

*Wishing for you all the  
blessings of the  
Christmas Season.*



Fort Defiance

*Chronicle*



Winter Issue

December 2024

**Fort Defiance**  
**P.O. Box 686**  
**Lenoir, NC 28645**  
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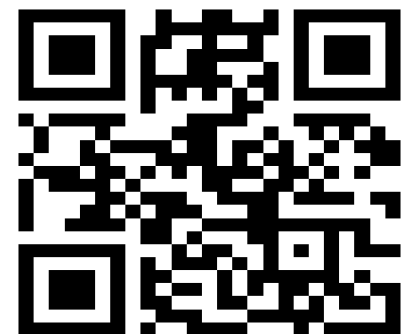
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By renewing your membership or becoming a member, it helps keep the story of General William Lenoir and Fort Defiance alive! Fort Defiance receives no state or federal funding, and your continued patronage is essential to the success of Fort Defiance. Memberships provide income that allows the site to provide visitors and school groups with a unique experience while visiting Fort Defiance. By renewing an existing membership or becoming a member the site can continue the goal of preserving and interpreting Fort Defiance's history. **Memberships are for a one-year period from January 1 through December 31.** For more information on becoming a member see page 7 of this newsletter then take a moment to fill out the part at the bottom. Make checks payable to **Fort Defiance** and mail it to **Fort Defiance, P.O. Box 686, Lenoir, NC 28645** or make payment by using the QR Code or by visiting the website at **[www.historicfortdefiancenc.org](http://www.historicfortdefiancenc.org)** to show support. **Thank you!**

The purpose of the Corporation is to preserve, research and enhance the land, buildings and artifacts of Fort Defiance; to publish and disseminate information about life in what is now Caldwell County, particularly in its Yadkin Valley region during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries; and to promote the use of said properties and information for the education and pleasure of the general public





### 2nd Annual Celtic Music Festival

Approximately 75 people enjoyed a fine day of music and fellowship at the 2nd Annual Celtic Music Festival. Music was provided by Miller & Pardue, Suzanne Williams, Down The Hall Band, Terry Edwards, Patrick & Kay Crouch, Scott Pennell, and Puddingstone along with the St. Joseph Irish Step Dancers and Fife & Drum. 18th Century interpreters demonstrated the art of spinning, dyeing, starting fire with flint and steel, the making of powder horns and 18th century currency as well as children's games. Also in attendance was Cindy Day with the Caldwell County Heritage Museum and William Caldwell, Park Ranger with the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail. Everyone enjoyed food provided by Boy Scout Troop 252 from Lenoir.





Grave Marker Dedication by the Rendezvous Mountain Chapter  
Daughters of the American Revolution



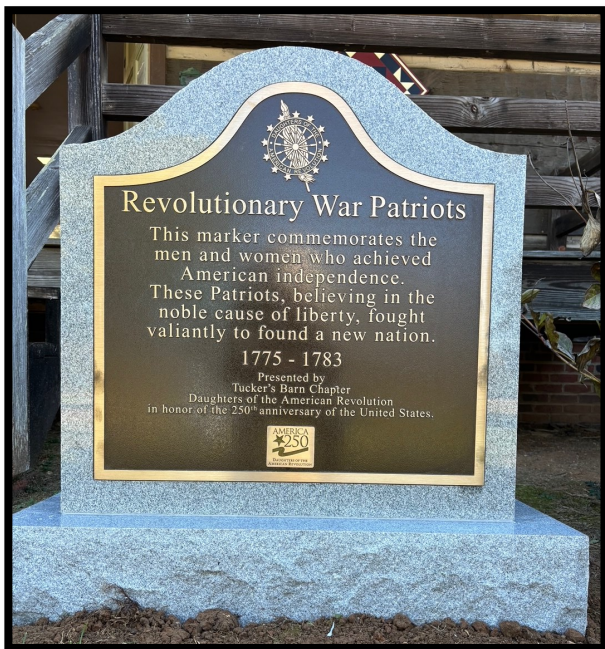
On November 2, 2024, at 11:00 am, the Rendezvous Mountain Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution placed a marker at the graves of William Lenoir and Charles Gordon. The program consisted of a processional led by Dr. David Abernethy; presentation of Colors presented by Wilkes-Surry OVTA Honor Guard; welcome comments presented by Regent, Rosie Summers; the Invocation presented by Chaplain Wylene White; The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Regent, Allison Phillips; The America's Creed was led by June Kay McCarter; The National Anthem was sung by Sadie Blevins; the biography of Revolutionary War Patriot, Captain William Lenoir was read by President of Fort Defiance, Sandra Watts, and a biography of Revolutionary War Patriot, Major Charles Gordon was read by Margaret Cooper. Additional program items were the dedication of the Markers by Regent, Rosie Summers, and Chaplain, Wylene White; the Wilkes-Surry OVTA Honor Guard presented a musket salute and Retirement of Colors. The program concluded with the benediction by Chaplain, Wylene White. A reception provided by the Tucker's Barn Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution was held under the picnic shelter.





