



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

This past month has been amazingly busy. Since our last publication on the 10th of August, we began on August 14th by joining with The Battle Of King's Mountain Chapter to celebrate the 246th anniversary of the signing of the Tryon Resolves, one of the first of several Resolves in the colonies that effectively called for resistance against the Crown. A fabulous day was had by all, and The Battle Of King's Mountain Chapter inducted a new member that day. The group photo is at the left. HAZZAH

Next, we had the pleasure to participate in the 132nd annual Old Soldiers Reunion parade on August 19th. It was a busy day with laying a wreath at 10:00 am, marching in the foot portion of the parade at 4:30, and riding the float at 5:00 pm, finishing up just before a storm set in. Thank you so much to our Chapter Vice President John Cline for letting us use his trailer for a float. This was our first attempt at making a parade float and we learned a lot from the experience.



Catawba Valley Chapter was joined by two chapters of DAR for the parade, William Gaston Chapter and Greenlee Chapter. A special Thank You to Bobby Allison for driving the tow vehicle.

We presented Family Healthcare Practice in Conover NC with a Certificate of Appreciation on August 27th for supporting us financially for the past 2 years. They are a fine practice and can take care of all general medicine concerns. We survive only by donations from citizens like these, and I think that it is very important to show our respect and appreciation for doing so. Thank you so very much Family Healthcare Practice PLLC.

Again, it is only by participation of our members that Catawba Valley Chapter can get out among the public and thereby convey our Society goals to promote patriotism, preserve American history and teach that history to future generations.



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10 September
2021

Volume 2 Issue 9

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Presidents Report: Continued from Page 1



We finished off the month by joining in with DAR for the start of Constitution Week. Our past Chapter President and current State Sr Vice President, Jack Bowman portrayed Lt. John Hoyle, the namesake of the John Hoyle Chapter DAR for their first Luncheon Meeting of the year at Lake Hickory Country Club on September 1st. John Hoyle Chapter celebrated their 100th birthday as a DAR chapter that day, and Catawba County Commissioner Barbara Beatty presented Whitney Cline, Chapter Regent, with a Proclamation for Constitution week. Contingents of our Chapter Color Guard provided their service to the Jacob Forney Chapter DAR as they were presented with their Proclamation for Constitution Week by Lincolnton N.C. Mayor, Ed Hatley to Jacob Forney DAR Regent Barbara Stevens at Lincolnton City Council Meeting on the evening of September 2nd. As simple as it looks from the photos, the logistics of getting available people to the proper places at the proper time can be daunting. We rely entirely on volunteers and realize that not everybody can be everywhere, but we do greatly appreciate those who can and do show up and participate.

We attempt to get an email or two out to all members and other concerned citizens of the things we plan to do, and ask that all who could, please come and join in with us. We have several more events in the upcoming future, including a Color Guard event for Constitution Week at South Newton Elementary School at 9:00 am on September 17th. This will also be a function with the John Hoyle Chapter DAR of Hickory NC.

Catawba Valley Chapter is again beginning our Wreaths Across America campaign. In this campaign, we attempt to provide a wreath for 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 last year, the cemetery that we and several other organizations support was only able to place wreaths on about 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 one or several. wreathscrossamerica.org/NC0385P Several members assisted me in placing them this past December and I hope several more members will join me on 18 December 2021.

Just for your information, all these "Things" that we as a Chapter do and keep records of each month provide a basis, if you will, to "Rank" Chapters in their size categories against other Chapters in our State and Nationally. It has been the goal of this Chapter to try to be the very best in these rankings that we can possibly be, and for that reason, we have done many things that may have been overlooked in the past. In doing so, individual members who participate, may earn points toward medals and recognition certificates on the Chapter, State and National levels. These ideas, medals and participation, and the reports that accompany them will be discussed on a greater level at our November meeting.

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 and a great speaker concerning the date of the meeting. One may order a meal at 11:00 am. Please be with us if you can.

Ben Setser

Chapter President



Robbie Bennett
President
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The Catawba Valley Chapter
of the
Sons of the American Revolution

**Contributing
Editor**



**Roy
C.
Lightfoot**

Prelude to the Battle of Kings Mountain

Those of us who study the American Revolution know the importance of the Battle of Kings Mountain to the Southern Campaign. If you do not, please check into it, and read and study how a band of militia defeated the British and their Loyalists on 7 October 1780. What some people do not think about is what it took to get the Patriot forces to that location. What takes us a matter of hours to cover the distance, would take them twelve days. They could not just load up their gear in their pick-up trucks, SUVs, and four-wheel drives – they had to walk and ride horseback across treacherous terrain, carrying what they needed or what they thought they would need for their journey, and for the impending fight. They left their families, and friends and came from settlements as far away as modern-day, western North Carolina, southwestern Virginia, and eastern Tennessee and Kentucky. Once again, we can look at this event now and know what happened, and the result of the battle – these people had no idea of their outcome.

