



The Collins Dispatch

December 2008

Dates to Remember

**Meetings—Spaghetti Warehouse, Delk Rd, East of I-75
6 pm to eat, 7pm meeting**

Dec 15 Trombone Quartet, including members Rodney Pritchett and Harry Hagan, will provide Christmas Music Election of Officers

January Annual Meeting will feature Marietta Daily Journal Editorial Page Editor Joe Kirby discussing this new book on the Bell Bomber Factory.

We are expanding the information on future activities so you may make plans well in advance to participate. See page 3 .

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2009 ANNUAL MEETING

Marietta Conference Center

500 Powder Springs Street

If you plan to participate in the annual Change of Command, be sure to guide your horses to the Hilton Marietta Conference Center on January 20th at 6:30PM. David Thompson has again selected a menu that will be sure to please.

Cost is \$27 per person.

For Reservations, contact David Martin at 770-529-4787 or Charles Covington at 770-577-5750

Our speaker will be Marietta Daily Journal's Joe Kirby. He will be speaking on the Bell Bomber Factory,

Annual Meeting and Dinner

January 20, 2009

Menu is:

Salad

Mixed Garden Greens with Cucumbers, Tomatoes and Carrots

With Balsamic Vinaigrette and Creamy Ranch Dressings

Entrée

Breast of Chicken with Marsala Wine and Mushroom Sauce

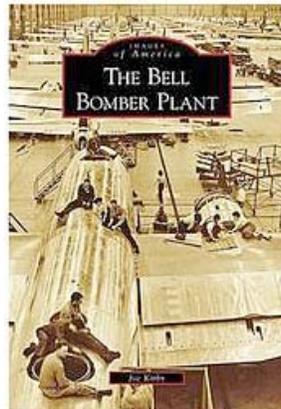
Garlic Mashed Potatoes

Chef's Choice of Vegetables

Homemade Rolls and Butter

Dessert- Chocolate Mousse Cake with Fresh Strawberries

tory, the subject of his new book published in October.



Joe was the keynote speaker at our 2005 Annual Meeting, having spoken on the history of Cobb County.

There will probably be several new faces in the Officer Corps for the Chapter including Bill Coffeen as Vice President, Jason Bretch as Secretary and Charles Rhyne (distant cousin to David Martin) as Historian.

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

Let me start by saying it has been an honor and pleasure to be a part of the Captain Johns Collins leadership team for 2008.

This year, we had many opportunities and accomplished much. For example, our chapter donated \$1,000.00 to a national initiative: "The Center for Advancing American Heritage." While the donation was generous, we did more; we challenged all other chapters to do the same. We turned one project into something larger than a simple donation, which is a hallmark for this chapter's creativity and ability to think "big."

Closer to home, our monthly meetings were stocked with great fellowship and high quality speakers that promoted our Revolutionary heritage.

Outside our regular meetings, we had a Fall outing to the New



Echota Historical site and had representatives at several wreath ceremonies at Revolutionary battle sites. This excitement spilled over to our outreach to local high schoolers in the Marietta area with programs geared to their age group.

In 2008, I am proud of our accomplishments that perpetuated the memory of Patriots, promoted fellowship and fostered true patriotism. I look forward to helping President-Elect David and his leadership team next year with keeping up our momentum and assisting with an even better 2009.

President Skip 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. **February 4th** will be the next deadline for articles. Send articles, photos, or your bio to Larry Guzy by email 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



Bob McGehee

Bob McGehee received his and his son Ryan's member certificates at the November meeting.

Rich Morrison and his father's applications are at National. Dennis Rebman has submitted his application and it was received at National in November. Other applications are in the works for Charles Sanger, Stephen Pocalyko, and Joseph Austin. David Meyer, very recent member, is already submitting a supplement on yet another Patriot Ancestor. Way to go David.

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

Visiting Ancestors

Harry and son Charlie Hagan visited the grave site of their patriot ancestor William Hedrick in October. "The day could not have been better."



Harry reported. There is a Hedrick Family Chapel there in Sevierville, TN. The chapel is on the National Register. "The day before that visit, Charles and I toured Knoxville TN, and a bit later, John Sevier's house and grounds." Harry continued, "They are very well tended, and are staffed by people in period dress."

