



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



A word from our new President, Roy C. Lightfoot as we attempt to transition.

By the time you receive this newsletter, a change in the Presidency of the Catawba Valley Chapter will have taken place. If you have kept up with the newsletters, I am no stranger to any of you as my name has been in each of them through the articles I have submitted, events I have attended, and by serving as your Chapter Secretary.

Believe me when I tell you, I know I have VERY large shoes to fill in taking over the Presidency after Chapter President Ben Setser. Ben has been an amazing Chapter President, and I can only hope to do a part of what he has done.

Our first and foremost immediate need is for someone accept the role of Chapter Secretary as that position remains vacant as of this writing with my becoming Chapter President. I know there has to be one among you who would be willing to assume this role and join with me, Chapter Vice President Rick Hubbard, and Chapter Treasurer Dan Beal in leading our Chapter for the next term. I am more than willing to assist whomever takes on this role and share with them what I have done, and what would be expected of them.

As far as the Chapter's future, I hope we can continue the fine work former President Setser has started. I would love to continue to perform the grave markings, provide color guard at different events, work with other SAR and DAR Chapters, continue to work with all of the fine organizations – i.e. Boy Scouts, JROTC, local schools, first responders, veterans, Wreaths Across America – and continue to recognize local businesses for their support of our history and the founding of our country.

In addition, as a history major from college, and a lifelong researcher and historian, I would like to bring more information into the forefront on a more personal level. That is where each and every one of you come into play. Telling the stories of our ancestors is how we can keep history alive. For me, it has been a difficult task to prove one of my lineages, and that could have happened more easily if my family had shared the stories of our ancestors down the line. Unfortunately for me, as my parents, and grandparents have passed, I am unable to access that information except through research. I urge ALL of you to share your stories with your children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, so your story will not be lost.

Lastly, I ask you for your support in all we do. If you have questions regarding activities or other Chapter dealings, I ask you ask them. Keeping open communication is our first and foremost goal.

Thank you, and I look forward to hearing from each and every one of you.

Sincerely,

Roy C Lightfoot

Chapter President



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Chapter Officers

President
Roy C Lightfoot

Vice President
Rick Hubbard

Secretary

Treasurer
Dan Beal

**Past President &
Registrar**
Ben Setser



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



“The Battle of Blackstock’s Plantation”

As I travel to different events, I like to share with you all about what the events commemorate. This month’s event is a small skirmish which took place in South Carolina at Blackstock’s Plantation near the town of Union on 20 November 1780. This battle involved Patriot Brigadier General Thomas Sumter’s militia and British Lt Colonel Banastre Tarleton’s Legion with Major John Money, and the 63rd Regiment of Foot. The Patriot forces numbered approximately one thousand men, while the British fielded 270.

The barns and buildings of Blackstock’s Planation were made of logs and had unchinked openings from which the Patriots could fire from while being protected. They sat atop a sharp hill commanding a fifty-acre pasture which pitched downward sharply to the fiercely running Tyger River to the north and northeast. The area was well fortified with a long ridge of hardwood and pine trees approximately 200 yards to the right of the house and a strong rail fence of heavy notched saplings which formed one side of the lane leading up to the house.

Sumter had his men post in and about the buildings and around the plantation with the Tyger River to their left rear. Patriot Colonel William Hill wrote “the Americans having been pursued for 2 days and nights took this ground under firm determination to defend it & not to retreat further.” Sumter’s troops were led by experienced Colonels James McCall, William Bratton, Edward Lacey, Thomas Taylor, and William Hill. Colonel Henry Hampton’s riflemen were placed inside a large log barn, and 100 Georgia riflemen under Colonel Twiggs were placed down from the house, along the upper edge of the field. On the west side of the lane was a thick wooded area where a strong picket was placed. To the right of the house, Sumter placed Colonels Lacey and Hill with Colonel Richard Winn held in reserve near the back of the house. According to Roderick McKenzie, the “left was covered by a large log barn, into which a considerable division of their force had been thrown, and from which, as the apertures between the logs served them for loop-holes, they fired with security.”

