



The Sons of the American Revolution Catawba Coalition



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

February 2021

Volume 2 Issue 2

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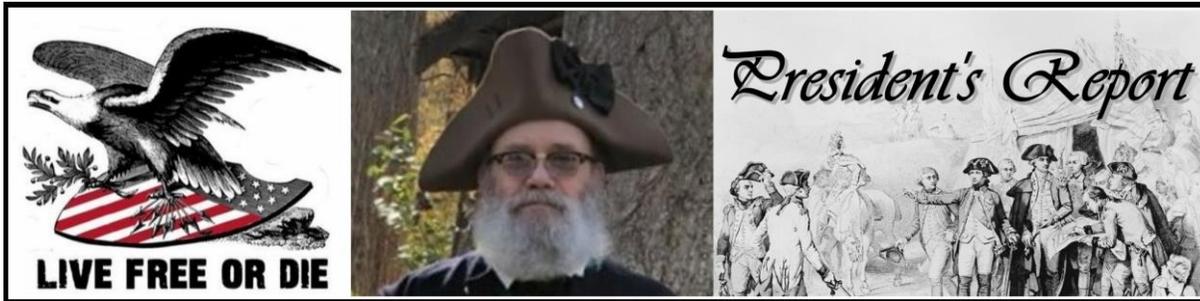
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Greetings Compatriots

We are well into the new year and still involved in some sort of shutdown or restraint in association with the virus. I don't want to seem to belittle the condition that we find ourselves in, at this point in time both of my in-laws, along with my youngest son and his wife have the virus, but neither do I poopoo the concept that I am thoroughly tired of this and want to get back to some semblance of normality. Events conducted via ZOOM are an important alternative to not being able to conduct ourselves publicly, but after four or five of them, it all sort of blends together, and there is only so much time that I can spend looking at a computer screen without getting a headache.

I am not one to bemoan the things that we cannot do but rather to attend to the things that we can.

One of those things that we can do will come about on Tuesday, February 23rd, when in honor of George Washington's birthday, Catawba Valley Chapter will present Catawba Masonic Lodge #248 with a framed copy of the United States Constitution. This will take place Tuesday evening at 7:15 pm, Catawba Lodge #248, 202 N College Ave, Newton, NC 28658. I have one or two members who are willing to come as Color Guard for this, but as always, a few more will help. We will need to wear masks for this.

There are several state and national events upcoming via ZOOM. Interested persons should check with the NC SAR website to see what and where they are.

We at Catawba Valley Chapter will be placing flags on Patriot's graves for Patriot's Day during the week of April 19th. These graves are all around us in this area of North Carolina. Last year the virus was just setting in and only 2 of us placed flags, and we did it on our own, social distanced and had a great time doing so.

Please come be with us at our next meeting on 13 March 2021 at **Palermo's Family Italian & Greek Restaurant** at 12:00 Noon. One may order a meal at 11:00 am. If you cannot be there live, please logon to ZOOM. The link for the meeting is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4611213429>





Secretary's Salute

Past Chapter President and Current State Secretary
Jack Bowman

A New And Prosperous Year

What have I been doing this past month you might ask? For one thing I have been receiving and compiling the various reconciliations from all 28 chapters in North Carolina. This is the collection of dues and contributions and making sure we have the correct number of members in each Chapter. Sounds easy but believe me it is Not. I just sent to National that we started with 1156 members, added 182 new members (this is good). We also added 11 members who transferred into North Carolina as opposed to 4 who moved out of NC-so more people are moving to the Tar Heel state which is excellent. 28 former members rejoined, most of them just forgot to pay their dues or some other small reason, and they wanted back. Now I come to the one number that I honestly do not understand. We had 79 members who dropped their membership or resigned. Some will rejoin as soon as they realize their membership has lapsed. But we will have over 50 members who just dropped their membership.

So why does a member want to stop being a part of the SAR? I have said this before, most of us join to honor our ancestors who participated in the American Revolution in some way. We also see the Society participating in many worthy causes. We support Veterans, Scouting, JROTC and ROTC, History teachers, student programs and many, many other things. Perhaps the member did not realize we do so many things for the community as well as the state and our country. There are a few, not many, who get their "Certificate" to hang on the wall. They just wanted to maybe brag to someone about their ancestor. Some members dropped this year because "the Chapter wasn't meeting" during the pandemic, no one was doing anything. I remember George Washington calling these "Sunshine Patriots".

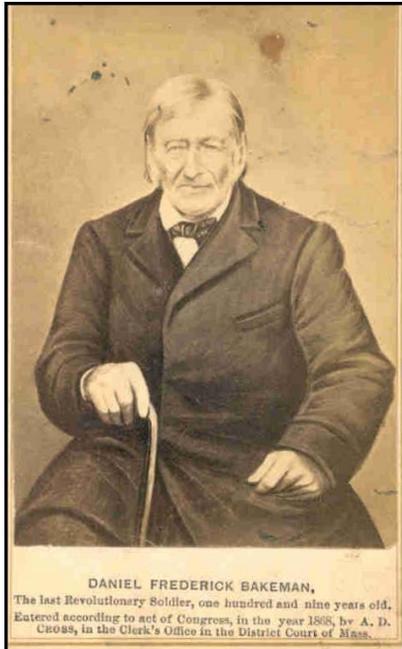
Our members need to get involved with all the things the SAR does. Look at what your Chapter does and find something that you can do. Not long ago our Chapter participated in "Wreaths Across America" where wreaths are placed on many thousands of veteran graves throughout the United States. We have a Color Guard that goes out to commemorations of the important Revolutionary Battles in our area. But if you have an interest, we probably have a program.

