



# The Collins Dispatch

April 2008

## Dates to Remember

### Meetings—Spaghetti Warehouse, Delk Rd, East of I-75

Tuesday 4/15/08 Speaker Dan Crumpton, author, on *Georgia Land Records and Maps*

Tuesday 5/20/08 Robert Sapp, Piedmont Chapter, “*The Constitution*”

Memorial Day events at the National Cemetery, Marietta

Sat 5/24 Scouts Place Flags

Mon 5/26 Former State Treasurer David Titus is the speaker for ceremonies that begin at noon.

Sat 6/7 Old Allatoona Cemetery spring cleanup 8:30 a.m. Call David Thompson for directions.

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## Who is John Collins Anyway?

A little history might be in order for those joining us recently. This year Easter fell on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, one day past the earliest it can possibly be. The 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2000 was the very first organizational meeting held for a SAR chapter in Cobb County. It was held at the library in Kennesaw where about a dozen interested men gathered to explore their genealogy. After monthly meetings held in St. James’s Church meeting room (2), the Kennesaw Mountain Visitor’s Center meeting room (3), and the Cobb County Main Library, a petition was signed by 23 members and submitted to the GASSAR BOM on 14 October requesting permission to form a Chapter. Our Charter Banquet was held that same month. Eventually 84 men would be recognized as founding members.



The name of the Chapter was explored over several meetings and decided by majority vote as Captain John Collins Chapter. Patriot John Collins married Phoebe Sailors on 30 November 1786 and died on 8 March 1852. He is buried in Mars Hill Cemetery in Acworth, GA. Daniel Collins, his son, also buried at Mars Hill, is mentioned in the pension application.

John Collins was born on 9 Dec. 1760 in Frederick County, Maryland. He served in the South Carolina Militia from 10 May 1776 to 26 Oct. 1776 under Captain Robert

McAfee and Colonel Neal. He was in a skirmish with the Indians on the Seneca River. He re-enlisted for a second tour under the same officers. In his third tour, Patriot Collins served as a private in the Camden District as a substitute in Captain Thomas Barron’s Company, commanded by Major Francis Ross where he was in the Battle of Briar Creek.

Next, he enlisted in Captain Benjamin Hardin’s Company of the North Carolina Militia commanded by Colonel Charles McDowell. He served from September 1779 as Orderly Sergeant under Captain John G. Lowman and Colonel Hampton. Immediately afterwards, he was a Private, Sergeant, and Sergeant-Major under Captain John G. Lowman and Colonel Archibald Lyle.

He was taken prisoner at the fall of Charleston, but later paroled. He went to Lincoln County, NC where he was again captured by the Tories and sentenced to hang. He escaped and again joined the Militia. He participated in the Battles of King’s Mountain, Cowpens, Guilford Courthouse and Jamestown. He also served as Adjutant Lieutenant in the Virginia Troops and as a Captain in the South Carolina Militia and participated in the Battles of Orangeburg, Four Holes Bridge, and Bacon’s Bridge. He received a pension for his service.

*Send your articles and photos to Larry Guzy for inclusion in the next edition of the Collins Dispatch. Write the next Signers of the Declaration profile or profile a fellow chapter member. Have you studied a Rev War battle? Explain it to us.*

## President's Message

What a great start we have had for 2008, and it is only getting better!

As we move through the next few months I would like to point out a few highlights. The first is our April 15<sup>th</sup> speaker, Dan Crumpton. Dan is traveling to make his presentation. So, if you can only make one meeting this year, this is the one! Dan has written 6 books on the subject (over 5,000+ pages) covering Warren, Jefferson, and Richmond counties in Georgia. He is also creating the "Georgia Museum of Surveying and Mapping." WOW! So please plan to attend and bring a friend. Dan will be speaking about "Land Record Research," and after bearing the Olympic Torch in 1996, he's certainly got more than first hand knowledge of the "terrain."

Also, the chapter will be voting on a donation to the NSSAR Library at the April 15<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting. Do you know what the Library and the Center for Advancing America's Heritage is all about? Come and see.