The following are events scheduled through the next issue of the Dispatch:

2009 GEORGIA SOCIETY SCHEDULE of EVENTS

17 Jan – Daniel Morgan Statue Wreath Presentation, Spartanburg, SC, 1030 hrs:

17 Jan – Battle at the Cowpens, Chesnee, SC, 1400 hrs:

24 Jan – GASSAR BOM, Forsyth, GA, 1000 hrs:

24 Jan – GASSAR Leadership Training, Forsyth, GA, 1300 hrs:

13 Feb—Social gathering, Washington, GA 1800 hrs:

14 Feb – Parade, Washington, GA, 1000 hrs:

14 Feb – Kettle Creek Wreath Presentation, Washington, GA, 1400 hrs:

15 Feb – Colonial Church Service, Washington, GA, 0900 hrs:

15 Feb – Wreath Presentation, Elijah Clarke State Park, Lincolnton, GA, 1100 hrs:

Colonial Christmas Traditions

Christmas celebrations in 18th Century America had some similarities with but also many differences from the Christmas celebrations of today. Some of the New England Colonies actually had laws banning Christmas celebrations mostly due to the Puritan influence. But the Puritans were not alone in not celebrating Christmas; the Quakers, Presbyterians and Baptists also avoided Christmas celebrations. A Massachusetts law sanctioned anyone who "is found observing, by abstinence from labor, feasting, or any other way, any such days as Christmas day . . ." Such bans on Christmas continued well into the 19th Century.



Although not widely celebrated in New England and among certain religions, those Colonies with Anglicans and with immigrants for other parts of Europe, such as the Dutch and Germans, did have joyous Christmas

celebrations with a combination of religious services, social festivities and sumptuous banquets. Some of today's *Christmas traditions* can be found in the Colonial Christmas celebrations.

Religious Services and Music

In the Anglican Church, the services and liturgy during Advent focused on the prophetic pronouncements of Christ's birth and earthly ministry

by John the Baptist and the Prophet Isaiah. Some of the popular English hymns and carols sung during the Christmas season included some of which are still a traditional part of Christmas: "Joy to the World", "The First Noel", "God Rest You Merry Gentlemen", and "I Saw Three Ships".

Christmas Trees and Decorations

Legend has it that the first **Christmas trees** in America were the Tannenbaums (German for fir trees) introduced by Hessian mercenaries fighting in the Revolutionary War on behalf of the British. Whether this legend is true or not, a Christmas tree was not likely to have been part of many **Colonial Christmas** celebrations. However, many Colonial homes and churches would have been decorated with evergreen boughs, berries or mistletoe.

Gift Giving

In **Colonial America, Christmas** was not yet a children's holiday and, as such, there was not Santa Claus or stockings hung by the chimney with care. These arrived later and were uniquely American even though some antecedents can be traced back to European immigrants (for example, the Dutch tradition of Sinter Claes and the wooden shoes of children filled with small gifts and sweets). Nevertheless, Christmas time in Colonial America was a day of gift giving between masters and servants, mentor and apprentices, shop owners and employees. The gifts, always given by the superior person to those of lesser status and not reciprocal, consisted of

(Continued on page 5)

Signers of the Declaration of Independence

As an aside to our "Signers" articles, we include one who was tasked to assist in the writing of the Document itself although he had to return home before he participated in the signing. As he has before, this article was prepared by New Hampshire Society National Trustee, Jack Manning based on his research including sources on www.history.net. Thank you Jack.



The "Chancellor" was born November 27, 1746. Robert R. (or R.R.) Livingston—later known as "the Chancellor"—was the first of nine children eventually born to Judge Robert Livingston and Margaret Beekman Livingston in their family seat, Clermont, on the Hudson River in upstate New York.

The Livingston family were proprietors of large land claims in the Hudson Valley and their attempt to enforce restrictive leases led to tenant uprisings in 1766, during which tenant farmers threatened to kill the lord of Livingston Manor, Robert Livingston (R.R.'s relative, and destroy his opulent homes. The British army suppressed the revolt, saving the Livingstons.

In 1777, the British army burned down Clermont and another of R.R.'s estates, Belvedere, in retribution for Livingston's decision to side with the Patriots. During the 11 years between the tenant uprising and the burning of Clermont, Robert R. Livingston, who had graduated from King's College (now Columbia University) in 1764, had established himself as a lawyer and political leader. He represented the Provincial Congress of New York at the Continental Congress in 1776 and help to draft the Declaration of Independence. He returned to New York before he was able to sign the document.

During the War of Independence, Livingston served as secretary of foreign affairs under the Articles of Confederation. In 1783, he accepted the post of chancellor of the state of New York. He bore the title as a moniker for the rest of his life.

"The Chancellor" was a Federalist delegate to the ratification convention in New York, and as New York's senior judge, administered President George Washington's first oath of office. Under President Thomas Jefferson, Livingston negotiated the Louisiana Purchase and, while minister to France, sponsored Robert Fulton's development of the steamboat.

Livingston died on February 26, 1813. Today, both a bust in the U.S. Capitol and the name of New York's Masonic library memorialize R. R. Livingston as "the Chancellor".

