



# The Collins Dispatch

June 2008

## Dates to Remember

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

June 17 Chapter Mtg Speaker VPG George Thurmond, "Revolutionary Patriot Grave Marking"

July 2-9 National Congress, Sacramento, CA

July 15 Chapter Mtg—Sharon Smith & accompanist present a program on Colonial Music.

July 17 Chapter BOM, Marietta Library 6 pm

July 19 GASSAR BOM Forsyth GA 10 am

August 12 Teasley Elementary 8a.m. Flags Presentation

August 17 Patriotism Week Practice 2 pm

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*A little history might be in order for*

## Cleaning Up Mysterious Old Allatoona Cemetery

By David Martin

Old Allatoona Cemetery is located in far west Cobb County, Georgia. The first burial there took place in 1862. Other known burials were conducted there over the years until 1902, but many more graves of unknown persons appeared there early in its existence.

For many years since that first burial it stood neglected. Some of the headstones were removed, for what purpose no one knows, nor were they ever found. Other headstones were broken, most graves were marked with only a rock at each end while others were unmarked except for a depression in the ground. It appears that some graves were robbed, and others had no remains in them. In recent years, as



caretaking began, a portion of the cemetery could not be seen due to the abundance of vegetation covering it.

This cemetery at its beginning was affiliated with old Allatoona Church which was located about a quarter mile away towards the south. The church, a wooden structure, came to the same fate as many

others of that day and was destroyed by fire.

In 1992 an archeological survey was conducted on the cemetery but was limited to a reconnaissance of the cemetery property and its perimeter. Comprehensive probing or excavation was not conducted.

In 1996, as part of an Eagle Scout project, a large portion of the cemetery was cleaned up and a split

*(Continued on page 5)*



*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

With Flag Day fast approaching I want us to look back and understand the role played by descendents of Revolutionary Patriots in the origin of this celebration.

First a few facts:

In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation that officially established June 14 as Flag Day.

In August 1949, National Flag Day was established by an Act of Congress.

Flag Day is not an official federal holiday.

On June 14, 1937, Pennsylvania became the first (and only) U.S. state to celebrate Flag Day as a state holiday. So why only Pennsylvania, you ask.?

The Fourth of July was traditionally celebrated as America's birthday, but the idea of an annual day specifically celebrating the Flag is believed to have first originated in 1885. BJ Cigrand, a school-teacher, arranged for the pupils in the Fredonia, Wisconsin Public School, District 6, to observe June 14 (the 108th anniversary of the official adoption of The Stars and Stripes) as 'Flag Birthday'.

In numerous magazines and newspaper articles and public addresses over the



following years, Cigrand continued to enthusiastically advocate the observance of June 14 as 'Flag Birthday', or 'Flag Day'.

On June 14, 1889, George Balch, a kindergarten teacher in New York City, planned appropriate ceremonies for the children of his school, and his idea of observing Flag Day was later adopted by the State Board of Education of New York. On June 14, 1891, the Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia held a Flag Day celebration, and on June 14 of the following year, the New York Society of the Sons of the Revolution, celebrated Flag Day.

Following the suggestion of Colonel J Granville Leach (at the time historian of the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the Revolution), the Pennsylvania Society of Colonial Dames of America on April 25, 1893 adopted a resolution requesting the mayor of Philadelphia and all others in authority and all private citizens to display the Flag on June 14th. Leach went on to recommend that thereafter the day be known as 'Flag Day', and on that day, school children be assembled for appropriate exercises, with each child being given a small Flag.

Two weeks later on May 8th, the

*(Continued on page 3)*

## 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. **August 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

Andrew Lee Buford approved 5/2/2008, Natl. #171585, GA #4698

John Jones, supplement approved and awarded at May 20 chapter meeting

Ken Donaldson, approved 5/2/2008 Natl #171317

George David Meyer, received at National 5/5/2008

Samuel Keaton, submitted

Robert and Ryan McGehee, submitted

Rich Morrison and his father, submitted

Several men are still working with Bill Teasley and 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*

**William Whipple** was born in Kittery Maine on January 14, 1730. The education of young Whipple was limited to public school. On leaving school, William, who had developed a love of the sea, set out on board a merchant cargo vessel. By the age of twenty-one he commanded a ship of his own, and for several years devoted himself to the merchant marine business. His voyages were chiefly confined to the West Indies and Africa, and he brought a large number of slaves to this country (during the Revolution he freed those that belonged to him). Whipple was very successful and he acquired a considerable fortune. In 1759, he abandoned the sea entirely and entered into business with his brother Joseph in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Whipple married his cousin, Catherine Moffatt of Portsmouth (their only child died in infancy) and settled down as a merchant.