Americanism! After three full months of members doing things for the SAR, we need to report our activity (individual activities) to our Americanism Officer, Charles Switzer. Charles is the Committee Chair that reports all of the chapter's activities for points. Yes, it is a competi-



tion between all of the chapters. We are an active chapter and it is nice to be recognized for those efforts. You may be surprised that even some very basic activities count. For instance, if you visit your brother, who happens to be a veteran, you are eligible for points. How easy is that? All you need to do is log it and submit it. Please touch base with Charles!

**Scavenger Hunt.** Flag Day is the best day of the year for our chapter to hand out flag certificates. In 2006, Curtis McWaters

(your 2008 Flags/Law/Fire Committee Chair) presented 15 certificates on Flag Day. What an accomplishment! Let's beat that record in 2008! Please help Curtis and I, who are taking off work on June 14th, to present certificates to companies you nominate. That's right; we need you to help us "find flags." If you give us the company's information we will do the rest. So for the next month and half, when you drive around, be on the lookout for businesses that display the flag well. After you find it, email us the company and the contact or location. It is that easy.

Remember, Perpetuate the Revolution, Maintain the Institutions of American Freedom, and Promote Fellowshipship.

Stuart "Skip" Wesley Keaton

## Officers and Committee

President	Skip Keaton
Vice President	David Martin
Secretary	Jim Waide
Treasurer	Charles Covington
Registrar	Bill Teasley
Chancellor	Jack Gibson
Chaplain	John Jones
Sergeant-at-Arms	Rodney Pritchett
Historian	Bill Coffeen
Editor	Larry Guzy
Americanism	Charles Switzer
Cemetery	David Thompson
Dinner meetings	David Martin
Flags/Law/Fire	Curtis McWaters
Eagle Scouts	Bill Coffeen
JROTC & Veterans	Curtis McWaters
Membership	Bill Teasley
Patriot Grave	Brad Jones
Publicity/phone	David Thompson
Schools	Rodney Pritchett

The Collins Dispatch is published every other month. **June 4th** will be the next deadline for articles. Send articles, photos, or your bio to Larry Guzy by email [lg\\_adjservices@mindspring.com](mailto:lg_adjservices@mindspring.com), or regular mail at 4531 Paper Mill Rd SE, Marietta, GA 30067-4025.

*If you have new member leads, contact Registrar Bill Teasley.*

## Collins Member News

Earl Cagle approved 3/19/08 National # 171313  
 James Cox approved 3/19/08 National # 171312  
 Ken Donaldson, at National awaiting action on James Malcolm  
 John Jones, supplement at National awaiting action on Thomson Mallory.

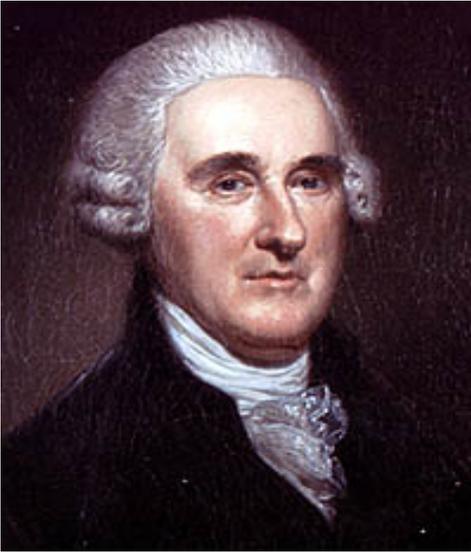
Samuel Keaton, Robert and Ryan McGehee and George David Meyer all have applications submitted.

We are still working on Bob Haley, Don Huie and several others. For any assistance, contact our registrar Bill Teasley at 770-479-8884 or [syltbill@aol.com](mailto:syltbill@aol.com)

## Calling Post

The chapter takes advantage of an automated calling service to remind members of meetings and notify them of important news. If you want your name added or deleted from this list, call or email David Thompson. [Sabl356256@aol.com](mailto:Sabl356256@aol.com)

## *Signers of the Declaration of Independence*



Prepared by MASSAR Former State President Jack Manning

**March 19, 1734**

**Thomas McKean is born**

On this day in 1734, Patriot politician Thomas McKean is born to Scots-Irish-Presbyterian parents in Chester County, Pennsylvania. He will eventually serve as president of the state of Delaware, president of the U.S. Congress under the Articles of Confederation and chief justice of Pennsylvania's Supreme Court.

