



The Catawba Coalition

The Catawba Valley Chapter
of the Sons of the American Revolution

President's Report

First things first! I must thank all the members of Catawba Valley Chapter for putting your trust in me as your Chapter President and our incoming Officers to help guide this Chapter into the future. After installation in January, I began a simple one-page newsletter to keep members informed of what we are doing. As we were planning events, readership grew to include members of other chapters, DAR members, friends from other organizations and prospective members. Several of us were talking and texting about the idea to expand our newsletter and publishing it on the state website. The result of that short brainstorm has been a complete rework and we are Breaking Ground again on our new newsletter The Catawba Coalition. This is our first issue.

Prior to the shutdown, Catawba Valley Chapter was quite active. On February 9th, we presented a Flag Certificate to Catawba County Sheriff Dan Brown for the department's exemplary display of the Flag of our nation. On the 22nd We had members attend the Commemoration of the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge. And on the 29th, our chapter Broke Ground again, created and presided over the first Sestercentennial commemoration in the state of North Carolina for the Golden Hill Riot in downtown Newton NC. Then we went under the COVID restrictions and everything changed.

I realize that in the past couple of months things seemed to change daily, updates as to our ability to conduct scheduled events changed daily and accordingly, I updated weekly. We intend for this to be monthly publication, but if there are significant developments that need to be transmitted sooner, we will publish a Special Edition.

The Commemoration of the Battle of Ramsour's Mill is our next Chapter, State and National event, and true to form, The Catawba Valley Chapter of SAR will once again be Breaking Ground. Due to the COVID 19 restrictions, the Commemoration will be on 20 June 2020 at 11:00 am and conducted Virtually, the first National Virtual SAR event. To participate, download the free "ZOOM" program, all Lineage Societies will be on "ZOOM" and we will stream FaceBook Live for Public Participation. This event may accrue points just as any National event, the difference being, participants MUST register online BEFORE 15 June 2020 to accrue those points. Those who intend to present a Wreath or those who are participating in Color Guard MUST register at, Color Guard & Wreath RSVP <https://forms.gle/Zni6sr9dMaq3FoHX8> Attendees can visit <https://us02web.zoon.us/j/84962575295> or, dial 1-253-215-8782 with meeting ID #849 6257 5295 to hear the audio portion of the program. See you there!

Ben Setser

Chapter President

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**Volume 1
Issue 1**

**Chapter
Officers**

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Ben Setser

Vice President
John Jay Cline

Secretary
Greg Bell

Treasurer
Derrick Walker

Registrar
Keith Black

Historian
Rhod Reep

**Past President
& Registrar**
Jack Bowman



Secretary's Salute

Past Chapter President and Current State Secretary
Jack Bowman

Memorial Day

As a member of the Sons of the American Revolution you probably joined to honor a Patriot Ancestor who did not die while in Service during the Revolution and as such, we honor them daily. May 25th, Memorial Day is a day set aside to honor all who died in service to their country, but do we really honor all of those who died while serving in the Revolution?

On June 20, 1780, about 400 Patriot Militiamen under the command of Col. Francis Locke attacked a Tory force estimated as high as 1400 men commanded by Lt. Col. John Moore. I am not going to give an account of the battle of Ramsour's Mill, but we need to focus on the aftermath. Towards the end of the battle, the Tories had been driven from the field and were gathering to mount another counterattack. The Patriot force had been decimated, many of the Captains had been either killed or wounded. Seeing the Loyalists beginning to return to the field, the Patriots were only able to form a line of 86 men. Badly wounded men struggled in until finally the line grew to not more than 110 men. The Tories decided not to attack these men determined to fight to the death.

So, how many Patriots perished that day? The Journal of the American Revolution states that 170 men died (both Patriots and Tories), and according to Gen. Joseph Graham in "His Revolutionary Papers" at least 70 died with an equal number of Loyalists. So somewhere between 140 and 170 men died that day. Some men who died had their bodies claimed by family or friends and they were taken away to be buried. Most of those who died were buried in a mass grave towards the top of the hill.

Over the years, the exact spot of this mass grave was lost. The property was given to the Lincoln County School Board who did not see this as a place of reverence, but rather a great place to build three schools. One of the school principals in the mid 1900's noticed that the land to one side of his school was sinking. Knowing that local historians and family histories had placed the mass grave near the Tuckaseegee Road that came close to the top of the battle hill, the sinking ground was examined and determined that it was the most logical spot of the burial. The mass grave had been found.

