



Captain John Collins Chapter

Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution

The Collins Dispatch

June 2010

Dates to Remember

The Chapter meeting starts at 7PM the third Tuesday every month. We gather at the Golden Corral on Barrett Parkway about 6PM for dinner and fellowship before the meeting. Family and friends are welcome
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

July 4th Parade in Marietta
 Collins and Sons of Liberty Chapters will combine to participate in the celebrations. Contact Bill Coffeen for details

Saturday October 16th Fall Outing: Location pending

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Patriots Day Honors

Chapter members gathered to honor our namesake, Captain John Collins, on Patriot's Day, with the presentation of wreaths. In attendance were David and Anne Martin, Wayne Brown, Earl Cagle, Bill Coffeen and Rich Morrison. It was fitting that Collins should be the first to be honored in this annual program.



Cobb County Commissioner Woody Thompson reads the county's Proclamation in honor of Patriots Day on April 13, 2010. Compatriots attending included Bob Sapp and Jack Ferguson, Piedmont; Larry Guzy, David Martin, and Wayne Brown, Collins; George Thurmond, Carl Bham and Bobby Shaw, Piedmont.

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

President's Message

Early Saturday morning May 29 some 1600 Boy and Girl Scouts assembled with their leaders to recognize the sacrifices made by soldiers who have served our country. Those young people came to honor their memory by decorating the graves of those residing in Marietta National Cemetery with 18,000 individual flags. You could have heard a pin drop during the opening ceremonies supported by our own State Society Color Guard and the opening prayer read by compatriot Larry Guzy.



shine between the clouds, through the trees and onto the graves. You needn't worry about America's future when you see that many young people involved and aware. While it was an honor to represent our chapter with the presentation of a ceremonial wreath during Monday's more formal Memorial Day ceremony in that same cemetery, I will not forget what I witnessed so early that Saturday morning.

The ceremony solemnly concluded with taps being played by an Eagle Scout and another Eagle Scout playing the bagpipes atop the highest hill in the cemetery. Then all 1600 Scouts positioned themselves amongst the thousands of gravesites, carefully read the inscriptions, planted their flags, stepped back and respectfully saluted. Within 30 minutes or so the cemetery was reverently transformed. My words can't possibly express the feeling of pride that overcame me as the sun started to

This reminds me of what one of our forefathers, Benjamin Franklin, once said. "Tell me – and I forget... Teach me – and I remember... Involve me – and I learn." I encourage you to enthusiastically participate in our chapter's activities and/or develop new traditions to help raise awareness amongst our fellow citizens of what it means to sacrifice for our country so that all of us may be able to seek life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Get involved as Franklin said and we will learn.

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. **August 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

Michael Coon was approved 5/4 with National number 176931 on Joseph Eastman. Earl Cagle Sr. Supplement was approved 4/26/2010

Wayne Brown's Supplement received at National 3/1, David Ludley's application was received 3/12, and Ed Pierog's was received 3/17

Richard Canfield's and five other applications are under way at this time and will be submitted soon. They include Bob and Larry Adams, Van Beasley and his two sons Bryan and Andrew. Several others including Terry Kingery, John Mattingly, and Doug Talley are working to submit.

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

SCOUTS AND SCOUTING

The Capt. John Collins Chapter is compiling a record of the members who have been a Scout, Eagle Scout, Scoutmaster or served in any capacity with the BSA program. If you did not provide this information at the May meeting, please e-mail Earl Cagle "e-cagle1@bellsouth.net" with that information or call 770-579-2748. Thanks for your support.



Bill Coffeen, Rich Morrison, Terry Kingrey, and Larry Guzy were among the chapter members represented at the Marietta National Cemetery for ceremonies on Memorial Day. David Martin and Loy Reddick were also in attendance.



Revis Butler, Atlanta Chapter and Bill Coffeen, Collins, were among the SAR chapter representatives who presented wreaths on Memorial Day. Others included Piedmont and Sons of Liberty.



Bill Coffeen caught on film the concentration of one young scout among many who participated in placing flags before Memorial Day.

My patriot ancestor

By Charles Rhyne

COLONEL ADAM ALEXANDER 1728-1798

Adam Alexander, fourth generation to live in the Colonies, came to the Anson County (now Mecklenburg County) about 1752 from Princess Ann, Maryland with several other Alexander families including his father, William, and older brother Charles. The Alexanders were a close, staunch Scotch-Irish Presbyterian family that included several generations of military leaders. They were independent and spirited by nature.

His wife, Sarah Shelby, was also from a prominent family of Patriots that included her brother, the Revolutionary War hero General Evan Shelby and her nephew Colonel Isaac Shelby, hero at the Battle of Kings Mountain and the first governor of Kentucky. In 1762 two of Sarah Shelby Alexander's older brothers migrated to the Rocky River area of North Carolina, near her home, from Maryland, based on her urging. Both Moses and Rees Shelby became outstanding citizens and true Patriots. They served under then Captain Adam Alexander with the Mecklenburg militia; Moses as a sergeant and Rees as a private. The Shelby Brothers started a successful trucking business, the first in the area, using horse drawn wagons.

