



# 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

10 August 2022

Volume 3  
Issue 8

Chapter  
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### Compatriots and friends

We began the month of July by assisting the Mecklenburg Chapter in their formal grave marking of Patriot David Vance on the 16th of July, at Steel Creek Presbyterian Church, Charlotte NC. We had a great day, it was really warm. The Patriot's 6th great grandson, Robert Vance of the New Mexico Society was on hand for the commemoration. A group photo of the event is above.

It seems as though grave marking is in the forefront of what we were doing in July. Catawba Valley Chapter in conjunction with New River Pioneers Chapter VA NSDAR conducted a joint grave marking for Patriot Captain Martin Gambill on 23 July 2022 in Crumpler NC. We had a combined NC/TN Color Guard with members from Bethabara Chapter, Mecklenburg Chapter, Catawba Valley Chapter, Col Alexander Erwin Chapter NC NSSAR and Watauga Chapter TN NSSAR, Greenlee Chapter NC NSDAR, New River Pioneers Chapter VA NSDAR and Grace Greenlee McDowell Chapter CAR. Patrick Carpenter from Boy Scout Troop 327 played Taps. I must thank Past Regent Shirley Gordon-Lundy and Regent Mary Lou Richardson of New River Chapter VA NSDAR for inviting Catawba Valley Chapter and Combined NC NSSAR Color Guard to join this commemoration. Another great day honoring our local Patriot ancestors. Photos below.



*Ben Setser*

Chapter President



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## “The Tryon Resolves”

This month we will examine another important document in North Carolina’s American Revolution history known as the Tryon Resolves. The Tryon Resolves was a declaration adopted by the people of Tryon County in the colony of North Carolina, which was signed on 14 August 1775. These Resolves vowed that citizens of the county would resist any and all coercive actions which were performed by the government of Great Britain against the 13 American Colonies. Tryon County encompassed the following counties in North Carolina: Cleveland, Gaston, Lincoln, Rutherford, and parts of Burke, Mecklenburg, and McDowell; and the following counties in South Carolina: Cherokee, Chester, Laurens, Spartanburg, Union, York, and part of Greenville, and Newberry, as well as part of the Catawba Indian Reservation.

The Tryon Resolves association was created in response to the Battle of Lexington on 19 April 1775, and was among the earliest of many declarations against the Crown and the British government’s policies, which were considered to be oppressive against the colonists. Other declarations included the Mecklenburg Resolves from Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, and the Suffolk Resolves from Suffolk County, Massachusetts. Although it predates the Declaration of Independence by almost eleven months, and like its predecessors, the Tryon Resolves stopped short of declaring independence from Great Britain. However, it did support armed resistance until a resolution could be reached.

### The Tryon Resolves reads as follows:

**The unprecedented, barbarous & bloody actions Committed by the British Troops on our American Brethren near Boston, on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April & 20<sup>th</sup> of May last together with the Hostile opperations & Traiterous Designs now Carrying on by the Tools of Ministerial Vengeance & Despotism for the Subjugating all British America, Sugest to us the painful Necessity of having recourse to Arms, for the preservation of those Rights & Liberties which the principles of our Constitution and the Laws of God Nature & nations have made it our Duty to Defend.–**

**We therefore the Subscribers freeholders & Inhabitants of Tryon County, do hereby faithfully unite Ourselves under the most Sacred ties of Religion Honor & love to Our Country, firmly to Resist force by force in defence of our Natural Freedom & Constitutional Rights against all Invasions, & at the same time do Solemnly Engage to take up Arms and Risque our lives and fortunes in Maintaining the Freedom of our Country whenever the Wisdom & Council of the Continental Congress or our provincial Convention shall Declare it necessary, & this Engagement we will Continue in & hold Sacred, till a Reconciliation shall take place between Great Britain & America on Constitutional principles, which we most ardently desire. And we do firmly agree to hold all such persons Inimical to the liberties of America, who shall refuse to Subscribe this Association.**

As tensions rose between the Colonies, and the Crown, many of county’s residents began forming Committees of Safety in order to prepare militia companies for the inevitable coming of war. On 14 September 1775, several of the signers of the Tryon Resolves formed the Tryon County Militia, thus, preparing for British retaliation against the American revolutionaries.

