



The Collins Dispatch

February 2008

Dates to Remember

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

Tuesday 2/19/08 Jim Lance of the Cherokee Chapter, "The Great Locomotive Chase"

Saturday 3/15/08 Commemoration of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse

Tuesday 3/17/08 Vince Exley, of the Cobb County Genealogical Society, discusses "The Salzbergers"

4/4-5/08 GASSAR Annual Meeting in Athens

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

Tuesday 5/20/08 Robert Sapp, Piedmont Chapter, "The Constitution"

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A New Year

The Chapter started the year with the Annual Meeting in a new location, the Marietta Conference Center, with new Officers (see page 2) and new intentions to live up to our reasons for being.

President Skip Keaton's message reaffirms his address to the membership at the installation of Officers to perpetuate the Principles for which our Patriot Ancestors fought and our shared history, and to promote fellowship among the descendants of these Patriots.

On January 29th we started the school program with a presentation to Davis Elementary in North Cobb. The 80+ students are again putting on their "Wax Museum" of the Revolutionary War on the evening of March 6th, an event well worth seeing.

On February 8 & 9, we celebrated the Battle of Kettle Creek for the 11th time as a Society and had 7 Collins members

there. Everett Porter led us in the singing of the Star Spangled Banner! See the article inside.

On February the Cherokee Chapter joined us in Smyrna at the Russell Elementary 4th grade assembly of about 100 to reaffirm what the

kids already studied and to present the 5th graders with certificates for their proper flying of the flag. They even did an interview for the following morning assembly on proper flag etiquette.

This is just a beginning for the year. Join us at our regular monthly meetings for fellowship and good speakers, and in presentations to schools and other groups as they develop.



Billy Templeton, as Benjamin Franklin, Larry Guzy, and Sandy Lyons, of the Cherokee Chapter, talked with Davis Elementary students.

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

Here we are in 2008 and I look forward working with "we the people" of the 2008 Captain John Collins chapter as your President. I only hope to bring the same level accomplishment as this chapters past Presidents. With a full slate of new officers, active members, and new members I feel that we will surpass all of the tenets set forth by this organization. So what are those tenets you ask? The basic Tenets of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution are:

- to perpetuate the people and events of the American Revolution,

- to maintain the institutions of American Freedom, and

- to promote fellowship among the descendants of Revolutionary War Patriots.

I will use these tenets as a guideline help stay focused on all the great programs we currently have and to introduce new challenges.

First, we are tasked with perpetuating the people and events of the American Revolution. We have excelled at this because of the foundations set in place by our past leaders by attending observances for the battles at Cowpens and Kettle Creek, our involvement with the JROTC, Cemetery cleanups, presenting flag certificates and many other programs. It is our responsibility in 2008 all be involved and to perpetuate these important initiatives. Make it



a goal this year to attend at least two of these events.

Second, we are tasked with maintaining the institutions of American Freedom. It is stated in our by-laws that we are to be a society of gentlemen who have dedicated their efforts to keep the standards of American Citizenship at a high level. I am proud to say we are. It is our responsibility in 2008 to stand up and be that example. Maybe even in a different suit, if you will. Come to the February meeting and I will give more details about those "suits," literally.

Finally, we are tasked with promoting fellowship among the descendants of Revolutionary War Patriots. We are a very social group and meet regularly, but it is our responsibility in 2008 to all be involved. It is one of my focuses in 2008 to give you (we the people) great meetings that you want to be at. No! That you feel you must be at and will want to bring a friend!

"We the people." These are three simple words for which our ancestor's fought and died because they believed in a better future. Over 230 years later it is our responsibility to perpetuate the people and events of the American Revolution. In 2008 I challenge you to be that voice and to become more involved.

Stuart "Skip" Wesley Keaton
President

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. **April 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

We start the year with 63 members. We wish to welcome a transfer from the Piedmont Chapter, Frank Briggs, who actually lives just south of 285 in Atlanta. Frank finds it will be easier to join us for meetings. Welcome him at his next meeting.

The Directory is done. It is available as a PDF, but since we added photos, it is a somewhat large file. Those not receiving it by email will receive it by mail, but will be in B & W.

Earl Cagle's application should be through the process soon and Ken Donaldson has submitted his application. We are awaiting signatures on those for George David Meyer and James (Jamie) Moore.

