



# 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 Chapter has kicked off 2024 with a BANG and if the rest of the year is any indication of January, we are in for a whirlwind of a ride!! We have already inducted two new members into the Chapter, attended a couple of events, are planning for some grave markings in the near future, and attended the Board of Managers meeting.



At our last chapter meeting on 6 January, we inducted a new compatriot, who this president has anxiously been awaiting the return of his paperwork.

Mr. Robert "Robby" Sloan Buff III (photo left) became a Compatriot and joined us under his ancestor Patriot Henry Dellinger. One interesting thing about this is that Compatriot Buff played this person in a play he participated in a few years ago. He had no idea of his relation to Dellinger when this occurred and made it all the more special to him. In addition,



Compatriot Buff is on a quest to find Dellinger's gravesite for a future grave marking ceremony. Pictured with Compatriot Buff is Chapter President Roy Lightfoot and Buff's wife Donna who was on hand to pin his SAR rosette on him. HUZAH!!

On 19 January, Past Chapter President Ben Setser and Chapter President Lightfoot traveled to a local restaurant in Denver to meet with Mr. Steven Morris Williams in order to induct him into the Chapter. Compatriot Williams lives abroad in the Ukraine and has been unable to attend a regular chapter meeting in order for him to be inducted. His ancestor is Patriot Johann Anton Castner and was presented his rosette by Past President Setser. Compatriot Williams was sponsored by Past Chapter President Jack Bowman. Pictured at the right is Compatriot Williams receiving his certificate from Chapter President Lightfoot and his rosette from Past President Setser. HUZAH!!



On 28 January, several members of the Chapter were able to attend the 243rd Anniversary of the Battle of Cowan's Ford commemoration hosted by the Mecklenburg Chapter of the NCSSAR at Hopewell Presbyterian Church in Huntersville with Regional Vice President Stephen McKee as master of ceremonies (pictured below). While there, chapter members were fortunate enough to hear Patrick Henry's fifth great grandson, Patrick Henry Jolly, as he portrayed his ancestor and met Mr. Jolly after the wreath laying ceremony.

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10 February 2024

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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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President Lightfoot and Secretary/Treasurer Beal participated in the firing of the ceremonial three volleys after the wreath laying. Pictured with Mr. Jolly are Chapter Secretary/Treasurer Dan Beal, Chapter President Lightfoot, Past Chapter President Setser, and Chapter Vice President Rick Hubbard. Compatriot Walter Smith was also in attendance.

On this same day, the NCSSAR Board of Managers meeting was held. The NCSSAR's main focus moving forward is recruitment, retention, continued events celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the establishment of the United States, and the National SAR Congress to be held in July 2026 in Greensboro, North Carolina. While there and in keeping with tradition, Past Chapter President Setser presented the Chapter President's Cape to Chapter President Lightfoot (pictured below). Setser had received this from Past Chapter President Jack Bowman. Also, State President Steve Van Pelt presented Setser with an Oak Leaf Cluster for his Grave Marking Medal, and Lightfoot and Chapter Secretary/Treasurer Beal received the Grave Marking Medal for their efforts in Patriot Grave Markings. There are several other members who are working on this as well and should be receiving them very soon. HUZZAH!!



On Saturday 3 February, Catawba Valley Chapter shifted gears a little and presented the "Burning of the Baggage" in conjunction with the Lincoln County Historical Association. This was an event commemorating Lord Cornwallis' stop at Ramsour's Mill in Lincolnton, North Carolina in January 1781. He was in pursuit of Colonel Daniel Morgan who had just celebrated a victory at The Cowpens in South Carolina a few weeks before. This was also the beginning of the "Race For The Dan."

Cornwallis was attempting to lighten his load and turn his unit into a light infantry unit in order to catch up to Morgan. In doing this, he only weakened his force. Photos below.



Personally, I want to thank all of you for your continued work, and as I said previously, if January 2024 is any indication of what the year holds for us, it is going to be a great ride!!

Sincerely, Respectfully, and Patriotically Yours,

**Roy C Lightfoot**  
Chapter President

The Catawba Valley Chapter  
of the  
Sons of the American Revolution



## HISTORIC HAPPENINGS

**Ben Setser**  
**Past President / Registrar**

### The Battle of Haw River, otherwise known as Pyle's Massacre

Pyle's Defeat occurred on February 25, 1781, near Burlington NC. Following the Battle of Cowpens on 17 January 1781, Lord Cornwallis decided to march his men northward in an effort to cut off the rebellion in the south. Major General Nathanael Greene, attempted to pursue and stop Cornwallis in what is referred to as the race to the Dan River. In this pursuit, General Green tasked General Andrew Pickens with tailing Cornwallis's troops, harassing his men, and disrupting their supply lines. General Green reached the Dan River prior to Lord Cornwallis and on February 17, ordered Lt. Col. Henry "Light-Horse Harry" Lee with his cavalry, to join with Colonel Andrew Pickens with the Maryland infantry and South Carolina militia. Together, the two commanders were tasked with monitoring British activity preventing Loyalist recruitment in the south.

John Pyle MD, a Loyalist, was born in Pennsylvania in 1723, educated as an MD in England, and move his family to Alamance County, (now Chatham County) North Carolina in 1766. Pyle, a Quaker, received his commission as Colonel from Royal Governor Josiah Martin in 1775. In January and February of 1781, Pyle recruited a Loyalist force of men around his home near the Haw and Deep rivers and was enroute to join the larger British force under General Lord Charles Cornwallis. Pyle expected to encounter Colonel Banastre Tarleton and his dragoons, who were to serve as escorts to the main force.