Adam Alexander was a pious Presbyterian and a leader in his church as well as community. He played an instrumental role in the start up of two of the first churches in what is now Mecklenburg County: one at Rocky Springs and later in 1770 at Clear Creek. In fact Adam donated the land for the first church and its cemetery and was several times on committees searching for a good pastor to lead their flock. Reverend Hugh McAden was a guest at Adam's house while making his celebrated missionary tour through the Carolina's in 1755. In the 1760's Adam and his family worshipped with the famous "Son of Thunder", Reverend Alexander Craighhead, who would lead all-day prayer sessions on the Sabbath. This moral compass along with a steely sense of right and wrong is evident in Colonel Alexander's work with the Court as a Judge.

He built a house at the intersection of the Indian Trail and the Rocky River. Old maps show his house on one side of the road and his general store and grist mill on the other. He accumulated 1,800 acres of land that was farmed by slaves. The land is situated on what is now Mecklenburg county and Cabarras county.

He was well known for his work with the court as well as his Patriotic service as the head of the Mecklenburg Militia. Since his grist mill and general store were on one of the most traveled roads in the area Colonel Adam Alexander was quite prosperous.

The last enemy to destroy is death

Adam and Mary Alexander are buried in the lower part of the Rocky Springs Cemetery located at the original site of the Clear Creek Church. The common headstone bears the inscription; "**Mary Alexander, Died Nov. 26, 1813 age 78 years: Colonel Adam Alexander, who departed this life November 13, 1798, aged 70 years 7 months. The last enemy to destroy is death.**"

Military record of Adam Alexander

and key dates of Revolutionary War

1756...First Military Record of Adam Alexander...The first North Carolina records to date Adam Alexander are Mecklenburg militia documents for Captain Adam Alexander dated 1756.

May 11, 1771...Regulators... Captain Adam Alexander and the militia from Mecklenburg joined General Waddell, bringing his total to 250 troops. They had been dispatched to quell the uprising of the "Regulators: who were an armed and angry group that had been formed to resist Governor Tryon and other Colonial officials. Captain Alexander went in person and reconnoitered the Regulators, and returning, reported that he had passed along their lines and the footmen were seven or eight deep for a quarter of a mile and horsemen for 120 yards were twelve or fourteen deep, over

1,200 men total." Captain Alexander, along with six other officers, forwarded a report advising that the enemy forces were greatly superior; additionally their troops did not want to fight against

their fellow countrymen who included friends, neighbors and relatives. General Waddell wisely accepted this advice and retreated.

A short time later the Regulators were defeated at Alamance by a larger detachment sent by Governor Tryon.

20 May 1775...Charlottetown, NC...A Convention is called of the local Mecklenburg citizens to discuss the situation with the British. This meeting of bold and spirited Patriots resulted in the first call for Independence in all of the Colonies. Adam Alexander was one on the signers and later an ardent supporter of that historic Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence.

18 Dec. 1775...Johnston Court House, Provincial Congress...Adam Alexander is appointed Lieutenant-Colonel of a battalion of minute men with Thomas Polk as Colonel and Charles McLean as Major. Mecklenburg's political leaders were fast becoming the region's military leaders.

23-30 Dec. 1775...Ninety-Six, Snow Cam-

(Continued on page 5)

"Colonel Alexander was a brave and energetic officer and his name is found in nearly every expedition which marched from Mecklenburg county to oppose the enemies of his country." p. 105 the History of Mecklenburg County

(Continued from page 4)

paign, S. C...*During the campaign against Loyalists in the Up-country the Patriots militia impeded by 15" of snow.*

Lieutenant-Colonel Adam Alexander led the Mecklenburg militia to assist General Richardson against the Scovillites, a lawless band of men who defied all authority and had gained control of the South Carolina Upland; local Patriots were concerned for their safety.

Feb 1776...Under Colonel Polk and Lieutenant-Colonel. Adam Alexander the Mecklenburg militia marched to the aid of the Highlanders on Cape Fear and defeated Loyalist Scots while inflicting heavy casualties.

4 April 1776...Halifax... Adam Alexander is appointed Colonel, in charge of the Mecklenburg Militia succeeding Colonel Thomas Polk who is appointed a General in the Continental Army.

1 July 1776...Cherokee Attack...Incited by British royal agents, the Cherokee attack along the southern frontier. Col. Adam Alexander, along with Captain "Devil Charlie" Polk and Major John Davidson were among nineteen hundred troops led by General Rutherford into the Cherokee country to subdue those tribesmen. After several skirmishes were fought in the neighborhood of the present town of Franklin, the Indians were reduced to quietude and signed a treaty of peace.

