



Sons of the American Revolution
Founded 30 April 1889

The Catawba Courier

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



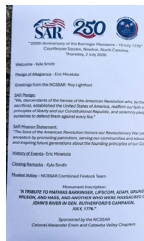
President's Ponderings

Chapter President Roy C Lightfoot



The month of July was filled with all kinds of events – local, state, regional, and national events filled our calendar, and all were well attended. And of course, included in all of this was the 136th Sons of the American Revolution National Congress hosted by the North Carolina Society of the SAR in Greensboro, North Carolina. All of these events kept us busy and running up and down the road for all of the celebrations of our 250th Anniversary of these United States!

The Catawba Valley Chapter began the events on 2 July with a coordinated event with the Colonel Alexander Erwin Chapter. Their Chapter Vice President Eric Minetola had approached our Chapter about having a ceremony to remember the anniversary of "Barringer's Massacre". Through Minetola's, and Chapter Registrar/Scout Liaison Kyle Smith's efforts this event was coordinated, planned, and completed. This July 1776 incident occurred when a Cherokee war party ambushed Captain Matthias Barringer and seven militiamen on a scouting mission in the Quaker Meadows area near Morganton, North Carolina, in retaliation for attacks on Cherokee settlements led by General Griffith Rutherford. Barringer was killed in the first volley, and Philip Fry was the only survivor. Members participating were Chapter President Roy Lightfoot, Chapter Secretary/Treasurer Dan Beal, Smith, and future Compatriot Eddie Miller along with Minetola, and Assistant Historian Lisa Pukiewicz, Vesuvius Furnace, NSDAR.



The Chapter's next event was the celebration of 250th Anniversary of Independence as we participated in the Lincolnton Independence Day Parade on 4 July. Members of the Catawba Valley and Colonel Alexander Erwin Chapters, NCSSAR; Vesuvius Furnace and Jacob Forney Chapters, NSDAR; Lincoln County Historical Association; and NC250 - Lincoln County Committee were in attendance. Along the way, our float riders handed out NC250 flags to a small but excited crowd. Pictured is our "float" in the parade, and at the end, and as an added bonus, there is a picture of our Old Court House at night! Members include Lightfoot and future Compatriot Miller, Catawba; Compatriot Kevin Hancock, Erwin; Lisa Pukiewicz, Vesuvius, and Beverly King Moore, Forney. In addition to the parade, members of the Chapter and Vesuvius Furnace along with cast members of the play "Liberty Mountain – The Revolutionary Drama" participated in the Kings Mountain Independence Day Celebration. Those in attendance were Lightfoot, Miller, and Pukiewicz. (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>

The Old North State Online Magazine: <https://ncssar.org/about/the-old-north-state/>

10 August 2026

Volume 7 Issue 8

Chapter Officers

President / Historian /
State Historian
Roy C Lightfoot

Vice President /
Chaplain / Webmaster
Rick Hubbard

Secretary / Treasurer
Dan Beal

Registrar / Boy and
Cub Scout Liaison
Kyle Smith

Color Guard
Commander
Vacant

JROTC / Veteran
Liaison
James McCauley, Jr.

Original Resolution
passed 24 August 1996,
Originally Chartered as a
part of the
National Society of the
Sons of the American
Revolution,
North Carolina Society,
as The Unifour Chapter
17 October 1997
Renamed Catawba
Valley Chapter
06 May 2002



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Catawba Valley Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution

"Lincolnton's Independence Day Parade"



"Kings Mountain Independence Day Celebration With 'Liberty Mountain' Cast Members"



On 8 July, members of the Chapter participated in the 250th Anniversary of General George Washington's reading the Declaration of Independence to the Continental Army in New York. Chapter Secretary/Treasurer Dan Beal shared a background of what happened that day and the General's General Orders from the day as well. Members participating were Lightfoot, Beal, Compatriots Brandon Mosteller, Bob Clark, and Jody Avery and future Compatriot Miller. Also, in attendance were Assistant Historian Lisa Pupkiewicz (behind the camera), Vesuvius Furnace, and Carole Howell, Jacob Forney Chapters, NSDAR.



