

# My Patriot

## Peter Kivett, a Common Patriot

By William D. Kivett  
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TAYLORS — Some members of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution can, with great pride, trace their ancestral lines directly back to some well known leader of our American Revolutionary effort.

Many more can, with equally justified pride, prove descendancy from one of those backwoodsmen or poor farmers who heeded the call to serve in militia units or provide much needed material support to the cause of American freedom. Without these additional unselfish contributions, the freedom we enjoy today might never have been attained.

Unfortunately, we sometimes neglect to pay tribute to these lesser known ancestors I call Common Patriots.

SAR membership participation in well-publicized regional commemorative events is almost always commendable. But how many of us have ever visited the burial site of our own qualifying patriot ancestor? How many of us even know of their burial place? Do we know of the condition of the grave site of our own Common Patriot?

I raise this subject here for a personal reason. I am fortunate to know such things about my own Common Patriot ancestor and American family patriarch, Peter Kivett. Although too old to be a fighting participant during our protracted period of struggle for independence, documentation shows that he was later paid for material support he provided. At least two of his sons are also recognized as having provided support to the cause. Before the firing of any shots, back in 1768, Peter Kivett signed a petition supporting the Regulator Movement in Colonial North Carolina. His name is found spelled many ways, but his values remained steadfast.

My Peter, or however he spelled his name, was never reported to have actually killed any British soldier, or suffered any battle wounds. But, I believe his contributions to the freedom I enjoy today are just as important. He took sides. He instilled the spirit of freedom in his sons and his daughters who married men who also stood up for the principles that first caused Peter to leave Europe around 1750 for a better life in America. But, other than leaving a will that proclaimed his belief of a future of independence for his children, he left them his genes. Like all of my Compatriots, those genes are still there



William J. Kivett at the grave of his patriot ancestor Peter Kivett

in me today. I take immense pride in knowing that a patriotic part of Ol' Peter is still a part of me.

Dating back many decades, members of my family have lovingly cared for the family burial site of Peter Kivett and his wife, Anna Barbary, whose maiden name is still undocumented. Each year on the fourth Sunday in October, descendants of Peter Kivett, now into the ninth and 10th generations, gather at a place called McMaster's Cemetery about 30 miles south of Greensboro, North Carolina.

We are joined by members of other families whose ancestors first settled in this melting pot of American Independence, including the Alldredges. You see, just a few feet away from my Peter lies William Ezekial Alldredge. His sons were also Unknown Patriots. They also passed on patriotic genes, all the way down to our former First Lady Laura Bush.

On Sunday, Oct. 26, 2008, it was my great honor to again return to this little publicized site. This time, in the company of family members and friends, I proudly presented a floral tribute on behalf of the Col. Robert Anderson Chapter SCSSAR to Peter Kivett — my Common Patriot. In presentation remarks I referred to what I saw as his legacy — his commitment to freedom, his dedication to his family and his optimistic view of the future.

I hope this story might inspire others to also learn more about and to display their personal appreciation to the legacy of their own Common Patriot.

## Sagen Blackwell receives Outstanding Patriot award

GREENWOOD—Pierce Stockman, SCSSAR vice president for the Piedmont Region and past president of the Cambridge Chapter, presents the chapter's Gen. James Williams Outstanding Patriot award to Sagen Blackwell.

Sagen is vice president for the National Society CAR Southeastern Region; past president of the South Carolina Society CAR; and the daughter of Cmpt. Steve and Shayna Blackwell of Woodruff.

Sagen is a student at Converse College in Spartanburg.

The citation reads:



Presented to Sagen Blackwell, Past President, SC Society C.A.R. — Recognizing exceptional leadership and record-breaking results raising funds for Wounded Warriors in the spirit of South Carolina's Revolutionary War History."

This sixth annual presentation was made at the chapter's "Patriot Dinner," Feb. 10.

The dinner included participation of four South Carolina DAR Chapters (Long Cane, McCormick; Mount Ariel, Hodges; Major John Bowie, Abbeville; and Star Fort, Greenwood).



## Founding Document

The Gen. James Williams Chapter presented framed copies of America's founding documents to Clinton High School. Cmpt. Norman B. Pigeon (left), chapter president, presents the Declaration of Independence to Cmpt. Joel E. Rexford, a teacher at the school, who receives it on behalf of the school. [Photo by Joe Goldsmith]