



Captain John Collins Chapter
Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution

The Collins Dispatch

Winner of the Carl F. Bessett Newsletter Award 2011

February 2012

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.

Feb 10-11 Commemoration of the Battle of Kettle Creek, Washington, GA

Feb 21 Chapter Meeting Speaker is former state president Terry Manning, "Sea Power in the Revolutionary War"

March 20 Chapter Meeting

There are dedication events nearly every week in many parts of Georgia. Look at the GASSAR website or the *Hornet's Nest* for complete listings.

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New Officers Installed at Annual Banquet



New chapter president Wayne Brown looks on as State President Bob Sapp details his new responsibilities.

Members and guests gathered at the Marietta Conference Center on January 17th to reflect on the year past, honor those who had served throughout the year, and install new chapter officers.

Wayne Brown took the gavel from past president **Allen Henson**. GASSAR State President **Bob Sapp** installed all the new officers with special instructions for Wayne.



Joe Pugh involved the audience in his presentation.

Our speaker was Joe T. Pugh, an animated presenter whose topic of "Farmer, Soldier, Spy, General, Hero" shared

with us the astonishing story of Chevalier Johann DeKalb.

Many members were honored at this awards banquet. Pictures and details can be found on page 3.

GASSAR Annual Meeting

The annual state meeting was held on January 27-28 in Duluth, GA, with compatriots from North Carolina and Florida also attending to participate in a South Atlantic District meeting hosted by VPG Charlie Newcomer, of Athens.

Color Guard Commander Ed Rigel Sr. was installed as the new GASSAR State President.

President **Wayne Brown** shared an email noting, "I attended the Georgia Society SAR meeting & luncheon today (Jan 28th) and the Capt. John Collins Chapter was awarded the **Distinguished Chapter Award for 2011**. Con-

gratulations to all in the Capt. John Collins chapter."

"Also, congratulations to our own **Curtis McWaters** who is serving as the GASSAR Northwest Region Vice President and congratulations to our own **Bill Coffeen** who is serving as GASSAR Eagle Scout Committee Chair."

New GASSAR Officers installed included:

President	Edward Rigel, Sr.
Sr. Vice President	James Stallings
NE Region VP	Bruce Maney
SW Regional VP	Carl Cates
Central Region VP	Robert Cruthirds
East Region VP	Robert Turbyfill, Jr.

(Continued on page 8)

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

President's Message

I am excited and yet humbled to serve as your president this year and as I take a moment to reflect, I am reminded about the various programs in our chapter and the involvement of our members. With this foundation, I believe we have an opportunity and the potential to be the best chapter in the Georgia Society. However, achieving awards from the GSSAR is much more than plaques, certificates and streamers. We must remember that it is about promoting patriotism and the history of the founding of this great Nation and by accomplishing this, our chapter will also be promoted as well as our state and national organization.

All across our Nation, the sacrifices of our Patriot Ancestors are taken for granted and overlooked while the study of other countries is more in vogue. Therefore, it is our task to remind and teach our fellow citizens about the history of our beginning and the untold sacrifices of those who placed it all on the line for a dream, the dream of es-



Wayne Brown

ablishing a nation of free men. We must seize each opportunity to promote our chapter and our organization.

I will be calling for your help and support as the year unfolds. While we have achieved much with our essay and poster programs, networking with the history and social studies' teachers within our school system will provide additional opportunities to teach students about our Founding Fathers.

Coming this spring, we have Patriots' Day recognition in April and with your help, additional proclamations will be issued this year.

Then we have the JROTC program which provides an opportunity to enlighten students about our chapter and our mission. Therefore, I ask that you and I commit to become more involved this year and become excited about who we are.

We are "Sons of the American Revolution."

Officers and Committee

President	Wayne Brown
Vice President	Terry Gibbs
Secretary	Bert Christy
Treasurer	James Castle
Registrar	Allen Henson
Chancellor	Larry Lines
Chaplain	John Jones
Sergeant-at-Arms	Rodney Pritchett
Historian	David Ludley
Editor	Larry Guzy
Americanism	Wayne Brown
Cemetery	David Thompson
Dinner meetings	Wayne Brown
Law/Fire/JROTC	Curtis McWaters
Eagle Scouts	Earl Cagle
Veterans/Flags	Wayne Brown
Membership	Larry Guzy
Patriot Grave	Brad Jones
Publicity/phone	Charles Rhyne
Schools	David Martin

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 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 Larry Guzy, 678.860.4477 or Larry@adjustmentservices.com

Collins Member News & Happenings

Richard Canfield has been approved as the first new member for 2012. Approved 1.17.2012 National 182085/GA 5277. Rick is a teacher/coach at Paces Academy.

