



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



10 July 2023

Volume 4 Issue 6

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Catawba Valley Chapter's National event, Battle Weekend, The Commemoration of the 243rd Anniversary of the Battle or Ramsour's Mill was a marvelous event. His Excellency, General George Washington, was with us all weekend, and this gave it the SPARK that we have never had before. Battle Weekend 2023 found Catawba Valley SAR and Jacob Forney DAR working together on this event to make it the very best that we have ever seen. Thank you so very much to Regent Fran Goins and all the ladies of Jacob Forney DAR for your dedication, inspiration and innovation in helping to make this happen in prime fashion. The Gala was a great hit. Below are photos of the Gala Reception Meal.



Pictured from left to right are Martha and George Washington, Jacob Forney Regent Fran Goins, State Treasurer Sam Powell discusses the event with Catawba Valley Chapter President, Ben Setser, as the guest line up for food. This type of reception was new and untried, and as a result, our seating was a bit limited, not knowing how many to plan for. We had only room enough for 120 seats, and 3 weeks before the event was to take place there were only 36 seats sold. We had a sell out by time for the Gala to take place, and most likely could have sold 40 more if we had the space and food.

The evening advanced to the Gala Program, where most of the photos were taken by Christopher C. Boyles. The Combined SAR Color Guard began the Program by advancing the Colors, led by National Color Guard Commander Scott Collins. Our speaker was Daniel Barefoot, and there were awards given by SAR and DAR. I was pleased to present the Bronze 250th medals to Compatriot Dan Beal and DAR



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OUR JULY HISTORY ARTICLE IS PRESENTED BY COLOR GUARD COMMANDER & REGIONAL VP, STEPHEN MCKEE.

“The Battle of Ramsour’s Mill”

Ramsour’s Mill, when viewed in light of the Battles of Moore’s Creek Bridge (Feb 1776), Kings Mountain (Oct 1780 and was in NC at the time) and Shallow Ford (Oct 1780), it is a consequential fight that ensured Loyalists in North Carolina remained demoralized and never became a factor as Cornwallis moved north, which was the lynchpin of the entire British Southern Strategy - without which the last chance for ultimate British victory evaporated.

The Battle itself was an intensely personal affair, and rather than a quick skirmish lasted nearly 3 hours, the momentum shifting several times and the outcome was not certain until the very end.

Unlike the pop culture myth that the Loyalists were an untrained mob led by nincompoops, they were a well-disciplined corps that had trained for over a week under leadership experienced in 18th century warfare who enjoyed numerical superiority during the entire engagement and nearly overwhelmed Patriot forces twice.

Both Lt Colonel John Moore and Major Nicholas Welch served in Colonel John Hamilton’s corps of North Carolina Loyalists and had fought in the siege and capture of Savannah in 1778, Kettle Creek in 1779, and the capture of Charlestowne in 1780, among other small skirmishes they may have been involved in.

They were experienced men, which was evident in the way in which the Loyalists under their command responded during the Battle of Ramsour’s Mill.

When Locke’s mounted militia first emerged at the eastern base of the hill early on the morning of 20 June 1780, they encountered Loyalist sentries/pickets that fired upon the Patriots before retreating up the hill to the Loyalist camp. Roused by the sound of gunfire and to the alarm beat of the drum, the Loyalists under arms (about 2/3rd of Moore’s force) assembled into order and drove the Patriot horse back down the hill, under the galling fire of Loyalist musketry and at the points of bayonets. In fact, the dragoons were driven into the dismounted militia just emerging from the woods, which sowed disorder in the Patriot ranks.

The Loyalists then returned back to their fortified camp, in order, and prepares to receive another assault.

The Patriots got back into order and advanced up the hill, in open terrain and under the galling fire of the Loyalists. The Patriots were pushed back a second time to the base of the hill, and the Loyalists returned to their camp.

After the 3rd such incident, as the Loyalists were returning to their camp after the 3rd push down the hill, they discovered a portion of their works had been seized by a Patriot force that had turned their flank.

Caught in the crossfire of 2 Patriot forces, the Loyalists were cut down by withering fire and discipline began to break. As ammunition ran low on both sides resorted to savage hand to hand combat.

As the Loyalists fled the field and down the western slope of the hill towards Ramsour’s Mill and regrouped near Clark’s Creek, a flag of truce was waved under the guise of taking care of the dead and wounded. Moore and Welch used that opportunity to retreat with the remainder of their men.

