



The Catawba Coalition



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

Volume 1 Issue 4

President's Report

Compatriots and Friends

Even during this COVID 19 restricted state of being, we at Catawba Valley Chapter of SAR have been somewhat busy, although not as busy as we like to be. Many events and commemorations have been called off, others have found ways to work with or around some of the cancellations and postponements. One of those events that have been worked around is the Summer BOM Meeting which will be live, with space enough for social distancing, on 22 August 2020 at the 1776 Sporting Club, 1746 Jim Barnwell Rd, Burlington, NC 27217, and will also take place on Zoom. The Summer BOM begins at 11:00 am and last until 3:30 pm. Here is the meeting link. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81817484023> Meeting ID: 818 1748 4023 the Zoom Meeting will begin at 10:30 am. The first thing on the Agenda will be to approve the **Sandhills Chapter of Pinehurst** that recently submitted its Charter Application to the State Society. They will become the 28th Chapter of the North Carolina Society, and 10 of their new recruits all joined the SAR this year **during this pandemic!** CONGRATLATIONS, HAZZAH!!

After not having a Chapter meeting since January 11th, we were finally able to meet and conduct business on July 18th where we inducted Compatriot Sherrill Watkins into our Society, and we have another Compatriot ready to induct at our next meeting and at least two more applications that are being approved, hopefully we will induct three more new Compatriots at the September meeting. In that same meeting last month, we welcomed a transfer from SC, Compatriot Ken Luckey, who with his expertise as Past President of Mecklenburg Chapter, has accepted the charge as Catawba Valley Chapter Chaplin and furthering the work on a large grave marking commemoration that has been in process for more than a year now. With Ken's help, we can get this project completed soon. Will Barton gave a report from CAR and our Speaker for July's meeting was Bo Teague who gave a great talk about the use of the ford near the local Bunker Hill Bridge after the Battle of Kings Mountain in 1780. Mr Teague also informed the members and guest present about the preparations to return the repaired Major Francis McCorkle sign to its place on HWY 150 near Terrell NC. Our next meeting will be 12 September 2020 at **Palermo's Family Italian & Greek Restaurant**, 923 Conover Blvd West, Conover NC 28613. One may order food after 11.00 am, meeting begins at Noon. We will also use ZOOM for those who are unable to attend for whatever reason <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84789573450> .

The upcoming Commemoration of the 240th Anniversary of the Battle of King's Mountain on 7 October 2020 has been confirmed to be a ZOOM National event. The Daniel Morgan Chapter SC SAR and the Battle of King's Mountain Chapter NC SAR are working diligently to make this a spectacular event. Your virtual presence is strongly suggested. We will provide more information as it becomes available.

Ben Setser

Chapter President



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



Our Patriot Heritage

*"There are three deaths. The first is when the body ceases to function. The second is when the body is consigned to the grave. The third is that moment, sometime in the future, when **your name is spoken for the last time.**"*

~ David M. Eagleman ~

This quote has everything to do with why we are members of the Sons of the American Revolution. Most of us will say that we initially joined to honor our ancestors. Most of us have one ancestor that we have traced as doing some patriotic duty during the Revolution. However, we probably have dozens of Patriots we can honor but we must identify them to do so.

In addition to each Patriot, we need to make sure that the SAR Patriot Research System has your ancestor, I have spoken about this before. Your application should be transcribed into the system. Make sure this is correct and that the last two or more generations have been omitted so information for living relatives is not included. Finally make sure that there is a correct, Good Patriot Biography for your Patriot. Finally, "Has Your Patriot's Grave Been Identified and Has the Grave Site Been Marked By the SAR?"

We will mark graves no matter where they are located. What better way is there to make sure that our Patriot's name will be spoken? I place a Betsy Ross Flag at the grave sites of Revolutionary War Patriots every year. Each time I speak the Patriots name Out Loud. Maybe the grave is hundreds of miles away. We have compatriots who are dual members with our chapter to honor their Patriot Ancestor who lived in our chapter area. I make sure that their patriot ancestor is not forgotten.

Jack Bowman

NC SSAR Secretary
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Chapter President Ben Setser had the great pleasure to induct our newest Compatriot, Sherrill Watkins, into our Society at our last meeting on 18 July 2020!

A Call to Action

As was mentioned in the last newsletter, due to the COVID 19 restrictions, the **Old Soldiers Reunion** festivities in Downtown Newton have been greatly altered. Rather than the weeklong event, it has been truncated to a few hours. Six score and 10 years ago, a few 'Old Soldiers' were picnicking on the front lawn of the Catawba County Court House. The idea came up among them that they should march around the courthouse in solidarity to all soldiers. They formed up, some on crutches, others with empty coat sleeves, and marched once around Court Square. This event began The Old Soldiers Reunion Parade and it has gone on without an interruption and we want to for 130 more years. American Legion Post 544 has acquired the authorization to perform the same march and has ask Catawba Valley Chapter and all Compatriots to March in this Veterans Parade and I have agreed. This takes place, **20 August at 3:00 pm, Court Square, Newton NC.** Afterward, there are reservations at Blue Moon Tavern and B52's American Bar & Grill for food and drinks. We need to have **YOU** there and in uniform.



