



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



Catawba Valley Chapter SAR along with Jacob Forney Chapter DAR held their first annual George Washington Birthday Afternoon Tea, Sunday, February 20th at the Lincoln Cultural Center. Many people attended. We had guest from 4 DAR, 3 SAR and one CAR chapter along with several members of Thunder Over Carolina Inc. The food and the fellowship was wonderful. Our speaker, Robert Patton from the Col Alexander Erwin Chapter, gave a great exposé about certain weapons used during the Revolutionary war and brought several actual weapons of the period. We presented the incoming Regent of Jacob Forney DAR, Fran Goins, with a certificate of Appreciation for the so many things that she has joined in and helped with. This is a wonderful way for members of several societies get together and have great time. If you missed it, well you just missed out. Join us next year if you can.



Catawba Valley Chapter Sons of the American Revolution also had the pleasure of presenting Maiden High School JROTC, Maiden NC, with a framed copy of the Declaration of Independence today, Wednesday, February 23, 2022 in honor of George Washington's 290th birthday. Photographed are: Lt. Col. Joseph Thomas, Chapter President Ben Setser, Cadet Major Laiza Ubaub and Chapter VP John Jay Cline. We had a great time!!!

I love SAR and I have fun at everything we do, but I must admit, some things are just more fun than others. On Sunday afternoon, February 27 I had the greatest fun. We were honored to present one of our Chapter Members, Anthony Charles, with the Eagle Scout Achievement Award at his Court of Honor at Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Newton NC. Anthony and his father Michael Charles are both members of Catawba Valley Chapter. Congratulations Anthony!

Please come out for our next meeting, Saturday, March 19 at Palermo's at Noon!



Ben Setser
Chapter President



2663 US Hwy 70 SE
Hickory, NC 28602
828-578-6093



206 N College Ave, Newton NC 28658
828-994-4355

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“The Patriot’s Corner”

Our next installment of “The Patriot’s Corner” comes from Catawba Valley Chapter Vice President John J Cline with his ancestor, Matthias Barringer (1727 – 1776).

Matthias Barringer was born 30 Oct 1727, son of Wilhelm Barringer (Behringer) and Mary Paulina Dekker in Germany. Matthias’ brother John Paul was the first of their clan to make the voyage to the “New World” in 1743, arriving in Pennsylvania and soon relocated to North Carolina.

In 1748, John Paul sent word to the rest of the family, which included Matthias, their parents, a brother and two sisters, that the time was right to come. Unfortunately, both parents passed away on the voyage, leaving Matthias, the eldest, to be the main core of the family. The Barringer family arrived in Philadelphia on 16 September 1748. It is said John Paul arranged for a four-horse wagon to be sent to Philadelphia to receive them and bring them south to his home in present-day Cabarrus County, North Carolina. Sometime after their arrival in North Carolina, Matthias married Margaret Bushart (1742 – 1839), who was the daughter of John Bushart. Margaret was fifteen years his junior.

Matthias began exploring the area west of the Catawba River. It is thought that he sent for his wife and their two slaves in the late 1750’s. A surveyors’ plat and survey of the area made in 1762, states a body of 640 acres of land “included his improvement,” and Barringer having been living on this land for as much as two or three years. His land grant was issued for this tract, 21 April 1764, almost a full two years after the survey was made. This amount of time was customary in light of the fact of distance, the Capital being in New Bern at the time and ultimate authority in England.