So today, this area near the former F. D. Kiser Intermediate School in Lincolnton is an area marked off with blocks. There is a small plaque on a small monument noting that this area contains the "remains of many of the seventy brave and true citizen-soldiers, names unknown, loyalists and patriots, their bodies unclaimed."

Not long ago someone told me that for a man who died in battle, no greater honor could be given him than to be buried on the battlefield. The SAR recognizes battlefield burials. At last years' Commemoration of the Battle of Ramsour's Mill our main speaker Ann Dellinger, the direct descendant of Joseph Patton, spoke of how Patton died at the battle and that he was buried probably in the mass grave, but certainly on the battlefield. We have proof of several more of the men buried at the Ramsour's Mill Battlefield, most of their names are not noted on any stone, any marker. These men must not be forgotten, these men must be properly honored for giving the ultimate sacrifice for those liberties that we as Americans enjoy today.

The Catawba Valley Chapter proposes to place a monument on the Battlefield in a suitable location to name those men who were un-named. These are the men who must not be forgotten when we celebrate Memorial Day.

Jack Bowman

NC SSAR Secretary

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Patriot's Day 2020

With the restrictions of COVID 19 in effect, Celebrating Patriots' Day was a little different this year, but it took place none the less, albeit with a few minor alterations.

We were not able to do Patriot's Day in groups as in the past, but our Past President and Current State Secretary Jack Bowman and our Current President Ben Setser went out on their own. Jack Bowman had his lovely wife Vickie behind the camera but Ben Setser tried doing it all alone with a tripod and timer as his lovely wife Charlainne was busy caring for her ageing parents.

His attempt at doing so was rather humorous owing to the fact that he had never used the tripod-timer configuration before. At his first stop, Old St Paul's Cemetery in Newton, his tripod fell apart at the very beginning, then he had to do several over because of cut off heads in the photos. The second stop at Weidner-Robinson Cemetery, trekking all the way up the hill, only to find out his battery was dead, and back to the truck for another. None the less, they had fun, placed flags on 15 or so Patriots' graves, practiced social distancing and made it home alive and well.

Pictured above are three of the several photos of this event. On the left, Jack is pictured with William Braswell on Three Mile Road in Avery County. Center, Ben is pictured with his 5th great grandfather Heinrich Weidner at Weidner-Robinson Cemetery in Newton, and right, Ben photographed with his 5th great grandfather Major George Wilfong at Old St Paul's Cemetery in Newton.

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<https://www.ncssar.org/chapters/catawba-valley/>



Upcoming Events

Jun 20 Ramsour's Mill

Jul 4 Parade, Faith NC

Jul 11-15 SAR Congress

Jul 18 Colson's Mill

Aug 15 Old Soldier's Reunion

Aug 22 NC BOM

The Catawba Coalition welcomes submissions, comments and/or suggestions. Please send them to

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LOGISTICS

Some photos of the last group events before the COVID 19 Shutdown



Compatriot Mike Gentry receiving his 40-year award from Jack Bowman. HUZZAH!



Roy Lightfoot addressing the crowd at the Sestercentennial of The Golden Hill Riot.



Catawba County Sheriff Dan Brown receiving the Flag Certificate exemplary display of the Flag of our Nation

Upcoming SAR events

Pending resumption of public gatherings

May 25 Memorial Day

Jun 20 240th Anniversary of the Battle of Ramsour's Mill

Jul 4th Parade in Faith NC

 Ringing of the North Carolina Liberty Bell Replica

Jul 11-15 130th Annual SAR Congress –Richmond, VA

Jul 18 240th Anniversary of the Battle of Colson's Mill

Aug 1 239th Anniversary of the Battle of House in the Horseshoe

Aug 15 Old Soldiers Reunion, Newton NC

 250th Anniversary of the Tryon Resolves

Aug 22 NC BOM

Sep 24-26 NSSAR Leadership

Oct 6 South Atlantic District Meeting

Oct 7 240th Anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain

**Chapter Meetings have been postponed until clearance to resume is given
We are looking into some type of ZOOM meeting
Stay safe**