Colonel Lee and Colonel Pickens' force of about 600 men crossed the Dan River on February 18 and set up a hidden camp along the road between Hillsborough and Haw River crossing points. Colonel Lee's legion wore green jackets similar to those worn by Colonel Tarleton's dragoons. At noon on February 24, Lee and Pickens captured two British staff officers and learned through interrogation that Tarleton was only a few miles ahead. Later that day, Lee's force encountered two of Pyle's men, who mistook them for Tarleton's dragoons, who wore similar uniforms. Lee used this to his advantage and learned that Pyle's troops, a force of about 400 men were nearby. Lee instructed Pickens' riflemen to flank Pyle, and then trotted into the camp in full salute. Lee exchanged customary civilities with Colonel Pyle and began shaking his hand when the battle commenced. This deception was purely by chance, but Lee took advantage of the ruse and the battle ensued when Pyle's men realized that they were not Tarleton's dragoons. The battle commenced when the Patriot militia at the rear of Lee's Legion recognized the strips of red cloth on the hats of Pyle's men as the badge of Loyalists and alerted Captain Eggleston. Eggleston, who was new to the South and unfamiliar with local Whig and Tory badges, asked one of the Loyalists which side he was on. The man replied King George, and Eggleston struck him in the head with a saber. Witnessing this encounter, Pickens' riflemen joined in the attack. Lee's cavalry line turned and also joined in the fray. Pyle's men broke and ran, but many were either killed or wounded as they fled. Many of the Loyalists, believing this attack to be a mistake, continued insisting they were on King George's side. After about 10 minutes of fighting, 93 Loyalist were dead, and the remainder fled. Only one Patriot was killed. Pyle was injured and his plans were foiled.

General Green crossed the Dan River, moved his troops into North Carolina, crossed the Haw River and on to the battle of Guilford Courthouse two and a half weeks later, Lord Cornwallis, in an attempt to lighten his load, destroyed his baggage at Lincolnton NC during his January 25-28 stay in Lincoln County NC, unaware that this action, along with Pyle's Defeat, would greatly contribute to his "so called victory" at Guilford Courthouse on 15 March 1781.

**Ben Setser, Chapter Registrar**

**Patriot Grave Marking**  
**Saturday, 20th April 2024**  
**AT**  
**Keener-Schrum Cemetery**  
Union Baptist Church  
2801 McCorkle Rd  
Lincolnton, NC 28092

**Patriots to be honored are:**  
**John Elijah Keener Sr**  
**Johann Nicholas Schrum**  
**John Peter Schrum**

service at 10:00 am  
**RSVP at**  
[lennon\\_0102@yahoo.com](mailto:lennon_0102@yahoo.com)

**THE 3RD ANNUAL**  
**GEORGE**  
**WASHINGTON**  
**BIRTHDAY**  
**CELEBRATION TEA**  
**Sunday February 18, 2024**

2 o'clock to 4 o'clock pm  
Lincoln Cultural Center  
403 East Main Street  
Lincolnton, North Carolina 28092

The event is free of charge however registration is required. To register please e-mail [fcgoins@gmail.com](mailto:fcgoins@gmail.com) with the number that will be attending and contact information

Sponsored by the Jacob Forney Chapter NSDAR and the Catawba Valley Chapter NCSSAR



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## LOGISTICS

### *SAR-DAR Happenings*

- \***George Washington's Birthday Tea**, Sunday, **18 February 2024**, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, Lincoln Cultural Center, 403 E Main St, Lincolnton NC 28092
- \***Battle of Moore's Creek**, Saturday, **24 February 2024**, 10:00 am, 200 Moore's Creek Dr, Currie, NC 28435
- \***Regular Chapter Meeting**, Saturday, **9 March 2024**, 12:00 Noon, Palermo's Family Italian & Greek Restaurant, 924 Conover Blvd West, Conover, NC 28613
- \***Battle of Guilford Courthouse**, Friday, **15 March 2024**, 11:00 am, Guilford Courthouse Battleground 2332 New Garden Rd, Greensboro, NC 27410
- \***NCS SAR Annual Meeting**, Friday & Saturday, **5-6 April 2023**, Embassy Suites Greensboro, 204 Centreport Dr Greensboro, NC
- \***Triple Grave Marking**, Saturday, **20 April 2024**, 10:00 am, Keener Schrum Cemetery, Union Baptist Church, 2801 McCorkle Rd, Lincolnton NC 28092
- \***Five Patriot Grave Marking**, Saturday, **20 April 2024**, 2:00 pm, Goshen Presbyterian Church Cemetery, 600 Woodlawn St., Belmont NC
- \***Battle of Ramsour's Mill**, Friday-Sunday, **12-23 June 2024**, 301 Jeb Seagle Dr, Lincolnton, NC 28092

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Our next regular Chapter Meeting will be Saturday, 9 February 2024. 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.

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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](mailto:lennon_0102@yahoo.com)



### 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](mailto:lennon_0102@yahoo.com)

### Did you Know?

Thousands of African Americans participated in the Revolutionary War—on both sides of the conflict. Many were enslaved people who were promised their freedom at the end of the war. Inspired by the promise of liberty, African Americans enlisted in the continental army.

These men served in the battlefield, in the navy, and in noncombatant roles such as cooks, wagoners, and artisans. African American war hero Agrippa Hull was an orderly for General John Patterson and was present for the surrender at Saratoga. He spent the remainder of the war constructing defenses at West Point.

Colonial women were also involved in the war effort and regularly served the continental armies as cooks, nurses, and seamstresses. At times, these women were also given the opportunity to fight.

One woman, Mary Ludwig Hayes, carried water to and from the battlefield—and, as legend states, took her husband's place at an artillery canon to fire at British troops during the Battle of Monmouth. Because of her actions, she is commonly believed to be the inspiration behind "Molly Pitcher". Another woman, Anna Maria Lane, disguised herself as a man and joined the continental army.