



The Collins Dispatch

April 2010

Dates to Remember

April 20 **Chapter Meeting** at Golden Corral, Barrett Pkwy. GASSAR State Secretary Kline Pugh will speak about "Genealogy and Family Tree DNA"

May 18 **Chapter meeting**

June 15 **Chapter meeting**
Dr. John Ferling, professor emeritus at West Georgia University will present "The Ascent of George Washington"

June 25-30 **SAR National Congress**, Cleveland, OH
Registration online at SAR.org

Collins Entry Wins State Essay Contest

The following announcement was received from Hall Martin, chairman of the Knight Essay Committee for GASSAR:

The Georgia Society Knight Essay competition has been completed for this year. Six chapters submitted entries in this competition. Three judges reviewed the essays and each judge completed a separate scoring sheet for each essay. The essay with the highest total points was declared the winner.

Chapters submitting essays were:

- Blue Ridge
- John Collins
- John Milledge
- Lyman Hall
- Marquis de Lafayette
- Samuel Elbert

Many thanks to these Compatriots for serving as judges in the competition:

- Dr. Hugh Rodgers
- Mrs. Clare Newcomer
- Mrs. Cilla Leed-Tomme

The winning essay was from the John Collins Chapter, and the winning essay was written by Miss Doreen Xu of Powder Springs, Georgia.

She is a senior at Baylor School in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Her winning essay is titled WASHINGTON'S SECOND FIDDLE: HENRY KNOX. She will receive her award at the Georgia Society Annual Meeting in April and will receive a commemorative medallion and a five hundred dollar scholarship. Her essay will be automatically entered in the national society contest.

Washington's Second Fiddle: Henry Knox

History tends to remember the larger-than-life figures, personalities that seem to radiate life even after death. The American Revolution was certainly no exception, and created a plethora of hallowed names, including George Washington and Benjamin Franklin, among others. But then there are those like Henry Knox, who are not credited with their share of glory. While certainly not an anonymous figure, perhaps he deserves more acknowledgment for his actions during

America's formative years, often being called Washington's "second fiddle."¹ Why do historians now award such a posthumous name? Because Knox played a significant, often unrealized role in the Revolution and America's subsequent development into a nation.

Knox's first brush with the fervor of liberty began with his involvement in the Sons of Liberty,² exemplifying Knox's deep roots with a movement that had not even gone mainstream at the time.

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Members are asked to submit articles and photos to Larry Guzy for inclusion in the next edition of the Collins Dispatch. Deadline June 4th.

President's Message

Bill Coffeen, President



Officers and Committee

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

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 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

Two new members were approved on January 14,
Dennis Rebman 175932 GA4914
Terry Gibbs 175942 GA 4924
both certificates are in the Chapter hands to award this month.

Michael Coon's, Ron Cagle's and Earl Cagle, Jr.'s applications are at National. Richard Canfield's and David Ludley's applications are being signed. Five applications are under way at this time and will be submitted soon. They include Bob and Larry Adams, Van Beasley, Ed Pierog and Doug Talley.

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 Jason Bretch jbretch@yahoo.com

A Snowy Day at Kettle Creek

The 13th commemoration of the Battle of Kettle Creek was held during and in the aftermath of a beautiful 4" snow storm.

Compatriots from all over Georgia, as well as North Carolina and Florida, came together on February 12th for a social hour and dinner in Washington, GA.

On a bright, white Saturday morning, SAR's portrayed historic figures and colonial era merchants on the square in Washington in a Living History that has expanded over the past several years. An event that was added this year was a skirmish in the nearby Fort Washington Park, complete with muskets and a cannon.



Larry Guzy and Allen Henson watched, and listened to, the skirmish in the Fort Washington Park woods. David Martin and his wife, Ann also attended the Kettle Creek activities.

Mike Tomme drilling the troops on the square



Larry Guzy portrayed Thomas Jefferson and gave out his "calling card" - nickels carrying his portrait.