On the morning of 20 November, Major McArthur’s Highlanders appeared within 400 yards of the Patriots’ positioning, grounded their knapsacks on the bank of the Tyger, and formed in the farm field letting down the fence opposite them. Sumter observed the British force had been split into the units of the Legion, the Highlanders, and the 63rd. Money dismounted his men and moved them against the Georgians who were already placed in an advanced position. The Patriot militia were placed in support of the Georgians and attacked down the slope and across the creek. Money’s men hit the force with bayonet, drove through the line, and pushed them back up the hill to Sumter’s higher position. The Patriots fell back through the farmhouse, chased by the 63rd, who immediately found themselves surrounded by the precision fire of the riflemen in the log buildings. While leading the charge with sword in hand, Money was mortally wounded and crumpled to the ground. Observing this, Tarleton rode to his aid, lifted him to his saddle, and rode away.

Lacey’s Patriot horsemen moved into position to block out any possibility of reinforcements. He swung his men swiftly through the woods, undetected and within fifty yards the right flank of Tarleton’ dragoons. The Patriots opened fire with buckshot on the unsuspecting British. The Legion detachment, under Lieutenant Skinner, was distracted by the charge of the 63rd, and did not see Lacey’s men until it was too late. Skinner recovered from the attack and drove the Patriots back with sabers, while Tarleton, after watching all of this unfold, finally charged his dragoons uphill against a prepared infantry position with the riflemen firing from cover, causing the lane to be blocked with so many of their dead and wounded bodies.

The back and forth of the battle lasted for several hours which Hill observed the action had begun at 1 pm, and no one had truly gained any ground as the sun was setting. McKenzie stated that the British valor was very evident, however, none of that valor could rise above the obstacles which stood in their way. Late in the battle, as Sumter turned to watch the British movements, he was struck by a volley from a 63rd platoon. Although he was not killed, he was severely wounded being struck with five buckshot to his chest and a sixth chipped his spine and lodged in his left shoulder.

The British lost 92 killed and 100 wounded of their 270 troops with the bodies covering the farm’s fields and hills, while the Patriots lost only three dead, and four wounded.

Sumter’s Patriots had fought, checked, and defeated Tarleton’s infamous Legion for the first time. Although Sumter was out of action for a few months, he would return to the field and take charge again in 1781. Twiggs held onto Blackstock’s farm for several hours after the battle. The Legion lost chunks of its luster that day as they had chosen to frontally attack a numerically superior and better positioned enemy. Tarleton bivouacked the remainder of his force approximately two miles away awaiting the rest of his troops to join him. Twiggs left the position during the night leaving decoy campfires burning and quietly crossed the Tyger, thus, leaving the plantation to the British. They returned the next day to bury their dead, and Tarleton reported a “victory” to Lord Cornwallis, since they held the field, and Sumter was in no position to give further trouble to the British forces. Once again, Cornwallis assumed incorrectly since this would be reported as a “victory” it would lead to a lessening of support for the British cause.

Roy C. Lightfoot

The Catawba Valley Chapter
of the
Sons of the American Revolution

Catawba Valley Chapter began the month after the last newsletter with the Patriots James Kincaid, Robert Kincaid and Jonathan Boone Grave Marking outside of Morganton NC on 14 October 2023. This was an amazing service. Direct relatives of all three Patriots were on hand to speak about their Patriot. Quaker Meadows DAR, who were present and involved with the ceremony, had worked for two years to clean up the cemetery, get rid of the trees and reset the fallen stones. Owners of the property, Connie and Robin Hallyburton, set up a tent and provided the attendees with hot coffee, cold drinks, pastries and fruit. Photo below left.

Continuing this same type of service, Catawba Valley Chapter was honored to join the Mary Slocumb Chapter DAR in honoring Patriot Daniel Asbury on, 21 October 2023. The service began inside, Combined SAR Color Guard posted colors and a quartet sang the National Anthem, then moved outside to complete the service. Photo below center.

Catawba Valley Chapter had the honor to be involved with the Grave Marking of Patriot Arthur Erwin on Saturday, 28 October 2023, conducted by the Col Alexander Erwin Chapter, SAR in Morganton NC. Photo below center by Charles Woodie.

Last in this month of adventure was our semiannual Induction of Officers. The slate of officers for the ensuing two years are, in my opinion, the very best since I have been a member. Roy C. Lightfoot as President, Rick Hubbard as Vice President and Dan Beal as Treasurer. All of these are compatriots that love SAR, and actually have the capacity to do what they say and finish what they start. An important attribute for this task. Photo below right.



