



The Sons of the American Revolution Catawba Coalition



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



President's Report

It is December, end of the year, time to pay NSSAR dues, reconciliation of all things, and one year now that I have served as your President. One year, and what a year it has been. Catawba Valley Chapter started off fast, being the first chapter to hold a Semiquincentennial or Sestercentennial or a 250th Anniversary, whatever is the best way to say it, celebration of an event leading up to our Declaration of Independence. *Don't you like those big \$3.00 words?* We had a second Sestercentennial planned but were shut down because of **COVID 19!!**

And then the world changed! We had to re-think, to re-group, to re-arrange in order to stay alive, like everyone else has had to. But of course, failure is not an option. With the help and intellect of many of the members of this and surrounding chapters, we found a way to survive and thrive under these conditions. Thrive you say? **Yes thrive.** We have succeeded in creating the first national event to be held exclusively online by way of ZOOM with the 240th Anniversary of the Battle of Ramsour's Mill this past June and with that success, helped other Chapters to do the same. We have found a way to have our regular meetings in person and online simultaneously and be able to see and hear the entire group online. We have created and financially support a monthly newsletter online and in hard copy print. We at Catawba Valley Chapter have presented awards and medals to members of our local Law Enforcement, to members of DAR for directing young men to us for membership, to Citizens who properly display our Nation's Flag. We, as a chapter joined forces with **Thunder Over Carolina Inc** and are now Sister Organizations. We share several members and several events, and this is a great organization to work with. **Thunder Over Carolina Inc** performs the drama about The Battle of Ramsour's Mill and the **Ghost Walk** each year during the Commemorations in June. We had the pleasure of setting up an information booth at their **Inaugural Rendezvous** last month. Most of the photos are above are by Richie Calloway, it was a great time.

It is sad to say that in this process we have lost a few members to transfer, nonpayment of dues and death. Catawba Valley Chapter began the year with 28 members, and after the losses and induction of new members, we stand at 34 members with 5 member applications already submitted to National and at least 4 more in the works. And all this during a pandemic. That being said, SAR reconciliation will happen this month and we will lose a few for nonpayment of dues, but that can't seem to be helped at this time and we shall persevere. In my humble opinion, Catawba Valley Chapter is top notch.

Our next meeting will take place in person and online. To join us in person, the Meeting will take place on 16 January 2121 at **Palermo's Family Italian & Greek Restaurant, 924 Conover Blvd, Conover NC 28513**. One may order food after 11:00 am and the meeting begins at Noon. To join us online, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81718614924> and login. We will be inducting a new compatriot on that day among the other business. It will be a great day, so please join us.

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Ben Setser
Chapter President

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& Registrar
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Secretary's Salute

Past Chapter President and Current State Secretary
Jack Bowman

“A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”

I see that today we have two groups at odds as to the definition of or the need for the Second Amendment to the US Constitution. I won't go into all of the arguments on both sides of this debate. Rather I will focus on the one thing I hear from those opposed to the 2nd Amendment and that is "Today there is no reason for anyone to own a military style rifle." I see no reason to debate with those who say that no one should own an automatic rifle-a "machine gun." Or even those who say that certain people should not be allowed to purchase or own firearms. We already have laws that do not allow either. Of course, there will always be those who believe these laws are not written for them.

During the Revolutionary War, the firearm of choice was the Smooth Bore Musket. Many in the armies realized that a Rifled Bore Musket was far superior to the smooth bore. Some study was being made with the breech loading rifle.

In the 1820's the percussion cap was invented and soon used by all armies. So that by the start of the American Civil War all muskets were rifled and had percussion caps. Then the Minié Ball or Minni Ball, which was not a ball at all, but rather a slug with a cavity back was introduced and it was the expansion of the cavity back of the slug into the grooves of the rifling upon firing that gave even greater power and accuracy to the weapon. Again, when the soldiers returned after the war they all had the most up to date percussion rifle.

Soon a cartridge was developed that was serviceable but not safe until Winchester came out with a center fire all-metallic cartridge. Again, all armies changed to rifles using the new cartridges.

World War 1 saw tremendous innovations especially with semi-automatic firearms. The M1 Garand was introduced towards the end of the war, giving the infantrymen a clip fired semi-automatic rifle. The M1 could easily be considered the first "Assault Rifle." However, it was not until after WW 2 that the general public started buying semi-automatic rifles.

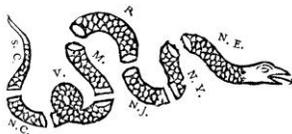
As soon as the soldiers returned home they wanted hunting rifles similar to what they had in the service. One of the most popular of the service-related rifles today is the Ruger Mini-14. If you look at the Ruger Mini you would see it looks surprisingly similar to the M14 used in Korea and early on in Vietnam.

