



# 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

### Compatriots and Friends

January started off with a bang. The Commemoration for the 242nd Anniversary of the Battle of Cowpens was a couple of days. The National Park Service has decided that the events that are inside their Battle Field Parks will happen on the date the incident happened rather than the nearest weekend, as many have been done before. I was told that this is an effort to get more school children to attend as a school outing, and there will no longer be individual Honors with a wreath, but all wreaths are placed at a collection center, transported to site and set up by rangers, and all those rendering Honors will do so simultaneously. This created two events. One, a Chapter event in downtown Spartanburg SC, on Morgan Square, at the Monument to Gen Daniel Morgan on Saturday, 14 January 2023, and the National event at the Cowpens Battlefield on Tuesday, 17 January, 2023. Catawba Valley Chapter was well represented at both events. Pictured below are, left to right, Roy Lightfoot and Lisa Pupkiewicz at Morgan Square, Ben Setser, Kevin Allec and Jay DeLoach at the Cowpens Monument, and Lisa, Roy, and Ben, marching with the Combined Color Guard.



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Our next regular meeting is, Saturday, March 11th, 2023, at Palermo's Family Italian & Greek Restaurant, 924 Conover Blvd W, Conover NC. We will be discussing the particulars of the upcoming Grave Markings and our National Event, the Battle of Ramsour's Mill that we host every year. 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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*Ben Setser*  
Chapter President



10 February 2023

Volume 4 Issue 2

### Chapter Officers

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Lightfoot**

**“The Boston Massacre”**

The Boston Massacre, a deadly riot on King Street in Boston, Massachusetts, occurred on 5 March 1770, when a brawl between American colonists, and a lone British soldier came to blows. This brawl escalated to the chaotic, and bloody slaughter which became known as a most memorable event early on in what became the American Revolution, and energized anti-British sentiment.

Early in 1770, tensions were running high in Boston as it had been occupied by more than 2000 British soldiers in a city whose population numbered 16,000. The occupation was meant to enforce Britain’s tax laws including the Stamp Act, and the Townshend Acts. The Stamp Act of 1765 was an internal tax levied against all paper documents in the colonies. The Townshend Acts were a series of measures passed in the British Parliament in 1767 on all goods imported into the Colonies. Both of which were passed with no representation in Parliament from the Colonies and were meant to assist in a recovery of revenue caused by the debt of the Seven Years’ War with the French (1756-1763). Thus, the chant of “no taxation without representation” arose. Skirmishes were common and erupted between colonists and soldiers as well as Patriot and Loyalist colonists. Patriots were known to vandalize stores which sold British goods and intimidate the merchants and their customers. During one of these incidents on 22 February, a mob attacked a known Loyalist’s store, and when customs officer Ebenezer Richardson, who lived nearby, tried to break up the rock-throwing mob by firing his gun through a window, he struck and killed 11-year-old Christopher Seider further enraging the Patriots. Several days later, another incident occurred, however, ended without serious bloodshed, and helped to set the stage for what was to come.

On the cold, frigid evening of 5 March, a lone British private, Hugh White, was stationed to guard the King’s money which was being stored in the Custom House on King Street. Eventually, a group of angry colonists gathered, and began hurling insults at White, and threatened violence. After much taunting, Private White struck one of the mob with his bayonet, and they retaliated by pelting him with snowballs, ice, and stones. Bells began ringing out throughout the town, which was usually to signify there was a fire, however, this time it sent many male colonists into the streets. The assault on White intensified, he fell, and called for reinforcements to his positions.