Upon arrival in the area, one of the first tasks was to provide shelter for his wife, and slaves. Matthias and the male slave began the task of downing the trees that would become their two-room log cabin. It consisted of logs that were hewn squarely in the woods, stacked at the homesite with clay being used as mortar, rocks from the hillside for the chimney and hearth. The roof was made from pine trees which had been cut into boards and were as good if not better than any shingle roof. The floor of the cabin was made from hewed and smaller logs leveling the floor in the cabin. They lived here until the “big house” could be constructed in a similar manner with logs which were cut and hewn from the surrounding forest. All the logs and rafters were cut and numbered so they could be placed where they were needed to fit. The settlers of the area came from all around for the “raising” of the house. Men and women came to assist with the task of placing the logs and cooking for all the hungry workers. This was only the frame of the house, and soon came the planks for the outside, which had been left out to dry, the boards for the roof, and then the chimney, which was made from stone and pipe clay mortar, and was larger than anything anyone had ever seen. The fireplace itself measured ten feet across. It was so big that when the fire had died out, the heated stones continued to warm the home for some time. Other buildings followed such as barns, granaries, a kitchen, and a smokehouse. In addition, Matthias did not build a chicken house, but he did plant a row of cedar trees between the house and the barn for the chickens to roost.

Matthias soon became very prominent in the community. When the population of this area, present-day eastern Mecklenburg County, had grown to a sufficient number the decision was made to form a militia. Paul, who had been a soldier in Germany was made captain while Matthias was named as lieutenant of the company. In addition, Matthias was an active member of the Community of Safety of Rowan County when the British oppressive activities in the area warranted such a committee. With the beginning of the American Revolution, the area of today’s Catawba County, like so many other places were divided. Many people remained loyal to the Britain and the Crown, while others believed the Colonies should be its own sovereign nation. In August 1774, a meeting was called in New Bern in defiance of Governor Josiah Martin to consider the options. Until a constitution could be adopted, the committees were all vested with the power of the government. Matthias Barringer, Francis McCorkle, Christopher Beekman, and Peter Ikerd all served the committee of the Catawba area, which was then Rowan County.

In July 1776, Captain Matthias Barringer and seven militiamen were on a scouting expedition in the Quaker Meadows area of present-day Burke County near John’s River. This expedition was a part of General Rutherford’s forced march against the Cherokee. A war party, laying in ambush, attacked the militiamen, massacring all but one. Barringer was killed in the first volley, the only member to survive, Philip Frye escaped as he had hidden behind a log under a pile of leaves. Frye later related that he did not move even when the war party scalped Barringer and the others. Of course, there was severe retaliation against the Cherokee. Approximately four thousand militiamen from the Carolinas and Virginia came to destroy these Cherokee and their villages.

Tradition states Captain Barringer’s wife, who was home with their children Matthias and Catherine at the time of the massacre, knew her husband had been killed or was badly wounded as she stated she had heard him groan.

The people of Catawba County erected a granite monument to the massacre victims at the courthouse in Newton, North Carolina, on 2 July 1897. The monument reads, “A tribute to Matthias Barringer, Lipsidom Adam, Grunot – Hass – Wilson, and another, who were massacred on John’s River in Gen Rutherford’s forced march against the Cherokee in 1776 and to Philip Fry who is one escaped to Conrad Tippong, One of Lafayette’s men by a grateful posterity. July 2, 1897.” Barringer was the first to die for the cause of Liberty in Catawba County.

Roy C Lightfoot

This section of the Newsletter is designed to highlight Patriot Relatives of our Chapter members. Let us know about your Patriot so that we may publish it here. Send your Patriot biographical information to lennon.0102@yahoo.com or capn_roy@hotmail.com Thank you!

The Catawba Valley Chapter
of the
Sons of the American Revolution



“The Battle of Guilford Courthouse”

The Battle of Guilford Courthouse occurred near present-day Greensboro, North Carolina on 15 March 1781, between British troops under Lt General Charles Cornwallis, and Patriot forces under the command of Maj. General Nathanael Greene. Although this was a tactical victory for the British, it resulted in a devastating loss in troops with some sources cite as much as one fourth to one-third of the British army lost. One of the most important results of this battle is that Cornwallis abandoned his Southern Campaign in the Carolinas, and began the trek northward, and to his eventual surrender at Yorktown.