We are preparing applications for Robert McGehee and his son Ryan that should be ready for signature soon. And Bob Haley, and Don Huie are still working on theirs. Bill Teasley has several leads and will work on several more in the next few months.

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

Battle of Kettle Creek Remembered 2/9-10/2008

The ever-expanding ceremonies at Washington GA to commemorate the turning-point battle of Kettle Creek took place on February 9 and 10. Activities began with a reception at the Wisteria Bed and Breakfast on Robert Toombs Avenue, just across the street from his historic home.

Dinner was catered at the community center where the site archeologist shared news of finds they had made on their first day excavating the site of the battle.

Saturday morning the Mary Willis Library offered their community room for a viewing of the U.S. Army's film on the strategy of the battle. A strategy that was so successful that the Army has studied and taught it.



Member Everett Porter led the Star Spangled Banner.

The parade to the square commenced from the library and included SAR Color Guard, DAR, CAR members and local scouts.

A commemoration ceremony on the square was followed by living history demonstrations and musket firings, as well as Colonial games for the kids.

Afternoon wreath layings occurred at the mountain top memorial with 80 wreaths presented.



NSSAR Secretary General David Appleby, with Collins members Chuck Bragg and President Skip Keaton, with a representative of the US Army at Fort Gordon.



Visitors in the town square gathered autographs from General George Washington (Larry Guzy), Benjamin Franklin (Billy Templeton—Cherokee Chapter) and War-woman Nancy Hart, (portrayed by a local actor), during the living history portion of the weekend program.



The chapter was well represented by President Skip Keaton, Mark and Robert Bowen, Larry Guzy and David Martin. (see Everett Porter above) Of course, WOSARS were also in attendance, Jennifer Keaton, Karin Guzy, Ann Martin, and Phyllis Porter.

On Sunday morning a Colonial church service was offered, followed by activities at Elijah Clark State Park.

This nationally sanctioned event has been held for eleven years and in 2009 will occur on the actual anniversary of the Battle—February 14th, Valentine's Day.

For those wishing to attend, the drive from the metro area is short with a variety of options for staying overnight—including a historic hotel, B&Bs and motels. SAR's from 5 states attended—GA,FL,IN,NC & AL.

Youth Memberships

Many have inquired about Membership of those under 18:

There are two ways someone under 18 can file an application. They are Junior Members and Youth Registrants. There are significant differences to consider.

The Junior Member program retains no dues from the youth (most or all of which goes to the CAR). They are not allowed to vote or hold office, we do not send them the SAR Magazine, and we provide no program for them (since they are supposed to be getting it from the CAR (where they CAN vote and hold office). If they are not near one of the several dozen CAR chapters they won't get much for their SAR dues (passed on to CAR). So the program is most valuable for people who live near a CAR chapter and will take the time to attend regularly. Cost \$85 and filing of C.A.R. application at the time of applying.

The Youth Registrant Program is intended to provide eligible children and young men with an early experience of pride in their ancestry and inclusion in a respected national organization while recognizing that they are involved in many other worthy activities (such as Scouting) and shouldn't be expected to play a full role in the SAR.

It is particularly suitable for youth who do not live near a CAR chapter. It provides a pin and certificate and mentoring from a sponsor but no annual dues or strong participation expectations. Before reaching age 17 the youth should have seen enough of the SAR (aided by his sponsor) that he feels comfortable about the SAR as adults he has known and respected for years. Since registration requires filing and approval of a regular membership application (except that only one sponsor is required) he can easily activate to full membership with no barrier of searching for documentation while starting his post-high-school life. This assurance of easy acceptance is particularly important for youth whose grandfather or uncle dies before the youth reaches age 18 and are not available to file a fresh application. The Youth must request SAR membership before age 29 otherwise, after age 29, he must reapply. Cost: \$30

There is room for both programs in the

SAR because these two methods satisfy different needs and address different populations (those near CAR chapters and those not near them.) Both programs have strong adherents due to good experiences in the different circumstances, so dropping one will probably not significantly strengthen the other.

(Summary courtesy of Ralph Nelson, Lake-Sumter Chapter, Florida Society SAR)

If the Sponsor really wants the youth to be involved, the Junior Membership way is the way to go. If he just wants to register him, the Youth Registrant way should be pursued, however he should consider a gift of SAR membership conversion from Youth Registrant to SAR between the 18th and 29th



Curtis McWaters presented a flag certificate to Manager Tim Kirchoff at the new WalMart in Acworth on December 31, 2007.

