



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

Our month began with the placing of flags on Patriots Graves for Patriots Day. Of course, the amount of rain that we have encountered has slowed the process, but we are continuing the process, though a little late. Rick Hubbard, in the photo, has been a great help with this endeavor.



April 22 was a day that required us to be in two places at the same time. Our Chapter Secretary, Roy Lightfoot, pictured at the right, attended the Patriot Reinternment of 12 Patriots discovered in shallow graves at the Camden Battlefield. This became a very large event. I wanted to attend, but we had already agreed with Col Alexander Erwin Chapter and the John Sevier Chapter of TN to conduct a triple grave marking in Morganton NC and it seems that this was the only weekend that the Compatriots from TN could get together to do it. We had to



work during and through rain showers in order to make it happen, but we did, and it was a great event.

There were 7 SAR Chapters, 9 DAR Chapters and 1 retired Ambassador in attendance. We all got wet, but enjoyed every moment. See the photo below. For those of you interested in earning the Grave Marking Medal, there are at least two more in the near future. The first upcoming Grave Marking is 20 May 2023, 10:00 am at First Presbyterian Cemetery, 10140 Providence Church Lane, Charlotte, NC 28277, for one Patriot and 27 May 2023, 10:00 am at Old Haas Cemetery, off Prison Camp Road, Newton NC for 2 Patriots. The cemetery has no real address, but if you tell your GPS "Old Haas Cemetery", it will take you there. Please come be with us.



Find us at

https://www.facebook.com/catawbavalleyncssar/?epa=SEARCH_BOX
<https://www.ncssar.org/chapters/catawba-valley/>

B-52s
AMERICAN
BAR & GRILL

206 N College Ave, Newton NC 28658
828-994-4355

Ben Setser
Chapter President



PATRIOT
AXE★THROWING

2663 US Hwy 70 SE
Hickory, NC 28602
828-578-6093

10 May 2023

Volume 4 Issue 5

Chapter Officers

President
Ben Setser

Vice President
John Jay Cline

Secretary
Roy C Lightfoot

Treasurer
Dan Beal

Historian
Rhod Reep

**Past President &
Registrar**
Jack Bowman





**Contributing
Editor**

**Roy
C.
Lightfoot**

“The Fall of Charlestown (Charleston)”

The city of Charlestown (Charleston), South Carolina, the principal port city of the time, fell on 12 May 1780. The two-month long siege ended with the army’s surrender and a force under the command of Major General Benjamin Lincoln of approximately 5,000 men ceased to exist. This is by far the most significant and devastating defeat of the American Revolution.

With the fall of Savannah, Georgia, 29 December 1778, General George Washington knew Charlestown would be a likely target for the British. He gave General Lincoln command in September 1779, with the warning that if an attack came Lincoln could not expect assistance from him as all of the Continental forces would be occupied around the British stronghold of New York City. Upon his arrival in Charlestown, Lincoln found much of the fortresses defending the harbor were in disrepair, and the fortifications on the west and south sides, which faced the city were unfinished. Lincoln and his subordinates diligently worked on the fortifications. Meanwhile, the Continental Army leadership beseeched the southern states to provide men and material in the defense of Charlestown, which fell on deaf ears.

In December 1779, British Commander-in-Chief in the Colonies, Lieutenant General Sir Henry Clinton, sailed from New York with a large fleet of ninety troopships, fourteen warships, and over 13,500 British and German troops headed for Savannah, Georgia. His plan was to rendezvous with a land force commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Mark Prevost, march overland from there, and lay siege to the Charlestown, thus trapping the city, and Lincoln’s much smaller American force.

In March 1780, Clinton, Prevost, and General Charles Lord Cornwallis, whose troops had accompanied Clinton from New York moved on Charlestown. During this time, American partisan forces under commanders like Lieutenant Colonel Francis Marion harassed the British forces, and Lincoln dispatched a force of 350 dragoons and militia under Brigadier General Isaac Huger to the Monck’s Corner crossroads approximately thirty miles north of the city to keep his lines of communication open. There was nothing more the Patriot forces could do. Washington had advised Lincoln to abandon the city if necessary, to save the Continental force, however, the civilian leadership of the city convinced Lincoln to stay.

By the end of March, Cornwallis’ troops had crossed over the Ashely River, about fourteen miles northwest of Charlestown, and on 1 April, the British forces began digging siege lines across the neck of the Charlestown peninsula. With the methodical siege, Clinton hoped to capture the city and the harbor intact and earn the loyalty of the civilian population. This would facilitate the area for British use as a base of operations. While the British dug their trenches, the Americans did all they could to deter them, including using whatever they had to load the cannon with metal refuse and broken glass in order to conserve what little they had in ammunition stocks.

By 2 April, the city, and American forces were trapped. And to make matters even worse, for the city, and the Patriot troops, on 9 April, British warships sailed past Fort Moultrie at the mouth of Charlestown Harbor, and created a blockade and began to shell the city. The small Patriot naval force under the command of Commodore Abraham Whipple scuttled the fleet in an attempt to obstruct the harbor. This isolated Lincoln’s troops, and closed off all means of escape and any chance of reinforcement. The British troop’s grip closed in on the city, and their artillery began a bombardment on the hastily prepared defensive works erected by the Americans.

Lincoln still considered leaving the city, however, was urged again by civilian leadership to remain, and refuse the surrender demands of the British. A few days later the South Carolina government fled the city.

On the evening of 13 April, Lieutenant Colonel Banastre Tarleton led a cavalry raid and routed Huger’s forces at Monck’s Corner. In doing so, Tarleton captured 400 horses, tightened the stranglehold on the city, and allowed the British to now begin firing on Charlestown from the north with their siege guns.

