

3. 1776 Militia Rifleman | 215 N Main Street

On the left side of the Historic Haywood County Courthouse, a bronze statue depicts a militiaman paying tribute to those who fought and died in the American Revolution. Gunsmith and historian Earl Lanning, a Revolutionary War descendant tracing his roots to Haywood County's founders, designed, fabricated and donated the statue. The statue was unveiled on July 4, 2019.

The largest militia campaign in the Revolutionary War passed through Haywood County in 1776 — 2,400 men, more than half on horseback, camped nearby at Sulphur Springs. The Rutherford Expedition was aimed at suppressing the formidable force of the Cherokee, who had sided with the British.



4. 1776 mural | 131 Wall Street

An enormous mural a block off Main Street in downtown Waynesville tells the origin story of the town's founding — one that dates to the Revolutionary War.

On the left, the town's founder, Robert Love, overlooks the rolling green ridges that would become Waynesville. On the right is General "Mad" Anthony Wayne, Love's commanding officer during his service in the American Revolution.

Wayne's nickname came from both his brashness and bravery — a temperament that led him to many battlefield victories. When Love donated land for the county seat, he suggested that the town be named Waynesville in honor of General Wayne.

5. Green Hill Cemetery | 90 Hillview Circle

Green Hill Cemetery, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is the final resting place of Waynesville's founder and Revolutionary War veteran Colonel Robert Love. Love joined the war in Virginia in 1776 at the age of 16, serving along the western frontier of what's now Tennessee.

Not far from Love's grave is a relatively new marker memorializing Colonel William Allen, also an American Revolution War veteran. When Haywood became its own county in 1808, Love served as clerk of court and was prominent in the affairs of Haywood County for more than thirty years thereafter.