Robert Van Blackwell (Van) has restored his membership in Collins after several years being inactive from Piedmont. Van has now fully retired from Lockheed and is pursuing his genealogy through supplements.

Remember that additional applications, from within the same family, submitted at the same time, are reduced by \$50 each.

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 Charlie Rhyne 770.955.4543 crhyne@hotmail.com



Jim Castle—Certificate of Appreciation



Charlie Rhyne—Certificate of Appreciation



Bill Coffeen—Certificate of Appreciation



Earl Cagle—Meritorious Service Award



David Martin—Certificate of Appreciation



John Jones—Certificate of Patriotism and Certificate of Appreciation



Wayne Brown—Meritorious Service Award

Collins Awards
At the Annual Awards Banquet, two Meritorious Service Awards and one Patriotism Certificate, along with eight Certificates of Appreciation, were awarded. Also, a Martha Washington Medal was awarded to **Nancy Pritchett**.

Photos: Ray Ruggles



Curtus McWaters—Certificate of Appreciation



Ray Ruggles—Certificate of Appreciation



Rodney Pritchett—Certificate of Appreciation



Larry Guzy—Certificate of Appreciation

Georgia Fellows Fund

The Georgia Fellows Fund was designed with the same intent as NSSAR's George Washington Fund, but to serve the Georgia Society. Funds which are held on deposit in the fund are used for those special projects and needs which are unfunded in the general budget.

A year-end report provided at the GASSAR Annual Meeting stated that 18 new Fellows joined in 2011. Fellows contribute \$250 or more to the fund to join the group.

During 2011, some of the projects underwritten by the fund included:

- Providing a copy of the 2-volume *Georgia Revolutionary War Soldiers & Sailors, Patriots and Pioneers* to each chapter. The volumes contain the names and locations (if known) of over 4,500 patriots buried in Georgia.
- 8,000 bookmarks with Revolutionary War era flags printed on them were produced for use with school programs.
- Wounded Warrior Challenge Coins were given to wounded soldiers in Augusta
- Four chapters received assistance for the purchased of portable public address systems
- 12 Traveling Trunks were purchased
- A set-up package for a tent was purchased by the Education Committee.
- Two members received a stipend for purchase of a Color Guard uniform.
- 31 SAR Member Medallions were provided to enhance grave markings.

At the end of 2011 there were 68 Georgia Fellows. Fellows need not be SAR members and contributions are tax-deductible.

To become a member, direct your donation and the following information, to Comp. George Thurmond, 120 Cannonade Dr., Alpharetta, GA 30004

Name _____

Chapter _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Telephone (____) _____

E-mail: _____

I desire to contribute \$_____ to the Georgia Fellows Fund.

If you wish to make a contribution to honor another person, state "in the name of...." .



"Nancy Hart & Ben Franklin"

Kettle Creek Battlefield Association

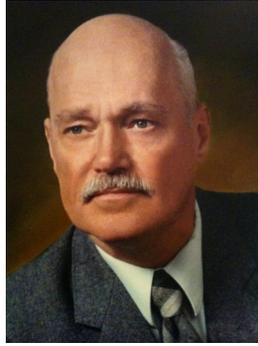
Compatriot George Thurmond has announced the formation of the Kettle Creek Battlefield Association, "to encourage the permanent preservation of the site of the Kettle Creek Battle and to present and interpret the history and culture of the area as it is reflected in its heritage of significant Revolutionary period sites and resources."

The association envisions "exhibits, educational programs and interpretation" to present "the value of this heritage and its meaning and orientation to present day life."