Casualties were roughly equal on both sides.

Stephen P. McKee

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members Fran Goins and Charlaine Setser. Compatriot Roy Lightfoot, after much work and dedication, received the Gold 250th Medal, presented by His Excellency, General George Washington Himself. Congratulations, Fran, Charlaine, Dan and Roy, and thank you for your hard work. Martha and George Washington were escorted by NC Color Guard Commander Stephen McKee and William Gaston DAR member Lynne Smith. And the final event for the evening was a question and answer session with Martha and George Washington. Photos on page 1. Good Job one and all!

The Commemoration and Wreath Laying Ceremony on Saturday Morning at the mass grave was also overseen by General George Washington. There were representatives from 18 SAR Chapters of 6 states, 24 DAR Chapters of 4 states, The Society of the Cincinnati, The Order of the Founders of North America and The Boy Scouts of America. Pictured below are the Combined SAR Color Guard from Saturday Morning. The Combined Musket Salute was stunning as



always. General Washington gave a short address for the event. President, Setser presented Jacob Forney Regent, Fran Goins, with the Lydia Darragh Medal for her continued work with Catawba Valley Chapter and SAR. It was wonderful to have so many people come out for the 243rd anniversary of the Battle of Ramsour's Mill, which was a turning point in the war. Pictured below is Fran getting her medal, the crowd and the Musket Salute. Please enjoy these photos taken by my lovely daughter in law, Skye Dan. It was said by a State Officer that this should be our premier STATE EVENT.



The day concluded with the Living History site, across the street from Battle Ground Elementary School, where there were 18th century cooking and living demonstrations by reenactors and various vendors. There was catered food available if you wanted it. General Washington addressed the crowd once again, along with another musket salute. Most of the photos below were taken by Kathleen McLendon and Topper Hightower.



Great food & company, a great event. A wonderful weekend was had by everyone. You really should have been there.

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LOGISTICS

SAR-DAR Happenings

- ***Grave Marking**, Saturday, 15 July 2023, 10:00 am, 10140 Providence Church Lane, Charlotte, NC 28277
- ***Battle of Colson's Mill**, Saturday, 22 July 2023, 11:00 am, Norwood Community Building, Norwood NC.
- ***House in the Horseshoe**, Saturday, 29 July 2023, 10:00 am, 101-499 Alston House Rd, Sanford, NC 27330.
- ***Tryon Resolves**, Saturday, 12 August 2023, 10:00 am, 2577 Tryon Courthouse Rd, Bessemer City, NC 28016
- ***Old Soldiers Parade**, Thursday, 17 August 2023, 10:00 am and 6:00 pm, Downtown Newton NC
- ***New Bern Resolves**, Saturday, 26 August 2023, 9:45 am, 320 Pollock St, New Bern, NC 28560.
- ***Summer BOM**, Saturday, 30 September 2023, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm, North Carolina State University Club, 4200 Hillsborough St, Raleigh, NC 27606

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We finished out the month with Independence Day Parades in both Boone NC and Faith NC. Compatriot Roy Lightfoot represented us at Boone NC, and I was to attend Faith NC, but a medical problem kept me home. Below are photos from both parades, left Boone, right Faith.



Catawba Valley Chapter has many opportunities for service and for events. It is time to elect new Chapter Officers. I will be moving to State Leadership, but will always support Catawba Valley and attend as many events as I can.

Thank you one and all who participate in our Chapter. It has been a pleasure working with you these past four years.

Ben Setser
Chapter President



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?

The first draft of the Declaration of Independence was quite different from the final form. Some excerpts are:

All persons who by their own oath, or affirmation or by other testimony shall give satisfactory proof to any court of record that he purposes to reside in this country for 7 years at least and who shall subscribe to the fundamental laws shall be declared by such court invested with the rights of a member natural born.

No freeman shall ever be debarred the use of arms. There shall be no standing army but in time of actual war.

Descents, instead of being to the eldest son, brother, or other male cousin of the ancestor, as directed by the laws heretofore shall be to all the brothers & sisters of the deceased, heir at law who shall be of the whole blood of the ancestor, each of whom shall have an equal portion with the heir at law, but where lands shall have been given by such ancestor to any one of the ancestor co-heirs it shall be brought into hotchpot or such coheir not entitled to any further share of the inheritance.