### Tucker's Barn DAR Chapter America 250 Patriots Marker Dedication

On November 10, 2024, beginning at 3:00, the Tucker's Barn Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution dedicated a marker to honor the America 250. The prelude was performed by Bob and Roberta Kogut, Presentation of Colors by West Caldwell High School NJROTC. Regent, Cindy Hedrick Day welcomed everyone, and the Invocation was conducted by Chaplain, Gretchen Griffith. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Leila McMichael, Lissa Holsclaw led everyone in "The American's Creed," and Librarian, Velda McLean led the National Anthem. Presentation of Wreaths was performed by Cindy Beam, and Cindy Hedrick Day. DAR Chapters in Attendance were Tucker's Barn, Rendezvous Mountain, Hickory Tavern, Carolina Emerald, District 2 Recording Secretary & NC State DAR librarian, held by Jacob Forney and Colonel Frederick Hambright. The dignitaries present were Joe Gibbons, the City Mayor of Lenoir, and City Council Member Kimmie Rogers. After the dedication, a reception was held under the picnic shelter.



Revolution War Patriots  
This marker  
commemorates the men and women who achieved  
American independence.  
These Patriots, believing in the  
noble cause of liberty. Fought  
valiantly to found a new nation  
1775-1783  
Presented by  
Tucker's Barn Chapter  
Daughters of the American Revolution  
In honor of the 250th anniversary of the United States



## The Women of Fort Defiance: A Woman Named Clyde

The following article is the last of a five part series on the women of Fort Defiance. This issue will focus on Clyde Lyndon Lenoir, wife of Rufus Theodore Lenoir, Jr., the fourth generation to live at Fort Defiance.

Clyde Lyndon Lenoir was the oldest child of Andrew Jackson Lyndon and Lucy Yates Lyndon. She was born November 10, 1875, in Georgia. She and her two sisters, along with her mother, were graduates of Wesleyan College in Williamsburg, Va. Her mother graduated in 1869, and her sister Mary Lyndon was the first woman to receive a master's degree at the University of Georgia and the first dean of women also at the University of Georgia.

The 1880 census states her father was born in Georgia, and her mother was born in Virginia and lists her father's occupation as a druggist. The 1910 census indicates Clyde was the mother of three children with two living and lists her occupations as homemaker.

Records do not share with us how Clyde and Rufus met; however, an article published in The Charlotte Observer dated March 11, 1898, gives the reader a glimpse of the wedding. The article tells us that the wedding was held on March 9, 1898, and the wedding party arrived at the First Methodist Church in Athens, Georgia, at 8:00. The church was beautifully decorated and was filled with friends from the contracting parties. Miss Mary Lyndon, sister of the bride, was the maid of honor, and Mr. Findley, of North Carolina, was the best man. Little Misses June Lyndon (the bride's sister) and Mamie Lumpkin were the flower girls. The reception was at the home of the bride's parents and was a brilliant affair. Among the guests was Governor W. T. Atkinson, a cousin of the bride. The bride and groom were registered at the Central yesterday morning and left yesterday for their future home in the "Happy Valley." They will live with Rufus, Jr's parents Rufus Lenoir, Sr., and Sarah Lenoir.