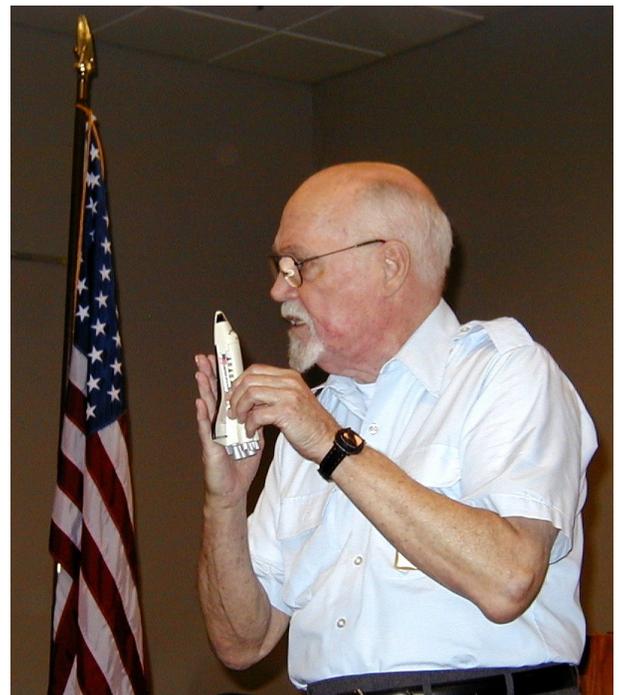
Nancy Pritchett was awarded the Martha Washington Medal by President Allen Henson during the Chapter's Annual Awards Banquet.

Joseph Jenkins Cornish III, a resident of Marietta, Georgia and a retired executive of Lockheed Martin Corporation, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, January 3, 2012, at Tranquility Hospice Center in Austell, Georgia. A private Military Memorial Service was held at Georgia Memorial Park on January 6, 2012. Dr. Cornish was born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana. After graduating from high school, he attended Louisiana State University for a year before enlisting in the United States Marine Corps at age 17. The Marine Corps was and would remain one of the most significant aspects of his life. After serving three years of active service as a navigator/ bombardier, Cornish returned to LSU where he received his BS in Mechanical Engineering. During this time, he married his childhood sweetheart, lifelong friend, and wife of 65 years, Grace Pollard Cornish. His love of aerodynamics started very early and continued for most of his life. Cornish continued his studies at Mississippi State University earning a Masters and PhD in Aeronautical Engineering. Cornish performed experimental and theoretical research on control of turbulent boundary layers, participated in a number of drag-reduction programs, flight tests of aircraft, and designed the high-lift system for the MA-18. He eventually became head of the Aerophysics Department at MSU. Cornish continued research related to all aspects of flight. He wrote and published studies on anything related aerodynamic flow- planes, gliders, hot air balloons, blimps, race cars, boomerangs, birds, flying squirrels, insects and even seeds. His quest for knowledge never ceased, hence he was an honored speaker, sharing his knowledge, in some 55 countries around the world. Though his expertise in aeronautical engineering was noted worldwide, it was particularly noticed by Lockheed Georgia Company in Marietta, Georgia. In 1964, Cornish became the Associate Director of Research, Aerospace Sciences at the Lockheed Georgia Company. He eventually became Vice President of Engineering at Lockheed Georgia and then Vice President of the Lockheed Corporation in Burbank, California. During his career at Lockheed, Cornish worked on special projects for the government, assisted NASA and the space shuttle program, and was responsible for fifteen aerodynamic modification patents. Dr. Cornish's love of knowledge seemed to have no limits. During the 70's and 80's he studied and received degrees in Psychology from the University of West Georgia, Business Administration from the Lockheed Management Institute at the University of Southern California, Advanced Management from Harvard Business School, and Medical and Dental Hypnosis from the American Institute of Hypnosis. Cornish was a licensed hypnotist and a registered astrologer with the American Federation of Astrologers. Throughout his career, Dr. Cornish served on the VERTOL Engineering Advisory Board, the U.S. Army Transportation Corps Advisory Panel, The Aerodynamics Committee for the American Helicopter Society, Fluid Dynamics Committee for the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, and the Advisory Boards of the University of Florida and the University of Tennessee Space Institute. Dr. Cornish presented numerous invited lectures and papers at various universities, colleges, and professional organizations including California Institute, University of Missouri, Louisiana State University, Cambridge University (England), Technische Hochschule Stuttgart(Germany), the United States Military Academy, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and the NATO Advisory Group for Aeronautical Research and Development. He was a member of Tau Beta Pi, Phi Kappa Phi, Omicron Delta Kappa, Sigma Xi, Sigma Gamma Tau, and was a registered Professional Engineer in numerous states. Dr. Cornish had approximately 30 publications on subjects within the aerospace field principally concerning boundary layers and high lift. In addition, he was author of more than 30 research reports published by Mississippi State University and the Lockheed-Georgia Company, as well as numerous articles published in Natural History Magazine, Flying Magazine, Scientific American, Science Digest, Sports Car, Graphic Magazine, and other journals.



