



The Sons of the American Revolution Catawba Coalition



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



bring awareness to The Sons of the American Revolution and Catawba Valley Chapter, while maintaining our stated purpose of maintaining and extending "the institutions of American freedom, an appreciation for true patriotism, a respect for our national symbols, the value of American citizenship."

As you can see pictured above, Catawba Valley Chapter was asked to provide Color Guard for North Carolina DAR District 2 Annual Meeting on 29 July 2021 at Lake Hickory Country Club in Hickory NC, and we gladly responded. Pictured are left to right, John J. Cline, Chapter Vice President; Chris Stone, Will Barton, Jack Bowman, State Sr Vice President; Ben Setser, Chapter President and Stephen McKee, State District Vice President, Western NC SAR Color Guard Adjutant. A great day was had by all involved.

The second of August 2021 brought an amazing surprise. One of our Charter Members, Mr. Albert Keiser made a very large donation to the Sons of the American Revolution National Library Louisville KY. The photo and story are on page 2.

This Chapter is supported strictly by way of donations from individuals and local business and twenty dollars per year as dues from each member. In order to maintain viability, we have been asking for financial support from local business and for that support, business get 'advertising space' for lack of a better word, in our monthly newsletter. Mitch Ball and B52s American Bar & Grill have done so from the beginning of their business. Photo and story on page 4.

It's time once again to begin our Wreaths Across America campaign. This campaign is an attempt to put a wreath on every veteran's grave at Western Carolina State Veterans Cemetery in Black Mountain, NC for the Holidays. That is more than 7500 veteran's graves. Apparently, because of COVID or something, the cemetery that we and several other organizations support was only able to place wreaths on only 3% of the graves. That is the lowest percentage since the program started more than 30 years ago. I hope that every member and friend will use the included order form to purchase a wreath to place there and honor our departed veterans. The easiest way to contribute is to go to this website and order several. wreathscrossamerica.org/NC0385P Several members assisted me in placing them this past December. I hope members will join me on 18 December 2021.

Please come be with us at our next meeting on 11 September 2021 at **Palermo's Family Italian & Greek Restaurant**, 924 Conover Blvd W, Conover, NC 28613, at 12:00 Noon. We will be electing new officers for the 2022-2023 term. One may order a meal at 11:00 am.



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828-578-6093

Ben Setser

Chapter President




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August 2021

Volume 2 Issue 7

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The Catawba Coalition

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



One of the eternal goals of the North Carolina Society is to “Grow Membership”. In order to reach our goal, we should have a net increase of 200 new members per year. I’ve asked several of the older members, well members who have been in the Society over 5 years, “What are some sure-fire ways to reach this goal?” The consensus is you need to talk to people, you need to tell people about the SAR, why you joined, and you need to ask them to join. So, if everyone is doing this, why did we miss our 200 net new member goal for last year? Obviously, it was not for want of trying. We had the largest growth in membership in the entire National Society.

I propose we start doing something new, doing something a little different than before. I’m sure this idea is not new. I’m sure I didn’t think it up all by myself. Where do we find readymade recruits for the SAR? When we go to a Commemoration, who do we see there besides the SAR, DAR and CAR? We find both members of the local historical society and we see Reenactors.

I personally belong to two Reenactor Groups and two County Historical Societies. First, I wanted to support them because they support events I go to, events that are very important to the SAR. Second, I wanted them to know me and that I support them-I pay dues.

When we have these events, we should put up an informational table. Let the people know how they can contact us if they are at all interested in joining the SAR, DAR or CAR. I have been told that some of the reenactors look down upon members of the SAR because when in uniform we do not dress historically correct. These are 18th century reenactors who take their craft very seriously. When they see our Color Guard, they do not like it because we do not have the correct shoes, the hats are all wrong, the uniforms are not historically correct. First off, I applaud what they do because they want to teach something about history. Many are part of a Living History group teaching 18th century crafts, cooking, firearms, etc. Our emphasis should be the other things that the SAR does. Yes, we acknowledge that our uniforms may not be perfect to their standard, but we have many Veterans programs, grave markings, contests for elementary school students, contests for history teachers. The color guard may be the only thing they see, however.

