



The Sons of the American Revolution Catawba Coalition



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

10 October 2021

Volume 2
Issue 10

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& Registrar
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Presidents Report

Catawba Valley Chapter began the month with our regular meeting on 9/11/2021, a day of retrospect to all Americans, and at that regular meeting, we were honored to have two speakers address us with first-hand knowledge of that day and some of the ways our world has changed as a result of 9/11. Our speakers were Lynne Smith (William Gaston DAR) and Brent Wallace. Both Lynne and Brent are America Airlines Flight Attendants, who were employed with the airlines at the time. Brent was in Manhattan at the time of the attack. We listened to the recording of Betty Ong and the hijacker, (I will not use his name) and we stood and gave honors to those who perished in the planes. It was an emotional and highly moving program. Thank you so much to Lynne and Brent for being with us on that awesome day, and for reminding us that the NYPD and FDNY were not the only or even the first of the heroes on that unbelievable morning.

We also presented Palermo's Family Italian & Greek Restaurant with a Certificate of Appreciation for allowing us to have our meetings in their Restaurant for the past year. Photos above.



Our next adventure was for Constitution Day at South Newton Elementary School on September 17th. The fine ladies at John Hoyle Chapter NC DAR ask if we could provide Color Guard and lead off the Constitution Day Parade at the school. We couldn't miss this. SAR, Catawba County Sheriff Dept., Newton Police Dept., American Legion Post 544, and several JROTC instructors joined in. Listening to several hundred school children recite the Pledge of Allegiance is a really refreshing experience.

Continued on page 2



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Presidents Report: Continued from Page 1



Our Chapter was well represented at Sycamore Shoals in Elizabethton Tennessee on September 25th with 241st anniversary of the Overmountain Men River crossing in route to destiny at the Battle of King's Mountain. Thank you, men. Roy Lightfoot and Chris Stone are some of the very best representation that any organization could have.



And these two represent us quite well everywhere they go, especially with the event at Hickory Ridge Historic Museum in Boone NC on 2 October 2021. As you can see from the photo at the left, we can only be pleased and proud of their zeal and dedication to our history.

These last two events, are a prelude to the turning point in the British Southern Campaign, The Battle of King's Mountain, 7 October 1780. In Mid-August of 1780, Major Patrick Ferguson, Inspector of The King's Military Forces in the Carolinas, sent a message to those referred to as The Overmountain Men that had been harassing his forces stating, "If you do not desist your opposition to the British Arms, I shall march this army over the mountains, hang your leaders, and lay waste your country with fire and sword." This may not have been the very best use of his assets to antagonize an already angry force. The battle sieged, the patriots vanquished Ferguson, the tide of the war shifted toward the Patriots, and 12 months later, Victory at Yorktown, Virginia, and we have a Republic if we can keep it.



The above photos show the events of the Commemoration of the 241st Anniversary of the Battle of King's Mountain on 7 October 2021. We see some of the North Carolina Contingent, The SAR Color Guard and The Overmountain Victory Trail Association who fired a volley in remembrance.

We completed this busy month with the Commemoration of the 241st anniversary of the Battle of Shallow Ford on October 9th in Huntsville NC. Our Chapter Chaplain, Ken Luckey, pictured to the right, was presented with the von Steuben Award for continued service in Color Guard.



Please come be with us at our next meeting on 13 November 2021 at **Palermo's Family Italian & Greek Restaurant**, 924 Conover Blvd W, Conover, NC 28613, at 12:00 Noon. We will be installing new officers for the 2022-2023 term and presenting awards for the past year's efforts. One may order a meal at 11:00 am. Please be with

Ben Setser
Chapter President

The Catawba Valley Chapter
of the
Sons of the American Revolution

**Contributing
Editor**

**Roy
C.
Lightfoot**

The Patriots Corner

“The Patriot’s Corner” inaugural article comes from our Compatriot Michael Blackburn’s ancestor,
Captain Henry Francis (1734-1780).

Henry Francis, Sr. was a Captain of the Montgomery County, Virginia, and was the first son of William Francis and Mary Savoy. Henry had three younger brothers Thomas, John, and William. Henry married Leah in 1754, and lived in Cripple Creek, Virginia, where they had three sons Major Henry, Jr., John, and Charles. Henry, Sr. received land grants in Virginia including one from the King of Great Britain under the Proclamation of 1763. He received this grant because he had served as a Sergeant in the 1st Virginia Regiment from 1756-62. In addition, he was the Constable of Cripple Creek.

Because the Colonists took up arms, Henry took an oath as an Ensign to the Virginia Militia and became a Lieutenant in the Cripple Creek, Montgomery County Militia in 1776. In late November 1777, Henry took an Oath of Allegiance to the Commonwealth of Virginia and became the Captain of the Cripple Creek Militia in March of 1778. While Captain and in that same year, he led troops into North Carolina, and returned to Virginia, fought the Native American British allies, and defended Fort Chiswell, along with the lead mines, which were so critical in the forging of musket balls for the Patriot armies in Virginia and North Carolina.