### The signatories of the Tryon Resolves were:

Robt. Alexander	Jas. Baird	Abel Beatty	Thomas Beatty	John Beeman	George Black
James Buchanan	Christian Carpenter	Samuel Carpenter	James Coburn	Jacob Costner	Geo. Dellinger
John Dellinger	Thomas Espey	Jacob Forney	William Graham	Robert Hulclip	Joseph Hardin
Frederick Hambricht	Andrew Hampton	Benjamin Hardin	David Jenkins	Joseph Kuykendall	Samuel Loftin
Jas. Logan	Perrygreen Mackness	Jacob Mauney, Jun.	Valentine Mauney	Fried Mauser	James McAfee
Charles McLean	Jas. Miller	Moses Moore	John Morris	Andrew Neel	Joseph Neel
George Paris	Jonathan Price	John Robison	Peter Sides	Adam Simms	Samuel Smith
William Thompson	Joab Turner	Richard Waffer	John Walker	John Wells	Davis Whiteside
		William Whiteside			

As before with so many of the other documents which have been reviewed, these people stepped out, and made a difference not knowing what would be the outcome, nor how it would affect them personally, or professionally. None of them could tell the future of what was to become of their lives, however, they did know something had to be done, and they did it.

Side Notes: The Catawba Valley Chapter will be participating in a commemoration of the Tryon Resolves on Saturday, 13 August at 11:00 am. The address of the event is 2577 Tryon Courthouse Rd, Bessemer City NC, 28016.

Also, 14 August was the author’s mother’s birthday – not in 1775, however, many years later.

**Roy C Lightfoot**

## “The Patriot’s Corner”

### Lt. Col. John Walker

John Walker III was born 10 May 1728 in New Castle Co, Delaware, the son of John Walker II of Derry, Ireland. John II immigrated to the Delaware Colony in 1720.

John had been apprenticed out to a cooper by his father at an early age as was the custom at the time to afford a young man a way to learn a trade. His father died when he was just 14, and as a young man, Walker was released from his apprenticeship and settled on the south fork of the Potomac River in Hampshire County, VA, today West VA, where he began his cooper trade. It was there that John met, and in 1751, married Elizabeth Watson. He served as a volunteer under Col George Washington in the Virginia colonial troops during defeat of Gen Edward Braddock in July of 1755 near Fort Duquesne PA. Later in 1755, John Walker III and family moved to what would become Lincoln Co, NC, on Lee Creek, about ten miles east of the present town of Lincolnton. There, Walker enlisted in Col James Grant's regiment and served in the 1761 expedition against the Cherokee where John Walker was involved in a battle fought at Echoe, a town on the Tennessee River just west of Knoxville. Two years later he settled on Crowders Creek near Kings Mountain, NC and lived there until 1768, when he moved to Cane Creek in what was then Tryon, but now Rutherford Co, NC. He was appointed by the legislature of 1774 as one of the commissioners to **“select a site and build thereon the courthouse, prison and stocks”** for the County of Tryon and was appointed Colonel-Commandant of the Tryon Co militia. In 1775 he and his son Felix accompanied Col Richard Henderson and Daniel Boone on an expedition that explored Kentucky and founded the settlement of Boonesboro, KY.