Mike Tomme, Count de Lafayette Chapter, as

Each year a film developed by the U.S. Army is shown at the local library that discusses the battle tactics, still studied today, of the patriots in this encounter with an unsuspecting British force.

This event will take place on February 15-17, 2011. The drive to Washington GA is about 70 miles.

First in a new series

My patriot ancestor

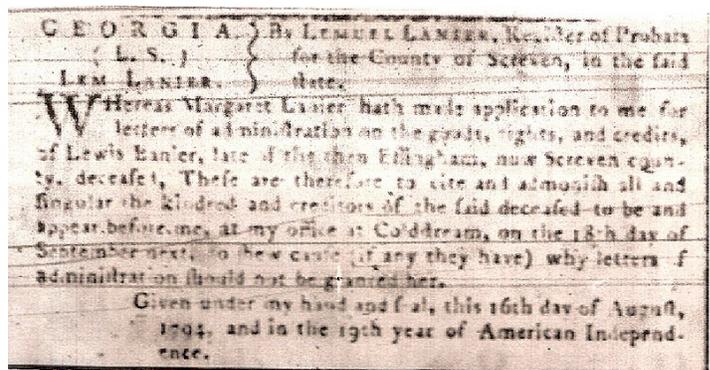
Lewis Lanier, was born about 1754 and enlisted

in the North Carolina Line in the Wilmington District of Duplin County, North Carolina rising to the rank of Cornet or what would be a 2nd Lieutenant today. His father, Lemuel Lanier, and brother, Benjamin Lanier, also served. About 1788, Lewis moved to and settled on Lotts Creek near Portal, Georgia.

In 1794, Lewis Lanier drowned in the Ogeechee River during a flash flood while returning from a visit with his brother and later that year, his widow, Margaret, applied for administration of his estate. The following legal notice appeared in the Georgia Gazette on 16 August 1794. The last sentence is very interesting.

"Given under my hand and seal, this 16th day of August, 1794, and in the 19th year of American Independence."

This legal notice takes into account that America's independence began in 1775. - Wayne Brown



(Continued from page 1)

Knox developed a moral stand for independence; he made the heart-wrenching decision to support the American cause knowing that “he would have to abandon his business and sacrifice everything he had built.”³

As an active leader who defied many Loyalist friends and even risked his own life, Knox first demonstrated his adeptness with artillery at the Battle of Bunker Hill. It was here that Knox’s knowledge came into use: the battle was supported by “Knox-designed works.”⁴ With this victory sealed Washington’s “instant liking” towards Knox and forged a lifelong friendship between two men with vastly different personalities: one who was atop the Virginian aristocracy and another, a Bostonian self-made man who was forced to grow up at nine and support his family when his father left.⁵ Washington reportedly “breathed a sigh of relief that someone in the disordered [Army] knew how to build fortifications.”⁶

Perhaps one of his most important contributions during the war was his coordination of the march of Ticonderoga, which directly broke the British at Boston. It was Knox who first suggested that the cannons of Ticonderoga could be used. Washington, realizing the brilliance of Knox’s plan, appointed him the leader of that expedition to get the cannons. Later historians relate that Washington “saw something in Knox, his ingenuity, his determination, that made him believe the young man could overcome impossible obstacles.”⁷ Thus, Knox coordinated what would become one of the most vital and remarkable missions in history: he traveled 300 miles in 56 days beginning in December 1775 in an arduous trek across rolling hills, winding rivers, and the Berkshires, to Boston.⁸ In what would be recognized as one of the greatest feats in human endurance, Knox led the “Cannon Train” of 59 cannons weighing approximately 60 tons.⁹ Upon his arrival at Boston and again under Knox’s leadership, the guns from Ticonderoga were quietly hauled up the hills targeting British fleets. Consequently, the British were forced to withdraw their fleet and this in effect lifted the siege on Boston.