Continued on Page 3



Southern Homes
of The Carolinas
Experienced. Professional. Realtors

John Jay Cline
Realtor®/Broker
828-466-1000 Office
828-234-6418 Cell
cline@charter.net

"Cline Sold Mine"
2322 Hwy 16
Denver, NC 28037




BENNETT
FUNERAL SERVICE

ESTABLISHED IN 2013
502 1st Ave S
P. O. Box 232
Conover, NC 28613
(828) 465-2025

7878 NC Hwy 16
P. O. Box 234
Newton, NC 28658
(828) 465-2111

Robbie Bennett
President
www.bennettfuneralservice.com

The Catawba Valley Chapter
of the
Sons of the American Revolution

President's Report
Continued from Page 1



Catawba Valley Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, on 27 April 2023, had the pleasure to present Cadet Captain Claudia Goodykoontz, Junior at Bandy's High School, with the Bronze JROTC medal along with the Enhanced JROTC Neck medallion and a check for \$50.00 as Chapter winner of the National Enhanced JROTC Essay Contest. Thank you Cadet Goodykoontz.

Pictured are Cadet Captain Claudia Goodykoontz and Ben Setser, President, Catawba Valley Chapter Sons of the American Revolution. These Cadets are the future of our nation.



Ben Setser, Chapter President

“The Fall of Charlestown (Charleston)”

Continued from Page 2

On 22 April, in hopes of preserving the army, Lincoln offered to surrender the city if his men were allowed to leave without harm. Clinton refused these terms and resumed his bombardment. Two days later, the Americans mounted a sortie into the British entrenchments where they inflicted fifty casualties and netted a dozen prisoners. Once again, Lincoln realizing the capture of Charlestown was imminent, he requested permission from the remaining civilian leadership to evacuate his force. The city's leaders responded by threatening to destroy any boats used in any evacuation attempt. Over the next two weeks, the British troops moved closer and closer to the city and by 8 May, only a few yards separated the two armies' lines. In addition, Fort Moultrie and its 200 defenders surrendered. At this point, Clinton demanded Lincoln's unconditional surrender. Lincoln refused, and on 11 May, Clinton ordered the bombardment to resume, only this time with heated shot. Each round caused another fire in the city, and as the city burned, Lincoln had to accept the inevitable. The city's civilian authorities finally urged Lincoln to surrender to the British regardless of the terms.

The terms of surrender were harsh by the standards of the day. Lincoln and his command were refused any honors of war, and many of the surrendered Continentals would not survive their imprisonment. Not only did Clinton capture the troops, he also gained a large quantity of munitions and equipment, including 300 cannon, 6,000 muskets, and a vast store of gunpowder, with the casualties of fewer than 300 killed and wounded totals of both sides. An accidental explosion in a powder magazine after the surrender killed twice as many lost in the siege itself.

And, the gaining of this vital base from which to conduct operations, might also allow the British to possibly rally the Southern Loyalists. They had captured the largest city, and best harbor in the southern theater. In addition, and in the British plan, all this would lead to the reconquering of the Southern states. On the other side, the loss of the port city was a devastating blow to the Americans.

After this victory, Clinton left Cornwallis in the south with 8,300 troops, and sailed back to New York as he had learned of impending French expedition. He believed the strategy needed to be focused on the southern theater and left Cornwallis to deal with it.

The British victory in Charlestown would be followed by other victories over the Americans at the Waxhaws and Camden. Their successes did exactly what they wanted it to, which was to rally much of South Carolina's population to the Loyalist side. It would take over a year of bitter partisan fighting and hard campaigning by the likes of Major General Nathanael Greene to put an end to the British campaign in the south.

Cornwallis would do his best to wreak havoc in the Carolinas for the rest of the war until his surrender at Yorktown 19 October 1781, where Lincoln received some satisfaction after this defeat by accepting the sword of surrender.

Roy C. Lightfoot
Chapter Secretary, Contributing Editor



The Sons of the American Revolution Catawba Coalition



A monthly Newsletter for
The Catawba Valley Chapter of
The Sons of the American Revolution

LOGISTICS

SAR-DAR Happenings

- ***Grave Marking**, Saturday, **20 May 2023**, 10:00 am at First Presbyterian Cemetery, 10140 Providence Church Lane, Charlotte, NC 28277.
- ***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 Catawba Coalition
welcomes submissions,
comments and/or
suggestions.

Please send them to

lennon_0102@yahoo.com

Family Healthcare Practice, PLLC
"Healthcare Where The Patient Matters Most"

KIMBERLY H. CLINE, FNP-PC

Sick ? Get Treatment Today!
Accepting Most Insurances. No insurance? No Problem

130 1st Street West Conover, NC 28613
Phone:(828) 466-3000 Fax: (828) 464-3281

130 1st St. West, Conover NC
28613, 828-466-3000

A few more photos from the Camden Patriot Reinternment



Did you Know?

Coffee was so popular during the American Revolution that women in Boston rioted to keep the cost of coffee low. When merchant Thomas Boylston manipulated the price of coffee by stockpiling it, at least a hundred women marched to his warehouse.

Abigail Adams wrote about the July 24, 1777, riot. "A number of females, some say a hundred, some say more, assembled with a cart and trucks, marched down to the warehouse, and demanded the keys, which he refused to deliver." When Boylston refused to open the warehouse, things took an aggressive turn:

"One of them seized him by his neck and tossed him into the cart. Upon his finding no quarter, he delivered the keys, when they tipped up the cart and discharged him, then opened the warehouse, hoisted out the coffee themselves, put it into the trucks and drove off."

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