At the beginning of the hostilities of the Revolutionary War, John Walker III was appointed chairman of the Tryon Committee of Safety and was author of the Tryon Association Resolution of August 1775, when forty-eight citizens of Tryon County resolved to **“firmly resist by force in defense of our natural freedom and constitutional rights”**, that same month he represented Tryon County in the Third Provincial Congress at Hillsborough. John was commissioned Captain in the First Regiment of North Carolina Troops after hostilities began, and was promoted to Major on 20 Apr. 1777. As a result of age and poor health, Walker resigned his commission on 22 December 1777, it being understood in spirit if not in words that he would return to Tryon Co and use his influence among her citizens there. Walker worked tirelessly to revive the spirits of the disheveled Whigs resistance and promote the cause of American Independence. Tryon County was abolished by an act of the legislature of 1778, and Rutherford and Lincoln Counties took its place the next year. The act designated John Walker as one of the four commissioners to survey the dividing line between the two counties and assist in setting up a government in those counties.

In 1779 he was appointed Justice of the Peace in the new county of Rutherford NC, and the first session of the Court of Common Pleas was held in his home. The legislature of 1784 named him one of the commissioners of the Morgan District for disposing of confiscated Tory property, and designated him one of the commissioners in that district **“for the purpose of erecting a courthouse, prison and stocks in the County of Burke for the use of said district levying a tax to complete the same.”** One of the duties of the commissioners consisted of laying out and establishing the County Seat in Burke Co, a town called Morgansborough which later became Morganton, NC.

John and Elizabeth had 8 sons, Felix 1753-1828, John 1755-1780, James Rueben 1757-1836, William Daniel 1760-1841, Thomas 1762-1810, Joseph 1765, George 1768-1778 who was killed by Indians at 10 years old, and Jacob 1771-1842. In 1787 Col Walker moved to the forks of the Green and Broad rivers, in Rutherford Co NC, where he died, 25 January 1796 at 67 years of age. His wife Elizabeth died 17 April 1808 and was buried beside him on their plantation.

Six of his seven living sons served in the Revolution, five being commissioned officers in NC regiments of the Continental line. One son, Captain Felix Walker, was also a member of the NC House of Commons six times and served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1817 to 1823.

This month’s “The Patriot’s Corner” was brought to you by Charlain Setser, 6<sup>th</sup> great granddaughter of Col John Walker III and wife of Chapter President Ben Setser.



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## *SAR-DAR Happenings*

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

\***Battle of Camden**, Saturday, 13 November 2022, Camden Battlefield, 1606 Flat Rock Rd, Camden SC, 29020.

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

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

\***Patriots Day Parade**, Friday, September 16, 2022, 9:00 am South Newton Elementary School.

\***Constitution Week**, Saturday, September 17 through Friday, September 30, 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.

\***Battle of Shallow Ford**, Saturday, 8 October 2022, 11:00 am, Historic **Huntsville Methodist Church**, 4214 Mt. Sinai Drive, Huntsville, NC., grave marking for 3 patriots following the service.

\***Patriot Grave Marking**, Saturday, 5 November 2022, 10:00 am, **Watts-Bumgarner Cemetery**, 339 Boone Gap Lane, Taylorsville, NC 28681.

\***Chapter Meeting**, Saturday, 12 November 2022, 11:00 am, at Palermo's Family Italian & Greek Restaurant, Conover NC.

\***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.

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

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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. It will be our annual meeting and awards will be presented. Hope to see you.

Find us at <https://www.facebook.com/catawbavalleyncssar>  
<https://ncssar.org/chapters/catawba-valley/>

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

[lennon\\_0102@yahoo.com](mailto:lennon_0102@yahoo.com)

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### Did You Know?

After the first shots were fired in the American Revolution in April 1775, a peaceful settlement still wasn't completely off the table. Not everyone in the Continental Congress wanted independence from Britain. So it fell to John Dickinson, at the time a delegate from Pennsylvania, to draft a direct appeal to King George III, the so-called Olive Branch Petition.

This document indicated that the root of discontent was not toward the British Crown, but rather toward the British Parliament. The sincerity of the petition was questioned by the British, as a letter written by John Adams that doubted the document was intercepted around the same time the Olive Branch Petition was issued. In any case, the king refused to even read it, and so ended any hope of a peaceful resolution.