McKean's revolutionary involvement began with the Stamp Act Congress of 1765, in which he served as a delegate from Delaware, where he had begun practicing law in 1755. As the representative of a small colony, McKean proposed the "one colony, one vote" system that endured in Congress throughout its existence under the Articles of Confederation.

McKean also served in the first and second Continental Congresses from 1774 to 1776, where he advocated for independence from Britain.

McKean served as the interim president of the state of Delaware in the fall of 1777, during which time he was already serving as chief justice of Pennsylvania. McKean served Pennsylvania in this capacity from 1777 until 1799, helping to establish judicial practice and precedent in the new nation. In 1781, during his brief term as "president of the United States" under the Articles of Confederation, the British surrendered at Yorktown. McKean went on to serve in the Pennsylvania convention that voted to ratify the federal Constitution. In 1799, he became governor of Pennsylvania, a position he held until 1808.

While still governor in 1804, McKean County, Pennsylvania, was named in McKean's honor. He remained an active political voice in Philadelphia until his death in 1817.

For more on Revolutionary War History, check out [www.rsar.org](http://www.rsar.org) or [www.history.net](http://www.history.net)

### **The Real Story**

If you have time and want to know more about our shared history, check out "The Real Story of the American Revolution, [www.rsar.org](http://www.rsar.org)".

Over the past six years or so the SAR has distributed over 25,000 CDs from the American Heritage Education Foundation (AFEF). The SAR site, under the Education link, has a CD link with the following:

NSSAR - American Heritage Education Compact Disc Request

The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution is pleased to provide an American Heritage CD. It is provided to educators at no cost.

On the RSAR site at [\\_www.RSAR.org/themes/ahef.htm\\_](http://www.RSAR.org/themes/ahef.htm) (<http://www.RSAR.org/themes/ahef.htm>) we have an outline of the CD's contents, and a link to the AFEF site.

The Around Town column of the Marietta Daily Journal, on March 25th, noted:

"Frequent MDJ letter-to-the-editor write **Harry Hagan** of Powder Springs filmed a bit part in Atlanta one night last week for the next Tyler Perry comedy film (The Family That Preys...). Hagan is a professional bricklayer as well as a professional trombonist, and plays with the Atlanta Jazz Orchestra. The band was hired to play big-band swing music in the background for fancy-dress scenes filmed in the swank lobby of the Bank of America building downtown, which doubled for the night as a ballroom."

We'll be watching for you Harry!

# Georgia Society Annual Meeting

Georgia State members met at the Georgia Center of the University of Georgia for not only the annual state meeting but also the South Atlantic District meeting.

President General Bruce Wilcox attended both meetings and state presidents from North Carolina, South Carolina and Florida also attended.

National officers traveled from all over the country, including our own Genealogist General and Collins member Chuck Bragg, Indiana, who is running for Treasurer General. Others included Arizona Society member and VPG Mike Jones; Virginia Society member Joe Dooley, who has been nominated as the next Genealogist General;

Tennessee Society member, former South Atlantic District VPG Stan Evans; D.C. society member Tim Bennett, who is also running for Treasurer General; and

Kentucky Society member David Sympson, current Historian General and nominated as Registrar General.

NSSAR Executive Director Joe Harris also attended.

At a Recognition Luncheon on Saturday, awards were given for service to GASSAR during the past year. New Georgia State President Robert 'Bobby' Towns, of the Athens Chapter was installed along with the other nominated state officers. A full roster can be found at the Georgia State Society website.

Friendships were renewed and new acquaintances met at the hospitality suite offered during non-meeting times. Wives visited the Hargrett Rare Books and Manuscripts Library on campus, a treasure trove of historical material.



