

Suspects held at gunpoint by resident until lawmen arrive

On the afternoon of Sunday, July 5, 2020, Alexander County 911 received a call from a man who was holding two individuals at gunpoint at his residence, Sheriff Chris Bowman said in a news release.

Officers responded to the residence, located on Highway 127 in the Ellendale Community of Alexander County. After arriving on scene, officers met with Larry Allen Miller, W/M, age 53 of Conover. Officers asked what he was doing at the residence. Miller stated that he had run out of gas. Miller said that he knocked on the door of the residence and no one came to the

door. Miller related that he then walked around the property looking for old cars.

Officers found a black trash-bag that had been filled with different food items, such as ice cream and Popsicles that were still frozen. There was also a five-gallon can of gas that had been taken from a vehicle.

The Sheriff said the vehicle the suspects were driving had been driven behind the residence, with limbs laid over the vehicle.

Renae Chandler Michael, W/F, age 48, of Charlotte, was with Miller in the vehicle. Officers approached Michael. She had an unidentified white substance on her pocketbook. It was later discovered that the crawlspace underneath the residence had been entered, and the white substance was lye that the homeowner had put under the residence.



MILLER **MICHAEL**

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A PATRIOTIC GIFT FOR VIETNAM VETERAN — This beautiful quilt was presented on Thursday, July 2, 2020, to Sam Oxentine (above right), age 71 of Taylorsville. Oxentine, a U.S. Army veteran of the Vietnam War, is shown above with his wife of 50 years, Martha. His sister-in-law's daughter, Joan Taylor, of West Virginia, made the quilt. Mr. Oxentine served in the Army during 1968-69. "I'd do it all over again, if I had to," the veteran stated. After his Army service, Oxentine started working as a long-distance truck driver, a job he still performs today.



CHRISTMAS IN JULY SALE PLANNED AT HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OFC. — The Alexander County Habitat for Humanity is holding a big Christmas in July sale at the former Habitat ReStore location, 294 East Main Avenue, Taylorsville, next week. A Preview Night will be held Thursday, July 16, 6-8 p.m., for an admission fee of \$2 (\$1 to Habitat and \$1 to ACHS Food Pantry). Normal sale hours will be Friday, July 17, 11 a.m.-6:00 p.m. and Saturday, July 18, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Christmas items include: artificial trees, wrapping paper, stockings, yard statues, Christmas lights, and more. Many of these are brand new items from a popular home improvement retail store. Shown above, Habitat volunteer "Christmas elves" Brooke Wike (kneeling) and Liz Cronan (standing) are organizing items for the sale.

Drive-thru T-shirt sale will benefit Hospice of Alexander

The Apple City Street Rodders will be holding a drive-by 2020 Street Rodders event t-shirt sale at Scotty's Hometown Grill, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday, July 9, and Friday, July 10, as well as from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 11. All proceeds go to Hospice of Alexander County.

T-shirt colors are jade and gray, \$10 for small, medium, large, x-large sizes; \$15 for 2XL and 3XL sizes.

Unisex Reglan shirts, in heather gray with desert rose sleeves, will be sold in small, medium, large, and x-large for \$15 and in 2XL for \$18.



Local pair to play Community College Baseball
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Alexander COVID-19 update

As of Tuesday, July 7, at 4:00 p.m., the Alexander County Health Department reports that 48 people are in quarantine with COVID-19. One person remains in the hospital, and there has been one death associated with

COVID-19. Of the cumulative total of 136 confirmed cases, 86 people have fully recovered.

Leeanne Whisnant, Director of Consolidated Human Services, said the health department would

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Descendant of Revolutionary War soldier drives 2,100 miles to set grave marker here

By **MICAH HENRY**

Mike Rowley sweated away, working in the June heat on June 25, at the grave of his ancestor, Daniel Robertson, at Three Forks Baptist Church near Taylorsville.

Rowley, who hails from Iowa, drove 2,138 miles, round trip, during June 25-26, 2020, to place a Veterans Administration (VA) grave marker at Three Forks Church cemetery and pay homage to his great-great-great-great-grandfather, Daniel Robertson.

