



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

There has been much "Behind the Scenes" work taking place since our last newsletter in order to secure the venues and have the proper people in place for the two upcoming grave markings and for the Commemoration of the 243rd Battle of Ramsour's Mill. It was a bit difficult at first. There are always snafus that occur. This year, the snafus seemed to be more frequent and varied than in times past. As always, failure is not an option, and at last, everything is in place to make these events happen, and happen in great fashion.

To address these three events in order of their occurrence, the first will be a Triple Grave Marking, Saturday, 22 April 2023, 10:00 am for Patriots William Walton, John Duckworth, and William Wilson, at First Presbyterian Church Cemetery, 100 Silver Creek Road, Morganton NC 28655. I realize this takes place the same day as the Camden Reinternment, which is explained on the next page, but the grave marking was initiated by a direct relative of Patriot William Wilson from Tennessee and this date is the only time he can be in Morganton to take care of this mission. Please come be with us if you can. One may register for Color Guard and Wreath Presentation RSVP with an email to: kevin_allec@hotmail.com . See flyer, please join us.

10 April 2023

Volume 4 Issue 4

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Ben Setser

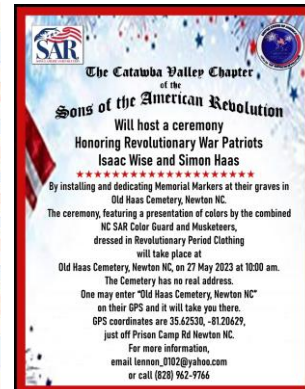
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Rhod Reep

**Past President &
Registrar**
Jack Bowman



Our second upcoming event is a Double Grave Marking, Saturday, 27 May 2023, 10:00 am for Patriots Isaac Wise and Simon Haas, at Old Haas Cemetery, Off Prison Camp Road, Newton NC, 28658. The cemetery has no real address, but if you enter "Old Haas Cemetery, Newton NC" in your car's GPS system, it will take you to the spot. The GPS coordinates are 35.62530 -81.20629. See flyer, please come be with us if you can.

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



Ben Setser
Chapter President





**Contributing
Editor**

**Roy
C.
Lightfoot**

“The Battle of Camden Reinternment”

The Battle of Camden occurred near present-day Camden, South Carolina on 16 August 1780, between British troops under Lt General Charles Cornwallis numbering over 2,000, and 4,000 Patriots under the command of General Horatio Gates. This battle is noted in the annals of history as the worst Patriot defeat in the Southern Campaign as well as all of the American Revolution.

The battle occurred in an area of long leaf pines, and lasted close to forty-five minutes when the two forces were firing their muskets at close range. The dead and wounded lie on the ground, and many were left behind. Some of the dead were hastily buried in shallow graves with some body parts still sticking out. Casualty count showed 900 Patriots killed or wounded, and 1,000 captured with an estimated 68 killed, 245 wounded, 11 missing for the British.

Fast forward from 1780 to 1907 to the forming of the Hobkirk Hill Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, who aimed to preserve the Camden battlefield. At that time, William Edwards owned the battlefield property and donated one acre of land where a granite marker could be placed to commemorate the mortal wounding of Baron de Kalb, a commander of the Continental troops in the battle. In 1942, Mr. Edwards donated an additional five acres to the Chapter in order to create a park on the battlefield with it becoming a National Historic Landmark in 1961. In 1996, Jim Legg and the University of South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA) along with the Katawba Valley Land Trust and Bowater Company negotiated a conservation easement to protect a larger footprint of the battlefield. A 314-acre tract of land was selected and intended to cover the core of the battlefield. In 1998, Bowater clear-cut much of the property and Legg began an extensive metal detecting project and determined that there was an archaeological potential despite many decades of relic hunting. In 2002, the Palmetto Conservation Foundation acquired the battlefield and assumed the leadership role in the preservation process. Between 2002 and 2009, and over the course of three Federal grants, extensive historical and archaeological research was conducted on the battlefield. During this time, surveys were conducted of private collectors of artifacts along with the metal detecting to define the battlefield parameters in the present terrain. During this time, a total of eight unmarked, shallow graves were discovered, and test excavations were completed in 2006. Although not funded from 2010 to 2020, intermittent field work continued through the SCIAA and the preserved property grew to 476.20 acres. In 2017, ownership of the battlefield was transferred to the Historic Camden Foundation (HCF). In 2018, The Liberty Trail, partners with the South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust (SCBPT) and the American Battlefield Trust, acquired an additional 294.45 acres for a total of 770.65 acres. In 2022, the SCBPT, in partnership with and on behalf of the HCF, contracted with SCIAA to excavate at least five firmly located graves, and the project quickly expanded to 14 different individuals in seven different graves.

Countless hours were spent with what was anticipated as a small project which exploded into a much larger one. Four weeks grew to eight weeks. Fourteen people worked on the seven different graves. In them, fourteen people were found and have been identified as twelve Continental soldiers, one Loyalist, and one British soldier. It was described as being very hard, meticulous, and emotional work. Each body was removed, placed in a bag which was then placed in a flag draped box, and escorted to a van where it was sent to a forensic team. Once the tests are completed, the bodies will be placed in 18th Century style hand-crafted coffins for transport back to Camden.

