



# 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



Greetings Compatriots and friends. A happy Independence Day to all. Our last issue was published on June 10th and we began our month of SAR events on 11 June 2022 with the grave marking of my 4th great grandfather, Adam Setser at Littlejohn Methodist Church in Lenoir, NC. After being denied a pension for service in the American Revolution for not meeting the six months requirement of service, his son continued to seek the pension after his death. Adam began his service the first of June 1781 at age 23 under Captain William Frisal as an Indian scout at Davidson's Fort, which is today Old Fort NC. After two months Adam was discharged, but he was again conscripted to serve under Captain John Hazzleburger as a corporal in the Wilmington Expedition for three months, for a total of 5 months. Only after his death did his son, William discover that his service after hostilities stopped but before the treaty was signed in September 1783 was also considered as service in the war and his denial was overturned. The proceeds from his pension was used to make his and his wife's grave stone.

It was a beautiful morning and we were able to get a little shade. There were 3 direct relatives of Adam Setser in attendance, in the left photo above, Susan Houck of Quaker Meadows DAR, a 5th great granddaughter and cousin to me in several different directions. Right hand photo, Chapter President Ben Setser, a 4th great grandson, and Chapter Vice President John Jay Cline, who is a 5th great grandson. The center photo shows most of us in attendance. There were members from Catawba Valley Chapter, Salisbury Chapter and Mecklenburg Chapter SAR along with members from Jacob Forney Chapter, Elizabeth Maxwell Steele Chapter and Quaker Meadows Chapter DAR.

### Thunder Over Carolina Inc presents



A Historical Drama based on the Battle of Ramsour's Mill  
Sponsored by Woodmill Winery, Bricktree Brewing Co, & Gilleland Realty

Thunder Over Carolina, the Outdoor Drama based on the 20 June 1780 Battle of Ramsour's Mill, took place on 23-25 June at Wood Mill Winery Amphitheater. This is a great production and includes members and good friends of our Chapter, acting out a portion of the events that took place in Lincolnton NC some 242 years ago. This is a production that should not be missed. The drama changes a bit each year, so that patrons would not get bored with the same production each year. Good food and drinks were available, and a great time was had by all. Please come out and be with us next year if you can.

Continued on page 2

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## *President's Report ~ continued*



Somehow, after becoming a member of SAR, and eventually becoming Chapter President, I thought it a good idea to seek out and attempt to perform Patriot Grave Markings to celebrate and recognise those that came before us, who have fought and struggled to create this nation that I love so, and to recognize and celebrate Eagle Scouts who will hopefully be a part of our future at SAR and a strong Americans. With this object in mind, Catawba Valley was honored to present the fourth Eagle Scout Award this year to Cole Anthony Panaccione, pictured at the left, member of Boy Scout Troop 327 on Thursday, 23 June 2022. These young men and women, ***(and yes, the first Eagle Scout Award I ever gave was to a very smart and deserving young lady)***, are the hope and



future of our nation and our Society. This is an honor and pleasure. I hope we can do at least four more before the end of the year.

Catawba Valley Chapter finished the month in style by joining Frank Merrill, above right, and the Salisbury Chapter for the annual Independence Day Parade in Faith NC. It was Hot! The estimate of attendance was more than 20,000 spectators and the kids really loved our ice pops. Included on the float were members of Catawba Valley, Mecklenburg, Salisbury and Battle of Kings Mountain Chapters of SAR along with members of the Elizabeth Maxwell Steele Chapter DAR. The Photos below show some of the festivities and crowd. Come be with us next time.



Our Chapter of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution is pleased to announce our continued involvement in the Wreaths Across America, a program. A national event that takes place on the 3rd Saturday of December each year to remember and honor fallen veterans and teach younger generations about the value of their freedom. We hope to put a wreath on every veteran's grave for the holidays. Again, this year, we are associated with Western Carolina State Veterans Cemetery in Black Mountain and all the Wreath that we generate will be placed in this cemetery. There are more than 7,000 veteran's graves there and our Chapter will be on hand to help place them on Saturday, 17 December 2022. This function is one of the most humbling experiences I have ever been involved with. You can donate a wreath to be placed, they are \$15.00. Please go to <https://wreathsacrossamerica.org/NC0385P> to do so. Please use the full email address, including the /NC0385P at the end for your wreaths to get to the proper cemetery. If you would like to help us place them, the event begins at 10:00 am, at 962 Old US 70 W, Black Mountain, NC 28711. Please come join us, we can always use the help.

Catawba Valley Chapter tries to stay busy and we have many things going on that you may want to join in. Please direct your attention to page 4 for a list and please, be with us at any or all of them. You will enjoy yourself.

*Ben Setser*

Chapter President

Please allow me to thank all those who have graciously donated to advertise with us since the inception of this newsletter. It is because of you that we are able to print and function. We thank you one and all. We are a very small non-profit organization and rely strictly on donations from supporters like you. Please contact Chapter President for donations advertisement space. We are a 501-C-3 entity, and all donations are tax deductible.

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**The Catawba Valley Chapter**  
of the  
**Sons of the American Revolution**

**Contributing  
Editor**



**Roy  
C.  
Lightfoot**

**“The Patriot’s Corner”**

As there were no submissions from any Chapter members, The Patriot’s Corner will review one of the Patriots killed at the Battle of Ramsour’s Mill, Captain William Galbraith Falls, Sr.

