Sons of the American Revolution

The Catawba Coalition

LIVE FREE OR DIE

A monthly Newsletter for
The Catawba Valley Chapter of
The Sons of the American Revolution

President's Report

Compatriots and Friends

Catawba Valley Chapter and NC SAR have been somewhat busy this past month. Catawba Valley Chapter, along with Mecklenburg Chapter SAR, Tryon County Militia, Thunder Over Carolina, Greenlee Chapter DAR, John Hoyle Chapter DAR, American Legon Post 544 and veterans from around the area participated in the 131st Old Soldiers Parade, 20 August 2020, in downtown Newton NC. This is the oldest Veteran's Parade in the Nation, taking place every year since 1889. Photos above. We had the pleasure to celebrate our youngest member, Will Barton's 12th birthday that same day. Will is pictured above on the right.

NC SAR Summer BOM meeting was conducted in person and via ZOOM, 22 August 2020, and a new Chapter was granted Charter. Please welcome ***Sandhills Chapter of Pinehurst*** into our society.

The upcoming Commemoration of the 240th Anniversary of the Battle of King's Mountain on 7 October 2020 has been confirmed to be a ZOOM National event. The Daniel Morgan Chapter SC SAR and the Battle of King's Mountain Chapter NC SAR are working diligently to make this a spectacular event. Your virtual presence is strongly suggested. We will provide more information and a ZOOM meeting web address as it becomes available.

Our next meeting will be 12 September 2020 at **Palermo's Family Italian & Greek Restaurant**, 924 Conover Blvd West, Conover NC 28613. One may order food after 11.00 am, meeting begins at Noon. We will also use ZOOM for those who are unable to attend for whatever reason at https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84789573450 . We have 2 new members to induct at that time as well as other business. I understand that one of those new Compatriots will be away at College and may have to briefly postpone his induction. There are several more in the works.

It is that time of year once again when we receive our JROTC medals and certificates for our local High Schools. I trust that I can count on the same and some new Compatriots this year to help get these to the schools where they belong.

Ben Setser

Chapter President

SAR
Sons of the American Revolution

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JOIN, or DIE.

Volume 1 Issue 5

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Jack Bowman

The Catawba Coalition

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Why Join the SAR

Many people will ask me this question, "Why should I join the SAR?" Of course, my first response is always "to honor your Patriot Ancestors." But there are many other reasons to join. To paraphrase something that President Kennedy said, "Don't ask what can my Chapter do for me, but rather ask what can I do for my Chapter?"

The SAR has many programs that benefit the community at large. We honor all Veterans by visiting them at their homes, Veterans Hospitals, or really, just anywhere. We march in Veteran's Day parades. We place Wreaths on Veterans' graves in conjunction with Wreaths Across America every December. We do not just honor Revolutionary War Veterans-we honor all Veterans.

In the schools we give medals to the finest JROTC and ROTC cadets. In our high schools, the JROTC program is not designed to give America better soldiers. The program builds the character of the boys and girls in such a way that they become the men and women that are the bright future for America.

Knowing that History is very important, the SAR looks at local teachers to see who is doing the best job of teaching American History to our students. Today we see factions who would like to change History to meet their view of the world. The only way that we know what has happened in our past was for us to have read about our history. Probably we had a teacher tell us a straightforward factual story of our past, our History. The SAR finds the best of the History Teachers and honors them each year.

The SAR works with the Scouting programs. We look to our local First Responders for those who have gone beyond duty to help the community. We give books about History to various libraries. Flag certificates are given to any person or entity that displays the American Flag properly.

If you think that what the SAR or the DAR does (the Daughters of the American Revolution has similar programs) is good for America, then you should look into joining. After you join, look at what you can do to make the chapter better, to make America better.

Jack Bowman
NC SSAR Secretary
jack9431@yahoo.com

Jeffrey R. Midgett of New Bern NC, pictured above with genealogist Cynthia Marlowe, has become the first to trace his heritage back to Patriot William Dove and has become the newest member of the Patriot Isaac Carter Chapter NC SAR. The Patriot Isaac Carter Chapter is the first National SAR chapter in the nation to be comprised primarily of descendants from a free man of color, Patriot Isaac Carter, one of the "14 forgotten men" of the war.

In the early 18th century a group of families, "free men of color", from Maryland and Virginia migrated to the eastern shore of NC in search of new farmland and a place to live in peace so as not be subject to oppressive laws due to their race, and settled in the area of Harlowe in what is now Carteret and Craven Counties NC. As the Revolutionary War began, the settlers of Harlowe, mostly farmers, chose 14 men to represent their community in this conflict. These brave men fought in battles in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. They were at Valley Forge and both sieges of Charleston. Following the war, these 14 Patriots returned to Harlowe and soon faded into obscurity.

On 16 Mar 2014, the NC SAR dedicated a marker to the 14 free men of color who served in the Revolution from the Harlowe communities and on 3 Sep 2016, chartered The Patriot Isaac Carter Chapter, the first chapter of the NS SAR composed predominantly of African-American men, the majority of its charter members being descendants of Isaac Carter into The North Carolina Society.