Dr. Joe Cornish

In spite of Dr. Cornish's extremely impactful professional life, he found time to be an active participant in numerous Civil War reenactments around the south, and most notably the last reenactment at Gettysburg with some 3000 volunteers. He was president of MENSA and a member of the Greater Atlanta Marine Corps Council. He was a third degree Mason and a life member of the Masonic Temple of Amazonense in Brazil, a Knight Templar of the York Rite and a Nobel of the Mystic Shrine, Hamasa Temple. He was also a member of ten different heritage societies and organizations including the Society of the War of 1812, the Sons of the American Revolution, the Military Order of the Stars and Bars, and the Colonial and Antebellum Bench and Bar, 1565-1861. Joe Cornish lived an extraordinary personal and professional life touching the lives of many throughout the world. He was an author, an artist, a scientist, a philosopher, and an explorer – a true Renaissance man. Those who knew him were always intrigued by his knowledge but more importantly by his humor. His knack of storytelling was profound and he could keep listeners engaged for hours as they learned about his tales of travel and adventure. He loved to play the guitar and sing and then turn around and recite scripture from the Bible. He lived to create things by hand in his workshop and could tool crafts from "nothing" that turned out to be works of art. He was truly a phenomenal man who will be missed by many. Dr. Cornish is survived by his wife, Grace Pollard Cornish, his three children, Joseph Jenkins Cornish IV and wife Diann, Catherine Cornish Colton, and Charlotte Cornish Simmons, his younger brother, John Hereford Cornish of Arlington, Virginia, eleven grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren. Private family committal services were held. For those who wish to remember Dr. Cornish, the family has requested that a donation be made to the Wounded Warrior Project (PO Box 758516, Topeka, Kansas, 6675) or WellStar Community Hospice (4040 Hospital



My patriot ancestor

by
Terry
Gibbs

The Reverend Henry Wood, Sr. was born in Butte County (now Warren County), North Carolina, near the border of Virginia and North Carolina, 12 December 1756. He was the second of four sons of Penuel (Pennewell) and Connie Wood. Henry was a farmer and family records state “He traveled the trails to Charleston, South Carolina once a year carrying a hoghead of products from his farm to the British ships to swap for flannel, alpaca, buttons and perhaps other products”.

He left North Carolina in 1786 after the birth of his son Henry, Jr. and moved to Franklin County, Georgia. In 1787 he moved to the Ninety-Six District of South Carolina. He moved to Elbert County, Georgia, sometime after the death of his 1st wife, Susan Mayfield, in 1800. He purchased land in Elbert County, Georgia on 19 Feb 1806. He returned to Spartanburg County, South Carolina in 1811 where he remained until his death. Reverend Wood started a Methodist meeting house in Greer, Spartanburg County, South Carolina. Henry’s son, Isham, donated the land in 1860 where the present day Wood’s Chapel Methodist Church stands. The original log meeting house was replaced in 1900 and still stands today. The church is known today as Wood’s Chapel United Methodist Church. Henry Wood married Nancy Ford Burns in 1818. He died on 12 June 1843 in Spartanburg, South Carolina. His obituary appeared in the *Greenville Mountaineer* newspaper 30 June 1843.

“Died at his residence in Spartanburg District, on the 12th instant. Reverend Henry Wood, age 87 years. The deceased was a native of Warren County, North Carolina from whence he emigrated and settled in Elbert County, Ga. He removed to Spartanburg. In 1810 returned to Franklin County, Ga, and returning to Spartanburg in 1811 he settled on the place where he died. During the Revolutionary struggle he espoused the cause of liberty. He had for the last 50 or 60 years been an orderly member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and a local Preacher of that order for 40 or 50 years. He has left a large circle of relatives and friends to mourn their lost.”

According to his Revolutionary War Pension application, Henry was drafted as a Private to serve three months in the Third Division of the North Carolina Militia in May of 1780 in Butte County, North Carolina under the command of Major Griffin Nichols and Captain John White. During this tour the Third Division was not stationary but marched from Butte County into Wake County. Henry re-joined the Third Division of the North Carolina Militia as a Private on 1 March 1781 in Harrisburg, North Carolina under the command of General Thomas Eaton and Colonel Herbert Haynes.

