



Sons of the American Revolution

# The Catawba Courier

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



## President's Ponderings

Chapter President Roy C Lightfoot



April proved to be a busy month for Catawba Valley, and from the looks of it, May will not disappoint with the scheduled activities! However, before we get to May, here is our report for April.

Catawba Valley began the month the weekend of 12 & 13 April by participating in the second and third installments of multiple grave markings at Pilgrim Reformed Church in Lexington. This multi-day and multi-grave marking event is co-sponsored by Catawba Valley and the Bethabara Chapters of the NCSSAR. We placed markers on twelve more Patriots and still have at least three more multi-grave markings in the future.



On 18 April, several Catawba Valley Compatriots participated in the national "Two Lights For Tomorrow" campaign. This was a simple event which took place at our homes and various historic sites celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the ride of Paul Revere and others. All that had to be done was place two lights in your windows symbolizing the placing of the lanterns in the Old North Church in Boston to signal the riders that the British forces were coming – one lantern if they were coming by land and two if they were coming by sea.



On 19 April, while some SAR Compatriots visited Massachusetts, Catawba Valley along with the Jacob Forney and Vesuvius Furnace Chapters of the NCSDAR, Colonel Daniel Boone Chapter of the NCSSAR, the Lincoln County Historical Association, American Legion Post #30, the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department, and other local historians held our own celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the Battle of Lexington and Concord. President Roy Lightfoot oversaw the activities and presented a short description of the battle. Daughter Pat Hance of the Jacob Forney Chapter of NSDAR provided our invocation and benediction and the Lincoln County Sheriff Department Color Guard provided us with the posting of the colors. (Pictures on Page 2)

Find us at: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61572817325169>

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

"NEW" You Tube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@CatawbaValleyChapterNCSSAR>

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### Chapter Officers

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Historian /  
State Historian**  
Roy C Lightfoot

**Vice President /  
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**Color Guard  
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Catawba Valley Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution

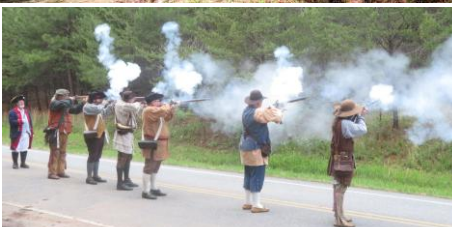
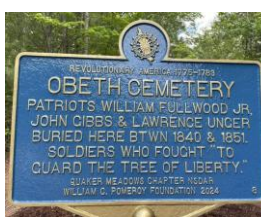
## 250th Lexington & Concord Commemoration



Also, on 19 April, Lightfoot, Daughter Lisa Pupkiewicz of the Vesuvius Chapter, and Ms. Hollen Carpenter traveled to Fort Defiance in Lenoir to attend the "Tea With William Lenoir and Friends" sponsored by Rendezvous Mountain, Tuckers Barn, and Carolina Emerald Chapters of the NCSDAR. The event had an extremely large turnout and included a conversation with William Lenoir and several others. If you have never been to Fort Defiance, you should make the effort to go when there is an event happening and tour the grounds and house. Much work is being done on a newly discovered slave cemetery where they have identified some of the graves and will be marking them in the future.



On 26 April, Lightfoot and Pupkiewicz traveled to Lake James State Park in Nebo to support the Colonel Alexander Erwin Chapter NCSSAR for a grave marking and the Quaker Meadows NCSAR for the unveiling of the Pomeroy Patriot Marker at the Obeth Cemetery. The grave marking was done in one of the three cemeteries in Lake James State Park and sits a couple of hundred yards off one of the side roads. The Patriot Marker ceremony was originally scheduled for last year right after the time when Hurricane Helene went through the area and the park was deemed to be unsafe at the time and had to be rescheduled to this date in April. *(More Pictures on Page 3)*



# The Catawba Valley Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution

In the same weekend on 27 April, Catawba Valley and Colonel Alexander Erwin Chapters were represented by President Lightfoot and Compatriot Eric Minetola at the Battle of Musgrove's Mill's 245th Commemoration in Clinton, South Carolina. While there, Lightfoot and Minetola participated in the firing of a volley in two different sessions, spoke to several visitors who were on a scavenger hunt of sorts, and enjoyed the hospitality of the park and the South Carolina Independent Rangers reenacting group. In addition, he was also able to speak to some folks about the Ramsour's Mill event coming up and reconnect with some folks he had not seen in a while.



During this month, Compatriot James McCauley has begun his "Marathon of Medals" journey. This has been so named since he is taking care of all of our area JROTC units which have qualified candidates to receive the Bronze SAR JROTC medal. As of this writing, he will have completed at least four of the eight with some assistance from Vice President Rick Hubbard at Bandys High School where Rick's son attended and was one of the first cadets in the Bandys JROTC program. This increases our number of medals presented from last year and will increase again next year when two more programs should have qualified candidates.