It appears from reading other newspaper articles that Clyde hosted many events at Fort Defiance and participated in several organizations. Fairly early in her marriage in 1909, Clyde was the hostess for her mother-in-law and father-in-law's golden wedding anniversary at Fort Defiance. It is said she was handsomely dressed in a gown of yellow silk. On December 3, 1920, she hosted and entertained the Priscilla Club. According to Evelyn Beam, the Priscilla club started in 1914 as a civic club and is still in existence today as a book club. The article describes the house as bedecked with mountain pines, holly, and various other evergreens while the big fireplaces crackled and sputtered with big fires of hickory and pine. After her guests arrived, she gave a reading of "Christmas by the Fireside" which was considered clever and appropriate to the yuletide season. Her guests were seated at small tables which were decorated in Christmas greens. They were served with tempting refreshments consisting of a salad course, sandwiches, and coffee with English Plum Pudding with sauce. On January 28, 1921, she joined the Wise and Otherwise Club which was also a book club that was organized in 1901 by Lucy Richmond Bernhardt. The meeting was held at Mrs. Walter Covington's residence and the day is said to have been wrapped in a thick cover of snow. Mrs. Rufus Lenoir (Clyde) read a beautifully expressed note accepting an invitation to join.

The Lenoir News Topic reports on Tuesday, March 20, 1923, a luncheon was given at the home of Mrs. M. M. Gwyn. This occasion was of particular interest to the members of the Priscilla Club, being it was the 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Mrs. Rufus Lenoir. Between courses of the five-course luncheon, a wedding cake garnished with 25 silver pieces, and banked with jonquils and ferns was presented to the honoree. The club president, Mrs. Pitts, gave an appropriate toast and presented Mrs. Lenoir with a piece of silver as a token from the club members. Each



member of the club then toasted Mrs. Lenoir wishing her another 25 years of happy married life. To all these toasts, Mrs. Lenoir, graciously responded.

There are no letters from or to Clyde that allow an individual to know much about Clyde's personality. It's obvious she enjoyed a social life and was very active in the organizations she belonged. Without letters, it's impossible to know what her day-to-day life was like. One can only imagine.

Clyde Lenoir passed away on December 17, 1934 at the age of 59 years, 1 month and 7 days from pneumonia. She and Rufus, Jr were married for 36 years. She is buried in the Lenoir Family Cemetery located at Fort Defiance.



Clyde Lyndon Lenoir

### Board Highlights

Board meeting was held on November 13, 2024. Board members present were Tina Triplett, Steve Rauchfuss, Bob Kogut, Monty Minton, John Church, Nell Fisher, Bill Karr, Doug Davis and Sandra Watts.

- ◆ Work continues southeast of the house by ASU. The goal is to find slave cabins and cemetery. The wooded area has been cleared of undergrowth and debris with the help of Brookston Hall and Mooresville Troop 377 Boy Scouts. Brookstone is working on his Eagle badge.
- ◆ Sandra Watts gave a report on the living history day scheduled for October 4th with students from Caldwell County was cancelled due to the hurricane. The plan is to schedule it for 2025.
- ◆ Rendezvous Mountain and Tucker's Barn DAR ceremonies were well attended.
- ◆ Sandra Watts and Tina Triplett gave an update on the art project that will be housed in the Summer Kitchen. A Zoom meeting was held with artist Israel Soloman to discuss the painting. The plan is to have it completed by Spring 2025.
- ◆ Grant request to Blue Ridge Energy is still outstanding.
- ◆ Bob Kogut discussed the 2nd Annual Celtic Music Festival and ask the group for suggestions for next year.
- ◆ A work day is in the plans to address some issues with the plaster on the 2nd floor and some boards on the smokehouse, and to insert acrylic panels in the windows on 2nd floor to protect from the continents from UV rays.