A veteran of the Revolutionary War, Robertson was born in Perth, Perthshire, Scotland, Feb. 21, 1748. He came to America in 1766 on the ship *Friendship* as an 18-year-old seaman seeking employment. Robertson served in Malcolm's Regiment, with Washington's Army at Valley Forge, and was wounded at the

Battle of Monmouth.

Later, the family was on its way to Kentucky, but Robertson died in 1810. A field stone which had become severely weathered, with initials "DR" and "1810" barely visible, served to mark Robertson's grave until Rowley brought the new stone June 25.

Rowley said he has known about his 4th great-grandfather Robertson about 10 years now. He learned of the Revolutionary War veteran through a distant relative in Oregon who had done genealogical research.

This is not the first VA grave marker that Rowley has placed. He and a group of like-minded folks have helped research, document, and install over 200 gravestones from veterans of six different wars to date. Most of these have been in his home state of Iowa, but also in Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and other states.

Rowley's father, a World War II veteran of the Normandy Campaign, died in 1965 when Rowley was only 8 years old.

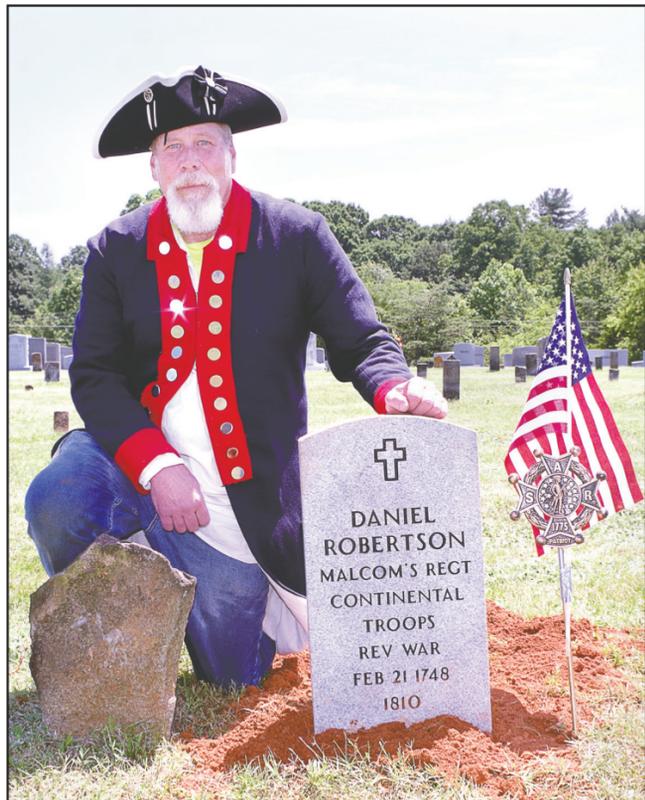
"As a result, we spent a significant amount of time at the cemetery, keeping up the grave and the VA marker," Rowley explained. "Even as a child, I

wondered about all the fellow servicemen and women around him who had no markers to help remember them."

Years later, as a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, the General Society of the War of 1812, The Descendants of the Mexican War Veterans, and other groups, Rowley learned that veterans' graves can be marked with stones from the VA.

Why travel so far to honor a very distant ancestor? Rowley answered with a quote by David M. Engleman, who wrote, "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."

"If you are questioning why I would make a 2,138 mile round trip in 39 hours, to deliver a monument to a place I may never see again, I am not sure I can fully answer that, except to compare my ride in an air-conditioned auto to their sacrifices at Valley Forge and other places, it seems pretty small in comparison. So as long as I can, I will," Rowley concluded.



LABOR OF LOVE — Above, Iowa resident Mike Rowley traveled to Taylorsville, NC, on June 25 to place a Veterans Administration grave marker at the resting place of his fourth great-grandfather, Daniel Robertson, at the Three Forks Baptist Church Cemetery. Rowley made the 2,138 mile round trip drive in 39 hours.

