>	<i>Confirmed in primary record</i>
1993–1994	<b>Neil R. Baer</b>	<i>Confirmed in primary record</i>
c.1991–1993	<b>L. T. Shuler</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
c.1993–1995	<b>Col. F. E. Wood</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
c.1995–1997	<b>C. R. Hall</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
1998	<b>Dean Cullison</b>	<i>Confirmed in primary record</i>
c.1997–1999	<b>Lt. Col. J. H. Wood</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
c.1999–2001	<b>R. E. Jones</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
c.2001–2003	<b>Lt. Col. T. F. Shuler</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
c.2003–2005	<b>Col. S. L. Shuler</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
2005	<b>Greg Ohanesian</b>	<i>Confirmed in primary record</i>
c.2005–2007	<b>Dr. D. M. Shuler</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
c.2007–2009	<b>R. B. Jenkins</b>	<i>Alt. source</i>
2009	<b>Douglas B. Doster</b>	<i>Confirmed in primary record</i>
2010	<b>Rev. Ted Morton</b>	<i>Confirmed in primary record</i>
2011	<b>Mark C. Anthony</b>	<i>Confirmed in primary record</i>
2013	<b>Carroll Crowther</b>	<i>Confirmed in primary record</i>
2014	<b>Dan Woodruff</b>	<i>Confirmed in primary record</i>
2015	<b>Greg Greenawalt</b>	<i>Confirmed in primary record</i>
2017	<b>Edd Richburg, Sr.</b>	<i>Confirmed in primary record</i>
2018	<b>Ivan Bennett</b>	<i>Confirmed in primary record</i>
2019	<b>Tom Weidner</b>	<i>Confirmed in primary record</i>
2020	<b>Nathan Kaminski</b>	<i>Confirmed in primary record</i>
2021	<b>David Smith</b>	<i>Confirmed in primary record</i>
2022	<b>Lawrence Peebles</b>	<i>Confirmed in primary record</i>

Year(s)	President	Notes
2023	<b>Ted Walker</b>	<i>Confirmed in primary record</i>
2024	<b>Sonny Pittman</b>	<i>Confirmed in primary record</i>
2025	<b>Mike Monahan</b>	<i>Confirmed in primary record</i>
2026–2027	<b>Gary Blanpied (President-elect)</b>	<i>Current administration</i>

---

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

---

### Primary Sources

National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Official Bulletin of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Louisville, KY: NSSAR, 1911. [Report of the Committee on Organization, South, March 22, 1911 entry for South Carolina.]

Wood, Samuel S. (State President) and Carl H. May (State Secretary-Treasurer). Membership Roster of the South Carolina Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Columbia, SC: South Carolina Society SAR, 1977. [Compiled membership list documenting members from the 1889 founding through the 1970s, preserved in genealogical records and genealogical repositories.]

South Carolina Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Charter Membership Records, April 18, 1889. [Original charter roll of nineteen members, as documented in the Society's official archives and reflected in the SAR Patriot Research System Database, National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, Louisville, KY.]

National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Congressional Charter, June 9, 1906. United States Statutes at Large. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1906.

National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Certificate of Incorporation, January 17, 1890. [Filed in conjunction with the organization of the National Society following the April 30, 1889 founding convention at Fraunces Tavern, New York City.]

### Secondary Sources: Institutional History

South Carolina Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. 'A Legacy of Patriotism: A History of the South Carolina Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.' Institutional history document prepared for the Society. [Second primary source consulted for this volume, providing complementary presidential succession records and chapter charter dates.]

National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. History of the NSSAR. Louisville, KY: NSSAR. Available at: [www.sar.org](http://www.sar.org). [Institutional history of the national organization, including records of state society founding dates and the April 30, 1889 convention.]

### Biographical and Historical Reference Works

Edgar, Walter B., ed. The South Carolina Encyclopedia. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 2006. [Comprehensive reference work providing biographical entries on Governor John Peter Richardson III, General Edward McCrady Jr., Colonel Isaac Hayne, and other figures referenced in this history.]