Captain Thomas Preston hearing his plea and fearing mass riots as well as the loss of the King’s money, arrived with several soldiers at the Custom House, and took up a defensive position in front of it. Worried of the inevitability of bloodshed, some of the colonists begged the soldiers to hold their fire while others dared them to shoot. Preston later reported he feared the colonists were going to carry White from his post, and later murder him. Violence continued to escalate with colonists striking the soldiers with clubs and sticks. Exactly what happened next is unclear, however, it was stated someone said the word “fire”, and one of the soldiers complied. Once the first shot was fired, other soldiers opened fire killing five colonists including Crispus Attucks, a local dockworker of mixed racial heritage, and wounding six others. Among the other casualties were Samuel Gray, a rope maker, Sailor James Caldwell, who was hit twice before dying, and Samuel Maverick, and Patrick Carr who were both mortally wounded. Within hours of the incident, Captain Preston, and his men were arrested and jailed and stories from both sides were being spread far and wide. Preston wrote on the events from his jail cell for publication while some of the members of the Sons of Liberty, such as John Hancock, and Samuel Adams attempted to incite the colonist to keep fighting the British, and as tensions rose, the British troops retreated from Boston, to Fort William.

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**The Catawba Valley Chapter**  
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**“Boston Massacre” Continued from Page 2**

Silversmith Paul Revere encouraged the anti-British attitudes with an etching of the scene in his now-famous engraving which depicted the British soldiers callously murdering the American colonists by showing them as the instigators even though the colonists had started the incident. Portraying the British as vicious brutes, and the colonists as gentlemen, it was later determined that Revere had copied his engraving from a sketch made by Boston artist Henry Pelham.

After seven months, Preston and the other soldiers were brought to trial. Ironically, American colonist, lawyer, and future President of the United States, John Adams, defended the group. Although he was no fan of the British, Adams wanted to ensure these men received a fair trial since the death penalty was at stake, and the colonists did not want the British to have an excuse to even the score. Adams knew for sure there would not be any way to find any impartial jurors in Boston, he convinced the judge to seat the jury with non-Bostonians. During the trial, Adams argued there was too much confusion during the event, and that even eyewitnesses had presented evidence which contradicted whether Preston had been the one to order his men to fire on the mob. However, witness Richard Palmes testified after the rifle was fired, he heard the word fire. He stated he and the Captain were positioned between the breech and the muzzles of the rifles. In addition, he stated he did not know who had made the order. Adams argued because of this reasonable doubt existed, and Preston was acquitted. The remaining soldiers claimed self-defense, and were found not guilty of murder, although two of them, Hugh Montgomery, and Matthew Kilroy were found guilty of manslaughter, and were branded on their thumbs as first offenders per English law. To Adams' and the jury's credit, the men received their fair trial even though such hatred was felt for them and their country.

In the aftermath of the incident, a major impact was felt on the relations between the colonies, and the British. This would further incense the colonists who were already weary of the presence of the soldiers, the British rule, and what they viewed as unfair taxation. Perhaps, it was Captain Preston himself who said it best when he wrote, “None of them was a hero. The victims were troublemakers who got more than they deserved. The soldiers were professionals ... who shouldn't have panicked. The whole thing shouldn't have happened.”

Over the next five years, the colonists would continue the rebellion in the staging of the Boston Tea Party, forming the First Continental Congress, and defending the militia arsenal at Concord against the redcoats, all leading to the launch of the American Revolution.

**Roy C. Lightfoot**

**“Presidents Report” Continued from Page 1**



Catawba Valley Chapter had the Honor to induct new member Loy Hoyle on January 21st at our regular bimonthly meeting. It is always great to induct a new member. His Patriot by which he was able to join was Ensign John Hoyle for which the local John Hoyle Chapter, DAR in Hickory is named. Pictured at the left are, Ben Setser, President and Loy Hoyle, New member.

As reported last month, Catawba Valley Chapter is pleased to announce we are again joining with Jacob Forney DAR for the Second Annual George Washington Tea, Sunday, 19 February 2023, 2:00 pm at the Lincoln Cultural Center 403 East Main Street Lincolnton, N.C. 28092. This was a fabulous event last year, so please, plan to attend. There is no cost, but as always, donations are greatly encouraged. For those of you that are as clueless as I was last year, this tea is a gathering of Patriots to celebrate George Washington's birthday. There will of course be tea, along with finger foods that are sweet and savory, and including a keynote speaker.

