



The Sons of the American Revolution

Catawba Coalition



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



Presidents Report

Spring has sprung! We seem to have gone from coat weather to t-shirt weather in a matter of days. Members of our chapter, along with others, participated in placing flags on Patriots' Graves in remembrance of Patriots' Day. Pictured above are Roy Lightfoot, Chris Stone and Ben Setser of Catawba Valley Chapter, along with Fran Goins, past Regent of Jacob Forney DAR and Stephen McKee, past President of Mecklenburg SAR and current District Vice president and his two children. We had a great time in doing so. There were much too many photos to show them all, so we included these six.

There are several state and national events upcoming via ZOOM. Interested persons should check with the NC SAR website to see what and where they are.

We will finally be getting back to some semblance of normality with our Commemoration of the 241st anniversary of the Battle of Ramsour's Mill, live and in person, in Lincolnton NC on June 5th at 10:00 am. This being a hybrid event, we will have all the usual amenities of a live national event, along with ZOOM for those too far away to participate in person. There is a block of rooms with a special price at the Hampton Inn, Lincolnton NC. One must register before May 4th to get the rate, and we will have a meet and greet in the conference room there at the Hotel. We have reservations at the usual restaurant, but the owner ask me not to advertise this, as he is taking care of us on a special basis because he really hasn't got the waitstaff as yet to open the party rooms to the general public. Ramsour's Mill was our retreat into ZOOM meetings last year and will be our exodus from being restricted to only ZOOM. Keeping with being as inclusive as we can be, it will also be on ZOOM that day. The link for it is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87256593549> Please be with us in one fashion or another.

Please come be with us at our next meeting on 8 May 2021 at **Palermo's Family Italian & Greek Restaurant** at 12:00 Noon. Our speaker will be Patrick Daily, Director of the Hickory Landmarks Society. He is a wellspring of knowledge on the Revolutionary War. We will be inducting new members. 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/4611213429>

May 2021

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Secretary's Salute

Past Chapter President, Past State Secretary,
Current Senior Vice President NC SAR.
Jack Bowman

SAR Color Guard

What is the one thing that the public recognizes or remembers about the SAR? Most of the time when you say you are with the SAR, people will say, "What's that?" Rather than giving a long explanation I usually answer, "Do you know the DAR? Well, we are the Sons of the American Revolution." But the one thing people recognize about us is that we are seen wearing Continental Uniforms or Militia Uniforms. People see us marching in parades, many times we will be leading a parade, especially if it is a Patriotic Parade such as on the 4th of July. The SAR members who march in these parades or show up at events in uniform are members of the SAR Color Guard, sometimes called the North Carolina Combined SAR Color Guard.

When I first joined the SAR I wanted to see what the SAR does and what better way than to attend a National Battlefield Commemoration? My first event was the Battle of Kings Mountain sponsored jointly by the Battle of Kings Mountain Chapter, North Carolina SAR, and the Daniel Morgan Chapter, South Carolina SAR. (Did you know the Kings Mountain Battlefield was in North Carolina at the time of the battle and later changed to be in South Carolina?) Being a National Event, the color guard came from probably 10 or more different states, men who came from all over the US dressed in Uniform, carrying Muskets, Flags, or just marching to honor their Patriot Ancestors. At this event the Overmountain Men also came in with both men and women dressed in period clothing, many of whom had made the march from Abington, Tennessee, to Kings Mountain, on the same route as the Overmountain Men made in 1781. I was impressed, but more so, I was Hooked. I wanted to be able to do this same type of thing.

The next few weeks I spoke with several SAR members and asked where I could purchase these uniforms or militia outfits. Turned out there are many companies making and selling these for the reenactors (now we are not reenactors, but we can wear the same outfits). Soon I was in a full Militia uniform, but I had never marched or carried a flag. At the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge a fellow SAR member I had met earlier just handed me a flag and asked me to join them. When I told him, I don't know the Color Guard Commands, he said not to worry, most of the guys are just winging it out there too. Today I have the NC Bronze Color Guard medal and the National Silver Medal, and I am working on the highest color guard medal, the Von Steuben.