- McCrary, Edward, Jr. *The History of South Carolina in the Revolution, 1775–1783*. 4 vols. New York: Macmillan, 1901–1902. [Standard four-volume scholarly history of the South Carolina Revolutionary War, authored by Society president Edward McCrary Jr. and cited throughout this history as the foundational scholarly account of the state's Revolutionary campaigns.]
- Lipscomb, Terry W. *The Carolina Lowcountry and the Beginning of the American Revolution*. Columbia: South Carolina Department of Archives and History, 1994.
- Lambert, Robert S. *South Carolina Loyalists in the American Revolution*. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1987. [Essential scholarship on the Loyalist dimension of the South Carolina war, providing context for battles referenced in this history including Huck's Defeat and Kings Mountain.]
- Buchanan, John. *The Road to Guilford Courthouse: The American Revolution in the Carolinas*. New York: Wiley, 1997. [Accessible scholarly narrative of the Southern Campaign providing context for the battles and commanders discussed in this history.]
- Bass, Robert D. *Swamp Fox: The Life and Campaigns of General Francis Marion*. New York: Henry Holt, 1959. [Biography of Francis Marion, namesake of the General Francis Marion Chapter of the SCSSAR.]
- Lumpkin, Henry. *From Savannah to Yorktown: The American Revolution in the South*. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1981.

### **Biographical Sources for Key Figures**

- South Carolina Department of Archives and History. *Governor John Peter Richardson III: Biographical Records*. Columbia: SCDAH. [Official state biographical records for the 83rd Governor of South Carolina and first president of the SCSSAR, 1886–1890.]
- Hayne, Paul Hamilton. *Poems*. Boston: Lothrop, 1882. [Volume by the celebrated Southern poet and father of SCSSAR charter member Paul Trapier Hayne (State No. 9).]
- South Carolina Encyclopedia, s.v. 'Hayne, Isaac.' Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 2006. [Entry on Colonel Isaac Hayne, Revolutionary patriot and ancestor of SCSSAR charter member Paul Trapier Hayne, executed by the British in Charleston in 1781.]
- Summerall, Charles P. *The Way of Duty, Honor, Country: The Memoir of General Charles Pelot Summerall*. Edited by Timothy K. Nenninger. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2010. [Memoir of General Charles P. Summerall, SCSSAR president c.1948, Chief of Staff of the United States Army 1926–1930, and President of The Citadel 1931–1953.]

### **Online and Database Sources**

- National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. *SAR Patriot Research System Database*. Louisville, KY: NSSAR. Available at: [www.sar.org](http://www.sar.org). [Searchable database of SAR national membership numbers and genealogical records, used to verify charter member national numbers and confirm the absence of a national number for Governor Richardson.]
- South Carolina Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. *Official Website*. Available at: [www.scssar.org](http://www.scssar.org). [Institutional source for chapter listings, officer records, and Society history.]
- Daughters of the American Revolution. *Genealogical Records Committee Reports*. Washington, DC: NSDAR. [Supplementary genealogical resource for lineage documentation relevant to SCSSAR membership records.]

## **Archival Sources Not Yet Examined**

The following repositories are expected to hold primary source material relevant to a complete history of the SCSSAR that was not available for examination at the time of this writing:

- South Carolina Society SAR Archives. Columbia, South Carolina. [Annual meeting minutes, correspondence files, officer records, chapter charter documents, and membership applications from 1889 forward.]
  - National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution Library and Museum. 809 West Main Street, Louisville, KY 40202. [National organizational records, state society correspondence, Official Bulletins, and Congress proceedings.]
  - South Carolina Department of Archives and History. 8301 Parklane Road, Columbia, SC 29223. [State government records, biographical files for governors and public figures, and relevant newspaper collections.]
  - South Carolina Historical Society. 100 Meeting Street, Charleston, SC 29401. [Manuscript collections, family papers, and periodical files relevant to the Society's early membership and activities.]
  - South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina. Columbia, SC 29208. [Newspaper archives, personal papers of key figures, and historical periodical collections.]
-