16 August 1780...Battle of Camden SC...Colonel Adam Alexander marches the Mecklenburg Militia toward Camden SC to join Maj. Gen. Horatio Gates and the Continental Army. Gates is second in rank to only General Washington. The complicated Gates plan is a catastrophe and the Patriots are badly defeated by Lord Cornwallis' British forces. The Mecklenburg Militia took the brunt of the battle and Colonel Alexander is taken Prisoner Of War and spends many months in a Camden "gaol". Out of this situation he is still able to report size and movement of Cornwallis and his troops since they are headquartered there. Colonel Alexander's mistreatment at this time takes a tremendous physical toil and effectively ends his military combat service.

President Washington visits Charlottetown on his North Carolina state tour

25 May, 1791.... On tour President Washington would ride in a splendid and quite comfortable carriage pulled by six horses. Then upon reaching the outskirts of his destination he would mount a magnificent stallion to ride as he came into sight of the admiring crowd. Everyone who ever saw President Washington ride a horse or dance at a ball claimed he was the most graceful and athletic man of his time, "poetry in motion."

President Washington and his party were put up for the night at an inn on the north side of West Trade Street, a few paces from the intersection with

Tryon, operated by a Captain Cook. That evening he dined with General Thomas Polk and a selection of the most prominent citizens of the county, who had been invited to meet their distinguished guest. Colonel Adam Alexander was one of those in attendance.

A young military officer that was asked to escort President Washington into Charlotte gives the following account; "President Washington asked me if he might expect to meet at Charlotte any of the leading members of the convention which prepared and passed the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. I replied that of the members of the convention still living, I knew personally but two--Adam Alexander, head of the Mecklenburg Militia and John McKnitt who had been secretary of the convention...that they lived at some distance, but that I felt confident their ever-green spirit of patriotism, united to their strong desire to see him, would bring them there, should they be able to travel." p. 100, *The Story of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County* by Blythe and Brockmann

Court and Judge

1779..."The Mecklenburg County Court, which was composed of twelve magistrates elected the sheriff, a high and important position at the time; in fact they took oversight of the entire county. There were ten men who appear to have taken control over the courts and administered justice as they deemed fit and proper. They were certainly wise men and did that which was for the best interest of all the people. The following is a list of those who constituted the court: Adam Alexander, Abraham Alexander, Hezekiah Alexander, John McKnitt Alexander, David Reese, Edward Giles, Robert Irwin, John Ford, Robert Harris and Robert Harris, Jr."

Adam Alexander's name appears on many court documents in the late 1700's. Once he, himself, was fined five pounds in the Salisbury court for failing to appear as a venireman (Adam had received a summons to appear as a witness). In another action, again in the Salisbury court, "Judge Adam Alexander condemned a horse thief to 'be hanged by your neck until dead, dead, dead.'"

Related to the Court was his responsibility as "Entry taker", which included the responsibility for collecting of proceeds for the sale of "Bounty Lands" in Tennessee. These lands had been granted by the State to Soldiers of the Revolution and became the opportunity for a migration of many Mecklenburg residents.

JROTC Awards



Kennesaw HS, Garrett Ellis



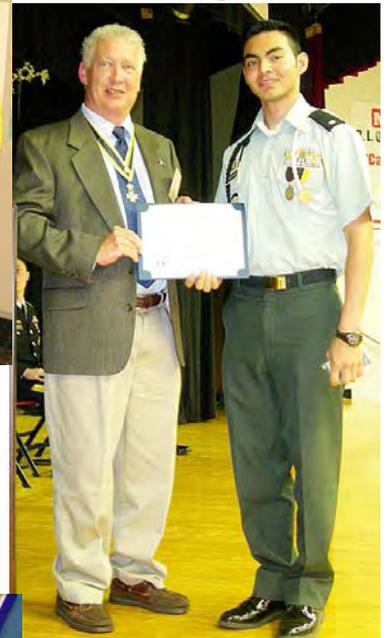
Marietta HS,
Ashley Lassiter



Allatoona HS, Stephen Sasser



Pebblebrook HS, Willie
Love



Osborne HS, Gerson Andrade



North Cobb HS, Darryl Kelly and Christopher Rochford



Sprayberry
HS, Seth
Fox



South Cobb
HS, Wayne
Brown



South Cobb HS, Joshua Vinnacombe

JROTC Medals Awarded

There were a total of nine Bronze JROTC medals awarded in the schools we represent.