*South Atlantic District Vice President General George Thurmond, NSSAR Executive Director Joe Harris, North Carolina State President Sam Powell, South Carolina State President Dr. Rick Corbett, Florida State President Grant Wallin, outgoing Georgia State President Charlie Newcomer and NSSAR President General Bruce Wilcox.*



**Vince Exley**, our March 18th meeting speaker, informed us of the origins of the Georgia Salzbergers, who settled in Effingham County, north of Savannah, along the river. Vince is a descendent of those Salzbergers.

**Jim Lance**, of the Cherokee Chapter at the February meeting told us about the Great Locomotive Chase, featured elsewhere in this *Dispatch*.

## Youth Programs

Now is the time to think about Youth Programs! Teachers begin to set their programs long before school starts in August. To get poster contest entries, school presentations, Knight Essay and Orations entries, contact those you know in schools to get our foot in the door.

More details about these and other youth programs are available at the GASSAR website:

[www.georgiasocietysar.org/gassar\\_003.htm](http://www.georgiasocietysar.org/gassar_003.htm)

If you have a candidate or school in mind for one of the SAR youth contests, coordinate with

Rodney Pritchett, School Chairman

Curtis McWaters, JROTC Chairman

Bill Coffeen, Eagle Scout Chairman

## The Great Locomotive Chase

2008, is the 52<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of Walt Disney Picture's classic "The Great Locomotive Chase" starring Fess Parker and Jeffrey Hunter. America's most famous locomotive "The General" is now home at the Kennesaw, Georgia Civil War Museum. April 12, 2008, is the 146<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great Locomotive Chase that made "The General" famous.

Jefferson Cain, an employee of the Western and Atlantic Railroad, was Engineer of the General. At 4:15 a.m. on April 12, 1862, Cain pushed the throttle forward and drove the train out of Atlanta for Chattanooga as a cool spring rain fell on the city.

In the spring of 1862, the peaceful town



*The Texas in Pursuit At Oostanaula Covered Bridge by W.G.Kurtz*

of Big Shanty (now Kennesaw) Georgia was paid not-so-peaceful visit by Union spies that were led by James Andrews, who brought with him plans to disrupt Confederate supply lines. Andrews and his men boarded the train in Marietta, Georgia. They had spent the night before at the Fletcher House (now the Kennesaw House.) Twenty boarded the train and two were left behind.

The next stop was the Lacy Hotel in Big Shanty (now Kennesaw) for a 20 minute breakfast break where the General was stolen in view of Camp McDonald that was home to many enlisted men and officers. There was no telegraph there which was one reason Andrews chose this site.

James Andrews, a Kentuckian, had made a name for himself by smuggling the much needed quinine through Union lines for Confederate soldiers and Southern civilians. There were with him three experienced engineers, William Knight, Wilson

Brown and John Wilson. When asked where they were from their reply was, "I am from Fleming County, Kentucky." They also said they were going to join the Confederate army.

The official plan to steal the General was approved by Union-General Ormsby Michael. The plan was to take the locomotive north on the Western and Atlantic Railroad and destroy tracks, bridges and tunnels along the way. General Michael agreed that he would take Huntsville on April 11, 1862, and then would wait for Andrews before moving into Chattanooga, Tennessee.

"Someone...has stolen our train," William Fuller, Conductor of the General said in amazement as the train was stolen and was pulling away from the train depot. Men of the Atlantic and Western Railroad immediately began the chase with Engineer Jefferson Cain, William Fuller and machine foreman Anthony Murphy close behind.

With no telegraph at Big Shanty, the men ran north for two miles to Moon Station and procured a platform handcar, then went on until they found the locomotive "Yonah." The second train used was "the William R. Smith." The last locomotive Fuller used was the famous "Texas" that was heading south. The Texas is now housed at the Cyclorama at Grant Park in Atlanta. With no time to spare, the Texas was run in reverse through the entire chase.

James Andrews and his Raiders were slowed down by South Bound trains that had to pass before they could continue. With the telegraph out of service, Fuller was fortunate to catch telegraph operator Edward Henderson. Fuller gave the young Henderson a hand up on the train, still in motion, to take a message that he would send to General Ledbetter from Dalton, GA.