The Catawba Valley Chapter has a color guard, and we are growing. We have many flags that the members carry but you supply your own muskets. We also have a Revolutionary War (replica) Snare Drum, but we do not have an official drummer YET! If you would like to join us please contact Greg Bell, Color Guard Commander, or Larry Anderson, Color Guard Adjutant.

Jack Bowman

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The Catawba Valley Chapter
of the
Sons of the American Revolution



PATRIOT SALEM POOR

Salem Poor was born into slavery in 1747 on a farm in Andover Massachusetts owned by John Poor, his wife Rebecca and their son John Poor Jr. Many New England families during this period treated their slaves as live-in servants and near family members, which may have been the case with the Poor family. At 22 years of age, Salem Poor purchased his freedom on 10 July 1769, from John Poor Jr. for 27 pounds, a year's salary for an average working man at the time, and about \$6,000 in today's money.

In August 1771, Poor married Nancy Parker, a maidservant to Captain James Parker who was half Native American and half African American. The couple continued to live in Andover and had a son named Jonas who was born about 1775 and baptized in September of 1776. Salem Poor was a Patriot of the American Revolutionary War, and is most famous for his heroism at the Battle at Charlestown, known today as The Battle of Bunker Hill. Salem Poor was one of about three dozen African American men who fought on Bunker Hill.

Poor enlisted in the Army in May 1775 with Captain James Frye's regiment of Massachusetts Minutemen. On June 16, 1775 Captain Frye's regiment along with two others, totaling about 850 men, were ordered to march from Cambridge, Massachusetts to Charlestown, Massachusetts, and establish at the top of a hill outside Charlestown. The Patriots established a redoubt type fort at the top of Breed's Hill overnight. The British were aware of the Colonial force and numbered about twice the men as the Patriots presence and after three separate attacks took over the fort, but with significant casualties. It is in this battle that Poor gained his notoriety. In John Trumbull's famous painting "Battle at Bunker's Hill," British General Joseph Warren has been fatally wounded and British Lieutenant Colonel James Abercrombie is lying dead at his feet. Poor is credited with killing Colonel Abercrombie as well as numerous British soldiers.

In December of 1775, 14 Minutemen officers, including Colonel William Prescott, wrote a petition, citing Poor's heroism explaining, "The Reward due to so great and Distinguished a Character. The Subscribers beg leave to Report to your Honorable House (Which We do in justice to the Character of so Brave a man) that under Our own observation, we declare that A Negro Man Called Salem Poor of Col. Frye's Regiment, Capt. Ames. Company in the late Battle of Charlestown, behaved like an Experienced Officer, as Well as an Excellent Soldier. to Set forth Particulars of his Conduct would be Tedious, We Would Only beg leave to say in the Person of this Negro Centers a Brave & gallant Soldier." There is no evidence that Poor received such a reward. Poor's service record shows he reenlisted several times, and was involved in battles at Saratoga, New York; Monmouth, New Jersey; and Valley Forge, Pennsylvania before being discharged in March of 1780.

Later in 1780 Poor married his second wife, Mary Twing. The couple moved to Providence, Rhode Island, but records state they were "ordered to leave town" presumably because he couldn't afford the cost to live there, Poor placed an ad in the Boston Gazette in 1785 "disavowing his wife's debts and forewarned all persons from trusting Mary..." He married a third time to a white woman named Sarah Stevens in 1787 but it is unclear what happened to the marriage.

In 1793 Poor turned up in the Boston Almshouse which by today's standards would be a homeless shelter. He was jailed briefly in 1799 for "breach of peace" and married a fourth time to an unknown woman in 1801. Salem Poor died in 1802 as a pauper at the age of 55 and was interred at Copp's Hill Burial Ground near Boston, Massachusetts. On March 25, 1975, "Salem Poor- Gallant Soldier" was honored with his image on a ten-cent postage stamp, as part of the Postal Service Revolutionary War Bicentennial Series of stamps entitled "Contributors to the Cause."

