



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



It has been a busy month for us with the Chapter, even though most of it cannot be seen in pictures. We have been diligently planning our Commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party happening Saturday, December 9, 2023, from 10 am to 2 pm. This has been a long process and many painstaking hours of planning, discussion, meetings, research, creativity, partnerships, laughter, blood, sweat, and tears have gone into this event. By the time you get this, it will already have passed. I hope you had the opportunity to attend.

Our President, Roy Lightfoot has been a busy bee since the election. In addition to chairing the 250th Anniversary Committee for this go around, he took some time and went to the Battle of Camden reenactment weekend in Kershaw, South Carolina 10-12 November. While there and on Veterans' Day, he visited the graves of the twelve unknown American Revolutionary War soldiers whose remains had been discovered in 2021 and had been reinterred in a place of honor recently. While there, he placed Betsy Ross flags on each of the graves. Photos below left & center.



On 16 November, Past President Ben Setser presented American Legion Post 16, Newton North Carolina, Commander Ron Harris with the Flag Certificate for properly displaying the Flag of the United States of America. Photo above right. If you know of a business or group who properly displays the American flag at their location, please let us know so they can be recognized.

On 18 November, Chapter President Lightfoot set up a booth at the Ralph Sisk Memorial Car Show/Fly-In at the Lincoln County Airport to promote the upcoming Boston Tea Party event. He was able to talk to several people and spread the word about the event and also SAR. Continued on page 2.

10 December 2023

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Chapter Officers

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Roy C Lightfoot

Vice President Rick
Hubbard

Secretary

Treasurer
Dan Beal

**Past President &
Registrar**
Ben Setser




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President
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Roy C Lightfoot
Chapter President



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On 26 November, members of the Chapter, along with other members of the 250th Anniversary planning committee, participated in the Lincolnton Christmas Parade. Those in attendance were, Past President Setser, President Lightfoot, Chapter Vice President Rick Hubbard, Treasurer Dan Beal, Regional Vice President Stephen McKee and his children, and committee members Brandon Mosteller and his family, Lisa Pupkiewicz, and Hollen and Marissa Carpenter. Special thank you to Brandon for the use of his truck and driving us in the parade. We passed out flyers and wooden challenge coins advertising the Boston Tea Party event. They also visited with the local merchant Untapped Territory and placed a poster in their window advertising the event. Photo above left

On 28 November, Vice President Hubbard, Treasurer Beal, and Ms. Pupkiewicz invaded downtown Lincolnton and plastered posters all over the place for the Boston Tea Party event. They visited with friends at The Odd Duck, Guitar Wishes, 7th Moon Boutique, Burton Farms, Fausto Coffee, Turner Houser Insurance Group, the Lincolnton Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce, Zhay's, and Vittles. We encourage you to visit these folks and bless them with your patronage. Photos below.



On that same evening, President Lightfoot, Ms. Pupkiewicz, and future Compatriot Rob Buff had the honor of receiving a proclamation from the Gaston County Board of Directors in regard to the Boston Tea Party event. Commissioner Ronnie Worley sponsored and presented us with the proclamation, and this went out on their live feed of their meeting. Photo right.



On 9 December, Catawba Valley Chapter, along with Jacob Forney DAR and Lincoln County Historical Association conducted the Commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party at Betty G. Ross Park in Lincolnton NC. There was a good crowd. We taunted the British and dumped the tea. If you missed this one, perhaps, you will be able to attend others in the future. Photos Below.

HUZZAH to ALL and ALL their hard work this past month!! Keep up all that you do!



Roy C. Lightfoot
Chapter President

Find us at

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=catawba%20valley%20nc%20ssar>
<https://www.ncssar.org/chapters/catawba-valley/>

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of the
Sons of the American Revolution

Major General William Lenoir P-235418

William Lenoir was born the youngest of ten children to a French Huguenot family in Brunswick County, Virginia on 8 May 1751. The family moved to eastern North Carolina near Tarboro North Carolina when William was nine and his father died five years later. Even though Lenoir had no formal education, he was fluent in Latin, Greek, and French and his first job was that of teacher and schoolmaster. William Lenoir later became a surveyor and while surveying in western North Carolina, Lenoir beheld the wonderful landscape we know today as Caldwell County and decided to permanently settle there. Lenoir arrived with his wife, Ann Ballard and their baby daughter in March 1775 and began building his home and plantation known today as Fort Defiance. It is known that Lenoir served as a Captain in the Wilkes County Militia under Colonel Benjamin Cleveland.

