



# 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 March 2024

Volume 5 Issue 3

### Chapter Officers

#### President

Roy C Lightfoot

#### Vice President

Rick Hubbard

#### Secretary

Treasurer

Dan Beal

#### Past President & Registrar

Ben Setser



Hello, Fellow Compatriots!! I truly hope this newsletter finds you all well and doing fine in this new year! Seems like just yesterday we started 2024, and here we are in March already! Time flies, whether you are having fun or not!

The winter months are not always the busiest of months, however, we were able to attend and participate in a few events including two celebrations of General George Washington's birthday and a visit to the historic site of Davidson's Fort in the mountains at Old Fort, North Carolina.

On 17 February, Chapter President Roy Lightfoot traveled up the mountain to visit with friends at Davidson's Fort in Old Fort, North Carolina. President Lightfoot attended what the Fort calls their Third Saturday Muster, which occurs each month usually starting at 11 AM. This was also a time for a Board Meeting in order to plan for the year's events. The Fort is in need of repair in several areas and the materials are sitting there waiting. Several workdays are planned to repair the walls of the Fort as well as to rebuild the blacksmith's shop for future demonstrations. Future plans also include days for militia drills, market faire, a siege by a Cherokee force, and several other activities in conjunction with the city of Old Fort. All musters happen the third Saturday of each month with some overnight events. Davidson's Fort / Rowan Militia also partner with the Overmountain Valley Trail Association (OVTA) in order to perform musket / rifle safety and demonstrations and preserving the history of the trail leading to the Battle of Kings Mountain. In addition, President Lightfoot will be attending several reenactments with this group in the year to come, and if you would like to participate, please ask him and he will be happy to share information with you. Pictures include: the interior of the fort, clay pot firing demonstration, vendors selling their wares, President Lightfoot holding a blunderbuss (property of the fort), and President Lightfoot with Fort Quartermaster Jordan Lowdermilk. Photos left and below.



Robbie Bennett  
President  
www.bennettfuneralservice.com

## BENNETT FUNERAL SERVICE

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





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On 18 February, Past President Ben Setser had the pleasure of attending the Third Annual George Washington Birthday Commemoration Tea presented by the Jacob Forney Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Lincolnton, North Carolina. This has been a wonderful celebration for the past three years, and it is always a great time when we are able to partner with and attend events with the DAR members. Pictured is Past President Setser and current Chapter Regent Fran Goins. We are looking forward to more partnerships with Jacob Forney as well as all other area DAR chapters in the future. Photo on the right



On 24 February, Chapter President Lightfoot and Chapter Secretary / Treasurer Dan Beal served as part of the color guard at the General George Washington's Birthday Commemoration at the McDowell House in Morganton, North Carolina. This event was planned and presented by the Colonel Alexander Irwin Chapter of the SAR. Special thanks go to Compatriot Kevin Allec for inviting us to be a part of this wonderful event! Pictures include: the McDowell House sign, the McDowell House and grounds, the color guard including Compatriot Allec as color guard commander, President Lightfoot serving as front guard, Secretary / Treasurer Beal carrying the National Colors, a group picture with "General George and Martha Washington" and "Captain Charles McDowell, Jr" along with many other SAR and DAR members from across the area. Photos Below.



As seen in these events we have attended and the pictures, one of our continuing missions is outreach. I truly believe the more we are in the public's eye, and the more we partner with outside organizations the more we will grow. It matters that our chapter grows, however, the bigger picture of growing the SAR as a whole is just as important. Several members and participants of the groups we have contacted are in the process of completing their SAR and DAR applications. Keep up the great work and keep striving to preserve our American Revolution history!! HUZZAH to you ALL for all your continued work and sharing of the mission of the SAR!! Need help with something?! Just ask. We will see what we can do to assist you!!

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 - Registrar**

### Up To The Battle of Guilford Courthouse

The Battle of Guilford Courthouse, much like every other battle or skirmish in the American Revolution did not happen in a vacuum or entirely on its own. In our roles as members of the Sons of the American Revolution, many times we don our period clothing and show up at the commemoration of one battle or another and learn about that particular action with very little thought as to what happened before or after that particular battle, and the prelude or epilogue is little mentioned. In our calendar of time, the next SAR event is The Battle Of Guilford Courthouse in Greensboro that took place on 15 March 1781.

In January 1781, General Daniel Morgan won a tactical victory over a more experienced British force at the Battle of Cowpens SC. Morgan, realizing his troops were exhausted and undersupplied quickly began moving his men northeast to reunite with Major General Nathanael Greene, and the rest of the Continental Army in North Carolina in order to deliver a major defeat to the British in the Southern Campaign. In this movement northeast, there were several engagements, most of which were small and little known and not always involving the major forces. Here are two.

General Greene, after crossing the Dan River into the Carolinas on 23 February 1781, in an effort to stop Cornwallis, was anticipating reinforcements from the Patriots in the Southern Arena. Knowing that his numbers were insufficient to take on Cornwallis, would move his troops every day or two so as not to be caught off guard by the Loyalist. His camp often alternated between Speedwell's Furnace on the Reedy River and Boyd's Mill on Troublesome Creek among others while he was waiting for more reinforcements to arrive. Col. Otho Williams and his Light Corps constantly moved in the "no man's land" between the two shifting armies, marching and countermarching, keeping an eye on the opposition.