Andrews and his raiders failed to destroy the bridges over Georgia's Chickamauga Creek, Etowah River at Tunnel Hill. They also failed to slow down their pursuers by setting the cars of the General on fire and sending them back down the railroad tracks. The end came when they ran out of wood and lost power about 18 miles south of Chattanooga.

It took about two weeks for the Confederates to capture the Union spies.

Some of them made it as far as Bridgeport, Alabama. All 20 of Andrews Raiders were captured. James Andrews and six of his men were hung in Atlanta, eight



*The End of the Chase Near Ringold GA, by W.G. Kurtz*

escaped and others were paroled.

The United States Congress created the Medal of Honor in 1862 and it was awarded to some of the raiders. James Andrews was not eligible because he was not a part of the military service.

The South's William Fuller, who is buried in Atlanta's Oakland Cemetery, was recognized by the Confederate government, Georgia's Governor Joseph Brown and Georgia State Legislature for his act of heroism.

Calvin E. Johnson, Jr.  
Kennesaw, Ga.

[cjohnson1861@bellsouth.net](mailto:cjohnson1861@bellsouth.net)

Editors Note: Arlington National Cemetery has a monument to the Raiders.

We were saddened to have to attend the memorial services Saturday, April 5th for **Diane Gibson**, wife of Compatriot Jack Gibson. All who crossed her path knew they had met someone special. Diane supported Jack and the Chapter's activities unselfishly, bringing beauty to our events. She will be missed .

Our condolences to Jack and his family.

**CAPTAIN JOHN COLLINS CHAPTER  
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**Chapter Website** <http://www.captainjohncollins.org>

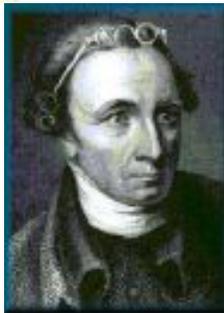
Don't forget, if you go to an historical celebratory event, make a donation of money, items, or self to a veteran's charity, or even solicit a potential new member, please send a note to an officer or let us know at the next meeting.

March 23, 1775

## Patrick Henry voices American Opposition to British policy

During a speech before the second Virginia Convention, Patrick Henry responds to the increasingly oppressive British rule over the American colonies by declaring, "I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!" Following the signing of the American Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, Patrick Henry was appointed governor of Virginia by the Continental Congress.

The first major American opposition to British policy came in 1765 after Parliament passed the Stamp Act, a taxation measure to raise revenues for a standing British army in America. Under the banner of "no taxation without representation," colonists convened the Stamp Act Congress in October 1765 to vocalize their opposition to the tax. With its enactment on November 1, 1765, most colonists called for a boycott of British goods and some organized attacks on the customhouses and homes of tax collectors. After months of protest, Parliament voted to repeal the Stamp Act in March 1765.



Most colonists quietly accepted British rule until Parliament's enactment of the Tea Act in 1773, which granted the East India Company a monopoly on the American tea trade. Viewed as another example of taxation without representation, militant Patriots in Massachusetts organized the "Boston Tea Party," which saw British tea valued at some 10,000 pounds dumped into Boston harbor. Parliament, outraged by the Boston Tea Party and other blatant destruction of British property, enacted the Coercive Acts, also known as the Intolerable Acts, in the following year. The Coercive Acts closed Boston to merchant shipping, established formal British military rule in Massachusetts, made British officials immune to criminal prosecution in America, and required colonists to quarter British troops. The colonists subsequently called the first Continental Congress to consider a united American resistance to the British.

With the other colonies watching intently, Massachusetts led the resistance to the British, forming a shadow revolutionary government and establishing militias to resist the increasing British military presence across the colony. In April 1775, Thomas Gage, the British governor of Massachusetts, ordered British troops to march to Concord, Massachusetts, where a Patriot arsenal was known to be located. On April 19, 1775, the British regulars encountered a group of American militiamen at Lexington, and the first volleys of the American Revolutionary War were fired.

[www.history.com](http://www.history.com)

### National SAR Congress

**July 2-9**

It's time to make plans to attend the SAR National Congress being held this year in Sacramento, California. All the details are available at SAR.org under the Congress link, or in your SAR Magazine.