GASSAR BOM—Slate of Officers

The State held its winter Board of Managers Meeting (BOM) on Saturday January 26th with about 60 attending. VP David Martin, GASSAR Treasurer Jim Castle, Member-at-Large Curtis McWaters, Editor Larry Guzy and dual member Kendall Abbott attended from the chapter. The State registered 1337 members who renewed, but lost 174 who did not. Collins had 11 members who did not renew.

The Nominating Committee presented the following as a proposed slate of GASSAR Officers for 2008-9:

President	Robert "Bobby" Towns
NW VP	Roger Lamb
Sr. VP	Terry Manning
Metro VP	Walker Chuning
Secretary	Kline Pugh
NE VP	Larry Wilson
Treasurer	Jim Castle
W VP	Hugh Rodgers
Recording Sec	Mike Tomme
C VP	Buddy Bridges
Registrar	Hall Martin
SW VP	Bill Ramsaur
Genealogist	Bob Sapp
SE VP	Ron McCrosky
Historian	Charles Hampton
Trustee	Charlie Newcomer
Chaplain	Dan Gates
Alt Trustee	George Wheelis
Sgt-at-Arms	Robert Bausch



The position of Editor of the Hornet's Nest is unfilled. Volunteer requested.

Officers are elected and installed at the annual state meeting, which will be held in Athens on April 4-5. The agenda includes a dinner on Friday evening and a business meeting on Saturday morning. All members are invited to attend, including wives who may participate in an event scheduled during the meeting time. An awards luncheon closes the meeting.

Our Roving Far East Reporter, Randy Aitken, sends us this report

In our pre-Hong Kong travel dreams, we always figured Australia would be the sixth continent visited, coming after South America but before Antarctica. And we would have to do it after retirement. Why? Because it is so far away and we Americans do not have long vacation allowances. How far away is Aussie? First fly to the other side of the world (Hong Kong) and then fly 9 hours south. That's really far away. It was a great place for a penal colony, especially in the age of sail.

However, as luck would have it, we find ourselves halfway there, so we went. Australia is a big place with a lot to see, so where did we go? Sydney? Cairns? Ayer's Rock? Nope. We went to Surfer's Paradise on the Gold Coast of Australia. With all that Australia has to offer, why did we go to a beach? Two words---"free condo". I work with a "mate" who was selling his condo at Surfer's and in the pre-sale period he offered it up free of charge.

Upon landing in perhaps all Commonwealth countries, the first nervous issue is driving on the "wrong side" of the road. We have done this before in two other countries but there is more traffic stopped on 75 right now than there is in all of those previous two countries. The Gold Coast of Oz was going to be different.

We picked up the rental car and the map at the Brisbane airport and ventured out onto the highway headed south. So far, so good. As luck would have it, we were in Surfer's at the end of the tourist season so there were enough cars on the road so you knew the direction of traffic and which way to turn, but not so many that you were run over whilst thinking about the direction of traffic and which way to turn.

We started our vacation on the beach. Big mistake. The rays of the Australian sun are stronger than those in the US. Same sun, different position of the planet during the Aussie summer. As you can guess, we fried.

What does one do at the beach—for a week—if one is trying to avoid the sun? No, not "shop", although there were hundreds of tourist traps within walking distance; and not "drink" although there were an equal number of pubs. There were

game reserves nearby and we were within an hour of mountain rainforests. One of the nicest things about the Surfer's area, and the main reason my wife now wants to retire to Australia, is that you can see the mountains whilst sitting on the beach and in between is horse country.

We started at the game reserves. First up was Fleay's Fauna Reserve, with its four kilometers of walking paths/boardwalks through wooded animal enclosures. We chose Fleay's for the koalas. They have an open koala enclosure where, for a small fee, you can get up close and personal with the koalas, under the watchful eye of a park ranger. At Fleay's you were not allowed to touch the koalas, but you could stand right next to them as they hung out in their eucalyptus trees and take pictures. There were all sorts of other animals at Fleay's. Eagles, dingoes, various types of wallabies (who knew there were more than one kind?), but the big attraction for us were the crocodiles, the cassowary and the platypus. First the cassowary; we did not realize it would be an attraction but it is a big, colorful, flightless bird that stalked us as we wandered through the park. It had a big enclosure, so it could follow us for quite some time.