"250th Anniversary of the Reading of the Declaration of Independence to the Continental Army by General George Washington - 8 July 1776"
Old Court Square, Lincolnton, North Carolina
Wednesday, 8 July 2026, 7:00 PM

Welcome: Roy Lightfoot, Catawba Valley Chapter President

Reading of Oath: Combined Color Guard

Reading of Allegiance: Roy Lightfoot, Catawba Valley Chapter President

Overview:

SAR Pledge:

"We, descendants of the heroes of the American Revolution who, by their sacrifices, established the United States of America, reaffirm our faith in the principles of liberty and our Constitutional Republic, and solemnly pledge ourselves to defend them against every foe."

SAR Mission Statement:

"The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by preserving patriotism, serving our communities and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our Country."

General Washington's General Orders and Background:

Don Saul, Catawba Valley Chapter Secretary/Treasurer

The Declaration of Independence: Felton Petros

Closing Remarks: Roy Lightfoot, Catawba Valley Chapter President

Music: Valley NCSSAR Combined Fife & Drum Team

Sponsored by the Catawba Valley Chapter NCSSAR



The Catawba Courier

Catawba Valley Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution

On 10 July, Members of the Catawba Valley Chapter and others from all over the United States began the 136th Annual Sons of the American Revolution National Congress with the first of five multiple grave marking ceremonies at the Buffalo Presbyterian Church, Greensboro, NC! For all five grave markings, NCSSAR supplied the Command Color Guard. In addition, the NCSSAR placed and dedicated a bench in honor of the American Revolution Patriots. In attendance from our Chapter were Chapter President Roy Lightfoot, Chapter Secretary / Treasurer Dan Beal, AND most importantly one of our NEWEST COMPATRIOT, EDDIE MILLER whose application was approved on 8 July 2026!! In addition, Lightfoot is serving as the Interim State Color Guard Commander for all five of the grave markings during Congress. Also, in attendance was Assistant Historian Lisa Pupkiewicz, Vesuvius Furnace Chapter, NSDAR. Also in attendance at the first four of the five grave markings were the SAR President General Mike Elston accompanied by NCSSAR State President Stephen McKee. At each of the grave markings, white carnations were used to symbolize the placing of the Chapters' Wreaths.



On 11 July, Members of the Catawba Valley Chapter attended two grave markings in one day. Getting on the road very early, they traveled first to the Alamance Presbyterian Church in Greensboro, NC, and then to the Hillsborough Old Town Cemetery in Hillsborough that afternoon. Members in attendance at both events from our Chapter were Chapter President Roy Lightfoot, Chapter Secretary / Treasurer Dan Beal, and Compatriot Eddie Miller. Also, in attendance was Assistant Historian Lisa Pupkiewicz, Vesuvius Furnace Chapter, NSDAR.

"Alamance Presbyterian Church"



"Hillsborough Old Town Cemetery"



On 12 July 2026, Chapter members participated in and attended two very important National Congress ceremonies. Chapter President Roy Lightfoot and Chapter Secretary / Treasurer Dan Beal participated as the only riflemen in the Inspection of the Color Guard by SAR President General Mike Elston and General George Washington prior to the SAR Memorial Service. Also, in attendance was Assistant Historian Lisa Pupkiewicz, Vesuvius Furnace Chapter, NSDAR. At the SAR Memorial Service at the First Presbyterian Church, Greensboro, Lightfoot and Beal served in the Command Color Guard as riflemen, and Chapter Vice President Rick Hubbard and Chapter JROTC / Veterans Liaison Jim McCauley were in attendance. This event was especially important for our members as we once again remembered our brother, friend, and Compatriot, Chapter Color Guard Commander Robert Sloan Buff III, whose name appeared in the program.