Another thing I did this past month was to prepare for our Board of Managers Meeting, via Zoom of course. For this I receive and compile reports from all State Officers, Chapter Presidents, and Committee Chairs. I was floored when I read all of their activities this past six months, so much for "Our Chapter isn't doing anything." Many of the Committees have struggled, but they are planning on what they will do. You do not plan unless you see the Future. These men not only see what needs to be done in this future, but they strive to make that future better than the past could conceive. Their reports are filled with Plans and Hope.

I applaud every member in the Society for what they do to make the North Carolina Society what it is today. Oh, and we finished the year with 1272 active members which is more than excellent growth.

Jack Bowman

PATRIOT DANIEL FREDRICK BAKEMAN



Daniel Bakeman said he was born on October 9, 1759, in Schoharie Co, NY. Other sources indicate that he may have been born in northern New Jersey, near the Delaware River, though his name sometimes appears in written records as "Bochman". Bakeman was ostensibly the last surviving veteran of the American Revolution. Daniel, at the age of 12, married 14 ½ year old Susan Brewer on 29 August 1772. Their marriage lasted 91 years and 12 days, the longest on record.

On February 14, 1867, the United States Congress passed a special act which granted a Revolutionary War pension to Bakeman. The act was required because Bakeman could not prove that he had served in New York. While on a four-day trip from central New York to Albany, New York for wheat and other supplies, Bakeman's home burned down with nothing salvageable. This would occur two more times in his life. At the time, the longest surviving veterans who were on the pension rolls were Lemuel Cook of Clarendon, NY (d. 20 May 1866), and Samuel Downing of Edinburgh, NY (d. 19 Feb 1867). They resided for over 42 years in Herkimer County, New York, and part of the time in the town of Stark, New York where he owned a farm. George Fruits also claimed to be the last surviving veteran of the Revolutionary War by the Daughters of the American Revolution but was never on the pension rolls.

According to Bakeman's later testimony, during the American Revolution, he served as a private in the Tryon County Militia for the last four years of the war, and was a member of the company commanded by a captain named Van Arnum during the period when the county militia was commanded by Marinus Willett. According to an obituary, Bakeman took part in the 1781 Battle of Johnstown, and served as a teamster for the militia following his time in the ranks.

Though no captain named Van Arnum (possibly Van Aernam a prominent family in Cattaraugus County in Bakeman's later life) or anything approximating it appears in the rolls of the Tryon County militia, and though no soldier named Bakeman or Bochman appears in the roll; the descriptions Bakeman provided of his Revolutionary service in the pension application he submitted later in life were judged to be credible.; Interestingly the US Department of the Interior had one listing of "Bakeman": "Bakeman, Henry of Granbry, Oswego" (County) with the following remarks: "Suspended for evidence of identity of the service credited to a soldier of the same name of Colonel Willett's regiment, Captain Peter B. Teare's company."

In 1867 he made application for a pension. Quoting from that document we read: "Daniel Frederick Bakeman the last pensioner of the war of the Revolution, was pensioned at the rate of \$500.00 per annum on Certificate No. 33,429 which was issued July 17, 1867. After receiving this pension, he was able to drive around in his own carriage and two or three neighboring towns always invited him to ride in their Fourth of July parades. Always on "Independence Day" as he called it, he arose very early and shouldering his old musket, would make the rounds of the neighborhood, firing a Salute, exclaiming "Hurrah for Washington, Putnam, Gates and Lee and all the brave soldiers who fought for LIBERTEE."

It is said that he voted at every presidential election from the founding of the government, casting his first vote for General Washington and his last for General Grant.

Bakeman died six months before his 110th birthday on April 5, 1869 and is buried in Sandusky Cemetery, Freedom, New York.

On June 17, 1915, the 140th anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill, the Olean Chapter of the D.A.R. marked the graves of Daniel and Susan Bakeman with fitting ceremonies. The D.A.R. Regent presented the official Bronze Marker, bearing the names and dates of the soldier being honored. This was accepted by Dwight W. Jones a great grandson of Mr. Bakeman.



At long last, we were able to induct Chris Stone into our Society at our January meeting. For a host of reasons, his membership and induction had been missed or overlooked. No longer! Compatriot Chris Stone, along with the many other new members that NC SAR has inducted this year are the future of our Society.

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Upcoming SAR events

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Feb 22... George Washington's Birthday | Feb 23... Moore's Creek |
| Mar 16... Guilford Courthouse | Apr 12... Halifax Resolves |
| Apr 19... Patriot's Day | May 27... Memorial Day |

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https://www.facebook.com/catawbavalleyncssar/?epa=SEARCH_BOX
<https://www.ncssar.org/chapters/catawba-valley/>

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 prove 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.



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

lennon_0102@yahoo.com

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Did You Know?

While it was common practice for Patriots to tar and feather Loyalists, the Daughters of Liberty had a less painful alternative: They used molasses and flowers instead.



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Robbie Bennett
President

lennon_0102@yahoo.com