On 2 March 1781, Col. Williams sent out Lt. Col. Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee's Legion with Capt. Joseph Graham's, Major Rowland's Botetourt Riflemen, 200 Lincoln County militiamen under Major Joseph Dickson and a detachment of 40 of Pickens' cavalry under Captains Joseph Graham to cross Alamance Creek and engage Tarleton. Patriot militia under Col. Henry Lee, along with Catawba Indian allies surprised Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton's cavalry in a well-planned ambush near Clapp's Mill in Alamance County NC. Col. Lee's scouts reported Lt. Col. Tarleton's approach, and he had his men to lay in an ambush behind a rail fence, with the cavalry protecting their flanks. Lt. Col. Tarleton and his mounted men rode unsuspectingly into the ambush. Tarleton withdrew and planned his counterattack. After about 20 minutes, the British withdrew leaving the Patriots to claim a victory. American casualties were 8 dead and upward of 40 wounded. Tarleton suffered 21 killed and an unknown number of wounded in the skirmish.

Only 4 days later, 6 March 1781, the same two forces would meet again at The Battle of Wetzell's Mill on Reedy Ford Creek in Guilford County NC. Tarleton's force was attempting to prevent Lee's Legion from rejoining General Greene's force near Guilford Courthouse prior to Cornwallis' arrival.

Knowing the British were nearby, on 3 March, Col. Williams deployed out a company of men to harass the British camp. They killed several sentries and took two prisoners before returning to camp at Wetzell's Mill, near a ford across Reedy Ford Creek. Cornwallis ordered Tarleton to pursue Williams. Col. Williams was alerted to Tarleton's approach, and managed to withdraw most of his men across the ford and establish a defensive line. Tarleton sent a company of men to storm across the ford. Williams' riflemen were ordered to target the officer and presented a tactical withdrawal as Tarleton's men crossed. The British eventually succeeded in crossing the creek, and after several miles of pursuit, Tarleton gave up the chase and rejoined the main army. Both sides are believed to have lost about 50 men in the encounter.

With the rather small engagements of Pyle's Defeat on 24 February, (which we wrote about last month), the Battle of Clapp's Mill on 2 March and the Battle of Wetzell's Mill on 6 March 1781, tempers and attitudes were set for the largest and most hotly contested action in the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution, The Battle of Guilford Courthouse.

This particular engagement has been discussed and written about as much as any other in the war. With a 2,100-man British force under the command of General Cornwallis and a 4,500-man force under the command of General Greene. After about 2 hours of action, General Greene withdrew, leaving Cornwallis with possession of a large expanse of woodland that contained no food or shelter. Greene's casualties were 79 killed, 185 wounded and about 1,000 missing. Cornwallis' casualties were 91 killed, 220 wounded, and with less than 2,000 available men, refused to pursue Green. Cornwallis left behind about 70 wounded Patriot prisoners as he moved on. Although technically a victory for the British and a lost 27% of their force that day. British Parliamentarian Charles James Fox told the House of Commons, "Another such victory would ruin the British army."

**Ben Setser - Chapter Registrar**

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)



# The Sons of the American Revolution Catawba Coalition



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The Catawba Valley Chapter of  
The Sons of the American Revolution

## LOGISTICS

### *SAR-DAR Happenings*

- \***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, **27 April 2024**, 2:00 pm, Goshen Presbyterian Church Cemetery, 600 Woodlawn St., Belmont NC
- \***Battle of Ramsour's Mill**, Friday-Sunday, **21-23 June 2024**, 301 Jeb Seagle Dr, Lincolnton, NC 28092

Our next regular Chapter Meeting will be Saturday, 11 May 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.

**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 Catawba Valley Chapter  
of the  
Sons of the American Revolution  
Presents  
The 244th Anniversary  
Of  
  
**The Battle of Ramsour's Mill  
Battle Weekend**  
Activities Friday - Sunday  
21-23 June 2024  
301 Jeb Seagle Dr  
Lincolnton, NC 28092

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

#### Did you Know?

Prior to his appointment as head of the Continental Army, Washington had never commanded a large army in the field.

George Washington was but one of a handful of candidates considered by the Second Continental Congress who possessed any significant military experience. But by European standards his experience in commanding large conventional armies was non-existent. Up to the French & Indian War, Washington had ably commanded the Virginia Regiment, but this unit never had more 2,000 men. In 1754 He commanded about 100 regulars and 300 militia in the ill-fated Battle of Fort Necessity.

Despite this seeming lack of experience in managing large army formations, Washington brought a number of strengths to his new position as commander of the Continental Army. He had learned many important command principles from the British regular officers that he marched with during the French & Indian war and British manuals that he studied. He also witnessed how vulnerable British formations could be. His nerve, impressive physical presence, and command instinct helped hold together an ill-equipped force against a more experienced opponent. Ben Franklin would say, "An American planter who has never seen Europe, was chosen by us to Command our Troops, and continued during the whole war. This man sent home to you, one after another, 5 of your best generals baffled, their Heads bare of Laurels, disgraced even in the opinion of their Employers."