Our Chapter still has several Grave Markings and Celebrations in store for the coming months and years. These activities are important to the leadership and members of SAR. Please come be with us in these important Chapter functions, some of which are explained below.

JOIN, or DIE.

Catawba Valley SAR & Jacob Forney DAR
Presents
The 250th Anniversary
of
The Boston Tea Party
December 9, 2023, 10am to 2pm
Betty G Ross Park
800 Madison St.
Lincolnton, NC 28092

Come join us in commemorating
The 250th Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party
Are you a Patriot or Loyalist?
Explore Boston Common, Griffin Wharf,
The Old South Meeting House.
Help the Sons of Liberty dispose of
The "Detested Tea".

Patriot Grave Marking
Funding
Opportunity

Salisbury, Bethabara and Catawba Valley Chapters are planning a Grave Marking for 25 Patriots at Pilgrim Reformed Church, 797 Pilgrim Church Rd, Lexington NC, 27295, for late 2025 or early 2026.

We are asking any Compatriot to attend and assist in honoring these Patriots. For those unable to attend and still want to earn credit for the Grave Marking Medal, Donations of \$60.00, according to Patriot Grave Marking Manual may be made to receive credit. Any donation made of any size to help create this monument is greatly appreciated.

Patriots to be honored are:

George Barrier	George Fritz	Col. John Lopp
Casper Brinkle	Johann Grimes	Capt. John Lopp
George Clodfelter	Johan Hedrick	Friederick Michael
Henry Dorr	Peter Kane	Nicholas Michael
Valentine Day	Jacob Leonard	Philip Sauer
Joseph Essig	Michael Leonard	Johan Sink
Peter Everhart	Philip Leonard	George Sprecker
Woodrich Fritz	Valentine Leonard	Rudolph Younts
	Valentine Leonard Jr	

Send all donations to:
Monument Fund
1303 Oak Hill Drive
Newton NC 28658

Please come Join us if you can.



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LOGISTICS

SAR-DAR Happenings

- ***Battle of Camden**, Saturday & Sunday, **11 & 12 November 2023**, 1208 Keys Lane, Kershaw, SC
- ***Battle of Great Bridge**, Saturday, **2 December 2023** at 11:00 am, 1775 Historic Way, Chesapeake, Virginia
- ***Boston Tea Party**, Saturday, **9 December 2023**, Betty Ross Memorial Park, Lincoln NC
- ***Wreaths Across America**, Saturday, **16 December 2023**, 10:00 am, Western Carolina State Veterans Cemetery, 962 Old US 70 W, Black Mountain, NC 28711.
- ***Battle of Cowpens**, Wednesday, **17 January 2024**, 10:00 am, 4001 Chesnee Hwy, Gaffney SC 29341
- ***Battle of Cowan's Ford**, Saturday, **27 January 2024**, 8:00 am, 10500 Beatties Ford Road, Huntersville, NC
- ***Winter BOM**, Saturday, **27 January 2024**, 11:00 am, 10500 Beatties Ford Road, Huntersville, NC

Our next regular Chapter Meeting will be Saturday, 13 January 2024. This is an important meeting! It is the beginning of our new President's term. It is requested that everyone attend. We will meet at Palermo's Family Italian & Greek Restaurant, 924 Conover Blvd West, Conover, NC 28613. One may order a meal at 11:00 am or later. The meeting begins at Noon. Please come out and support your Chapter.

Please find us at
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100091684277614>
<https://ncssar.org/chapters/catawba-valley/>
 or email us at
lennon_0102@yahoo.com



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

Did you Know?

After the first shots were fired in the American Revolution at the Battles of Lexington and Concord in April 1775, a peaceful settlement still wasn't completely off the table.

Not everyone in the Continental Congress wanted independence from Britain. So it fell to John Dickinson, at the time a delegate from Pennsylvania, to draft a direct appeal to King George III, the so-called Olive Branch Petition.

The document indicated that the root of discontent was toward the British parliament rather than the British Crown. The sincerity of the petition was questioned by the British, as a letter written by John Adams that doubted the document was intercepted around the same time the Olive Branch Petition was issued. In any case, the king refused to even read it, and so ended any hope of a peaceful resolution.