



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 Ponderings

Compatriots and Friends
Chapter President Roy C Lightfoot



3 December 2024

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Chapter Officers

President
Roy C Lightfoot

**Vice President /
Chaplain**
Rick Hubbard

**Secretary /
Treasurer**
Dan Beal

**Color Guard
Commander**
Rob Buff

**Past President &
Registrar**
Ben Setser

November has come and gone and once again, we have a few activities we have done. We participated in several grave markings, a reenactment in Kershaw, South Carolina, and even planned and pulled off a grave marking with the John Hoyle Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

On 9 November, Chapter Secretary / Treasurer Dan Beal and one of our newest Compatriots, Bob Clark, attended the grave marking of Patriot Major John McDowell with the Colonel Alexander Erwin Chapter NCSSAR in Morganton. Secretary / Treasurer Beal served with the color guard, laid a wreath, and fired a volley during the outing.

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The Catawba Coalition

A Monthly Newsletter of the Catawba Valley Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution

On the weekend of 9-10 November, Chapter President Roy Lightfoot travelled to Kershaw, South Carolina (with MANY others) to participate in the Battle of Camden Weekend. Three battles were depicted over two days including the Battle of Gibbs Plantation (Saturday early afternoon), the Battle of the Waxhaws (Saturday late afternoon, and Battle of Camden (Sunday). If you have never taken the time to do so, make it a point to attend one of your local reenactments.



On 16 November, our Chapter Secretary / Treasurer Dan Beal and Past President Ben Setser travelled to Lexington, North Carolina to represent Catawba Valley at a multiple grave marking ceremony at Pilgrim Church. This is a combined effort marking with the Bethabara Chapter. Many hours of painstaking work went into this spearheaded by Past President Setser and Past State President Fred Learned. Without their hard work in scheduling this, it would not have come to fruition. This is the first of many markings for this site as you will notice from the monument there are twenty-five more to go. The next will be scheduled for April 2025.

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The Catawba Valley Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution

One of the most important things in this event is that Secretary /Treasurer Beal was able to honor one of his ancestors, Valentine Leonard. While there, Dan was approached by a "cousin" and had the chance to hold the Bible Valentine was reading from when Tories burst into his home and shot him. Although he survived the initial attack, he succumbed to his wounds eleven days later. Dan was able to have his hand on this Bible while speaking about Valentine during the program. HUZAH, gentlemen!!

On 16 November, Catawba Valley Chapter in partnership with the John Hoyle Chapter DAR, rededicated the grave of the chapter's namesake. After several months of planning, the event had arrived, and we could not have had a better day for it. Special thanks to Ms. Lynne Hill and to all of the members of the Hoyle Chapter for their hospitality and allowing us to take a small part in their wonderful ceremony. Catawba Valley will be partnering with them and other DAR Chapters in the future. Catawba Valley was well represented by Chapter President Lightfoot, Chapter Vice President Rick Hubbard, Chapter Color Guard Commander Rob Buff, Compatriot Bob Clark, and Compatriot James McCauley. Lisa Pupkiewicz participated in the color guard and represented the Vesuvius Furnace Chapter of the DAR. Also, special thanks to Chapter President Kevin Hancock, Compatriot Al Unser, and Compatriot Kevin Rhoney, members of the Colonel Alexander Erwin Chapter, for being a part of this event as well.



We continue to put into motion plans which have been made. After this newsletter comes out, we will be participating in a program at a local middle school, Wreaths Across America, and a grave marking for the current SAR President General in Rock Hill, South Carolina (Details at the bottom of Page 4), AND that is ALL in ONE weekend! Our Chapter Reconciliation report has been submitted, and although we had six members fall off the roll which is unfortunate, we gained four. And we will have one member to be reinstated and the possibility of another as well. Thank you to all of you who got your dues in. For those who did not, submit them, you still can.

The next major event will be the commemoration of the Battle of Cowan's Ford on 25 January 2025 and the Winter Board of Managers meeting the same day at the same location. Planning for the "Burning of the Baggage" on 1 February and our annual event Battle of Ramsour's Mill in June continues. In addition, we have not forgotten about the retiring of flags ceremony, which was mentioned in a previous newsletter. Vice President Hubbard continues to update our web page on the NCSAR website. Please do not forget we can be reached at our regular email addresses but the chapter one as well: cat.val.ncssar.1776@gmail.com.