On 19 March 1833, at age 76, Henry Wood recalled his second tour of duty in his pension application:

“...was placed under the Command of General Thomas Eaton, Colonel. Herbert Haynes; ... was first under Capt. Henry Sullivan (who left us) was then put under Lieutenant Henry Shurrin until we marched to Head Quarters at High Rock Ford on Haw River. Here Captain John White (the same man under whom he served his first 3 months tour) was commanding the Light Infantry and Pick Eaton (Pinketham Eaton) was Major of the Light Infantry at this time & place. ... was permitted to join the Light Infantry under these officers ... and remained in service under them until we were marched to Guilford Court House; here was in the Battle during the Engagement at that place.

Henry served under Captain White in General Nathaniel Greene’s command at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse and received a leg injury there. It is not documented what the nature of the injury he received there. It is unknown whether it was a bullet wound or whether it was battle related or not. According to family accounts, he was wounded in the leg at Guilford Court

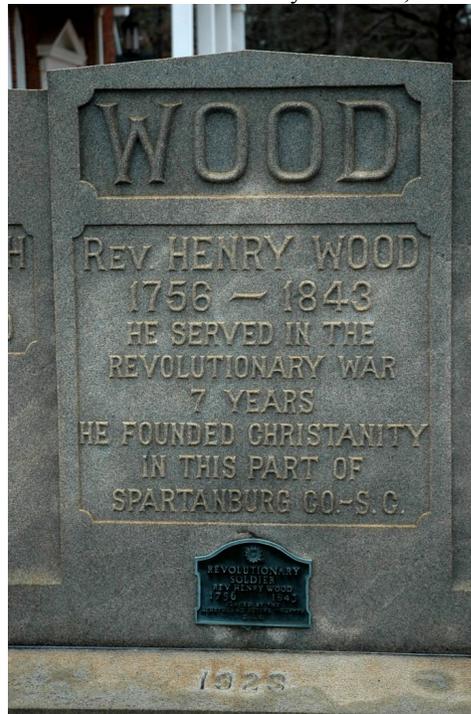
House during the battle. The leg wound received at Guilford Courthouse caused Reverend Wood to walk with a limp the remainder of his life.

On 19 November 1855 Henry Wood’s widow, Nancy Wood, applied for bounty land stating that as Nancy Burns she married Henry Wood in Spartanburg District in 1818, and he died 12 June 1843. She was issued a land bounty warrant of 160 acres under the Bounty Land Act of 1855¹.

In 1923 funds were raised to relocate the remains of Reverend Wood and his wives from a family cemetery to the Wood’s Chapel Methodist Church. A marker was placed in his honor at the church in 1924. On 6 May 2007, the Mecklenburg Chapter, North Carolina Society, Sons of the American Revolution, honored Reverend Wood with a marker at his grave site at Wood’s Chapel. Color

Guards from the North Carolina Society and the South Carolina Society of the Sons of the American Revolution participated in the patriot grave marking ceremony.

¹ Congress authorized bounty-land warrants for military service in the Revolutionary War under acts of 1788, 1803, and 1806. Surviving Revolutionary War veterans also qualified under the final bounty-land act of 1855.



REVOLUTIONARY DAYS

CELEBRATING THE 233RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF KETTLE CREEK

Just 70 miles from Marietta, the city of Washington, Georgia remembers the Battle of Kettle Creek each year with three days of special events.

This year, events begin with a presentation at the Mary Willis Library, at 3 p.m. Friday, February 10th, presented by Dr. Christine Swager.

Saturday morning begins with an 8:30 a.m. video and discussion about the Battle, also presented at the downtown library. From 9a to 12N, historic figures will be portrayed by 30 volunteers arrayed throughout the town square, and in the

Robert Toombs house and Washington Historic Museum. Larry Guzy will portray Thomas Jefferson, as he has done in the past. An 11 a.m. parade is planned. At 11:30 a.m. reenactors will portray the battle in Fort Washington Park.

Battleground walking tours will be led by an Army Historian between 10:30 am and 12:30 pm. Meet at GPS coordinates N33.691 W82.886.

On Saturday, a BBQ lunch will be available, sold by the local Washington-Wilkes High School Key Club.

At 3 p.m., a Memorial Service will take place on War Hill, site of the Battle Memorial, including wreath presentations and musket salutes.