After his defeat at the Battle of Musgrove Mill on 18 August, and after he had already been pursuing Shelby toward the Appalachian Mountain hill country, British Major Patrick Ferguson established a base camp near Gilbert Town, North Carolina at about the same time. The Patriot force's movement towards Ferguson had already begun in late September 1780, after he had issued his proclamation on or about 10 September to the Patriot settlements that he would “march his army over the mountains, hang their leaders, and lay waste the country with fire and sword.”

Upon receiving this message, Colonel Isaac Shelby rode forty miles to the Watauga Settlement to consult with Colonel John Sevier, and both agreed that Ferguson had to be stopped. On 25 September, a force of frontiersmen gathered at Sycamore Shoals, Tennessee, including 240 men led by Sevier from Washington County (formerly in North Carolina, now in Tennessee), 240 from Sullivan County, Tennessee led by Shelby, and 400 from southwestern Virginia led by Colonel William Campbell, who had left Abington, Virginia only two days before. The main body of the force was to join up with the remnants of Colonel Charles McDowell's army in the mountains, who had been routed by Ferguson and the overwhelming British force previously. All combined, the force presented itself at just over 1000 men.

On 26 September, after a fiery sermon by Reverend Samuel Doak, the force set out in search of Ferguson. The force moved from Sycamore Shoals to the base of Roan Mountain, Tennessee, camping at Shelving Rock for the night. On 29 September, now in North Carolina, the force split at Gillespie Gap with Campbell moving towards Wofford's Fort in Turkey Cove, and Sevier and Shelby moving to North Cove in order to link up with McDowell. They reunited the following day on the 30th, and made camp at the McDowell plantation at Quaker Meadows (near present-day Morganton). While there, the force grew as they were joined by 300 men led by Colonel Benjamin Cleveland from Wilkes County and Major Joseph Winston from Surry County. While this force was moving from the northwest, another group made up of South Carolinians under Colonel James Williams, and North Carolina militiamen from newly formed Lincoln County under Lt. Colonel Frederick Hambright were moving to meet up with them. (Hambright served with the Rowan County Regiment at the Battle of Ramsour's Mill under Colonel Francis Locke.) Both forces met at The Cowpens in South Carolina on 6 October, and moved towards Kings Mountain the following day.

Meanwhile, two deserters from the Patriot militia reached Ferguson and shared with him the movements of the large militia coming to face him. For some unknown reason, Ferguson waited three precious days, and then, ordered a retreat toward the British main force with Lord Cornwallis at Charlotte. In addition, he sent a message to Cornwallis requesting reinforcements to face the Patriot forces, however, the message did not arrive until the day after the battle.

Ferguson, who had already shown his lack of tact with the previous message to the settlements, sent a letter to the Loyalist sympathizers in western North Carolina (modern day Asheville). It read:

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*Denard's Ford, Broad River
Tryon County, October 1, 1780*

Gentlemen: Unless you wish to be eat up by an inundation of barbarians, who have begun murdering un armed son before the aged father, and afterwards lopped off his arms, and who by their shocking cruelties and irregularities, give the best proof of their cowardice and want of discipline: I say, if you wish to be pinioned, robbed, and murdered, and see your wives and daughters, in four days, abused by the dregs of mankind – in short, if you wish or deserve to live, and bear the name of men, grasp your arms in a moment and run to camp.

The Back Water men have crossed the mountains: McDowell, Hampton, Shelby and Cleveland are at their head, so that you know what you have to depend upon. If you choose to be degraded forever and ever by a set of mongrels, say so at once, and let your women turn their backs upon you, and look for real men to protect them.

PAT. Ferguson, Major 71st Regiment.

Although this message may have had its desired effect of raising the Loyalist militia, the battle happened a week later with Ferguson once again being defeated, only this time it cost him his life.

Through these few lines, let us remember these events led up to the Battle of Kings Mountain. These people traveled for twelve days, and were still ready for a fight. None of them knew what would happen. None of them knew the result. The one thing they knew is they had to go. They had to stand up to the tyranny which was threatening them. And this time, it was Major Patrick Ferguson.

Roy C. Lightfoot
Contributing Editor

Upcoming SAR events

Sept 17-23. . Constitution Week	Oct 7. . . Battle of Kings Mountain
Oct 9 Battle of Shallow Ford	Oct 23 . . Grave Marking, Kings Mountain
Nov 13. 100th Ann. Tomb of Unknown	Dec 18. Wreaths Across America

Find us at

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

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?

Benjamin Franklin said:
Without freedom of thought there can be no such thing as wisdom; and no such thing as public liberty, without freedom of speech. Freedom of speech is a principal pillar of a free government; when this support is taken away, the constitution of a free society is dissolved, and tyranny is erected on its ruins. Republics...derive their strength and vigor from a popular examination into the action of the magistrates. This Constitution...can only end in despotism...when the people shall become so corrupted as to need despotic government, being incapable of any other. Only a virtuous people are capable of freedom. As nations become more corrupt and vicious, they have more need of masters. Our new Constitution is now established, everything seems to promise it will be durable; but, in this world, nothing is certain except death and taxes.



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