



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 Compatriots and Friends

Catawba Valley Chapter Has been quietly busy this past month with programs like presenting high school JROTC classes with information about the Enhanced JROTC program where Cadets could win up to \$5,000 Scholarship money in a 500-word essay contest. Sounds easy doesn't it? I have done this for several years now, and you meet all kinds of Cadets. There are those who are really interested and want to do it now, those who really don't care and all points in between. I didn't think you cared to see photos of me talking to a class of kids, so there were none. We also spent time trying to recuperate from some leadership changes, work on our future endeavors, and attempt to collect dues.

Catawba Valley Chapter did have the pleasure of joining Hickory Tavern DAR in performing a formal grave marking for Patriot Edwin Brown, 1755-1830, at Watts-Bumgarner cemetery, 339 Boone Gap Lane, Taylorsville, NC. We had to work between showers, beginning at 10:00 am just after a shower and finishing up just before a deluge. Even with the weather, about 25 people came to join us.



It was a great morning. There was at least 4 SAR and 4 DAR chapters in attendance. Pictured above are the Grave marked grave, the participants, Kevin Allec, Col Alexander Erwin Chapter; Ben Setser, Catawba Valley Chapter; Ann Brown Jurney, Regent, Hickory Tavern Chapter DAR and 3rd Great Granddaughter of Patriot Edwin Brown; Larry Anderson, Col Daniel Boone Chapter; Stephen McKee, District Vice President, Mecklenburg Chapter; Julia Seitz, Chaplain, Hickory Tavern Chapter DAR; Roy C Lightfoot, Catawba Valley Chapter; and Robert Crum, Col Daniel Boone Chapter. And completing the service with a fabulous Musket Salute by the combined SAR Color Guard. Thank you one and all for coming.

This particular grave marking was the 15th Patriot Grave Marking that Catawba Valley Chapter has conducted this year. Our first was January 22nd, the only day that we had snow this past winter. There was 3 inches of snow and only 4 SAR members showed up, but we persevered. When discussing grave markings and the medal associated with it when I first became president I was told that in order to achieve the Patriot Grave Marking Medal, one must participate in 15 grave markings. I was told it takes years and that it was almost impossible to get 15 in one year. Please allow me to use this page to say; yes, we can. We can do anything that we set our minds to do. Thank you all once again. HAZZAH!



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Ben Setser
Chapter President




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10 November
2022

Volume 3 Issue 11

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The Catawba Coalition

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

Our year is quickly coming to an end, and I as President of Catawba Valley Chapter would like to say that although it has been a very busy year, I have thoroughly enjoyed it all. There are still a few very important items to take care of in the remainder of 2022.

As we began the year, I was worried about our Americanism Report seeing as how we no longer had a member in State or National Leadership, and we also had a very large donation by a member to the National Library that we garnered "points" in the report for. I was concerned how we would make up the difference. I learned at a young age, when the plan seems to crumble, always go back to the basics. We as a chapter have done those "basic" tasks and we have done very well, we also followed through on much planning for Patriot Grave Marking. Catawba Valley did very well on Americanism last year. We won several streamers, certificates and even Money from the National Society, but we did come in second on overall State Americanism in a small Chapter by only 10 points. Not to let that happen again, we doubled down and went to work. As a result, last year's total Americanism points for Catawba Valley Chapter was, 8,720. As of 11/9/2022, our total Americanism points is 15,578, so we have almost doubled last year, and I think after the end of the year, it will be doubled. Thank you all so very much for everything that you have done with our Chapter.