Historical Societies are full of history loving people who just need that nudge to get them to join. Let’s promote the SAR, our Chapter to these groups. Let’s talk to the right people and show them what the SAR does for all aspects of the community. In this way I believe we will grow our chapter and the SAR as a whole.



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Sons of the American Revolution Donation

On Monday, 2 August 2021, Albert Keiser, a 42-year member of the Society of the Sons of the American Revolution and a Charter Member of the Catawba Valley Chapter, donated One Million Dollars to the Sons of The American Revolution National Library, which is located in Louisville KY. Albert is an author and resides at Kingston Residence of Hickory NC where the gift was presented. Pictured are, left to right, Jack Bowman, North Carolina SAR Senior Vice President, Sam Powell, NC SAR Treasurer, Albert Keiser, Phil Bloyd, National Development Manager, National Society, SAR, Ben Setser, President, Catawba Valley Chapter, NC SAR.

The Catawba Valley Chapter
of the
Sons of the American Revolution

August During The American Revolution

Many events happened during the time of the American Revolution during the month of August. Some were victories while others were viewed as defeats. The most important thing to remember is we cannot look at these events through the eyes of the Twenty-First Century. We must put ourselves in a time-frame of what the people of the day were thinking, and all they endured.

Beginning in 1768 on 1 August, the Boston Non-Importation Agreement was passed. This formal decision by merchants in Boston was created for the non-importation and boycott of such items as glass, lead, oil, paint, paper, and tea from Great Britain, and was a direct protest to the Townshend Revenue Act of 1767.

Moving forward to 1776, the delegates began to sign the Declaration of Independence on 4 August. How amazing and exciting time this had to be! I try to imagine how each delegate felt as he signed his name to this document, and all the emotions which welled up inside of him. The trepidation. The not knowing. Would they be hanged for treason or shot or imprisoned or tarred and feathered or would this document be received as intended or would they be viewed as heroes? Would anyone even care?

All during the time of the Revolution, and because many of the Native American tribes were allied with the British, there were attacks, and massacres. On 1 August 1776, a group of Cherokees attacked a Patriot force, and were defeated in Seneca, South Carolina. Beginning on 10 August through 12 August, the Cherokees were defeated by Andrew Pickens at the Tugaloo River, South Carolina, and the Native town of Tamassy was destroyed. On 6 August 1777, the British, with the support of the Iroquois, force the Patriots back to Oriskany, New York. On 29 August 1779, near present day Elmira, New York, after two massacres had occurred, American forces burned Iroquois villages, and defeated a force comprised of the Iroquois, Loyalists, and British troops. From an account in *The Wilderness War*, by Allan W. Eckert, "This was the battle that broke the back of the Iroquois League and the hearts of the people of the Six Nations", thus, ending the threat that General George Washington feared and set a precedent for how American forces would deal with Native tribes for the rest of the war.

There were also military victories, and defeats. On 27 August 1776, the British defeat the Americans led by General Washington at the Battle of Long Island. The Army retreats, and escapes under the darkness of night. The American Militia under General Stark were victorious at the Battle of Bennington, Vermont on 16 August 1777. That same year, on 23 August, the British withdrew from Fort Stanwix, New York, when they learn of General Benedict Arnold's approach. A little bit further south, on 25 August, British General Howe landed at Head of Elk, Maryland. A year later, on 8 August 1778, French and American forces besiege Newport, Rhode Island. A year after that, on 19 August 1779, Major Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee led a nighttime raid, when American forces attacked Fort Mifflin, New Jersey. The British were defeated, and 158 prisoners were taken, although the fort and cannon remained in British hands, this battle removed the threat in the area. Moving forward to 1780, we now see how the war has shifted to the Southern Campaign. On 6 August, the Patriots, even though they withdrew from the fort, defeat the Tories at Hanging Rock, South Carolina, and just ten days later, on 16 August, the British rout the Americans at Camden, South Carolina, also known as "Gates' Defeat".