From the beginning of the American Revolution, most of the major battles had been fought in the Northern Colonies, however, after the French allied with the Americans in 1778, the British shifted focus to the Southern Colonies, and began their ill-fated Southern Campaign. Initially, the British focused on seizing the key ports of Savannah, Georgia in December 1778, and Charlestown in May 1780. In addition to these major Patriot defeats, several other battles and skirmishes, some Patriot defeats, and some victories occurred in 1780 including: The Battle of the Waxhaws in May; the Battle of Ramsour's Mill in June; the Battle of Camden in August; and the Battle of Kings Mountain in October. The following year in 1781, the British met defeat at the Battle of Cowpens in January. In addition, Cornwallis made a stop at Ramsour's Mill, and burned much of his supplies, ALL the rum, and his wagons in late January, while other skirmishes occurred including the Battle of Cowan's Ford in February. After these events, Cornwallis began his pursuit of Greene with the “Race to the Dan,” with the two opposing forces attempting to reach the Dan River first. Along the way, Greene instituted a strategy of “hit and run,” thus, wearing down the British along the way, and separated the British from their supply lines. All of this came to a head at Guilford Courthouse.

On the day of the battle, 15 March 1781, Cornwallis' army numbering approximately 2100 attacked Greene's force of Continentals, and militia of 4500. Greene adapted a tactic that served General Daniel Morgan well at the Battle of Cowpens. Greene formed his men into three lines to stand against the attack. The first line was held by the North Carolina militia, the second was made up of the Virginia militia, while the third was manned by the Continental Regulars. As at Cowpens, the first two lines would exhaust the enemy's advance, and inflict as many casualties as possible on the British, with the third line ready to deliver the final blow. This strategy is known as a “defense in depth.”

The battle began at 1:30 pm, after Cornwallis had formed his army on both sides of the Great Salisbury Road, and began to move them forward. When they came to within 150 yards of Greene's front line, the North Carolina militia opened fire with the British only returning fire when they got into range. The British force was commanded to surge forward, and the militia fired once more before retreating into the woods to their rear, leaving behind much of their equipment as they fled.

Four hundred yards behind the first line, lay the Virginians in wait in the second line. Although they put up a stiff fight, the British infantry which had attacked on all parts of the line, soon broke through. However, even though they had broken through, the British ranks had lost cohesion, and advanced in a disjointed fashion, now, to face Greene's best units in the Continental Line.

The first British unit to attack the third line was quickly driven back by the Continentals from Virginia and Maryland. The next unit managed to turn the Continentals' flank, but were driven back by a counterattack led by Lt Col William Washington's Light Dragoons and another unit from Maryland. With more British forces arriving, and who had been stalled at the second line, Greene disengaged his army, and withdrew.

The Battle of Guilford Courthouse was a devastating victory for Cornwallis in that although he had bested the American army on the field, he had lost close to twenty-five per cent of his men. Since he was in no position to pursue Greene, Cornwallis withdrew his force to his supply base at Wilmington, North Carolina, to refit, and rest. With his army in shambles, and in no shape to engage Greene, in the middle of April, he decided to shift his focus to Virginia and to his eventual demise.

Author's Note: *Through a little bit of research and luck, and although it has not been proven yet to SAR's standards, the author has discovered he may have two ancestors who served at this battle. Both served with the North Carolina Militia, and one served for six straight years never returning home during that time. Private Ruben (Reuben) Blanchard (1750-1790), served from 1777-1783 with the NC unit, and was under General Nathanael Greene's command at this battle, and Private Charles Butler (1746-1811) was injured prior to battle, and unable to participate. Butler was probably doing something he shouldn't have been doing just like his descendant would be doing.*

Please join us at our next meeting, 19 March 2022 at Palermo's Family Italian & Greek Restaurant,
924 Conover Blvd W, Conover NC. A meal may be ordered at 11:00, the meeting begins at Noon.
Hope to see you there.