Exactly what have we done? We began the year with a Grave Marking at Historic Machpelah Methodist Church Cemetery in the snow. Since that time, we have conducted 15 formal patriot grave markings, 1 compatriot grave markings, replaced markers at 3 patriot graves, we have 4 more to do on November 19th with Col Alexander Erwin Chapter, we will claim 2 of those and CAESAR will claim the other 2. Of these 15 grave markings, our chapter has proven 5 of these men to be Patriots. These last 3 grave markings have been done as a "Partnership for Patriotism" among three Chapters of Daughters of the American Revolution with participation from the New River Patriots Chapter VA DAR, Hickory Tavern NC DAR and Quaker Meadows Chapter NC DAR. Many compatriots have been able to complete their Patriot Grave Marking Medal as a result, and more will in the upcoming year. We have presented 5 Eagle Scout awards, spoke at 5 JROTC classes and presented 7 JROTC medals, a medal for Heroism to an NC Hwy Patrolman, 3 parades, 8 battle commemorations, presented 17 Certificates of Appreciation, one Flag Certificate, we together drove 4239 miles to attend 30 Veteran's funerals, place flags on 60 Patriot and Veteran Graves while serving as 60 members of Color Guard at these events. Yes, it has been a busy year. We have done much to perpetuate the stories of patriotism, courage, sacrifice, tragedy and triumph of the men who achieved the Independence of the American People at Battlefield Commemorations and Patriot Gravesites in the belief that these are universal stories of man's eternal struggle against tyranny, relevant to all time, and will inspire and strengthen each succeeding generation as it too is called upon to defend our freedoms on the battlefield and in our public institutions.

I hope all you who participated in these events are keeping up with your activities to be in pursuit of the Color Guard Medal and Patriot Grave Marking Medal. It's good when State Leadership presents you with a medal, as is the case with these two.

As we come into this season of Thanksgiving and Holidays, please keep in mind those that we have lost this year, those that are without and those that are lonely. Please take care of yourself, and if you are able, maybe take care of somebody else too.

Please join us anytime that you can. Check page 4 for upcoming events that you may be able to attend. Contact us at the email below for more information.

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The Catawba Valley Chapter
of the
Sons of the American Revolution

Contributing
Editor



Roy
C.
Lightfoot

“The Siege of Savage’s Old Fields”

The Siege of Savage’s Old Fields, also known as the First Siege of Ninety-Six, occurred 19-21 November 1775, and was the first major conflict in the back country of South Carolina. Several bloodless conflicts had already occurred which included seizures of military fortifications in the area. Patriot forces, numbering 560, and under the command of Major Andrew Williamson, were dispatched by Colonel Richard Richardson to recover a shipment of ammunition, and gunpowder which had been earmarked for the Cherokees in October. This shipment had been sent by the Council of Safety, and intercepted by the Loyalists.

Upon arriving near Ninety-Six on 19 November, Williamson found the town to be indefensible, and had his men establish a camp on John Savage’s land near Ninety-Six, and began building a fortification ordering an improvised stockade. Williamson set up a field of fire with three swivel guns to protect the camp. Loyalist recruiting in the area had been more successful, and 1,900 men, under the leadership of Captain Patrick Cunningham, and Major Joseph Robinson, moved toward their fortification. Seeing this, the Patriot war council met, and decided not to march out and face the Loyalist force.

The leaders of both sides were in the middle of negotiating an end to the besiegement, when two Patriot militiamen, were captured outside the stockade. This incident set off a battle which lasted almost two hours with each side trading volleys of musket fire until darkness caused a cease to the hostilities. The next morning, both sides resumed firing from long range. The Loyalists set fires in an attempt to create a smoke screen to hide their approach, however, the wet ground would not allow this to be successful. In another attempt, they constructed wooden shield to hide behind in order to bring incendiary devices closer to the fort, only to succeed in setting fire to themselves.

On the afternoon of the 21st, the Patriots held a war council, and decided to launch an attack that night. As they prepared for this at dusk, a Loyalist approached with a flag of truce. The message he brought was a request to meet in the morning. At the next morning’s meeting, the Loyalists agreed to withdraw across the Saluda River, and the Patriots agreed to destroy the fort. In addition, both sides would return prisoners taken since 2 November, and to not prevent the other side from communicating with their respective leaders. The Patriots were to surrender the swivel guns, which they did only to have them returned three days later. When the Loyalists withdrew, they had lost four men killed, and 20 wounded. The Patriots lost only one man, and had 12 wounded.

The reasons for the Loyalists’ willingness to negotiate were unknown. The Royal Governor, William Campbell, who had fled the area and hid on a Royal Navy ship during the incident, described the Loyalists as lacking effective leadership, while historians cite that Colonel Richardson had amassed a force of 2,500 men, which grew by the end of the month to over 4,000 militia. This force scoured the back country, and arrested, and drove out all of the Loyalist leadership. Activity in the area ceased 22 December when 15 inches of snow fell. Richardson’s men, not prepared for snow, made their way back to the lowlands. After the second siege by Nathanael Greene in 1781, the British abandoned the outpost soon thereafter.