In addition to the medals, we also have Certificates of Appreciation to deliver to the teachers at Battleground Elementary and West Lincoln High School, American Legion Post #30, Lincoln County Sheriff and a couple of others. If you know of someone who has assisted us in the completion of the SAR's mission, please let us know so they might be recognized. In addition to this particular certificate, we can also recognize officers of the law, firefighters, and EMTs, Eagle Scouts, individuals who display and take care of their American flags in a proper manner, members of the DAR and SAR.

In terms of birthdays, for the month of May, we celebrate Chapter President Roy Lightfoot (8 May).

Our next Chapter meeting will be held on Saturday, 12 July 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 those already mentioned, and what our future holds. Please make a point to mark your calendars and be there.

In closing this month out, please remember to mark your calendars for the 245th Ramsour's Mill event and Living History event the following weekend. We will be honored to have the President General of the entire SAR, Darryl Addington, at this event. Even if you do not dress out, all support will be welcome. While we put these events on with ease (or that is how we like to make it look), we could still use other hands to assist us. And even if you are not able to "work", those of us who are there truly appreciate the support which is received. As our State President Stephen McKee said in his inaugural address in early April, like our forefathers before us who definitely were, we, too, need to be "men (people) of consequence". Let us continue to celebrate our rich American history through the end of the 250th Anniversary in 2033.

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



## LOGISTICS

### ***SAR & DAR Happenings*** – All events are FREE unless otherwise indicated.

- 17 May – Patriot's Day – Alamance Battleground Chapter, 5803 South Nc 62, Burlington, NC, United States, North Carolina 27215, 2 PM (Living History Event 10 AM – 4 PM, \$5 charge)
- 26 May – Memorial Day
- 7-8 June – Battle of the Waxhaws Encampment & Reenactment, Waxhaw, 10A-5P(7th), & 10A-3P (8th).
- 14 June – 245th Anniversary of the Battle of Ramsour's Mill, Battleground Elementary School, Lincolnton, 10AM.
- 14 June – Flag Day
- 20 June – Jacob Forney Chapter NCSDAR Patriots Gala, Lincoln Cultural Center, Lincolnton, 6 PM, \$45 fee.
- 21-22 June – Battle of Ramsour's Mill Encampment & Reenactment, Lincolnton, 10A-5P (21st) & 10A-3P (22nd)
- 4 July – 249th Anniversary of Independence Day
- 5-6 July – Independence Day Celebration, Hickory Ridge Museum, Horn In The West, Boone, All Day.
- 12 July – Chapter Meeting, Palermo's Family Italian & Greek Restaurant, Conover NC, 12 Noon

Our next regular **Chapter Meeting** will be **Saturday, 12 July**. 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 and enjoy some fellowship.

#### 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



*"Half Price Application Fee Month" aka April took off like a house o' fire for our chapter and many around us. In speaking to our State Registrar, Bob Ervin, there are fifty-one new applications signed and sealed and sent to National for their approval. Through the assistance of Ervin and Compatriot Tom Lesser of the Colonel Alexander Erwin Chapter, five of those belong to Catawba Valley. In addition, it is on good authority, from the Tennessee State Registrar, they are submitting fifty-two... National has a hard job set out for them. Pictured are our newest applicants (left to right): Bill Beam, Jeremy Houser, Scott Lightfoot, Justin Lightfoot, and Steve Bailey.*



The Catawba Coalition welcomes submissions, comments and/or suggestions. Please send them to [cat.val.ncssar.1776@gmail.com](mailto:cat.val.ncssar.1776@gmail.com) or [capn\\_roy@hotmail.com](mailto:capn_roy@hotmail.com)

### Did you Know?

#### The Mecklenburg Declaration 20 May 1775

The Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence was published on April 30, 1819, in an article written by Joseph McKnitt Alexander in the *Raleigh Register and North Carolina Gazette*, of Raleigh, North Carolina. "It is not probably known to many of our readers," wrote the editor of the *Raleigh Register* in an introduction to the article, "that the citizens of Mecklenburg County, in this State made a Declaration of Independence more than a year before Congress made theirs."

According to Alexander, his father, John McKnitt Alexander, had been the clerk at a meeting convened in Charlotte on May 19, 1775. Each militia company in Mecklenburg County had sent two delegates to the meeting, where measures were to be discussed regarding the ongoing dispute between the British Empire and the American colonies. Relations between the colonies and British leaders had reached a crisis in Boston, Massachusetts following the 1774 passage of the Coercive Acts by the British Parliament.

During the meeting in Mecklenburg County, the delegates received official news that the battle of Lexington had been fought in Massachusetts one month earlier. Outraged by this turn of events, wrote Alexander, the delegates unanimously passed the following resolutions at about 2:00 a.m. on May 20.