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Catawba Valley Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution

For Grave Marking Number Four of Five, on 15 July, Members of the Catawba Valley Chapter attended a grave marking at the Guilford Court House National Park in Greensboro. Chapter Members in attendance from our Chapter were Chapter President Roy Lightfoot, Chapter Secretary /Treasurer Dan Beal, and Compatriot Eddie Miller, as well as Dual Chapter Member Scott Collins. Also, in attendance was Assistant Historian Lisa Pupkiewicz, Vesuvius Furnace Chapter, NSDAR. In addition to all of the members in attendance were the Guilford Fife and Drum Corps.



On 16 July, Members of the Catawba Valley Chapter attended the fifth and final grave marking of the 136th SAR National Congress at the Pilgrim Reformed Church in Lexington, NC and the sixth of six of our multi-grave markings co-sponsored with the Bethabara Chapter. While there, Chapter President Roy Lightfoot ceremoniously presented our new SAR President General, Allen Greenly, with the flag which draped the Memorial. This flag is one which Lightfoot's mother made in 1976 for the Bicentennial of the United States and has flown in many places. Chapter Members in attendance from our Chapter were Lightfoot, Chapter Vice President Rick Hubbard, Chapter Secretary / Treasurer Dan Beal, and Compatriots Bob Clark and Eddie Miller, as well as Dual Chapter Member Scott Collins. Also, in attendance was Assistant Historian Lisa Pupkiewicz, Vesuvius Furnace Chapter, NSDAR.



The Catawba Courier

Catawba Valley Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution

On 17 July, members of the Catawba Valley Chapter provided a part of the Color Guard, led by Compatriot Eric Minetola of the Colonel Alexander Erwin Chapter, honoring Patriot Sgt John Rockett (1764-1848) in Connelly Springs, NC, in support of the Gadsden Chapter of the New Mexico SAR. Members from our Chapter in attendance were Chapter President Roy Lightfoot, Chapter Secretary / Treasurer Dan Beal, and Compatriots Bob Clark and Eddie Miller. In addition, State President Stephen McKee, Mecklenburg Chapter, and State Treasurer Sam Powell from the Alamance Chapter spoke on behalf of the NCSSAR. Also, in attendance were George Strunk, General George Washington Chapter, and Compatriots Nick Anderson, and Willie Wilkerson of the Colonel Alexander Erwin Chapters, and Lisa Pupkiewicz, Vesuvius Furnace Chapter, NSDAR, as well as several descendants of which some are also members of the SAR and DAR. A VERY special THANKS to our new friends from the NMSSAR, State President Robert Vance, our host, and Compatriot Paul Vance who performed a Native American cleansing ceremony for the newly marked Patriot for allowing us to be a part of your very special ceremony!!



On 25 July, Members of the Catawba Valley Chapter along with Vesuvius Chapter, NSDAR; Overmountain Victory Trail Association; SC Independent Rangers; Lenoir's Rangers; and the Mecklenburg Militia attended the Liberation Day of Fort Thicketty program which was moved indoors to the Cherokee County Museum in Gaffney, SC because of the threat of rain. While there, members posted the colors, symbolically received the surrender of the British colors, posted the Betsy Ross flag, and retired the colors. Afterwards, the program moved outside for a firing of volleys. Members then went back inside and set up an information table to share historical information with museum visitors. Those in attendance were Chapter President Roy Lightfoot, Chapter Secretary / Treasurer Dan Beal, and Compatriot Eddie Miller; Assistant Historian Lisa Pupkiewicz; Mark Anthony, OVTA; Robert Hall, SC Ind; and Yerby Ray, Mecklenburg. This is another example of an event which may be small in scale, however, one which needs to be remembered as well as any of the larger events.



After being off from our monthly meetings for June and July, it is time for us to gather again. Our next Chapter Meeting will be on **Thursday, 20 August at Court Street Grille, 113 Court Sq, Lincolnton, NC 28092 Lincolnton at 6:30 PM**. Please join us if you are able. Come early to get your food ordered. The Chapter will be inducting new members, sharing stories from the summer, and having a great time of fellowship with each other.