LOCAL PATRIOT GEORG HEINRICH WEIDNER BIOGRAPHY

Georg Heinrich Weidner or later Anglicized to Henry Whitner, Witner, or Whitener was born in Saxony Germany 9 October 1717 and came to Philadelphia as a teenager. Records also show that Henry Whitener made his first trip to North Carolina from Pennsylvania on horseback sometime during the year 1742, and that he hunted for furbearing animals in what is now Catawba County North Carolina, and westward. Henry first did business in and around the little village of Salisbury NC, which was then in Bladen County, along the eastern side of the Catawba River but the English and Scotch settlers had bought all the best land. Weidner crossed the Catawba River into unknown land and continued westward until he reached the South Fork of the Catawba and following the stream toward its source, finding where it divides. Then for about two miles he traveled the east fork which to this day is called the Henry Fork or Henry River after Henry Whitener, where he built his winter camp. During this first winter he explored the South Fork valley and gathering a great quantity of furs and learning to speak the Native language and their way of life. His hunting suit wore out before springtime and he made another of deerskin with the hair turned in, and he made for himself a coonskin cap leaving the striped tail sticking out on top to wave and nod as he walked. His shoes were moccasins made by the Indians of the thickest part of the deer's hide. He is said to be the first European to settle west of the Catawba River and he hunted and explored the valley of the great Catawba westward to the Blue Ridge Mountains, trading and making friends with the Cherokee as he went. It is said that the Indians were afraid of Henry's six-foot barreled "thunder" gun which he had made before he left Philadelphia. The United States Records of 1790 lists Henry Whitener as a Trader and was known as Henry the Pioneer. On his yearly spring trips to Philadelphia to sell his furs, he gathered German speaking settlers to come and inhabit this new land that became Catawba County North Carolina. At the time of his death, even after selling many large tracts of land for German settlers here, Henry owned more than 10,000 acres of land. On 19 September 1753 at Rowan County, North Carolina, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Henry Witner, as it is written in the records, came into open court and took the State Oaths and subscribed the test. Whether he swore or affirmed is not indicated. His oath of allegiance was to the King of England and the Province of North Carolina. Only foreign-born residents were required to subscribe to an oath of allegiance. At the end of the French and Indian War in 1757, George Washington sent a communication to Henry asking him to escort a band of Cherokee Natives back to western North Carolina from Pennsylvania where they had been sent to fight the French. Weidner suggested they meet at Fort Dobbs for the trip west. In 1776 at age fifty-nine Henry was a bit too old to serve but he supported the American cause by contributing provisions to the troops. During the War, North Carolina had no cash to pay, clothe, or feed her soldiers. An I.O.U. system was devised to overcome this problem. Patriot citizens like Henry Whitener who contributed provisions to the troops received vouchers promising future payment. When North Carolina began to address its obligations to its Patriots, fiscal districts with Boards of Auditors were created. Morgan District, created in 1782 comprised of the counties of Burke, Lincoln, Rutherford, and Wilkes, was Whitener's district; prior to 1782, his Rowan County residence belonged to the Salisbury District. Citizens holding vouchers were instructed to present those for review to a Board of Auditors. After examining a voucher and deeming it credible, the Board of Auditors issued a new certificate to the claimant, which then could be applied against land entry fees or taxes. Heinrich Weidner also provided three sons to the Revolutionary War effort all of which fought at Kings Mountain. Those three men were Daniel Weidner 1750-1833, Capt. Henry Weidner 1752-1811 and Abram Weidner 1754-1780 who died at Kings Mountain. Heinrich Weidner died 31 Jul 1792 and is buried at the Weidner-Robinson Family Cemetery in Newton NC.

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The Catawba Coalition welcomes submissions, comments and/or suggestions. Please send them to lennon_0102@yahoo.com



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Catawba Valley Chapter of SAR resumed our bi-monthly meetings this past July with a wonderful talk from local historian Bo Teague concerning the use of the ford next to present day Bunker Hill Bridge after the Battle of Kings Mountain. There was also a report by Will Barton on activities of CAR and we inducted our new Compatriot Sherrill Watkins. It was great to be back together. HAZZAH!!

Upcoming SAR events

Pending resumption of public gatherings

- Aug 15** 250th Anniversary of the Tryon Resolves
- Aug 20** Old Soldiers Reunion Newton NC, Marching once around the Old Court House
- Aug 22** NC BOM Burlington NC, Live and on Zoom
- Sep 24-26** NSSAR Leadership
- Oct 6** South Atlantic District Meeting
- Oct 7** 240th Anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain

Our Regular Bimonthly Chapter Meetings have resumed Live and by way of ZOOM. Our next meeting, 12 September 2020, will convene at Palermo's Family Italian & Greek Restaurant at 12:00 Noon. One may order a meal at 11'00 am. This meeting will be live in person and, provided that the WiFi works, on ZOOM. The link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84789573450>.

Please! The only way that we are able print copies of our Newsletter for events, meetings and public gatherings is with donations for advertisements. We are a 501-C-3. Please help us all you can. Contact Chapter President for donations advertisement space. Thank you so much!

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