Catawba Valley Chapter's, 250th Anniversary Celebrations will begin again on Saturday, 4 March 2023 at 11:00 am,

with, The 253rd Anniversary of The Boston Massacre at Historic Lincoln County Courthouse, 1 Court Square, Lincolnton NC 28092. This event is one of the earliest skirmishes with the British and resulted in our earliest casualties. We are hoping to make a Great day of it on March 4th.

We were pleased to receive the 5 new gravestones that were ordered in November, pictured to the right. I was informed that the next order will go up an additional \$20.00 per stone. I suppose we have purchased too many of them, as the price has doubled this year alone, from \$75.00 to \$150.00 each. Inflation seems to be everywhere. I trust that we all can overcome it.



**Ben Setser - Chapter President**



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## LOGISTICS

### *SAR-DAR Happenings*

- \*Second Annual George Washington Birthday Tea, Sunday, 19 February 2023, 2:00 pm at the Lincoln Cultural Center 403 East Main Street Lincolnton, N.C. 28092.
- \*Battle of Moore's Creek, Saturday, 25 February 2023, 10:00 am. 200 Moore's Creek Dr, Currie, NC 28435.
- \*The 253rd Anniversary of The Boston Massacre, Saturday, 4 March 2023, 11:00 am at Historic Lincoln County Courthouse, 1 Court Square, Lincolnton NC 28092.
- \*Battle of Guilford Courthouse, Wednesday, 14 March 2023, 10:00 am at Guilford Courthouse National Park, 2332 New Garden Road, Greensboro, NC 27410.
- \*NC SAR Annual Meeting, Friday & Saturday, 31 March-1 April 2023, Wyndham Garden Hotel 415 S Swing Rd, Greensboro, NC 27409.
- \*Adoption of the Halifax Resolves, Wednesday, 12 April 2023, 10:30 am at 70 Market St, Halifax, NC 27839.
- \*Patriot's Day, Monday, 17 April 2023, Placing flags on Patriot Graves all week.
- \*Battle of Ramsour's Mill, Friday & Saturday, 16 – 17 June 2023, reception dinner Friday evening at Lincoln Cultural Center, 6:00 pm, Commemoration Saturday morning, 10:am at 301 Jeb Seagle Dr, Lincolnton, NC 28092

The Catawba Coalition welcomes submissions, comments and/or suggestions.

Please send them to

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

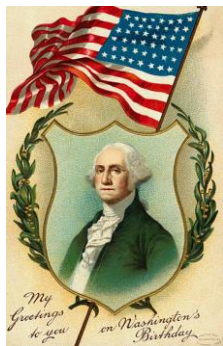
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### Did you Know?

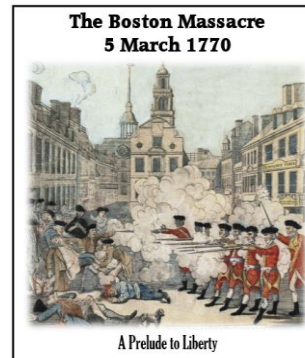
Andrew Jackson was one of three future US presidents to serve in the Revolutionary War, and the youngest by some distance. In 1781, at the tender age of 13, he was taken prisoner by the British and ordered to clean the boots of an officer. When he refused, Jackson was slashed by the officer's sword, leaving him with both a permanent scar and an undying hatred of the British.

He would get no small amount of revenge many years later when he commanded the American forces at New Orleans - a famous victory that occurred after the war officially ended.



Catawba Valley Chapter is pleased to announce we are again joining with Jacob Forney DAR for the Second Annual George Washington Tea, Sunday, 19 February 2023, 2:00 pm at the Lincoln Cultural Center 403 East Main Street Lincolnton, N.C. 28092. Those who will come, please send an email of intent so we know how many to plan for to Fran Goins at [fcgoins@gmail.com](mailto:fcgoins@gmail.com)

Catawba Valley Chapter's, 250th Anniversary Celebrations will begin again on Saturday, 4 March 2023 at 11:00 am, with, The 253rd Anniversary of The Boston Massacre at Historic Lincoln County Courthouse, 1 Court Square, Lincolnton NC 28092.



### 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 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.

Join Today