



The Collins Dispatch

December 2009

Dates to Remember

Dec. 15 Chapter Meeting, Golden Corral, Barrett Pkwy. 6PM for dinner, 7 pm for meeting

Jan. 16 Cowpens, Gaffney, SC 2 p.m. Arrive Friday night the 15th for refreshments and dinner with other Compatriots from Georgia and elsewhere.

Jan 16 Daniel Morgan Statue Wreath Presentation, Spartanburg, SC, 10:30 a.m.

Jan. 19 Annual Meeting, Marietta Hilton. Speaker GASSAR President Terry Manning

Jan 23 GASSAR BOM Forsyth GA 10 a.m.

Jan 30 Zebulon, Pike Co. Grave Dedication of Patriot Austin Dabney. Directions available on Collins website.

Feb 12-13 Battle of Kettle Creek, Washington GA

Inside...

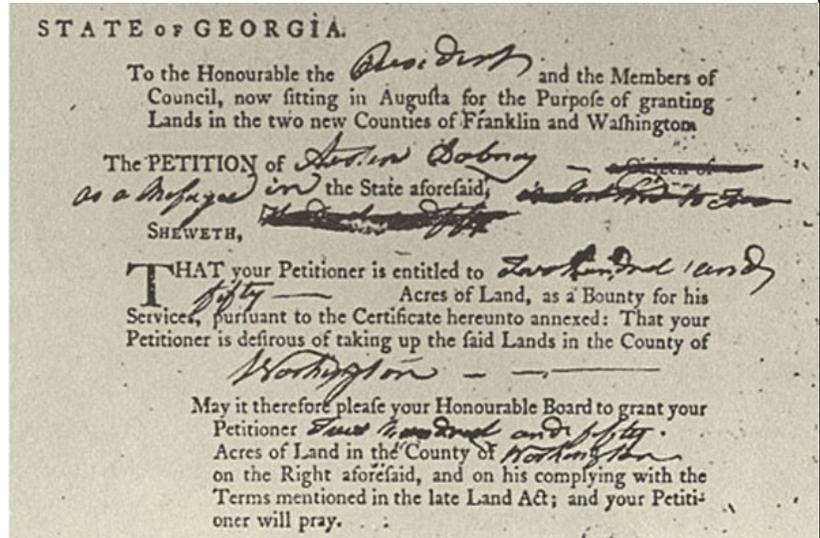
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Austin Dabney: Black Patriot of Georgia

Former slave and Georgia Patriot Austin Dabney will be honored at a grave dedication in Zebulon Georgia on Saturday, January 30th at 11:30 a.m. Dabney earned freedom in exchange for his service in the patriot army. His master was afraid to serve and so offered Dabney to take his place in the Wilkes County Militia. Dabney was wounded in the Battle of Kettle Creek and cared for by the Harris family. In return, he worked for and cared for the Harris family the rest of his life.

He was banned from participating in the land lottery open to Revolutionary War veterans in 1819, but the legislature granted him acreage in Washington County in 1821.

Following is an excerpt from "Men of mark in Georgia: a complete and elaborate history of the state from its settlement to the present time, chiefly told in biographies and autobiographies of the most eminent men of each



period of Georgia's progress and development".

AUSTIN DABNEY was a mulatto, but he rendered such valiant service during the Revolutionary War, and showed such fine character in later years that it is no more than justice to enumerate him among the patriotic sons of Georgia in his day. The loyalty of the negro slaves during the Civil War makes even more conspicuous the patriotic spirit of Austin Dabney.

At the beginning of the Revolutionary War, one Aycock moved into Wilkes county, having in his possession a mulatto boy who passed for and was treated as a slave. Aycock

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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

Observations as the Sun Sets

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. We invited a bachelor friend to eat with us and then watch football well into the evening.. We had a good time and I hope that all of you did, too.

The next day indoor Christmas decorating began, followed the next day by outside decorating. On the third day we did our part to boost the economy. By that time I was tired. I was ready to get back to selling fifth graders on the merits of Poster Contests.

I know that all of you have been just as busy too.

Recently I had the responsibility to find members to form two committees. I want to express my thanks to those members who were asked and unhesitatingly volunteered to serve. Any president would appreciate that type of cooperation.

In addition to this nations monetary deficit, the deficit of historical



knowledge is still a problem that needs to be attacked aggressively. As I stated in an earlier article, promoting patriotism by accomplishing established SAR programs, attending historical observances and promoting the flag serves to fill in part of that void.

One more item needs to be addressed. In our Pledge to the SAR , we “reaffirm our faith in the principles of liberty and our Constitutional Republic and solemnly pledge to defend them against every foe”. In light of current political events, both “liberty” and “Constitution” are under attack. How do you propose to defend them as you have pledged to do?

It has been my privilege to serve as President of the John Collins Chapter. It has been a maturing experience (even at my advanced age) and one that I will cherish. I hope that I have left the woodpile higher than it was when I came on the scene.