1730-1785

Continental Congress, taking his seat in May 1775 and continued to be a member until the middle of September 1799. In Congress he distinguished himself and by his perseverance and application, he received the respect of his peers, both in Congress and at home. He sat in prominence on the marine and commerce committees and he was worried about the self-interest of foreign powers that supported American independence. Whipple was chosen to aid General George Washington with his military plans for the summer campaign. In 1777 he was made Brigadier General of the New Hampshire Militia, participating in the successful expedition against General Burgoyne at the battles of Stilwater and Saratoga. He also participated in General Sullivan's expedition to Rhode Island in 1778. It is said that General Whipple, on his way to join the army of General Gates at Saratoga, had with him his slave named Prince, whom he encouraged to fight bravely if they should be called into action. Prince then replied: 'Sir, I have no in-

ducement to fight, but if I had my liberty, I would endeavor to defend it to the last drop of my blood.' The story is that Whipple freed his slave on the spot.

He resigned his military appointment on June 20, 1782. He was a member of the New Hampshire legislature from 1782 until his death in 1785 and was an associate justice of the superior court even though suffering from a bad heart. In the fall of 1785, while riding the court circuit, his heart problem worsened and he returned home. He was confined to his room, until the 28th day of November, when he died, in his 55th year.

Sources: Rev. Charles A. Goodrich *Lives of the Signers to the Declaration of Independence*. New York: William Reed & Co., 1856; *The Pictorial Field-Book of The Revolution* by Lossing, Benson J. (illustrations by Lossing and Barritt). Copyright ©1850. Published by Harper & Brothers, Publishers, New York; Arthur Little, "William Whipple, Signer of the Declaration of Independence," in *New Hampshire Historical Society Proceedings, Volume, 3 (1902)*; Dumas Malone, ed., *Dictionary of American Biography* (New York, 1936), Volume 20.; and Wikipedia

- Bill Coffeen

From the start, Whipple sided with the colonies in the conflict with Great Britain. In 1775 he was elected to represent his town at the Provincial Congress. In 1776 New Hampshire dissolved the Royal government and reorganized with a House of Representatives and an Executive Council. Whipple became a Council member, and a member of the Committee of Safety. He was elected a delegate from New Hampshire to the Con-

*(Continued from page 2)*

Board of Managers of the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution unanimously endorsed the action of the Pennsylvania Society of Colonial Dames. As a result of the resolution, Dr. Edward Brooks, then Superintendent of Public Schools of Philadelphia, directed that Flag Day exercises be held on June 14, 1893 in Independence Square. School children were assembled, each carrying a small flag, and patriotic songs were sung and addresses delivered.

To summarize, Flag Day is as much a part of us as it is a part of America.

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

Stuart "Skip" Wesley Keaton

### GEORGIA RESOURCE VOLUMES DONATED

The Chapter is donating a definitive work of early Georgia Land ownership records to the National Society's Library in Louisville, KY. This work is contained in six volumes by Daniel Crumpton, who was our speaker in April.

He was a surveyor for 45 years in this area and his attention to the names of the original land owners as well as maps of the exact location of the land owned is extraordinary. His continuing work is now focused on Burk County, GA and when complete, will also be donated. Anyone having late 1700's ancestors living in Richmond, Warren, Jefferson, or surrounding Counties needs to see these volumes. The Author provided the Chapter with a volume discount of only \$300 for the six volumes.

# Six JROTC Cadets Awarded Medals by Five Compatriots

The John Collins Chapter participated with six schools this year in the JROTC program by presenting the Bronze JROTC medal and bar to deserving cadets.

On April 23, 2008 Past President David Thompson presented Cadet David Bonham with the JROTC medal at North Cobb High School assisted by Compatriot McWaters.

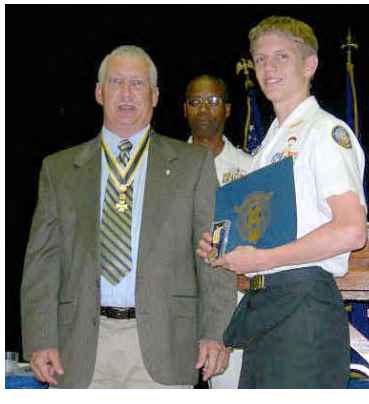


On May 09, 2008 Past President David Thompson presented Cadet Douglas Alfaro with the JROTC medal at Osborne High School assisted by Compatriot McWaters.

May 13, 2008 Past President Jim Castle presented Cadet Paul Miller with the JROTC medal at Kennesaw Mtn. High School assisted by Compatriot McWaters.

The next day May 14, 2008 Vice-

The next day April 24 President Stuart Keaton presented Jacqueline Harris with the JROTC medal at Marietta High School assisted by Vice-President Martin.



Later in the month at South Cobb High School Darren

President David Martin presented Cadet Devyn Craig with the JROTC medal at Pebblebrook High School.

Jones was presented with the Bronze JROTC medal also.



One of the ROTC medals awarded by the SAR.



### National SAR Congress

July 2-9

Last chance 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.

### It's Back!

The recipe book that earned over \$30,000 for the Center for Advancing America's Heritage is being reprinted by the National Ladies Auxiliary.