The names of those 14 Patriots are, Martin Black, Simeon Moore, Isaac Carter, George Perkins, John Carter, Isaac Perkins, Joshua Carter, Aaron Spelman Spelmore, William Dove, Asa Spelman Spelmore, John Gregory, Hezekiah Stringer, Absalom Martin, and Mingo Stringer.

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The Catawba Valley Chapter
of the
Sons of the American Revolution

Help us Honor our Veterans

Wreaths Across America – Western Carolina State Veterans Cemetery

Wreaths Across America National Remembrance Ceremony

Catawba Valley Chapter has just become one of the host organizations for the Wreaths Across America National Remembrance Ceremony that is held annually at Veterans Cemeteries across America. We are the first SAR Chapter to host Western Carolina State Veterans Cemetery in Black Mountain NC.

Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, WAA's mission to Remember, Honor and Teach is carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as at more than 2,100 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad. Our Wreaths Across America committee members are working very hard to ensure that we Remember our fallen U.S. veterans, Honor those who serve and Teach your children the value of freedom.

This is Catawba Valley Chapter SAR's first year sponsoring, and although there are almost 6,000 veteran's graves at Western Carolina State Cemetery, we have set our initial goal at 200 wreaths, a goal I feel sure we will exceed. When the program began at Western Carolina State Veterans Cemetery more than a dozen years ago, only about 300 graves could receive wreaths. Even though the number of graves increase by about 600 each year, the number of sponsors have also grown and last year, with the help of 4 DAR Chapters, 2 Wings of Civil Air Patrol , one Boy Scout troop and several others, nearly half of the graves received wreaths. In years past, Jack Bowman and Ben Setser would assist Frank Merrell of the Salisbury Chapter distribute wreaths at Historical Salisbury National Cemetery. We are pictured above doing so last year. We need your help to ensure success! It is easy to purchase a wreath or become an event sponsor: Wreaths are just $15 each.

Our website dedicated to ordering wreaths to be use at Western Carolina State Veterans Cemetery is https://wreathsacrossamerica.org/NC0385P . The deadline for ordering wreaths for this year is November 30. One may also order by mail by sending a check to Wreaths Across America, Po Box 249, Columbia Falls, ME 04624 and be sure to place **NC0385P NCWCBM** on the memo line so that the wreath will go to Western Carolina Veterans Cemetery..

If you have any questions concerning ordering or sponsorship opportunities, please feel free to contact me personally at 828-466-2418 or via e-mail at lennon_0102@yahoo.com .

The Wreaths Across America National Remembrance Ceremony will be on **December 19, 2020 at 12:00 noon** at Carolina State Veterans Cemetery in Black Mountain NC. If you intend to assist in placing the wreaths, please be there at 10:30. We encourage everyone to attend the ceremony and help place wreaths on veterans graves. It is important to remember these Americans and their families who have made a tremendous sacrifice for our nation and the freedom we enjoy today.

On behalf of Catawba Valley Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution Thank you so very much

The Catawba Coalition

A Monthly Newsletter of the Catawba Valley Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution

Hello again from your Vice President

As we approach the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution we need to be reminded that our Patriot forefathers and mothers were fighting for a lot of the same freedoms we are fighting to maintain today. History must be studied or we are likely to make the same mistakes again and tyranny will be upon us. Here are a few quotes and tenets from and about Patriots that are outstanding and give us insight into why they did what they did against the institution that was running our country. Some are:

George Washington and Samuel Adams, both considered to be leaders of the American Revolution, refused to join a political party because they believed the idea would divide Congress. They're instead only identified as Whigs, a common name for those supporting independence.

Andrew Jackson participated in the American Revolution informally at age 13 as a courier, survived being captured by the British, and was the only member of his family to survive the revolution, becoming an orphan at age 14.

Benjamin Franklin stated "We must all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately."

Patrick Henry stated "Three millions of people, armed in the holy cause of liberty, and in such a country as that which we possess, are invincible by any force which our enemy can send against us. Beside, sir, we shall not fight our battles alone. There is a just God who presides over the destinies of Nations, and who will raise up friends to fight our battles for us."

John Jay Cline

Chapter Vice President

Our youngest compatriot Will Barton celebrated his 12th birthday with his father Jeremy Barton at the 131st Old Soldiers Parade, 20 August 2020, in downtown Newton NC.

Catawba Valley Chapter NC SAR appeared in the latest issue of our national magazine The SAR Magazine, Summer 2020, Vol. 115, No 1, Page 32. There is the photo and writeup that The Catawba Coalition published in our very first issue, May 2020. The story and photo was of Catawba Valley Chapter celebrating Patriot's Day at several local cemeteries while social distancing.

John Wright Stanly *The Stanly Home, New Bern NC* *Anne Cogdill Stanly*

PATRIOT JOHN WRIGHT STANLY BIOGRAPHY

John Wright Stanly was a prominent North Carolina merchant, active from the early 1760s until his early death in 1789. Born in Charles City County, Virginia in 1742. John's father died when he was fifteen, and his mother promptly remarried.