Poor Street in Andover Massachusetts was named after him.

Upcoming DAR events

May 1. . . Tucker's Barn DAR meeting, 2:00 pm
Caldwell History Museum, Lenoir NC

May 15. . . Greenlee DAR meeting, end of year awards, 10:30 am
1st Presbyterian Church, Marion NC, RSVP by May 11

Upcoming SAR events

May 16. . . Patriots' Day in Alamance Co

May 31. . . Memorial Day

June 5. . . Battle of Ramsour's Mill, In person and on ZOOM

July 10. . . . Catawba Vally Chapter meeting
Thunder Over Carolina Ghost Walk, evening of June 4 & 5
In person and on ZOOM

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Chapter President Ben Setser Speaking at Tucker's Barn DAR and presenting Regent Cindy Day with a Certificate of Appreciation on 10 April, Lt Col Robin Sites presents Cadet James Bevel the SAR JROTC Medal at Lincolnton High School Awards day on, 29 April and Lt Col Andrew Weatherstone presents Cadet Joshua Thao the SAR JROTC Medal at Fred T Ford High School Awards Day on 24 April 2021.

"The Battle of Ramsour's Mill"

The American Revolution Battle of Ramsour's Mill was fought on 20 June 1780, near present-day Lincolnton, NC. For many participants, prior to the battle, it was just another Tuesday. Many lives would be changed after that fateful day.

Depending on whose account you read, 400-600 Patriots defeated between 1200-1600 Loyalists in just under two hours. The Loyalists, many who were of German descent, were under the command of Lt Col John Moore, and Major Nicholas Welch. The Patriots, under the direct command of Col Francis Locke and Captain John Dickey, hailed from Rowan, Surry, Mecklenburg, Burke, Lincoln, Rutherford, Orange, and Edgecombe Counties in North Carolina, and several units from South Carolina.

Leading up to the battle, Lt Col Moore had begun amassing a Loyalist force near Ramsour's Mill. Approximately one week prior to the battle, Moore had sent out word to all those who remained loyal to the Crown, to join him in the fight. Moore had received orders, and money, from General Lord Charles Cornwallis, to not engage any Patriot force, but to take these funds, and train these men for future conflicts, and to outfit the group with what they needed. When General Griffith Rutherford heard the news of this, he gathered a Patriot force together to put an end to it.

The foggy morning saw the cavalry under Locke attack the eastern side of the hill (a hill you can walk up today), followed by the infantry under Dickey. When Locke ordered a withdrawal, Dickey refused and held the line, thus, saving the day for the Patriot victory. The Loyalists retreated down the western slope. Some were captured, while others were able to escape.

In the aftermath, casualties for each side were difficult to determine as neither side wore uniforms. The Loyalists identified themselves with sprigs of greenery in their hats, while the Patriots wore pieces of paper in theirs. Many of the Patriots were found with wounds to their heads, and it is surmised, the Loyalists riflemen used this as a target at which to aim. Estimates of casualties ranged between 50-70 total killed, and 100 wounded from each side. Some were buried exactly where they fell, others were taken home for burial, while others were imprisoned, and a few were even hung. Some of the unidentifiable bodies, both Loyalist and Patriot together, were placed in mass graves.

Some credit this Patriot victory with lowering the support of the British by the local Loyalists, thus, creating more victories down the road, and that is a discussion which will continue on. Each and every event, be it a victory, a defeat, or a draw, which occurred in the Southern campaign, paved the direct route to Yorktown, and the inevitable defeat and surrender of Lord Cornwallis.

Roy Lightfoot

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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Did You Know?

Doctor James Jay (brother of John Jay) created an "invisible ink" made out of ferrous sulfate and water that could be used to write secret messages and would dry completely clear. To see the invisible messages, one would have to hold the paper to heat or douse it with a revealing chemical. George Washington and his men made great use of the invisible ink, using it to write between the lines in letters or in the backs of books.