So you thought you knew the answer to the question "Who was our first President?" - certainly a trick question. General George Washington addresses a letter to His Excellency John Hanson, President of the United States. But read the following for the real answer, with thanks to Jack Manning of the New Hampshire Society.

November 22, 1783 John Hanson, the first president of the Continental Congress under the Articles of Confederation, died in his home state of Maryland. Hanson is sometimes called the first president of the United States, but this is a misnomer, since the presidency did not exist as an Executive position separate from Congress until the federal Constitution created the role upon its ratification in 1789.

Hanson was the self-educated son of Charles County, Maryland farmers. His family had lived in Maryland for three generations beginning with the emigration from England of his grandfather, for whom he was named. At age 25, John married 16-year-old Jane Coutee in Maryland. Their lasting union produced nine children, five of whom survived to adulthood, although their son Peter was later killed in action as a Continental soldier at Fort Washington, NY in November 1776.

Hanson's political career began in 1757 with his election to the Maryland Colonial Assembly. He returned to represent Charles County again from 1758-1763, 1765, 1766 and 1768-1769. As colonial-British relations frayed, Hanson took a seat in the revolutionary Annapolis Convention, which took control of the colony from the British in 1774 and renamed itself the Assembly of Freemen in 1776. An outspoken supporter of the Patriot cause, Hanson was instrumental in Maryland's decision to back the rebels laying siege to British-controlled Boston in the aftermath of the battles of Lexington and Concord.

Names a delegate to the Continental Congress in 1779, Hanson served in that body from 1780 to 1782, including a term as the president of Congress (a position similar to that of prime minister in the British Parliament) from 1781 to 1782, during which time the Articles of Confederation were finally ratified and General George Washington defeated the British Army at Yorktown, Virginia. Upon the ratification of the Articles on March 1, 1781, the Continental Congress became the "Congress of the Confederation" or the "United States in Congress Assembled." Hanson was the first president of that body, but not of the United States.





In November, Jim McSwain spoke about Veterans Affairs benefits not commonly known by qualified veterans that can have a tremendous affect on their Estate Planning and Pensions. We may be unaware of these benefits. "I was unaware of these benefits, such as nursing home care," commented David Martin, "I learned that I qualify for more than I thought."



Susan Durden-Lemesis was the speaker in October discussing French General Le Rochambeux.



New Officers Nominated

A great slate of officers is being presented to the Chapter for election at the December Meeting. Nominations are open from the floor in addition to those already put forth by the Nominating Committee at the November Meeting:

President	David Martin
Vice President	Bill Coffeen
Secretary	Jason Bretch
Treasurer	Charles Covington
Registrar	Bill Teasley
Chancellor	Jack Gibson
Chaplain	John Jones
Sergeant-At-Arms	Rodney Pritchett
Editor	Larry Guzy
Americanism	Charles Switzer
Cemetery Clean-up	David Thompson
Eagle Scouts	Bill Coffeen
JROTC	Curtis McWaters
Poster Contest	Skip Keaton
Historian	Charles Rhyne

(Continued from page 3) Colonial Christmas small gifts or cash.

Festivities

Christmas time was a time of socializing and festivities for its celebrants. Dances, banquets, and parties were always enjoyed, but focused on the adults and not the children.

Christmas Feasts

Throughout the history of Christmas, food has always been a central part of the celebration and this was also the case in Colonial America. Colonial Christmas banquets included a wide array of delicacies and special foods, such as fish, oysters, beef, goose, ham, mincemeat pies, brandied peaches, wassail and eggnog. George Washington's recipe for eggnog was heavy on the spirits - on quart of cream, one quart of milk, a dozen eggs, one pint of brandy, a half pint of rye, a quarter pint of rum and a quarter pint of sherry. Several glasses of Washington's eggnog would have certainly put the Christmas party-goer in a joyous Christmas spirit.



Member Certificate

G. David Meyer received his member certificate at the November meeting and spoke briefly about his patriot ancestor

**CAPTAIN JOHN COLLINS CHAPTER
GEORGIA SOCIETY SONS OF THE
AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

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This space, normally reserved for mailing, provides extra photos for those who receive the Dispatch electronically.

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.



Flag Retirement

Comp. **Bill Coffeen** coordinated the 2nd annual flag retirement ceremony with Boy Scout Troop 548 at Kennesaw Due West Church in November. Members **Jim Castle** and **Larry Guzy** provided uniformed support, and



Compatriot Bill Coffeen

David Martin participated among veterans present.



Scouts prepared the flag by separating stars and stripes from the field of blue for separate recognition.