As always, Chapter Leadership is always open to suggestions, so, if you have any, please do not hesitate to suggest them! We look forward to seeing as many of you are able to attend any and all of our events in the future!



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



LOGISTICS

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

- 15 August – 251st Anniversary of the Tryon Resolves, Tryonota Fire Dept, 2577 Tryon Courthouse Rd, Bessemer City, NC – 10 AM.
- 15 August – Compatriot Will Barton Eagle Scout Ceremony, 101 Main Ave W, Hildebran, 2:30 PM.
- 20 August – Chapter Meeting, Court Street Grille, 113 Court Square, Lincolnton, NC, 6:30 PM.
- 22 August – 252nd Anniversary of the New Bern Resolves, 529 S Front St, New Bern, NC 28562, 9 AM.
- 5 September – Labor Day
- 12 September – Chapter Meeting, Palermo's Family Italian & Greek Restaurant, Conover NC, 12 Noon.
- 18 September – "Liberty Mountain" Opening Night, Joy Theatre, Kings Mountain, 7:30 PM.
- 25-27 September – 246th Anniversary Battle of Charlotte / Bees, Museum of the Waxhaws, Waxhaw, NC, All Day.
- 26 September – NCSSAR Summer Board of Managers Meeting, Best Western Hotel, 770 Huffman Mill Road, Burlington, NC. 27215, 11 AM – 3:30 PM.
- 3-4 October – Festifall, Walnut Grove Plantation, 1200 Otts Rd, Roebuck, SC, Camp Opens each day at 10 AM.
- 7 October – 246th Anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain, Kings Mtn Nat'l Mil Pk, 11 AM.
- 15 October – Chapter Meeting, Court Street Grille, 113 Court Square, Lincolnton, NC, 6:30 PM.
- 17 October – 246th Anniversary of the Battle of Shallow Ford, 4214 Mt. Sinai Drive, Yadkinville, NC, 10 AM
- 24 October – Colonel Alexander Erwin Double Grave Marking, Ft Defiance, Lenoir, NC, 1 PM.
- 24-25 October – Lenoir's Rangers Muster, Ft Defiance, Lenoir, NC, Camp Opens each day at 10 AM.
- 7 November – Chapter Meeting, Palermo's Family Italian & Greek Restaurant, Conover NC, 12 Noon.
- 13-15 November – Battle of Camden Education Day & Reenactment, Kershaw, SC.

Our next regular **Chapter Meeting** will be until **Thursday 20 August at 6:30 PM** – Court Street Grille, 113 Court Square, Lincolnton.

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 descend 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!



Compatriot Birthdays for July

Sherrill Watkins (2nd)
Bobby Dean Hinson (12th)
Bob Clark (19th)
Will Barton (20th)

HUZZAH!!



The Catawba Courier welcomes submissions, comments and/or suggestions.

Please send them to

cat.val.ncssar.1776@gmail.com

or

capn_roy@hotmail.com



General Rutherford's Cherokee Expedition

During August 1776 in NC, General Griffith Rutherford mounted an expedition against the Cherokee camps after the British had instigated several Cherokee raids. As early as the first week in July, Rutherford called for every able-bodied man within the Salisbury District to meet at two points – Fort Cathey and Fort Davidson. He set his camp halfway between the two at Pleasant Gardens. Troops from VA & GA joined the men from NC & SC. In mid-September with a combined force of 4500 men, they set out in search of the Cherokee. On September 19th, Col. Williamson of SC and his men marched into a major ambush at a steep-sided gorge known as the "Black Hole." [near present-day Franklin, NC] The advance party under Lt. Hampton found themselves under attack by a force of 350. Before the rest of the troops arrived, the advance party had to contend with fretful odds fighting from tree to tree and hand to hand. The battle lasted two hours. Due to the steep gorge, there was no way to counterattack except to charge straight towards the enemy, which they did, clearing a path with bayonets. The Cherokees were forced to withdraw when their gunpowder ran low. On 26 September, Williamson & Rutherford met to discuss further plans, however, both agreed they had done enough for this expedition.