Wasting no time even after such a breathtaking victory, Knox immediately began building an artillery corps from scratch. He was dedicated and indefatigable, writing that “my constant fatigue to the business of my department has been such that I have not had my clothes off once for more than forty days.”¹⁰ Despite his efforts, the future seemed bleak. A large portion of his munitions were captured during the winter of 1775, and the British were closing in on the ragtag army. American defeat seemed inevitable at this point, but one event singularly transformed the prospects.

Washington’s remarkable crossing of the Delaware is represented as an iconic moment in American history. Emmanuel Leutze’s painting perfectly immortalizes that moment in our nation’s fight for independence.¹¹ But it was Knox who coordinated the crossing of the formidable 800-foot-wide river that culminated in the Battle of Trenton.¹² The conditions were, again, insuperable: the rising tide was throwing bits of ice in the swift current-- Washington gave orders to give up. Knox, however, rose up to the occasion, orchestrating the crossing and unloading of fifty horses, 2,000 guns, 350 tons of ammunition, and soldiers with little loss.¹³ During the battle, Washington’s forces surprised and overwhelmed the stunned Hessians, largely due to Knox’s cannons. After the battle, he returned the same crew and the new prisoners from that successful attack, across the iced river once

again, under sleet, hail, and freezing temperatures.

Throughout the later stages of the war, Knox remained active at sites such as Princeton, Germantown, and Yorktown. He also ran a “bewildering variety” of responsibilities¹⁴; Knox was simply “irreplaceable” to Washington, and consequently, the latter placed enormous weight on Knox’s judgment.¹⁵ But what is more remarkable about Knox was his later contributions and involvement in the new American government, serving as Secretary of War; Knox played a pivotal role in the affairs of the country, presiding over the creation of the Navy, the national militia, and the establishment of a series of coastal defenses.¹⁶ To the young country, his duties were especially pertinent, as a weak and defenseless nation would certainly invite attacks and scorn from European powers, something that would have immediate consequences to the new nation.¹⁷ During this time, Knox also procured the precursor to the Constitution with his “Plan for a General Government,” offering solutions to the nation’s problems and outlining his blueprint for government, remarkably reminiscent of our Constitution in his incredibly prescient document.¹⁸

We must consider Knox’s actions in retrospect: how events would have proceeded without Knox? Have contemporary historians accurately assessed Knox as “indispensable” yet “undeservedly neglected”¹⁹ to not only Washington, but to the entire Revolutionary outcome? The answer is an unequivocal yes. Following the mission of Ticonderoga, “no one played a more critical role than Knox,”²⁰ who not only overcame insurmountable roadblocks at Ticonderoga but also masterminded a more symbolic win: by forcing the British out of Boston, the patriots showed they stood a chance. Without this victory, support for the young nation would have “seemed a hollow cry based on unrealistic expectations”²¹ and the war efforts would have unquestionably diminished or even been eradicated. It was only through Knox’s understanding of ammunitions that enabled many successes on the battlefield, and no one would match Knox’s encyclopedic knowledge. In a larger context, his actions are difficult to overlook... what if Knox never came along? Then surely no miracle at Ticonderoga, no crossing of the Delaware, hallmark moments that transformed America’s prospect, and what a dismal future for American that would be!

In 1795, Knox dutifully resigned from the government to retire. Even after his death in 1807, Knox’s legacy will forever reverberate as a profound shaper of both the Revolution and our nation’s development. Historians regard, “If Washington was the indispensable man of the Revolution, then Henry Knox was his indispensable man.”²² Without his pivotal roles in defining moments or his behind-the-scenes artillery efforts throughout the war, then surely the Revolution would have fallen apart. But in the end, Knox was a humble man, explaining why history has largely forgotten his role in shaping America. When, in 1800, a fire at the War Department destroyed the correspondences and distinguished records of many military heroes, Knox, unlike many others, never did express concern that his “place in history might have been jeopardized.”²³ His humility, in essence, directly contributed to his relative anonymity by our generation.