In today's eyes, we all know how these events turned out. We know the Battle of Kings Mountain is only a couple of months after the Battle of Camden. We all know the Americans were eventually victorious, as Yorktown is just a "short year" away. However, just imagine how the people, and the military of the time felt. In this article, I have simply touched on these events, and I leave it to the reader to do more research and learn what was happening during this month. We can look at these events, and think they were important or unimportant, however, the people of that time were living them day-to-day. They had no idea how the events of the day would turn out, just as we have no idea what tomorrow will bring. Let us remember to think like the people of the time and look through their eyes, and not through today's eyes.

Roy Lightfoot

Upcoming SAR events

Aug 14. Tryon Resolves

Aug 21. Summer BOM

Sept 17-23. . Constitution Week

Aug 19. Old Soldiers Reunion Parade

Aug 28. New Bern Resolves

Oct 7. Battle of Kings Mountain

Find us at

https://www.facebook.com/catawbavalleyncssar/?epa=SEARCH_BOX

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

B52s Appreciation Day



On the second anniversary of their opening, 6 August 2021, Catawba Valley Chapter had the pleasure to Present Mitch Ball, owner of B52s American Bar & Grill a Certificate of Appreciation. Mitch and B52s have supported Catawba Valley Chapter morally and financial for the past two years through COVID, fires and health problems. We wouldn't be able to function without support like his and all the others who find our livelihood important. Pictured are left to right, Henry McKee and his father, Stephen McKee, District Vice President; Chris Stone; Mitch Ball, Owner of B52s; Ben Setser; Sherrill Watkins; Stephen Harrison and John Love.

A Call to Action

We have been asked once again to participate in the 132nd annual Old Soldiers Reunion parade in Newton NC, 19 August 2021. We will once again lead off the parade. We ask that all who will please be there in uniform, as Color Guard, with whatever firelocks and flags you may have and settle in for the afternoon. Details were just revealed that both parts are an afternoon parade. We will have a float and march. The first portion begins with dignitaries speaking at the Historic Courthouse while we muster at Twin City Insurance Agency, 311 North Main Ave, Newton, NC at 3:30 pm. Our float will already be in place on Colledge Ave. I am not sure which number we are as yet. We will muster and be lined up ahead of the other marchers and will be signaled when the speaker finishes. The entire troop will march two blocks south to the court house, wreaths will be laid, American Legion Post 544 will fire a 21-gun salute, and part 1 is finished. We will then be shuttled to S College Ave and W Herman St, our starting point of the parade. They will begin shortly after the wreath laying so the walk must be brisk. If you can't do both parts, please do one.

Catawba Valley Chapter and Sons of the American Revolution are tax exempt 501-c-3 institutions, and as such, rely on donations to exist. Each advertisement that you see in this newsletter are local institutions that believe in our mission of; Remembering our past by honoring those who served, Promoting core values by protection our Constitution and perpetuating American ideals, and Shaping young minds by educating our youth about or Constitution and the patriots who developed our Nation and traditions. These local businesses have sponsored Catawba Valley Chapter by providing ongoing financial support. We greatly appreciate it and hope that others will join in and help us also. Thank you so very much.

The Sons of the American Revolution

Is a nonpolitical, patriotic, educational 501-c-3 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.

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

lennon_0102@yahoo.com

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Did You Know?

Phillis Wheatley was an 18th century intellectual who waged war for freedom with words. Captured as a child in West Africa, and taken to North America as a slave, Wheatley had an unusual experience in bondage: Her owners educated her and supported her literary pursuits. In 1773, at around age 20, Wheatley became the first African American and third woman to publish a book of poetry in America. Shortly thereafter, she was freed.

Influential colonists read her poems and lauded her talent. Wheatley's work, which reflected her knowledge of the ancient classics as well as Biblical theology, carried strong messages against slavery and became a rallying cry for Abolitionists. She also advocated for independence, expressing support for George Washington's Revolutionary War in her poem, "To His Excellency, General Washington." Washington, who himself had been forced to end his formal education at age 11, appreciated Wheatley's support and extolled her talent.



WREATHS *across* AMERICA

The Wreaths Across America™ program mission (to Remember, Honor and Teach) is carried out by wreath-laying ceremonies at more than 1,600 cemeteries in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad every December.

