



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

Catawba Valley Chapter has been quite busy this month. We began February by joining with Jacob Forney Chapter DAR in an afternoon tea, in honor of our first President on Sunday, 19 February 2023. Our second annual George Washington's Birthday Tea, held at the Lincoln Cultural Center, was a great success. The house was full. Our speaker, Ray Maxson, gave a great oration about Washington's early years. You should have been there! Being able to enjoy these several functions with DAR is wonderful. Pictured below are, left photo, Ray Maxson giving his oration; center photo, the food; and right photo, some of the crowd. There were 6 SAR and 5 DAR Chapters in attendance.



Of course, in the background, Catawba Valley Chapter has been engaged in helping arrange Patriot Grave Markings with several other chapters. The John Sevier Chapter, TNSSAR; Col Alexander Erwin Chapter NCSSAR; and Catawba Valley Chapter NCSSAR, are collaborating for some time to conduct a triple Patriot Grave Marking on Saturday, 22 April 2023, 10:00 am, at First Presbyterian Church Cemetery, 100 Silver Creek Road, Morganton, NC 28655. The Patriots to be marked are, William Walton, 1736-1806, a direct relative of Lt Col Clifford Kent, President of John Sevier Chapter, John Duckworth, 1758-1843, and William Wilson, 1751-1832. Please come be with us and earn yourself the Grave Marking Medal. We have about 10 more Grave Markings in line for the remainder of the year. We are looking at logistics and dates that are agreeable to most in order to get these done. As always, your help is encouraged.

In our future Grave Markings, these are the Patriots that we intend to do this year. At the Kincaid-Bristol Family Cemetery, Burke County, Jonathan Boone, 1750-1826, James Kincaid, 1754-1836, and Robert Kincaid, 1764-1836. At the Old Haas Cemetery, Catawba County, Isaac Wise, abt 1762-1776, and Simon Haas, 1726-1779. At Weidner-Robinson Cemetery, Catawba

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“The Battle of Guilford Courthouse”

Author’s note: This month’s article comes from a previous edition of the newsletter. It is being reprinted because this is one of the most significant events which happened in North Carolina during the American Revolution. Enjoy it again, or for the first time. ~RCL~

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 Major 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.

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County, Johannes Mull, 1744-1831, Heinrich Weidner, 1717-1792. And at Keener-Shrum Cemetery, Lincoln County, Johan Nickel Schrum, 1724-1793, John Peter Shrum Sr, 1762-1836, and John Elijah Keener Sr, 1745-1823.

Catawba Valley Chapter was able to resume our America's 250th Anniversary Celebrations after a three-year hiatus with the COVID crisis on Saturday, 4 March 2023 on the steps of the Historic Lincoln County Courthouse, by remembering the 253rd anniversary of the Boston Massacre. We had a small crowd of about 30 people in attendance. Chapter President Ben Setser was Master of Ceremony and spoke about the happenings on the evening of 5 March 1770 in Boston and those who died in the Massacre. Jacob Forney DAR Chaplain Pat Hance brought greetings from the DAR and addressed ladies in this action. State Color Guard Commander Stephen McKee portrayed Dr Joseph Warren, patriot and first Grand Master of all Masons in Massachusetts who was killed at the Battle of Bunker Hill, with excerpts of his oration at the second anniversary of the Massacre. Catawba Valley Chapter Treasurer Dan Beal spoke on other Masons who contributed to the war effort. It was a great day in honor of our American Patriots. The photos below were taken by MICHELLE T. BERNARD Senior Staff Writer and Photographer for The Lincoln Times-News, the left photo is the Combined SAR Color Guard, led by State Color Guard Commander, Stephen McKee, center photo, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, right photo, Stephen McKee as Dr Joseph Warren. It was a great day!

Ben Setser
Chapter President



“The Battle of Guilford Courthouse”

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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.

Roy C. Lightfoot
Chapter Secretary, Contributing Editor



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LOGISTICS

SAR-DAR Happenings

- ***Battle of Guilford Courthouse**, Wednesday, 15 March 2023, 10:00 am at Guilford Courthouse National Park, 2332 New Garden Road, Greensboro, NC 27410.
- ***Fort Defiance Colonial Days**, Saturday & Sunday, 25-26 March 2023, 10:00 am-4:00 pm, 4555, Fort Defiance Drive, Lenoir, NC 28645.
- ***Revolutionary War Living History Day**, Saturday, 25 March 2023, 10:00 am-4:00 pm, 150 E King St, Hillsboro NC, 27278.
- ***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's the week before through the week after. See me for Flags
- ***Three Patriot Grave Marking**, Saturday, 22 April 2023, 10:00 am at First Presbyterian Church Cemetery, 100 Silver Creek Road, Morganton, NC 28655.
- ***Chapter Meeting**, Saturday, 13 May 2023, 11:00 am, Palermo's Family Italian & Greek Restaurant, 942 Conover Blvd, Conover NC 28613
- ***Patriot Grave Marking**, Saturday, 3 June 2023, William Harris Cemetery, Preacher Field Rd, Elkin, NC 28621
- ***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.
- ***Independence Day**, 4 July 2023, All across America.



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.

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The Catawba Coalition
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comments and/or
suggestions.

Please send them to

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Did you Know?

Over the course of the war, about 231,000 men served in the Continental Army, though never more than 48,000 at any one time, and never more than 13,000 at any one place. The sum of the Colonial militias numbered upwards of 145,000 men. France also dispatched a substantial force to North America beginning in 1779, with more than 12,000 soldiers and a substantial fleet joining the Colonial Americans by wars end.

At its peak, the British Army had upwards of 22,000 men at its disposal in North America to combat the rebellion. An additional 25,000 Loyalists, faithful to Great Britain, participated in the conflict as well. Nearly 30,000 German auxiliaries, or Hessians, were hired out by German princes and served alongside the British for the duration of the war.