The siege, and the activities of Colonel Richardson’s men, led to the end of large-scale Loyalist activities in the southern Appalachia region, although fighting in the area became more of a civil war. The conflicts in the area became more, and more brutal, unlike this first siege. In the early days of the war, the southern back country was known for partisan uprisings, and this siege was held with little plan or purpose.

If you are wanting to go to Ninety-Six National Park, it is approximately two to three hours south. The address is: 1103 SC-248, Ninety-Six, SC 29666.

Roy C Lightfoot

Our next regular meeting is, Saturday, November 12th, 2022 at Palermo’s Family Italian & Greek Restaurant, 924 Conover Blvd W, Conover NC. This is our last regular meeting of the year. Come be with us if you can. A meal may be ordered at 11:00, the meeting begins at Noon. Annual awards will be presented then.

Hope to see you there.

Find us at

https://www.facebook.com/catawbavalleyncssar/?epa=SEARCH_BOX
<https://www.ncssar.org/chapters/catawba-valley/>



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LOGISTICS

SAR-DAR Happenings

- ***Patriot Grave Marking**, Saturday, 19 November 2022, at 2:00 pm, for William Fullwood Jr, John Gibbs, Abraham Renshaw and Lawrence Unger, at Obeth Cemetery, Lake James State Park Paddy's Creek Area, 7321 NC HWY 126 Nebo NC 28761
- ***Battle of Great Bridge**, Saturday, 3 December 2022, Great Bridge Battlefield & Waterways Museum, 1775 Historic Way, Chesapeake, Virginia
- ***Wreaths Across America**, Saturday, 17 December 2022, at 10:00 am, Western Carolina State Veterans Cemetery, 962 Old US 70 W, Black Mountain, NC 28711.
- ***Battle of Cowpens**, Saturday, 14 January 2023
- ***Chapter Regular Meeting**, Saturday, 21 January 2023, 12:00 Noon, Palermo's Family Italian & Greek Restaurant, 924 Conover Blvd W, Conover NC 28613.
- ***Battle of Cowan's Ford, Winter BOM**, Saturday, 28 January 2023, at 8:00 am. Hopewell Presbyterian Church, 10500 Beatties Ford Rd, Huntersville NC. Breakfast 8:00 – 9:00, Indoor Program 9:00 – 10:00, Wreath Laying Ceremony 10:00 – 11:00, Winter BOM 11:00 onward.



Conrad Heyer, pictured to the left, was born 10 Apr 1749 in Broad Bay, Massachusetts. Heyer enlisted in the Continental Army in mid-December 1775 under George Washington, was involved with the Crossing of the Delaware River and fought in the Battle of Trenton in December 1776. Conrad Heyer was discharged in December 1777. He remained a farmer all of his life. At the time that this daguerreotype photo was taken in 1852, Conrad was 103 years old and is the earliest born person ever photographed. Heyer died 19 February 1856 at 106 years old and was buried with Full Military Honors in Waldoboro Mane.

Please be with us if you will at these important scheduled events to earn credit toward the Patriot Grave Marking Medal and Color Guard Medal. Both of these are presented by the State Society at a State or Nationally sponsored events. These medals are recognition for all of these things that our members attend and participate in. You must keep records of these events. The Patriot Grave Marking medal is received for participating in 15 Patriot Grave Markings. The Color Guard Medal is for participating in Color Guard for 3 events per year for 3 years. They do not have to be consecutive years. If you don't have the forms or can't remember where you went, call me and we will get this together. -Ben Setser-

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 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.

Join Today

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

Although Yorktown was a decisive battle, the common notion that the war ended there isn't entirely true. Yorktown was a famous victory where British General Cornwallis refused to surrender himself to Patriots. He sent a subordinate to surrender on his behalf. It was at this battle the British lost a significant stronghold but still held more ground in different colonies. This began the peace talks in 1781, with British still in New York and Charleston at full strength. When the British recalled their troops from these locations towards the end of 1782 the end was at hand. The treaty was signed in Paris and hostilities ended in September of 1783.