The Catawba Valley Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) is partnering with Wreaths Across America™ as like-minded nonprofit organizations that each give back to the veterans and local communities through annual programs and initiatives. By sponsoring a tax deductible wreath(s) you will not only sponsor a wreath(s) to be placed in honor of an American hero on the 7,562 graves at the Western Carolina State Veterans Cemetery, but \$5 of each \$15 contribution will go directly to The Sons of the American Revolution – Catawba Valley Chapter to support annual American Revolution and veteran programs that involve Patriotism, History, and Education.

As members of the SAR we are asking you to help achieve the community goal of “a wreath on each grave in Western Carolina State Veterans Cemetery” by sponsoring as many wreaths as possible through one of three methods:

1) Complete and mail the form on the reverse side with your check (made payable to: Wreaths Across America™) to the following address **NLT 30 November 2021**:

Sons of the American Revolution – Catawba Valley Chapter
ATTN: WAA
1303 Oak Hill Drive
Newton, NC 28658

2) Sponsor a secure online donation via credit card **NLT 30 November 2021** by going to the Sons of the American Revolution – Catawba Valley Chapter web site at wreathscrossamerica.org/NC0385P

3) If you prefer, contact us **NLT 29 November 2021**: Ben Setser (828-466-2418 or lennon_0102@yahoo.com); Jack Bowman (828-876-2514 or jack9431@yahoo.com) and we will pick up your sponsorship.

Lastly, whether you sponsor a wreath or not, we invite you to participate in the wreath remembrance ceremony at Western Carolina State Veterans Cemetery on Saturday, 18 December 2021 at 12:00 p.m. To help lay wreaths, please be on site by 10:30 am. It is truly a great way to honor our fallen veterans.

The **Sons of the American Revolution (SAR)** is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and promoting education to our future generations. SAR members volunteer untold hours of service each year in their local communities and they are very active in supporting active duty military personnel and veterans. We proudly assist classrooms with living history interpreters, lesson planning materials and reenactment events for school aged youth to attend. As the largest male genealogical society in the country, SAR boasts tens of thousands of active members across the United States and internationally. Any man 18 years or older-regardless of race, religion, or ethnic background-who can prove blood lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution, is eligible for membership. We may be able to help you establish lineal descent. We are on the razor's edge of allowing DNA proof to be used to prove descent for those with unclear roots. If you are interested in joining, contact Ben Setser, Catawba Valley Chapter President, lennon_0102@yahoo.com or visit www.sar.org for more information.



WREATHS *across* AMERICA

Wreath Sponsorship Form

Sponsored wreaths are placed on grave markers at state and national veterans' cemeteries, as well as at local, community cemeteries each December. If you wish to make your sponsorship with a credit card, please visit our website at www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org/NC0385P for a secure online transaction.

**Please print clearly in blue or black ink.*

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

If you wish to remain anonymous, please check this box

Please make checks payable to:
Wreaths Across America

And mail to
 SAR – Catawba Valley Chapter
 ATTN: WAA
 1303 Oak Hill Drive
 Newton, NC 28658

Thank you for your sponsorship and joining us in our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach!

Sponsorship Type	Price	Quantity	Total
Individual = 1 Wreath	\$15.00		
Mailed "In Honor" card = If you wish to send a physical honor card telling someone of your sponsorship, please see "In Honor" section below. The \$2 fee is required for this mailing.	\$2.00		
Family = 4 Wreaths	\$60.00		
Box = 9 Wreaths	\$135.00		
Corporate = 100 Wreaths	\$1,500.00		
		Grand Total	

GRAVE SPECIFIC REQUESTS ARE NOT ACCEPTED ON THIS FORM

In Honor of:

Please provide email OR mailing address of "In Honor of" recipient so we can notify them of your sponsorship in their honor. Reminder, there is a \$2 fee required for mailing.

Email address: _____

Mailing address: _____

Message: _____

In Memory of:

This name will be listed on our online memory wall. Below, please provide name, rank, branch of service and state resided.

Branch of Service: _____

Rank: _____

State: _____

LOCATION ID: NCWCBM

SPONSORSHIP GROUP ID: NC0385P

ALL sponsored wreaths are shipped directly to the participating location and **NO** wreaths are sent to the individuals purchasing sponsorships