The reprinted 700-recipe book is expected to be available in July. For \$17, you can own this hard-cover ring binder with recipes from every state in the U.S. submitted by SARs, their spouses and families, including President Gerald Ford and First Lady Laura Bush.

The book has been praised by all those who purchased it the first time around.

Sell to friends and family for this worthwhile effort.



### From Patriotic Kitchens

Send your name, shipping address and number of books requested to:

Maggie Evans  
120 Sun High Court  
Cleveland, TN 37323-7735  
Checks payable to: NLSAR

# Old Allatoona Cemetery

*(Continued from page 1)*

rail fence erected to mark the west boundary. Their project being completed, they no longer participated in cleanup efforts.

The Cobb County Cemetery Preservation Committee, after reviewing the 1992 survey report, determined that the survey did not meet current requirements and authorized another survey to include identification of grave shafts locations and to determine a proposed fence line and buffer zone location surrounding the 2.3 acre burial grounds.

In 1998 a professional resources consulting firm conducted an intensive delineation of the cemetery to comply with the requirements of the Cemetery Preservation Committee.

The presence of graves was deter-

more graves could be present under the heavy vegetation that surrounds some of the perimeter or under the terracing on the east perimeter and under the berm on the south perimeter.

For another five years after the Eagle Scout project ended the cemetery sat unattended, until 2001, when the newly organized Sons of the American Revolution Capt. John Collins Chapter of Marietta, Georgia, took over the cleanup duties.

Compatriot **Doug Frey** was the first Cemetery Cleanup Committee Chairman. It was he that was informed by the Cobb County Cemetery Preservation Committee about the need for a care taker and brought that request to the John Collins Chapter. It just so happened that the chapter was looking for a project.

Doug took his new assignment seriously and scheduled work days right away.



The Abbott's noticed that the pin flags placed by the archeological survey in 1998 were deteriorating badly. Kendall asked the local Home Depot to donate treated wood which he and Cindy cut, painted and pieced together to make a short cross. The crosses were placed in the ground next to the pins marking the graves. These crosses will ensure that the graves will be marked for a number of years. In time, hopefully, a more durable marker will be available.

The 1998 survey revealed 114 graves in Old Allatoona. Based on the size of the graves and inscriptions there are 79 adults, 35 children and one grave whose inhabitant could not be determined. Only seventeen graves have headstones. All are marble except for one made of fieldstone. The majority of the graves, 71, are marked with simple schist or quartz fieldstones. The remaining graves had no markings but were identified by probing.

The majority of graves having unknown occupants presents a mystery. Who were these people and when and from where did they arrive? This information is unknown at this time that, but some day detailed excavations might be conducted that will uncover some evidence to identify who these people were.

In the meantime, the Capt. John Collins

Chapter will continue to cleanup and groom this real estate and make it a peaceful and serene place for the living to appreciate and for those buried there a peaceful place to rest.



*A work crew in April 2005*

mined through probing and surface inspection techniques. Systematic probing to a depth of four feet was conducted every three feet.

When graves were detected, the head and foot of each grave was marked with pin flags and numbered. The presence of headstones, inscriptions, depressions and other defining markers were recorded. The graves, a proposed fence line and buffer zones were then plotted by a professional land surveyor. Buffer zones were delineated to ensure that no disturbance would take place adjacent to cemetery property and took into account that

toured the Allatoona cemetery and noted that it was still in dire need of attention. Perseverance over a period of time produced the removal of heavy logs and the filling of depressions in the main section caused by tree stump decay. Also, removal of all the dense surface vegetation and logs in the northeast extended corner revealed another 13 unmarked graves. These graves, however, had been marked on the 1998 survey and plot. But it was noted that this cemetery extension was on private property. The lady who owned the property was not happy initially about the cleanup but she soon became agreeable to it.

With a good work detail turnout, the bounds of the cemetery began to take shape with the exception of the northeast corner which had an abundance of heavy brush, briars, some felled trees and a few belly crawling creatures.

Compatriot **Kendall Abbott** became the next Cemetery Chairman. Prior to taking that responsibility he and his wife, Cindy, who had done several cemetery restorations,

**CAPTAIN JOHN COLLINS CHAPTER  
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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.

**Davis Elementary  
Lives History**

The students of Davis Elementary live the Revolution. For the past two years, the students have not only studied the Revolution, but have chosen personalities to become in a living history presentation to family and friends. Proving again that the uniform matters, they dress the part of the person they have chosen to represent. The students then memorize a speech about that person's life and impact on the Revolutionary War.

Larry Guzy has been invited to speak to the classes involved prior to their embarking on this program. Each of the students this year sent a decorated letter explaining what they got out of the presentation.

Ben wrote, "I learned about people and their heroic sacrifices to keep our country safe."

Of course Spies of the Revolution were part of Larry's talk and Jacob responded, "Oh and if you need a message, I'm all open for being a spy." The students liked to hear about spies, particularly young ones, and they loved the wild-eyed Nancy Hart. The Continental uniform, of course, is always a big hit.