Sunday morning a Colonial worship service will be held at the Phillips Mill Baptist Church, followed by a Heroes of the Hornet's Nest ceremony at the Elijah Clark State Park.

Maps and additional information will be available on site.

George Washington Canup, 93, of Marietta passed away December 19, 2011. "Daddy George" was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. George is survived by the love of his life, Evelyne Anderson Canup, his wife of 67 years; son and daughter-in-law Howard and Sandy Canup of Marietta; daughter and son-in-law, Ellen and Ed Hale of Marietta; sister Jennie Mae Cantrell of Acworth; brother, Crafton Canup of Kennesaw; five grandchildren, Matthew and Heather Hale of Dallas, GA, Scott and Chanda Canup of Anderson, SC, Todd and Melissa Canup of St. Clair Shores, MI, Sarah and Graham Wells of Clarkston, GA, and Anna Hale of Marietta, GA; six great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Ollie and Lizzie (Newberry) Canup of Bartow County and his brother J.C. (Jake) Canup of Marietta. George proudly served our country during World War II with Battery D, 101 AAA Automatic Weapons Battalion of the Georgia National Guard in New Guinea and the Philippines. His unit was one of the very first to leave the United States in February 1942 on the converted troopship Queen Mary for action in the Pacific theater. George served with honor and distinction for 42 months overseas and received the Asiatic Theater Ribbon with four Bronze Stars, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one Bronze Star and the Distinguished Unit Badge. After returning from World War II, he worked for many years with his father-in-law, Truman Anderson, at Anderson Cabinet Shop in Marietta. George was a master craftsman of fine furniture. Many homes in Marietta and throughout Georgia including the Governor's mansion have been graced with the beauty of the furniture George and his father-in-law created. Later in life George also worked as an electronic technician. George was a member of Marietta First United Methodist Church. He was a charter and founding member of the John Collins Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. George was a Licensed Amateur Radio Operator (HAM), W4FTB, and a member of the American Radio Relay League and the Kennehoochee Amateur Radio Club. George, an avid golfer, played on many regional courses. He was a locally renowned wine maker.



Edward M. Pierog, 77, of West Bend, passed away on Monday, Jan. 23, 2012 at Froedtert Memorial Lutheran Hospital in Wauwatosa while surrounded by his loving family. He was born on Oct. 12, 1934 in Chicago to the late Edward and Marion (nee McDowell) Pierog. As a child, he moved to West Bend with his mother.

Following high school, Ed entered the United States Air Force, serving during the Korean Conflict. Following his discharge, he returned to West Bend where he became employed at the West Bend Company. He later went on to work for the C & NW (Chicago & Northwestern) Railroad. With the railroad, he worked as a mechanic, retiring after 18 years. He then worked with the Washington County Historical Society. He also enjoyed woodworking and doing genealogy research.

On Feb. 14, 1992, he was united in marriage to Arlene M. Fink (nee Schraufnagel) in West Bend.

He was a member of SAR (Sons of the American Revolution) and the American Legion.

Survivors include his wife Arlene; five children from his first marriage with Joanne (Klumb) – Charles (Elizabeth) of West Bend, David of West Bend, Beth (Steven) Bild of Port Orchard, Wash., Debra Tesch of Appleton and Donald of Lochbuie, Colo.; three step-children Angie (Bob) Litterick of Horicon, Marcus Fink of Mayville and Kelly Fink of Zebulon, N.C.; seven grandchildren, eight step-grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and six brothers and sisters Corinne (Robert Krawczyk) Pierog of St. Charles, Ill., Michael Flasch of Milwaukee, Patricia (Donald) Phillipi of West Bend, Rolanda (Charles) Lehn of West Bend, Mark Flasch (Donna) of Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada and Michelle (Carl) Melchoirs of Lake Havasu City, Ariz.; other relatives and friends.

In addition to his parents, Edward and Marion, he was preceded in death by his step-father Roland C. Flasch and a brother Roland, Jr. "Butch."

Ed had recently transferred from Collins to a chapter in Wisconsin.