# FRIENDS OF FORT DEFIANCE

Your support is vitally important to the operation of Fort Defiance. **THANK YOU!** The following members have joined for **2024**:

## Patriot/Individual

Karen Barlow (in honor of Charles Le-noir)  
 Mary Bohlen  
 Katherine Bravo  
 Jeanne Dairaghi  
 Oscar L. Doberiner  
 Nell Fisher  
 Britton King  
 Ed Wright

## Lieutenant

Alvin M. Johnston

## Captain/Patron

John B. Beall  
 Sharon Bryant  
 Brenda Combs  
 Monty Combs  
 Valerie Connor  
 Dr. Ellen Cowan  
 Cindy Day  
 Joe & Frances Delk  
 Dr. Myra A. Dickson  
 Scott Frady  
 John Hawkins  
 Mr & Mrs. William F. Howard III  
 Jeanette A. Jacob  
 Mary A. Kincaid  
 Steve McCord  
 Dr. Leslie McKesson  
 Frank McMillan  
 Douglas Pegram  
 Lee Taylor  
 Jim & Judy Thompson  
 Tina Triplett  
 Kim Browning

## Colonel/ Sponsor

Samuel L. & Sandra B. Ramsey

## General/ Benefactor

Brenda Bernhardt  
 Barbara Freiman  
 Collot Guerard  
 Yorke Lawson  
 James Pennell

## Militia/Family

David Baker  
 AJ & Caroline Bennett  
 Betty Buss  
 Kelly Coffey  
 Karen Dickerson  
 Tom Gwyn  
 Pam Helton  
 Lissa Holsclaw  
 Jean Lenoir  
 Katherine Nell Lenoir  
 Lucy McCarl  
 Bill McKinney  
 Tony & Jane Parisi  
 Wanda Prince  
 Sharon & Roger Underwood  
 Mabel T. Ledford

## Specified Donations—Thank You

Anne and Alex Bernhardt Foundation  
 Bernhardt Furniture Foundation  
 Broyhill Family Foundation  
 Lenoir Service League  
 Stevens Family Foundation

Please become a "Friend of Fort Defiance". Memberships are available for individuals, families, and corporations who are looking to support local history and tourism. Each level of membership comes with perks when visiting Fort Defiance. For example, free admission when visiting on regular days of operation, discounts for special event admission, discounts in the gift shop and discounts on ground rentals. Each member will receive a membership card and a copy of the bi-monthly newsletter via mail or email.

Fort Defiance, Inc. is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Anyone wanting to become a member of the "Friends of Fort Defiance" should send a check made payable to Fort Defiance, Inc. and mail it along with the membership form to Fort Defiance, Inc., P. O. Box 686, Lenoir, NC 28645. Payments can also be made by credit card on the Site's website, [www.historicfortdefiancenc.org](http://www.historicfortdefiancenc.org).

_____ Patriot/Individual	\$20-39
_____ Militia/Family <small>Family is defined as two parents and their dependent children.</small>	\$40-74
_____ Lieutenant/Supporter	\$75-99

_____ Captain/Patron	\$100-499
_____ Colonel/Sponsor	\$500-999
_____ General/Benefactor	\$1000-up

**Contact Fort Defiance at [fortdefiancenc@gmail.com](mailto:fortdefiancenc@gmail.com) or call 828-758-1671.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

# **Please Come Visit Soon!**

Fort Defiance is located 1.8 miles past the former Patterson School on Hwy 268.

## **Hours of Operation**

April-October Thursday - Saturday 10 AM-4 PM Sunday 1 PM - 4 PM

November-March Saturday & Sunday 10 AM - 4 PM

## **Admission**

\$7 per Adult

\$5 for children (Ages 6 -15)

Children 5 and under free

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To schedule a group of 10 or more, please call for an appointment.



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