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Chapter Happenings

Battle of Guilford Court House Commemoration, **March 12th, 2022**, 2332 New Garden Rd, Greensboro, NC 27410, starting at 10:00 am. If participating in Color Guard be on site by 9:00 am. Register online at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfRwd9eqI1M_bGgLiI6OjQGUDSOanMSjWABaZw2k8t5ehYF9w/viewform

Adoption of the Halifax Resolves Commemoration, **Tuesday, April 12, 2022**, 10:30 am, Market Street, Historic Halifax, NC. RSVP's MUST arrive NLT Wednesday, April 7th in order to be listed in the program and to be included in the meal reservations, if desired. [2022 Halifax Resolves RSVP](#)

Patriot's Day, is Monday, **April 18, 2022**. As is our usual mode of recognition, several members will place flags on Patriot Graves around our region. If you would like to join in on this great event, Catawba Valley Chapter has flags in hand for this purpose. Please let Chapter President Ben Setser know how many flags you need and where you will be using them.

Patriot's Day, Monday **April 18, 2022**, Catawba Valley chapter with components of our Color Guard will present Catawba County Board of Commissioners with a Patriots Day Proclamation at their regular meeting at 7:00 pm.

NC SAR Annual Meeting, Friday & Saturday, April 22 & 23, 2022, Wyndham Garden Hotel, 415 S Swing Rd, Greensboro, NC 27409, beginning at 5:00 pm Friday and all day Saturday. Register here <https://ncssar.org/event/nc-sar-annual-meeting/>

NCDAR Grave Marking, Sunday, **May 1, 2022**, 1:30 PM, Bethabara God's Acre, Winston-Salem, NC, conducted by **Battle of Shallow Ford Chapter DAR** for Lt John Shamel, followed by a gathering at Historic Bethabara Visitor Center.

NC SAR Grave Marking, Saturday, **May 21, 2022**, 11:00 am, for Patriot Charles Crawford Lewis, conducted by Blue Ridge Chapter SAR at Green Hill Community Center, US HWY 64, Rutherfordton NC.

Battle of Ramsour's Mill, Friday-Sunday, **June 3-5, 2022**: Friday, Reception 4-6 pm at Hampton Inn Lincolnton; Supper 6:30-8:00 pm, Court Street Grill; Ghost Walk, on the battle field, 6:00-9:00 pm: Saturday, Commemoration and speaker 10:00 am at the mass grave; Lunch and speaker 12:00-1:30 pm, near the Cabin; Battle Reenactment, 2:00-3:00 pm, behind the Cabin, Ghost Walk, 6:00-9:00 pm: Sunday, Religious service, on reenactment field, 10:00 am, Battle Reenactment, 1:00-2:00 pm. Register here <https://ncssar.org/event/242nd-commemoration-of-the-battle-of-ramsour-mill/>

There are two upcoming grave markings that we have planned. The stone for the eleven patriots at Old St Paul's Cemetery has been ordered. The monument company called last week and told me that they had to start again because the stone cracked, so there may be a bit of a delay. The stone for Littlejohn's Cemetery is also on order. I am hoping that this one will take place in late May or early June in order to have more of the Patriot's family members in attendance.

Upcoming SAR events

Mar 12 . . . Battle of Guilford Courthouse	Apr 12. . . Halifax Resolves
Apr 18. . . Patriots Day	Apr 18. . . Patriots Day Proclamation
Apr 22/23. NCSAR Annual Meeting	May 1. . . DAR Grave Marking
May 21 . . . SAR Grave Marking	Jun 4 . . . Battle of Ramsour's Mill

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

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

lennon_0102@yahoo.com

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Did You Know?

On December 16, 1773, 340 chests of tea weighing over 92,000 lbs. or 46 tons were smashed open by the *Sons of Liberty* and dumped into the Boston harbor. The Boston Tea Party was the first major act of defiance by the colonists, and led to the start of the American Revolution in 1775.

In an effort to hide their identities, many of the *Sons of Liberty* tried to pass themselves off as Mohawk People, knowing that if caught for their actions they would have faced severe punishment.

That being said, while the individual need to conceal their own identity was imperative, that aim could have been served just as easily by using masks or hoods. That's led some historians to speculate that the use of Mohawk garments was a conscious decision, meant to send a signal of rebellion beyond the act of tossing tea into the harbor. Something along the lines of: we hate you so much, we identify with the natives more than we do with you."

The whole thing took about 3 hours.