



**Captain John Collins Chapter**  
**Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution**

# The Collins Dispatch

*Winner of the Carl F. Bessett Newsletter Award 2011*

June 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.

**June 19 Chapter meeting**  
 Major J. Robert Light, Chief Pilot and Asst. Director of Operations, 700th Airlift Squadron, "Citizen Soldiers of the 94th Air Wing at Dobbins AFB"

**July 4** Parade in Marietta with the Sons of Liberty Chapter

**July 17 Chapter Meeting** Terry Barton, co-founder and president, World-Families.net, "Using DNA to Research Your Genealogy"

**July 28** State BOM

**August 9** Chapter BOM

**August 21 Chapter Meeting** Earl Cagle, "The Battle of Eutaw Springs"

**September 16 Constitution Day Festival at Glover Park, Marietta Square** 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Constitution with educational programs for children and adults as well as entertainment.

**September 18 Chapter Meeting** George Nelson "Patriotic Women of the American Revolution."

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## PROMOTING PATRIOTISM

The Collins Chapter has had a couple of months of incredible involvement with several of our missions:

- honoring those who support patriotic activities,
- honoring those who serve us in their jobs, fellowship and expansion,
- education about our ancestors and honoring them as well,
- recognition of the formation of our country, and
- education programs in schools.

Those who have participated can say they feel a sense of pride in having been there. Those who have missed these opportunities should know that there are more to come, when they too can participate, since the Chapter has just begun a very active year. Come join us in seeing why we are so excited about our recent activity and what is in store for the near future, including cemetery clean up both locally as well as in preparation to mark a Patriot Grave.

Patriot's Day was of course April 19<sup>th</sup>. The Chapter arranged for Proclamations to Cities of Marietta, Acworth, Kennesaw, Powder Springs, Smyrna, and the Cobb Commission. Earl Cagle's extraordinary framing ability resulted in certificates ready for wall display.

Flag Recognition is a major focus of our President this year. A challenge is out there



*Terry Gibbs, Jim Castle, Wayne Brown, and Larry Guzy were in attendance at the Memorial Day ceremonies at Marietta National Cemetery.*

for every Board member to present at least one certificate, and every member to let the Board know where there is a deserving one if they personally cannot present a certificate. The photos in following pages detail some of the certificates presented.

JROTC Recognition is our annual spring rite. Curtis McWaters has done a fantastic job once again in coordinating the Chapter members' presentation to ten high school JROTC programs. Collins does not just send a certificate. We attend in person to honor the young JROTC candidates. Photos also detail this activity.

Our Law, Fire and EMS professionals of-

*(Continued on page 3)*

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

## President's Message

As temperatures climb and summer is almost here, some organizations are beginning to slow down for summer vacation. Yet, the Captain John Collins SAR Chapter remains committed to its mission and is expanding its activities.

As I reflect on the activities of the past six months, an excitement appears to be stirring. This is revealed through the calendar of events which have been sponsored by our chapter since January.

Our JROTC Recognition Program is increasing and our Flag Recognition Program has presented a dozen flag certificates. In addition, we've recognized a Marietta Policeman and Firefighter at our chapter meeting in May and a Cobb County Policemen at Precinct 5 on May 21<sup>st</sup> and another Cobb County Policeman at Precinct 2 on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. An EMT is scheduled to be recognized at our June chapter meeting.

As one can see, the chairman of



Wayne Brown

these programs, Compatriot Curtis McWaters, has been as busy as a beaver. Another of our committee chairs has also been very busy.

Earl Cagle, chairman of our Eagle Scout Program, has presented ten Eagle Scout Certificates and volunteered as photographer for many of our JROTC presentations. Meanwhile in the registrar's corner, our registrar and assistant registrar, Allen Henson and Larry Guzy, are working with a dozen potential members and since new members are our future, the work of Compatriots Henson and Guzy is vital to this chapter.

I am so very proud of all our members and specifically those who have stepped forward and taken on additional responsibility. I am also blessed to be surrounded by such a talented and supportive group of compatriots.