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Endnotes

- ¹ John Ferling, *Almost a Miracle: The American Victory in the War of Independence* (New York: Oxford, 2007), p. 97.
- ² Noah Brooks, *Henry Knox: A Soldier of the Revolution, Major-General in the Continental Army and Washington's Chief of Artillery*. (Seattle: Cosimo, 2007), p. 14.
- ³ *Ibid* 15.
- ⁴ Samuel Griffith *The War for American Independence: From 1760 to the Surrender at Yorktown in 1781*, (Urbana: University of Illinois, 2002), p. 54.
- ⁵ Brooks 20.
- ⁶ Brooks 21.
- ⁷ Mark Puls, *Henry Knox: Visionary General of the American Revolution*, (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008), p. 31.
- ⁸ *Ibid* 33.
- ⁹ *Ibid* 34.
- ¹⁰ Francis Duke, *Life And Correspondence Of Henry Knox: Major-General In The American Revolutionary Army (1873)*, (New York: Kessinger, 2008), p. 110.
- ¹¹ Charles Royster, *A Revolutionary People At War: The Continental Army and American Character, 1775-1783*, (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1996), p. 11.
- ¹² Richard White, *The Continental Line: American Revolutionary War* (New York: BookSurge, 2002), p. 79.
- ¹³ *Ibid* 83.
- ¹⁴ Seymour Reit, *Guns for General Washington: A Story of the American Revolution*. (New York: Sandpiper, 2001), p. 77.
- ¹⁵ *Ibid* 79.
- ¹⁶ Thomas Fleming, *The Perils of Peace: America's Struggle for Survival After Yorktown*, (Minneapolis: Collins, 2008), p. 40.
- ¹⁷ *Ibid* 59.
- ¹⁸ Brooks 101.
- ¹⁹ Puls 121.
- ²⁰ Puls 129.
- ²¹ W.J. Wood, *Battles Of The Revolutionary War: 1775-1781*, (Seattle: De Capo, 2003), p. 2.
- ²² Brooks 18.
- ²³ Puls 97.

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- Brooks, Noah. *Henry Knox: A Soldier of the Revolution, Major-General in the Continental Army and Washington's Chief of Artillery*. Seattle: Cosimo, 2007.
- Drake, Francis C. *Life And Correspondence Of Henry Knox: Major-General In The American Revolutionary Army (1873)*. New York: Kessinger, 2008.
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- Wood, W.J. *Battles Of The Revolutionary War: 1775-1781*. Seattle: De Capo, 2003.

Doreen Xu is currently a 17-year old attending Baylor School in Chattanooga as a senior, even though she resides in Lithia Springs, Georgia. Doreen has been fascinated with history since she first could read, and hopes to translate this passion for research and historiography through participating in activities such as the Knight essay contest. In addition to her dedication to history, especially American history, she is enthused by studying the humanities and mathematics, taking all college-level classes this year. Doreen is also an active participant outside of school: she is president of the Business Club, Amnesty International and is a Peer Tutor, writing center tutor, and peer counselor as well as editors of the yearbook and school newspaper. She also competes in varsity lacrosse and swimming. In the community, she is a tutor at a local elementary school and volunteers her time in various endeavors. Her college plans are so far undecided.

120th Annual Congress Cleveland, Ohio

June 25-July 1, 2010

It's time to register! If you enjoyed Atlanta—have family in Ohio—or just want to participate, the registration form is available at sar.org or in your copy of the SAR Magazine.

Participation in the National Congress is a great way to visit locations across the country with old and new SAR friends. Planned tours and activities enhance your experience and meetings inform you about the business of our society. Attend committee meetings on subjects that interest you.

We will stay at the Renaissance Hotel in downtown Cleveland, close to many local attractions.

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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.

Those Americanism points can add up fast!