As we come to the end of another year, it is time to reflect on all that has happened. We have accomplished many great tasks and are looking forward to many more. What a year 2024 has been for the Catawba Valley Chapter!! We have participated in so many activities it is hard to count them all. All of you should be proud of all we have done! It is hard for me to believe a year has passed since I became your Chapter President. I cannot believe all of the things we were able to accomplish this year, although there were a few items we were not able to get to. Personally, I want to blame it on a lack of time, however, we must continue to strive to do as much as we can, however, we also have to know when and how to say that little word "no" or the phrase "not right now". My wish for 2025 is for Catawba Valley to continue to thrive through recruitment of new members, complete grave markings, partner with other SAR, DAR, and CAR chapters, conduct programs at our local schools, recognize the JROTC and Eagle scouts in our area, and have a little bit of fun along the way.

Our next Chapter meeting will be held on Saturday, 11 January 2025 at 12:00 PM at Palermo's Family Italian and Greek Restaurant, 924 Conover Blvd W, Conover, NC 28613. We have several events coming up including grave markings, patriotic events, member inductions, recruitment, and discussion of duties which need to be assigned. Please make a point to mark your calendars and be there.

Lastly, I would like to take the opportunity to wish all of you and fantastic and blessed holiday season. I wish you all nothing less than a prosperous New Year in 2025!

Sincerely, Respectfully, and Patriotically Yours,
Roy C Lightfoot, Chapter President





LOGISTICS

SAR-DAR Happenings

- 7 December – 249th Anniversary of the Battle of Great Bridge, Great Bridge, VA (Pearl Harbor Day)
- 14 December – Wreaths Across America – with the Mary Slocumb DAR Chapter, 12 noon, 179 E McLelland Avenue, Mooresville, NC 28115 <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/social/NCIFHM-WillowValleyCemeterywithIngramFuneralHome?Sid=44191%7C161383%7C0%7C5>
- 15 December – Arthur Garrison Grave Marking (Pres Gen Ancestor); Mecklenburg Chapter; Ebenezer Presbyterian Church Cemetery; 2132 Ebenezer Road, Rock Hill, South Carolina 29732, 3pm.
- 11 January 2025 – Next Chapter Meeting
- 17 January 2025 – 243rd Anniversary of the Battle of Cowpens, Gaffney, SC
- 25 January 2025 – 243rd Anniversary of the Battle of Cowan’s Ford, Hopewell Presbyterian Church, Huntersville, NC
- 25 January 2025 – Winter Board of Managers Meeting, Hopewell Presbyterian Church, Huntersville, NC
- 4-5 April 2025 – 2025 Annual Meeting.

Our next regular Chapter Meeting will be Saturday, 11 January 2025. 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.

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



Grave Marking for American Revolution Patriot Arthur Garrison Ancestor of SAR President General Darryl Addington

Garrison served as a Private in the North Carolina Militia, was a Juror, and took an Oath of Allegiance to make land entry.

Ebenezer Presbyterian Church Cemetery, 2132 Ebenezer Road, Rock Hill, South Carolina 29732
Sunday, 15 December 2024 at 3:00 PM

NOTES:

- * This is an SAR National Event.
- * Parking is available behind the church building near the Academy building on the grass.
- * If you wish to sit, you will need to bring your own folding chair.
- * No facilities available. Bring your own water.
- * Event will be held regardless of weather conditions.

The Catawba Coalition welcomes submissions, comments and/or suggestions. Please send them to cat.val.ncssar.1776@gmail.com or capn_roy@hotmail.com

Did you Know?

In December 1776, morale among the Americans was at an all-time low after the defeats at the Battles of White Plains in October and Forts Mifflin and Mifflin in November. Chased by the British, General George Washington had retreated from New Jersey into Pennsylvania. With his threadbare army, many without shoes and many with their enlistments set to expire, Washington counted on the winter weather to keep the British at bay while he and his leaders devised their next move. In addition, Thomas Paine’s *The American Crisis*, was passed around the campfires, and assisted in the reignition of the Patriots’ passion and resolve for the cause.

On Christmas Night 1776, Washington began moving his troops into place by ferrying his 2400 men across the icy Delaware River and then on a ten-mile march to Trenton. Behind schedule because of a nor’easter, which also forced part of the Patriot force to return to base, Washington arrived at the outskirts of Trenton where he daringly divided his force in two. While some of the 1500 Hessians escaped, 905 were killed, wounded or captured while only losing 5 American wounded. With this success, the Americans return a week later and attack Princeton defeating the British again.

With these victories, Washington proves how capable a leader he is at molding militias from different colonies into a national fighting force. With these victories, the American Army marches to Morristown for the winter.