As it was 4 or 5 times bigger than the baby, we think it thought the baby might have been lunch. Next were the crocodiles. If you have seen crocodiles on TV, you really need to see them in person to appreciate their size and speed. The rangers coaxed the biggest croc out of the pond by beating on the shoreline and then fed it a chicken. The croc covered the final 10 or 20 feet to the chicken in no time flat. Would not want to be around the water's edge when one of those was hungry. Finally, Fleay's has a breeding program for the platypus so we had a pretty good chance of seeing one here. Quick—how big is a platypus? Manatee like, right? Wrong. Maybe a foot or so long. We went expecting a large marsupial, maybe hanging out on a riverbank like a croc and instead we had to search for it amongst the rocks and plants in what amounted to a

large fish tank. That's two marsupials—koalas and platypuses down, one to go. But to find the kangaroo, we would have to head to Currumbin's Wildlife Sanctuary.

Currumbin's has a large pack of largely tame kangaroos. Both the red and gray variety; again, who knew? We spent a long time petting, hand feeding, and mingling with hundreds of kangaroos some of which (the red males) were larger than we were. Even the baby warmed up to them and snuck in a few pats while the kangaroos were looking the other way. In addition to the kanga-



roos, we had our picture taken while my wife held a koala (I held the baby), which was neat. We wandered the large grounds of the sanctuary, which was bigger than Fleay's, but the kangaroo and koala were the highlights.

Having seen the wildlife and one the game reserves, next up was a day trip to the mountain rainforest. We made the hour or so long drive out to O'Reilly's Rain Forest, home of the tree top walk. This is why we picked this destination, rather than one of the larger national parks. When carting around a baby, the chance to get up in the trees of a rainforest without having to hike miles from the car was too good to pass up. On your way from the parking lot to the tree top

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walk you pass a, yes, gift shop, but also an area where you can feed wild parrots. The parrots will land on your hands and arms and eat food out of your hand and there are a lot of them since they know people will feed them. This all sounds fun until you figure out parrots will also land on your head, shoulders, legs and anything else they can get a grip on in order to hunt for food in your hands, pockets, bags and anywhere else you might have thought to put



food. Again, fun for a minute, but then an annoyance. Sort of like if Hitchcock had decided to do "The Birds" whilst on a tropical holiday. It becomes especially unnerving for a baby, who will probably be afraid of parrots forever. So we escaped the feeding-frenzy of parrots and made our way into the cool rainforest and the tree top walk. The walk begins at ground level (the Logrunner's perspective) and you gradually end up 65 feet in the air (the Paradise Riflebird's perspective). You get up there on a series of boardwalks that give way to suspension bridges. There is even a crow's nest for those who want to climb up two ladders in a tree. The crow's nest gives you a spectacular view of the surrounding valley and not quite so spectacular views of the forest floor about 100 feet below. Having enjoyed the scenery and the cool, rainforest temperatures, we headed back to Surfer's via 2 or 3 wineries so we could stock up for the remaining days and the trip home (Hong Kong, at that time, had a heavy alcohol tax).

We wrapped up the week by touring the big city on the Gold Coast—Brisbane. Brisbane is about an hour

away from Surfer's by train. Taking the train allowed us to enjoy the scenery and eliminated the need to worry about parking all over the city. Brisbane is Australia's third largest city and we attempted to do our guidebook walking tour. Everything started out fine. Brisbane City Hall was a short walk from the train station. We went through the small city museum and rode to the top of the bell tower to look out over central Brisbane. From there we crossed King George Square and had a picnic lunch with the ibises in Anzac Square. At first seeing an ibis is fun and unique. As you come to realize they will not leave you and your food they become a nuisance. We finally managed to eat, paid our respects at the Shrine of Remembrance's Eternal flame and headed to tour Brisbane's grand architecture. The General Post Office, St. Stephen's Chapel (designed by the same guy who did Britain's Parliament buildings), Hoyt's Regent Theatre, the former Treasury Building (now a casino), the Conrad Treasury Hotel (billed as Brisbane's most opulent) and the Queensland Parliament.

All in all, a great way to spend a week even if we did not see an opera house, barrier reef, nor rock.



It was a cold and rainy day at Cowpens and at the Daniel Morgan statue that morning, but SARs came to honor our patriots anyway at the annual event..

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.

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