On September 29, 1780, Captain Henry Francis’ company of militia, together with several other companies, rendezvoused at the Lead Mines in Montgomery Co., Virginia under their commander, Major Joseph Cloyd. They followed militia under Colonel William Campbell, into North Carolina in pursuit of British Major Patrick Ferguson. In western North Carolina, they received word of Ferguson’s defeat at King’s Mountain, and were ordered from there to Surry County, North Carolina, where a band of between 400-900 Tories threatened the Patriots.

On October 14, 1780, just four days after Ferguson’s defeat at Kings Mountain, the four companies of Montgomery County, Virginia Militia, along with North Carolina Militia, met and defeated the Tories at the Battle of Shallow Ford. In addition to the Captain, two of his sons, John and Henry, Jr. were also in the battle. Unfortunately, this would be where Captain Henry Francis would meet his demise when he was shot through the head. He was the only Patriot to die in this battle. It is believed that Henry, Jr. was only a few feet from his father when he fell, and John believed he fired the shot which killed the Tory who had shot his father. A memorial was placed on the battle site to the Captain by the Sons of the American Revolution.

As an aside, two of Captain Henry Francis’ brothers, John and William, died as soldiers, too. John served in the French and Indian War under Colonel George Washington in the 1st Virginia Regiment. He was killed by Native Americans. William was a soldier in the 1st Battalion of the Royal Americans, and died after three and a half years in his service. Also, one of the fourteen dead Tories recorded at the Battle of Shallow Ford, Captain James Bryan, was the son of Compatriot Blackburn’s Seventh Great-Granduncle, Morgan Bryan, and was also killed.

Compatriot Blackburn was born in Lexington, Kentucky, and grew up in Texas. With his wife Deanne, he has two boys, Brian and Daniel, and one granddaughter, Amelia. Blackburn possesses a Master’s Degree in Healthcare Administration with undergraduate degrees in Respiratory Technology and Healthcare Administration. He has over forty-five years’ experience in healthcare, with thirty-five of those serving as a CEO of hospitals and healthcare systems. “Retired” in 2012, he now serves as a healthcare consultant and executive coach with Blackburn Healthcare Consulting in his semi-retirement. He is or has been actively involved with many community charities, and serves as Graduate Professor. He enjoys family genealogy, and is now researching his second SAR supplemental with several more to go. He also enjoys fishing, hunting, but most importantly, serving as a full-time “PopPop” to his granddaughter.



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As a matter of record, Because of space, part 2 of "Prelude to the Battle of King's Mountain" from last month will appear in next month's addition.

Catawba Valley Chapter is again partnering with Wreaths Across America to provide wreaths on Veteran's graves. 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. wreathsacrossamerica.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.

Catawba Valley Chapter has been working on several grave markings for some time now, and it appears that as soon as we can get the stones prepared, they will take place. These will include a large stone at Old St Paul's Lutheran Church that will include at least 11 Patriots. We started with 14 names and have proven 11 of those. Those are: William Bost, 1739-1822; Michael Kline, 1761-1840; Sebastian Kline, 1716-1791; William Diehl, 1730-1807; Jacob Fey, 1756-1800; George Herman, 1763-1850; Leonard Killian, 1723-1795; Samuel Killian, 1760-1813; George Wilfong, 1740-1818; John Wilfong, 1762-1838; and Conrad Wagoner, 1729-1799. The three that we have not been able to prove as yet are: John Setzer, 1754-1822; John Smyer, 1739=1835; and Jacob Mauser, 1742-1799. We are still looking for as much information as we can on all fourteen, but more especially the unproven three.

We have a second grave marking approved and in progress for Compatriot William Alexander Graham III and replacing markers stolen for two Patriots in the same cemetery.

And a third for Adam Setser, 1758-1843, in Lenoir. These will be good chances for our members to gain points for the Grave Marking Medal. Dates and times are forthcoming. Come out and be with us.

Upcoming SAR events

Oct 19 Yorktown Victory Day

Nov 13. 100th Ann. Tomb of Unknown

Dec 18. Wreaths Across America

Oct 23 . . . Grave Marking, Kings Mountain

Nov 19. . . Veterans Day

Jan 17 . . . Battle of Cowpens

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?

George Washington said:

Since there is no truth more thoroughly established, than that there exists in the economy and course of nature, an indissoluble union between virtue and happiness, between duty and advantage, between the genuine maxims of an honest and magnanimous policy, and the solid rewards of public prosperity and felicity: Since we ought to be no less persuaded that the propitious smiles of Heaven, can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right, which Heaven itself has ordained: And since the preservation of the sacred fire of liberty, and the destiny of the Republican model of Government, are justly considered as deeply, perhaps as finally staked, on the experiment entrusted to the hands of the American people.



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
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*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