The boy left home to apprentice himself to a Scottish trader in Petersburg from whom he learned the intricacies and disadvantages of colonial commerce under the British mercantile system. The deaths of both his mentor and his mother within two years left him desolate. He worked in Williamsburg until he was twenty-one and could claim his inheritance. Just prior to that time, he was accused of counterfeiting. His innocence was established before he could come to trial, but his experience in the Williamsburg jail impelled him to leave Virginia as soon as he had sold his property and had a small capital in hand.

Having some acquaintance with Kingston merchants, he began trading in Jamaica, where he had an initial success. A Philadelphia merchant, Jonathan Cowpland, who brought a ship regularly to Kingston persuaded Stanly to enter a partnership and then attempted to take over the entire operation. Cowpland accused Stanly of defrauding him and, to blacken the Virginian's name, bruited it about that Stanly had been tried for counterfeiting. But too many people in Jamaica stood ready to defend the young man, so Cowpland took him by force to Philadelphia, where Stanly spent a year in debtors' prison. He managed, finally, to prove that he was the injured party, with Cowpland in his debt, and could once more make a fresh start. Stanly moved throughout Virginia and Jamaica as a merchant trading in ship material and commodity shipments before settling in New Bern NC in 1772. He set up as a merchant, first in Nova Scotia, next in "Isle of Spain", and then in Philadelphia.

John first went to New Bern by land on his way to Charleston, SC. While at the Governors Ball in New Bern he met Anne Cogdill and later married her at the Cogdill house. John Wright Stanly and Anne Cogdill had 9 children. After his arrival in New Bern, Stanly joined the town's Committee on Safety and became the first to send raiders from the New Bern port against the British. He aided the Patriot Cause throughout the war by sending food and provisions along supply lines and using merchant ships to raid British vessels, before returning to New Bern to run a coast-wide shipping operation in 1782. His house, commissioned portrait, and last will and testament attest to his success as a merchant. Stanly was a very large ship owner and builder and lost 14 ships in the Revolutionary War. He was a Captain of ships and probably a Privateersman. Col. J. D. Whitforn stated that John W. Stanly gave various sums of money for the support of the Continental Army. General Nathaniel Green obtained $3000 from him for the Army; it was never repaid. A Bill of Exchange was drawn on the Clothier General by Raymond Demere in favor of John Wright Stanley, Esq, for 1,562 1/2 dollars, dated Savannah, 1 November 1777.

John Wright Stanly died of Yellow Fever, 1 June 1789 at 46, his wife Anne died of Yellow Fever the next month, 2 July 1789 at 35 years of age.

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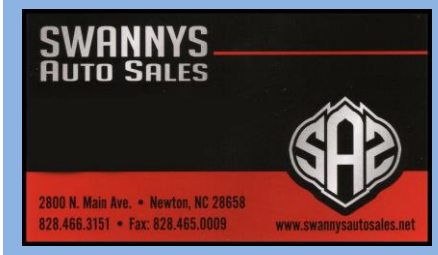
The Catawba Coalition welcomes submissions, comments and/or suggestions. Please send them to

lennon_0102@yahoo.com



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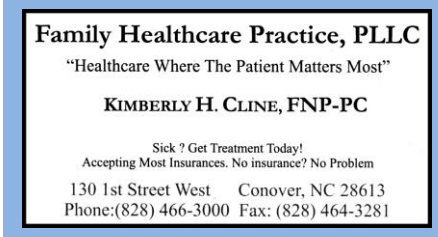

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Did You Know?

On the average, American Soldiers were three inches taller than the British and Americans were about 70% literate where the British were only about 40% literate.

LOGISTICS

Catawba Valley Chapter along with Mecklenburg Chapter, Thunder Over Carolina, Tryon County Militia, Greenlee DAR, John Hoyle DAR and American Legion Post 544 celebrated the 131st Old Soldiers Parade in Downtown Newton, 20 August 2020.

Upcoming SAR events

- **Sep 24-26. .** NSSAR Leadership
- **Oct 6. . . . .** South Atlantic District Meeting
- **Oct 7. . . . .** 240th Anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain virtual event
- **Oct 10 . . . .** 240th Anniversary of the Battle of Shallow Ford
- **Nov 11. . . .** Veteran's Day
- **Dec 19. . . .** Wreaths Across America
- **Feb 1. . . . .** Cowan's Ford
- **Feb 22. . . .** George Washington's Birthday

Our Regular bimonthly Chapter Meetings have resumed Live and by way of ZOOM. Our next meeting, 12 September 2020, will convene at Palermo's Family Italian & Greek Restaurant at 12:00 Noon. One may order a meal at 11'00 am. Our speaker will be Clark Summers, History Professor at Belmont Abbey. This meeting will be live in person and, provided that the WiFi works, on ZOOM. The link is https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84789573450 .

Please allow be to thank all those who have graciously advertised with us since the inception of this newsletter. It is because of you that we are able to print this and we thank you one and all. Please contact Chapter President for donations advertisement space.
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