1. April 23, 2010 Sprayberry High School, Cadet Seth Fox, Presented by David Martin.
 2. April 22, 2010 North Cobb and Harrison High School, Cadets Darryl Kelly and Christopher Kelly, Presented by David Martin.
 3. April 23, 2010 Osborne High School, Cadet Gerson Andre, Presented by David Thompson.
 4. April 27, 2010 South Cobb High School, Joshua Vinnacombe Andre, Presented by Wayne Brown.
 5. April 29, 2010 Marietta High School, Ashley Lassiter Andre, Presented by Bill Coffeen.
 6. May 4, 2010 Kennesaw Mountain High School, Garrett Ellis, Presented by Jim Castle.
 7. May 8, 2010 Allatonna Mountain High School, Stephen Sasser, Presented by Bill Coffeen.
- May 8, 2010 Pebblebrook High School, Willie Love, Presented by Earl Cagle.

Respectfully Submitted, Curtis E. McWaters

June 7, 1776:

"Lee's Resolution"

On this day in 1776, Richard Henry Lee of Virginia introduces a resolution for independence to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia; John Adams seconds the motion.

Lee's resolution declared: "That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved; that measures should be immediately taken for procuring the assistance of foreign powers, and a Confederation be formed to bind the colonies more closely together."

During the ensuing debates, it became clear that New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and South Carolina were as yet unwilling to declare independence, but would likely be ready to vote in favor of a break with England in due course. Thus, Congress agreed to delay the vote on Lee's Resolution until July 1.

In the intervening period, Congress appointed a committee to draft a formal declaration of independence. Its members were John Adams of Massachusetts, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, Roger Sherman of Connecticut, Robert R. Livingston of New York and Thomas Jefferson of Virginia. Thomas Jefferson, well-known to be the best writer of the group, was selected to be the primary author of the document, which was presented to Congress for review on June 28, 1776.

On July 1, 1776, debate on the Lee Resolution resumed as planned, with a majority of the delegates favoring the resolution. Congress thought it of the utmost importance that independence be unanimously proclaimed. To ensure this, they delayed the final vote until July 2, when 12 colonial delegations voted in favor of it, with the New York delegates abstaining, unsure of how their constituents would wish them to vote.

John Adams wrote that July 2 would be celebrated as "the most memorable epoch in the history of America." Instead, the day has been largely forgotten in favor of July 4, when Jefferson's edited Declaration of Independence was adopted.

www.history.net

Jack Manning
National Trustee
New Hampshire Society



120th Annual NSSAR Congress Cleveland, Ohio

June 25-July 1, 2010

Not too late 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.

**CAPTAIN JOHN COLLINS CHAPTER
GEORGIA SOCIETY SONS OF THE
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Under the leadership of David Thompson, members Kyle Sumner, Clayton Farnham, Terry Gibbs, Chad and Charlie Rhyne, and Allen Henson gathered in May to spruce up the chapter's adopted cemetery.

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!



Leadership Meetings—Louisville

Twice a year, at the National Society's home in Louisville KY, compatriots gather to discuss the business of the society. Trustees and alternates, as well as general officers, are expected to attend but all members are welcome to attend.

General and committee meetings are held at the historic Brown Hotel, now known as the Brown Camberley Hotel, in downtown Louisville. This hotel is walking distance to the current NSSAR headquarters building as well as the site of the new Center for Advancing America's Heritage (CAAH), scheduled to be officially opened during the September 24-25 Leadership Meeting.

Meetings are not all business. Many participants arrive on Thursday night, when the Brown greets SAR members and wives with cookies and punch in the lobby where old and new friends gather before heading out to dinners at a variety of locations. Georgia members traditionally eat out together on Thursday.

An early morning breakfast buffet is included for guests of the hotel on Friday morning. More visiting, of course, and then the business of the day begins with a break for lunch at one of the local restaurants, all within easy walking distance.

A Ladies Auxiliary meeting convenes at the hotel in the morning and usually includes a speaker. After this some wives head out for shopping at local area malls or in the antique district, or pursue genealogical research at the SAR's headquarters library. On Main Street, near the new CAAH, a number of attractions are within walking distance including the Louisville Slugger museum, the Frazier Arms museum, the Kentucky Fine Arts museum and a cooperative fine glass outlet that offers tours and views of glassblowers at work.

Friday evening the first of two banquets is offered in the hotel ballroom. This formal meal often includes musical entertainment or a speaker of interest. Attendance is optional but offers a chance to become acquainted with

compatriots throughout the country.

Saturday morning meetings begin again with time to engage in conversation with those who have similar interests.

Ladies gather for a luncheon either in the hotel or at a venue of interest nearby with transportation provided.

The hotel lobby is a favorite gathering spot throughout the weekend where a conversation can be found at anytime.

The Saturday night banquet is also held at the hotel.

Louisville is a 6.5—7 hour trip by car. Parking is free for those who stay at the Brown Hotel.

The next Leadership meeting is Sept. 24-25. Arrangements to attend can be made by contacting Debbie Smalley at the NSSAR Headquarters 502-589-1776.