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

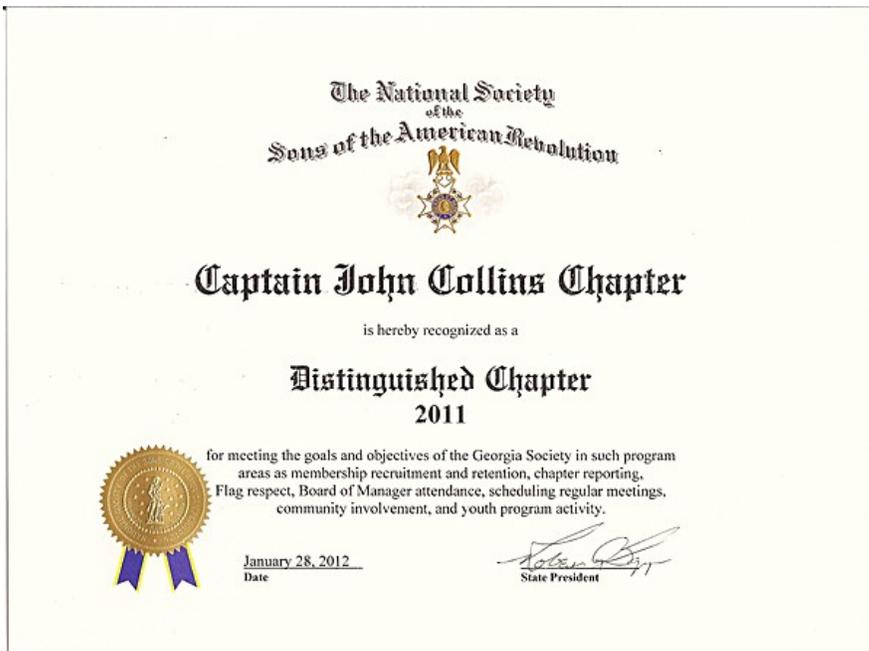
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4531 Paper Mill Rd.
Marietta, GA 30067-4025

Phone: 678-860-4477
Fax: 1-866-860-4403
E-mail: larry@adjustmentservices.com



The Chapter's namesake, Captain John Collins' headstone is at the Mars Hill cemetery in Acworth.



Chapter Website <http://www.captainjohncollins.org>

Toiletries (but not small bar soap), magazines, blankets and books are needed at Veteran care facilities. Bring items to be donated to the chapter meetings and report your visits to Vets and other activities.

Veteran & Americanism points can add up fast!

Feb 6, 1778: Franco-American alliances signed

During the American War for Independence, representatives from the United States and France sign the Treaty of Amity and Commerce and the Treaty of Alliance in Paris.

The Treaty of Amity and Commerce recognized the United States as an independent nation and encouraged trade between France and the America, while the Treaty of Alliance provided for a military alliance against Great Britain, stipulating that the absolute independence of the United States be recognized as a condition for peace and that France would be permitted to conquer the British West Indies.

With the treaties, the first entered into by the U.S. government, the Bourbon monarchy of France formalized its commitment to assist the American colonies in their struggle against France's old rival, Great Britain. The eagerness of the French to help the United States was motivated both by an appreciation of the American revolutionaries' democratic ideals and by bitterness at having lost most of their American empire to the British at the conclusion of the French and Indian Wars in 1763.

In 1776, the Continental Congress appointed Benjamin Franklin, Silas Deane, and Arthur Lee to a diplomatic commission to secure a formal alliance with France. Covert French aid began filtering into the colonies soon after the outbreak of hostilities in 1775, but it was not until the American victory at the Battle of Saratoga in October 1777 that the French became convinced that the Americans were worth backing in a formal treaty.

On February 6, 1778, the treaties of Amity and Commerce and Alliance were signed, and in May 1778 the Continental Congress ratified them. One month later, war between Britain and France formally began when a British squadron

fired on two French ships. During the American Revolution, French naval fleets proved critical in the defeat of the British, which culminated in the Battle of Yorktown in October 1781.

www.history.net
Jack Manning
National Trustee/Secretary
New Hampshire Society

(Continued from page 1) New GASSAR Officers

NW Region VP	Curtis McWater
Metro Region VP	Walker Chewning
SE Region VP	James Boatwright, Jr.
Natl. Trustee	Robert Sapp
Alternate Natl. Trustee	Michael Tomme, Sr.
Secretary	George Wheelless, II
Treasurer	Terry Manning
Editor	Allen Greenly
Recording Secretary	Virgil Palmer
Registrar	Robert Sapp
Chaplain	Roger Lamb
Genealogist	Tom Owens
Chancellor	Chris Chapman
Sergeant-at-arms	Jay Guest
Historian	Jim Lynch
Member-at-large	Fred Womack
Member-at-large	Robert Evans