Again, innovation came to firearms and the "Assault Rifle" was born, or maybe it is better to say the assault rifle was named. All of the mechanics of the rifle were designed to optimize the accuracy and dependability of the rifle. Today's military rifles are the best at what they are supposed to do. So what do we hear when people complain about the AR-15 type rifles that you can purchase today? **"They look like military weapons!"**

Every rifle that the public has had since the Revolutionary War, that is every one of the best rifles, they all look like military rifles. These are the most accurate, dependable rifles that are available to the public. But what looks like a military style rifle today will become commonplace. And soon the military style will change too.

The only thing unchangeable is change itself. Always use what is best for you and your and your particular needs.

Jack Bowman



J O I N, or D I E.



**The Catawba Valley Chapter
of the
Sons of the American Revolution**



Catawba Valley Chapter had the great pleasure this past month of presenting on 18 November, the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal and Certificate to Catawba County Deputy Grayson Elliott for his outstanding dedication in saving an inmate's life at the Catawba County Detention Center in October; and presenting on 21 November via ZOOM, and a little later in person, the Martha Washington Medal and Certificate to Greenlee DAR Regent Karen Seguin Barton in grateful recognition of her service to SAR and Catawba Valley Chapter by way of encouraging several young men to join our society and participating in everything that we do. I can only hope to support DAR nearly as well.



Michael Worth Phillips

It is with great sadness that we must report that Compatriot and Chapter member Mike Phillips passed away on 26 July 2020 and because of the restrictions and confusion of COVID, only came to our knowledge recently. Mike was a Marine attached to HMM 364 "Purple Foxes" Marine Air Squadron and a CH-47 Chinook Helicopter pilot who flew more than 400 combat flights in Vietnam during 1968 and 1969. Like many veterans, the war took a heavy toll on Mike's life. In spite of that, he took great pride in serving his country. He will be dearly and deeply missed. Semper Fi Brother, rest easy. Your watch is complete.

**Dr Eneas Munson,
Patriot Hero**



Dr Eneas Munson was born 11 September 1763 near New Haven, Connecticut. As a boy, Dr. Munson knew Nathan Hale, the heroic spy who was executed and saying he regretted that he had only one life to give for his country. As a teenager, Munson helped care for the wounded of his hometown, New Haven, CT after the British invaded. He was commissioned as a surgeon's mate when he was 16 years old shortly before he graduated from Yale. He extracted bullets from soldiers during battle. In 1781 he was part of Gen. Washington's great sweep to Yorktown, Virginia, which led to Gen. John Burgoyne's surrender and American victory of the Revolution. During the fighting at Yorktown he was an eyewitness to actions of Gen. Washington, Gen. Knox, and Col. Alexander Hamilton. Dr. Munson gave up medicine after the war and became a wealthy businessman, fielding trading ships, underwriting whalers and sealers, and venturing into real estate and banking. But throughout his life, his family spoke of how he loved recalling the exciting days of the war, when he was a teenage officer. Dr Munson married Mary Shepard on 3 May 1794, and they had 7 children. Dr Munson died 22 August 1852 at 88 years of age and was one of only a handful of Revolutionary War Veterans to be photographed.

LOGISTICS



Our speaker at our last meeting was Roy Lightfoot who spoke on his ancestor who wound up at the Battle of Ramsour's Mill by 'accident'. We later inducted Roy as our newest member. HUZDAH Roy Lightfoot and Robby Buff, Board **Members of Thunder Over Carolina Inc**, presented Catawba Valley Chapter with a new Betsy Ross Flag. Thank You!

Please come be with us at our next meeting on 16 January 2021 at **Palermo's Family Italian & Greek Restaurant** at 12:00 Noon. One may order a meal at 11:00 am. If you cannot be there live, please logon to ZOOM. The link for the meeting is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81718614924>

Upcoming SAR events

Dec 19. . . . Wreaths Across America **Jan 17. . . .** Battle of Cowpens
Feb 1. Cowan's Ford **Feb 22. . . .** George Washington's Birthday

George Washington required the inoculation of the Continental Army

Before the advances of modern medicine, disease—not combat—was one of the primary causes of death in war. In the winter of 1777, Washington demanded the entire Continental Army to be inoculated against smallpox. This operation required great secrecy, as the process left the inoculated soldiers incapacitated for a stretch of time. According to Mount Vernon scholarship, death by smallpox decreased from 17% of deaths to 1% of deaths after troops were inoculated.

The Sons of the American Revolution

Is a nonpolitical, patriotic, educational 501c3 organization of men who have ancestors who fought for, or otherwise supported the War For Independence from Great Britain that established the United States of America.

- Working to preserve our nation's past
- Assisting schools, teachers and the public
- Sustaining and preserving our history and constitutional principles.

Membership is open to any male (no age limit) who can prove direct descent from a man or woman who contributed to our country's Independence. A patriot did not necessarily have to serve in the military, but might have supported the Revolution by paying a supply tax, providing food for troops, serving as a juror, or being a local public servant.

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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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Did You Know?

In 1782, 21-year-old Deborah Sampson dressed as a man, called herself Robert Shurtleiff Sampson (after a deceased brother), and enlisted in the Fourth Massachusetts Regiment of the Continental Army. She served for over a year, until a doctor discovered her secret while treating her for an unhealed injury. She was discharged with honor.



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