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The Catawba Valley Chapter
of the
Sons of the American Revolution

President's Report
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Our third event, our signature National Event is the Commemoration of the 243rd Battle of Ramsour's Mill. Battle Weekend will be a bit different this year. I am pleased to announce that the full weekend is going to happen in ample form. Rather than the Friday evening reception that we have had in the past, for 2023 and the full resumption of Battle Weekend, Catawba Valley SAR and Jacob Forney DAR have put together a GALA for Friday evening, 16 June 2023, 6:30 pm, at the Lincoln Cultural Center, 403 East Main Street, Lincolnton NC 28092. The GALA will have great food, a bit of a film about the battle, along with speakers Daniel Barefoot, and His Excellency, General George Washington. The GALA is \$35.00 and tickets may be purchased at LCC.booktix.com. Battle weekend will continue on Saturday, 17 June 2023, 10:00 am, with the Commemoration at the Mass Grave, 201 Jeb Segal Drive, Lincolnton NC 28092. Speakers will be Bill Anderson and His Excellency, General George Washington. Please register at <https://ncssar.org/event/243rd-commemoration-of-the-battle-of-ramsours-mill/>. Rooms are available for \$124.00 plus tax at Hampton Inn. Phone



Number 704 736-2000, the group name is Sons of the American Revolution, the group code is SAR. This should be a great weekend. Locke's Militia is scheduled to be on hand. Please come be with us for this special event. See Flyer.

Catawba Valley participated in the NC SSAR Annual Meeting, and SAR National South Atlantic District Meeting, March 31st and April 1st in Greensboro NC. Our Chapter acquired streamers for The Battle of Cowan's Ford, for 1st place in USS Stark Memorial for our Veteran's service, 1st place in the Thomas 'Nat' Clark for Outstanding Chapter, 1st place in the President's streamer for our works as a Chapter and 2nd place for Americanism. We received Certificates of Appreciation for Roy Lightfoot and Ben Setser from National for Color Guard at the Battle of Cowpens, and our Chapter President received the Silver Meritorious Service Medal for long, faithful and meritorious to the State Society. It was a great event for our state and chapter.



North Carolina Society, Sons of the American Revolution elected and installed a new President at the State Annual Meeting on March 31st and April 1st. In the photo at the left is our new State President, Steve Van Pelt being sworn in. Please join me in a warm welcome to President Van Pelt and the rest of the slate of new officers who are; Senior VP, Chris Grimes; Region 1 VP, Steve Avent; Region 2 VP, Mike Aycock; Region 3 VP, Pat Niemann; Region 4 VP, Stephen McKee; Region 5 VP, Craig Isaacson; Secretary, Bob Sigmon; Treasurer, Sam Powell; Registrar, Bob Ervin; Genealogist, Rolf Maris; Chaplain, Van Jones; Historian, Gary Spencer; Webmaster, Karl Feld; National Trustee, Pat Niemann; Alternate National Trustee, Jay DeLoach. This contingency of Compatriots will lead our Society to new heights in 2023-2024 and keep us briskly advancing toward the 2026 National Congress, our Nation's 250th Birthday, in Greensboro North Carolina.

“The Battle of Camden Reinternment”
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All of this is to give the reader an idea of what is going to occur Thursday thru Saturday, 20-22 April 2023. All events are free and open to the public; however, some require registration. Here is the schedule of events. On Thursday, 20 April, the coffins draped with the flag of each soldier's service will be placed on United States Army Humvees and begin the trip from the State Capital back to where they were originally found on the battlefield. Upon arrival at Camden in the afternoon, the remains will lie in repose at the Kershaw Cornwallis House all night. That evening, a panel discussion with the archaeological and forensics team will be held at the Camden Revolutionary War Visitor Center from 7 to 9 pm. On Friday, 21 April, the soldiers will continue to lie in repose all day and night, a Living History Camp will be open to the public from 10 am to 8 pm, and the United States Army Old Guard will offer a public concert with a narrated demonstration. On Saturday, 22 April, the funeral cortege will leave the Historic Camden Campus and travel to the Bethesda Presbyterian Church at 9 am, a funeral service will be held at 11 am at the church, the burial ceremony will be conducted at 3 pm, and a dinner theatre will be held for the Patrons only at 7 pm.

All event details can be found on their website at <https://www.scbattlegroundtrust.org/schedule>.

Roy C. Lightfoot
Chapter Secretary, Contributing Editor



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LOGISTICS

SAR-DAR Happenings

- *Adoption of the Halifax Resolves, Wednesday, 12 April 2023, 10:30 am at 70 Market St, Halifax, NC 27839.
- *Double Patriot Grave Marking, Saturday, 15 April 2023, 12:00 pm at Koonce Family Cemetery, 382 River Lane, Trenton NC 28585.
- *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.
- *Double Patriot Grave Marking, Saturday, 27 May 2023, 10:00 am at Old Haas Cemetery, Off Prison Camp Road, Newton NC.
- *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 Gala, Friday evening at Lincoln Cultural Center, 6:30 pm, Commemoration Saturday morning, 10:am at 301 Jeb Seagle Dr, Lincolnton, NC 28092.
- *Independence Day, Tuesday, 4 July 2023, All across America.
- *House in the Horseshoe, Saturday, 29 July 2023, 10:00 am at 101-499 Alston House Rd, Sanford, NC 27330.



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

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

Please send them to

lennon_0102@yahoo.com

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Did you Know?

Thomas Paine—Founding
Father, author, and hero of
both the American and
French Revolutions—spent
his final years as an
alcoholic who died broke
and alone. Only six people
attended his funeral in
1809.

Paine had fallen out of
public favor because he
opposed organized religion
and disagreed with the
country's elites. His burial
wishes were disregarded,
and he was laid to rest in a
modest grave on his farm.
A decade later, William
Cobbett disinterred Paine's
remains without permission
and brought them to
London with the hope of
giving Paine a proper and
honorable burial. Cobbett's
grand plans, however, never
materialized.

Paine's bones were passed
down to Cobbett's
descendants and scattered
across the world after being
sold off piece by piece.
Today, it is said that Paine's
head is in Australia while
the rest of his remains are at
the four corners of the
world.