Falls was born in Chester County, Pennsylvania, 13 July 1740, the son of John and Martha Ann Falls. He married Isabella Kerr prior to 1763 in the same county. After moving south, to the Rowan County area, he joined the militia, and rose to the rank of Captain.

At the Battle of Ramsour’s Mill, Captain Falls served and led a company with the Rowan County Second Regiment Militia under the command of Lt Colonel Frederick Hambright. He had previously served with the Rowan County First Regiment Militia during the Cherokee Expedition, also known as “Rutherford’s Campaign” from August through November 1776. This campaign was a result of the British instigating multiple Cherokee raids in July and was led by Brigadier General Griffith Rutherford. In addition, Falls participated at the Patriot defeat in the Battle of Stono Ferry 20 June 1779 near Charles Towne, South Carolina under the command of General Benjamin Lincoln. During both actions, he was with the Rowan County Regiment of Militia, and both times commanded by Colonel Francis Locke.

In a discussion of a plan of action, cavalry officers Major James Rutherford, and Falls suggested making a surprise attack at Ramsour’s Mill. After considerable debate among the officers, a decision was made to attack the Loyalist encampment at daybreak. The Patriot units left Mountain Creek, approximately sixteen miles away, and made a night march to the Mill.

At dawn on the morning of Tuesday, 20 June 1780, a heavy fog blanketed the encampment, and led by the cavalry, the Patriots came close to the encampment. The surprise attack went off as planned, however, the Loyalists soon rallied, and opened up a destructive fire. In the first cavalry charge, Falls was mortally wounded where his horse carried him approximately two hundred yards, and he fell from his saddle. Fighting was fierce, and led to hand combat, however, the Patriots soon gained an advantage. The Loyalists retreated down the hill, across to the western side of Clarks Creek, and disappeared into the countryside. In a little less than two hours, the battle was over. As the morning fog lifted, the dead and wounded laid strewn on the ground. Casualties were estimated to be the same for both sides, however, the Patriots officer losses were quite high.

By midday, General Rutherford, and his troops reached the battlefield, and they began to aid the wounded and bury the dead, many of whom were returned home. With no uniforms, it was extremely difficult to tell Patriot from Loyalist. Those unable to be identified were respectfully buried together in a deep trench on the west side of the hill.

After the battle, when Falls failed to return home, Isabella rode her horse twenty-five miles from Salisbury to identify, and secure his body. She borrowed a quilt from Betsy Reinhardt, and wrapped his body in it to return him to the Centre Church Cemetery, in present-day Mooresville, for burial. Three years later, Isabella married Hugh Torrence, who had served under Captain Falls at the Ramsour’s Mill. Both are buried at Hopewell Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Huntersville, North Carolina.

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## *SAR-DAR Happenings*

**Battle of Huck's Defeat**, Saturday, **July 16, 10:00 am**, 1444 Brattonsville Road, McConnells, South Carolina 29726

**SAR Grave Marking**, Saturday, **July 16, 10:00 am**, Steele Creek Presbyterian Church Cemetery, 7407 Steele Creek Rd, Charlotte, NC, 28217

**VA DAR, NC SAR Grave Marking**, Saturday, **July 23, 2022, 10:00 am**, for Patriot Martin Gambill, Gambill Family Cemetery, Bill Cooper Rd, Crumpler NC, 28617.

**The Battle of Colson's Mill**, Saturday, **July 23, 2022, 10:00 am**, Norwood Community Center, 247 W Turner St, Norwood, NC 28128

**Tryon Resolves**, Saturday, **August 13, 2022, 11:00 am**, 2577 Tryon Courthouse Rd, Bessemer City NC, 28016.

**Old Soldiers Reunion Parade**, Thursday, **August 18, 2022**, Downtown Newton NC 28658.

**SAR Summer BOM**, Saturday, **August 20, 2022.**

**Constitution Week**, Saturday, **September 17** through Friday, **September 32**, we will be joining DAR in several events that week.

**Greenlee Crossing**, after a 2 year hiatus, this event returns on **Saturday, 1 October 2022, 10:00 am**, at 128 Greenlee Ford Rd. Morganton NC 28655. Please keep in mind that Judge's BBQ no longer exist so there will be no access to food there. There will also be a dedication that morning for an SAR Monument to commemorate the event.

**Battle of Kings Mountain**, Friday, **7 October 2022**, at 10:00 am, 2625 Park Rd, Blacksburg, SC 29702.

**Wreaths Across America**, Saturday, **17 December 2022**, at 10:00 am, Western Carolina State Veterans Cemetery, 962 Old US 70 W, Black Mountain, NC 28711.

## 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 troop s, serving as a juror, or being a local public servant.

Please keep in mind, our next regular meeting is Saturday, September 10th, 2022 at Palermo's Family Italian & Greek Restaurant, 924 Conover Blvd W, Conover NC. Come be with us if you can. A meal may be ordered at 11:00, the meeting begins at Noon.

Hope to see you there.

Find us at

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

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## Did You Know?

The Boston Tea Party is one of the best-known events in the lead-up to the American Revolution, taking place the night of December 16, 1773. Some 342 chests of tea were unceremoniously dumped into Boston Harbor, causing about \$1 million (in modern terms) worth of damage, but more importantly, sending a clear message of defiance to British authorities.

Three months later, a handful of patriots gathered to repeat the trick in March 1774. However, the second Boston Tea Party failed to make nearly the same impact as the first, with a mere 30 chests tipped into the harbor. Further protests of the same nature took place in New York, Maryland, and South Carolina, but none captured the imagination of the cause quite like the first. Sometimes the sequel just doesn't live up to the original