In talking about counties that existed during the Revolutionary War in western North Carolina, they are quite different from today. In speaking about General William Lenoir, we need to see what these counties looked like then and now, because a lot of it has to do with location. Let's begin with this. Wilkes County North Carolina was formed from Surry County on 20 April 1778, Caldwell County was formed from Wilkes and Burke Counties in 1841 and laid out the city of Lenoir North Carolina that same year, named for General William Lenoir and Lenoir High School, built in 1922, all in today's Caldwell County North Carolina. Shortly after coming to Surry County in 1775, Lenoir was appointed a member of the Surry County Committee of Safety and took part in defending the local settlers from the Cherokee and led troops in the Cherokee campaign of 1776. With the beginning of the Revolutionary War, Lenoir achieved the rank of Captain. He was involved in The Battle of Stono Ferry, 20 June 1779 near Charleston South Carolina and "Pyle's Massacre" on 24 February 1781 at the Battle of Haw River near Graham North Carolina, where Lenoir's horse was shot from under him. It was claimed Lenoir's horse as the only Patriot casualty of the battle. Fort Grider was established on land owned by Frederick Grider in 1775. It was located at the sight of the former Lenoir High School campus. On 29 September 1780 militiamen from Surry and Wilkes counties riding under Major Joseph Winston and Colonel Benjamin Cleveland camped at the site of Fort Grider (also Cryder and Crider). They had camped at the mouth of Elk Creek along the Yadkin River, near what is today Ferguson, NC the night before. It is not known if Captain Lenoir was there that evening, but this group was in route to Kings Mountain. Fort Grider was later abandoned because of its indefensible location. It was said that a rifleman could shoot anything and anyone inside the fort from nearby Davenport Hill. This band of men, joined with Captain Lenoir forming what is known as the Overmountain Men and took part in the Battle of King's Mountain where Lenoir was wounded in the arm and in the side, and a third ball passed through his hair just above where it was tied. Lenoir continued his association with the North Carolina Militia well after the Revolutionary War. He encouraged the regular muster of Militia Troops in order to keep the Fifth North Carolina Division in readiness. William Lenoir resigned from the Militia in 1794 after being passed over for a division command in a Statewide Militia reorganization. Lenoir returned to military service in 1795 when he was offered the commission of Major General and command of the Fifth Division. General Lenoir mobilized more than a thousand men to take part in the War of 1812, but resigned his commission and left military service after refusing to serve under a despised political opponent.

William Lenoir was appointed as County Justice of the Peace in 1776, County Clerk of Court in 1778 and was elected to the North Carolina House of Commons in 1781. He went on to be elected State Senator for the terms of 1784-85 and 1787-95, and was speaker of the senate during his last five terms. He was a delegate to the State Ratifying convention in 1788-89 but voted against the Constitution because it lacked the Bill of Rights. General Lenoir became the first chairman of the board of trustees of what would become the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1789.

William Lenoir was a successful planter, horse breeder, blacksmith operator, land owner and Freemason. William and his wife Ann had nine children; Mary, William Ballard, Ann, Thomas, Elizabeth, Walter Raleigh, Eliza Mira, Martha, and Sarah Joyce. William and Ann's son William Ballard Lenoir went west to build several cotton mills along the Tennessee and Little Tennessee Rivers and founded Lenoir City Tennessee. His daughter Martha Orilla Lenoir married Israel Pickens who was Governor of Alabama from 1821 to 1825. His daughter Ann was married to General Edmund Hughes "Coot" Jones who served in the War of 1812. Their home and Plantation named Palmyra were built on land given to them by William Lenoir. The Patterson School today stands where his home was. General Jones was one of the four men task with the job of to decide upon a location for the county seat of the new Caldwell County and laid out the City of Lenoir in 1841. Their oldest daughter Mary was married to Major Charles Gordon, hero of the Battle of King's Mountain and later to Colonel William Davenport who was the chief founder and namesake of Davenport female college, in Lenoir North Carolina. Ann passed away in 1833 and General William Lenoir passed away on 6 May 1839. His large gravestone was ordered from Eastern North Carolina by friends because such a stone was difficult to find in the foothills. The family said that the epitaph was more elaborate than they wanted. It reads;

HERE LIES All that is mortal of WILLIAM LENOIR Born, May 8th, 1751 Died, May 6th, 1839

"In the times that tried men's souls he was a genuine Whig. As a lieutenant under Rutherford and Williams, in 1776, and as a captain under Cleveland at King's Mountain, he proved himself a brave soldier. Although a native of another State, yet North Carolina was proud of him as her adopted son. In her service he filled the several offices of Major-General of the Militia, President of the Council of State, member of both houses of the Legislature, Speaker of the Senate, First President of the Board of Trustees of the University, and for 60 years Justice of the Peace, and Chairman of the Court of Common Pleas. In all these high public trusts he was found faithful. In private life he was no less distinguished as an affectionate husband, a kind father and a warm-hearted friend. The traveler will long remember his hospitality, and the poor bless him as their benefactor. Of such a man it may truly be said that his highest eulogy is the record of his deeds."

General William Lenoir, along with many of his family are buried at his homeplace, Fort Defiance, in Caldwell County. Fort Defiance has under the direction of the Caldwell County Historic Foundation since 1965 and in 1970 was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Caldwell County Historical Society operates Fort Defiance as a museum.



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LOGISTICS

SAR-DAR Happenings

- ***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
- ***Battle of Moore's Creek**, Saturday, **24 February 2024**, 10:00 am, 200 Moores Creek Dr, Currie, NC 28435
- ***NCS SAR Annual Meeting**, Friday & Saturday, **5-6 April 2023**, Embassy Suites Greensboro, 204 Centreport Dr Greensboro, 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?

American hostility toward England had been a long time coming – and it had numerous reasons behind it, perhaps none so famous as the single issue of “taxation without representation.” This simple phrase holds the key to a reality that continues to echo through anti-colonial movements to this day.

It may be inevitable that – among other things – a remote colony will start to develop its own culture, perhaps alongside the natives already living there or perhaps not.

Regardless, it is only a matter of time before occupied territories begin to ask questions like: why do we have to send so much of our stuff to a place that does nothing for us?

To this day, issues of GDP, of unequal trade partnerships, continue to plague modern international discourse. Back then, it was insult on top of injury.

Not only did England want to continue to manipulate the American colonies and American culture, but they kept making Americans pay them to do it.

The Boston Tea Party, in which Bostonians literally threw tea into the harbor, was in part a protest against what they saw as an unreasonable tax. They dressed as native Americans in an effort to hide their identities. It was also their way of saying to the British – and we do not even want the tea to begin with.

If the relationship between America and England could be compared to a marriage, this would be the point at which America took off the wedding ring and threw it into the ocean.