Best Regards, David Martin

Officers and Committee

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
Historian	Charles Rhyne
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	Skip Keaton

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 at larry@adjustmentservices.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 & Happenings

- **Bill Coffeen** will call for a Chapter Board of Managers meeting in early January at the main library in Marietta. Date and time to be announced by email.
- **John Ragland's** application has been approved 9.30.09 174995/4860. John hopes to make the December meeting to obtain his certificate.
- **Dennis Rebman's** application that was pended by National has been resubmitted with further documentation.
- **Wayne Brown** was approved 11/20/09 #175588/GA4897. This approval date means his dues were paid for 2010—early renewal!
- Applications submitted for **Terry Gibbs** and **Michael Coon**. **Ron Cagle**, Earl's brother and Earl's son, **Earl Jr.** have submitted applications. The Chapter Directory will be distributed to attendees at the Annual Meeting and mailed to those not attending.

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



David Martin, in uniform, led veterans in carrying the body of the flag to the fire.

Flag Retirement

On November 7th, at 10 a.m., a Flag Retirement Ceremony was conducted at the Due West United Methodist Church, 3956 Due West Rd., Marietta, GA 30064.

This annual event is orchestrated by Bill Coffeen. Both Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts participated this year, placing the dismembered flag in the flames as their scout leader read the states in order of entry into the United States.

Jim Castle, Larry Guzy and David Martin participated.



Both Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts participated in this year's ceremony.

Meeting Location Changed!

The chapter has had many meeting locations in the past 9 years. In this, the start of our 10th year, we are exploring another change. The Golden Corral on Barrett Parkway, just west of I-75 at the first traffic light, will be our meeting location for the December Chapter meeting.

At a cost of about \$11 at the door you can find all you care to eat as well as enjoy the annual Christmas meeting with music provided by the Bone-A-Fide Slides Trombone Quartet.



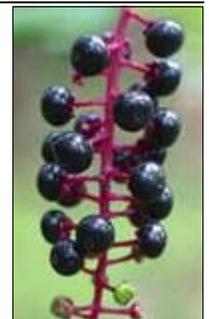
Members Rodney Pritchett and Harry Hagan play with the Bone-A-Fide Slides Quartet.

In January, our Annual Meeting will be at the Marietta Hilton, the former Marietta Conference Center among other prior names.

In February we will return to the Golden Corral for what we hope will be a long and enjoyable relationship. Join us in December at the Golden Coral to experience the difference and let us know if you agree that this facility offers what we need in a meeting location.

Trivia

Did you know that the ink used to write the Declaration of Independence was made from the berries of the Pokeweed *Phytolacca Americana*?



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

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was not a courageous man, and when called upon to do military duty showed such timidity and did his duty so poorly that his captain consented to exchange him for his mulatto boy, then a stout, hardy youth of eighteen, upon Aycock's acknowledgment that the boy was a son of a white woman and consequently free.

The boy had been known as Austin, and the captain added the name Dabney. He turned out a good soldier. In numerous skirmishes with the British and Tories he was conspicuous for bravery. At the battle of Kettle Creek, while serving under Col. Elijah Clarke, a rifle ball passed through his thigh, making him a cripple for life. Unable to do further military duty and without means to procure due attention to his wound which threatened to become mortal, he was taken to the house of one Harris, where he was kindly cared for until his

recovery. His gratitude to these good people was so great that for the remainder of his life he labored for them more affectionately and effectually than any slave could have done.

He removed to Madison county, taking with him his benefactor and family. Very partial to horses and the turf he nearly always owned a fine race horse. He attended races in nearby counties and was a liberal bettor, his courteous behavior and good temper always procuring him gentlemen backers. The United States granted him a pension on account of his broken thigh, and his military services. In the distribution of public lands by lottery among the people of Georgia, the Legislature gave to Dabney a lot of land in Walton county. Stephen Upson, then representative from Oglethorpe, moved the passage of the law.

Dr. Jerry Davis was our speaker in November discussing the Prisoners of War of the American Revolution. Dr. Davis is a Professor of History at Georgia State University.



If you have suggestions for future speakers or presentations, speak to Bill Coffeen and provide him with contact information.

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.

Those Americanism points can add up fast!

The preamble was as follows: "Whereas, be an act of the General Assembly of the State of Georgia, passed on the fourteenth day of August, 1786, it is stated that the said Austin Dabney during the Revolutionary War, instead of advantaging himself of the terms to withdraw himself from the American lines and enter with the majority of his colour and fellow-slaves in the service of his Brittanic Majesty and his officers and vassals, did voluntarily enroll himself in some one of corps under the command of Col. Elijah Clark, and in several actions and engagements behaved against the enemy with a bravery and fortitude which would have honoured a freeman, and in one of which engagements he was severely wounded, and rendered incapable of hard servitude; and policy and gratitude demand a return for such service and behavior, from the Commonwealth..."