Wayne Brown, President

## Officers and Committees

President	Wayne Brown
Vice President	Terry Gibbs
Secretary	Bert Christy
Treasurer	James Castle
Registrar	Allen Henson
Asst Registrar	Larry Guzy
Chancellor	Larry Lines
Chaplain	John Jones
Sergeant-at-Arms	Rodney Pritchett
Historian	David Ludley
Editor	Larry Guzy
Americanism	Wayne Brown
Cemetery	Leland Lee Hulsey
Law/Fire/JROTC	Curtis McWaters
Eagle Scouts	Earl Cagle
Veterans/Flags	Lamon Smith
Membership	Bill Coffeen
Patriot Grave	Leland Lee Hulsey
DAR Liaison	Bert Christy
Welcome/Education	John Mattingly
Public Relations	Lamar Cheatham & Rich Morrison
Schools	David Martin

The Collins Dispatch is published every other month. August 4<sup>th</sup> will be the next deadline for articles. Send articles, photos, or your bio to Larry Guzy at [larry@adjustmentservices.com](mailto:larry@adjustmentservices.com) or regular mail at 4531 Paper Mill Rd SE, Marietta, GA 30067-4025.

*If you have new member leads, contact Registrar Allen Henson or Asst Registrar Larry Guzy*

## Collins Member News & Happenings

Harry Vaughan and his son Rickford have submitted their applications as have Andrew Seger, Lamar Cheatham, Lee Hulsey and Al and Adam Handlan. Van Blackwell has submitted a supplement. Richard Canfield has been approved and his certificate is awaiting presentation.

The following are actively working on preparation of their applications:

Steven Cross, Jerry Anderson, Dick Roberts, Terry Kingrey, Doug Talley, Jon Holland, Justin Ove, Richard Hoyt and his grandson Jonathan Snyder, Paul Bennecke, William Reese and his son (William is the uncle of 4 prior active members, the Gunnings.) Also Bob Daniel, Devon Seabaugh, Jim Smith, Chandler Vreeland, and Jason Shepherd.

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

Bert Christy 770-640-7617

[christyb@bellsouth.net](mailto:christyb@bellsouth.net)

# JROTC Awards Presented

Compatriot Curtis McWaters did another outstanding job in organizing JROTC presentations to cadets at ten area high schools.

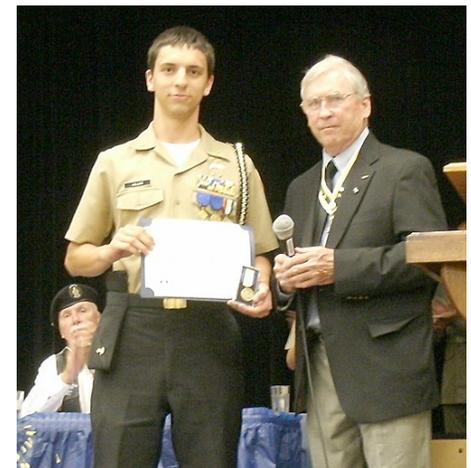
Medals and certificates were awarded in April and May.

Six compatriots, including Curtis, President Wayne Brown, Jim Castle, Bill Coffeen, J. Allen Henson, and David Martin served as presenters with the support of other members who attended and took photos of the ceremonies.

Cadets are recommended by their commanding officers at each of the high schools.



*Jim Castle presents to Jacob Maselka of Allatoona HS*



*Ryan Hillier of Harrison High School received his certificate from David Martin*



*Julio Pandesa received his certificate and medal from JROTC Chairman Curtis McWaters at Sprayberry High School.*



*Patriot's Day observance at the grave site of Captain John Collins. Compatriots Earl Cagle, Sr., Terry Gibbs, President Wayne Brown and applicant Guy Wells.*

*(Patriotism Continued from page 1)*

ten go above and beyond the call of duty. We have honored each group in one year for the first time. Their stories were related in the certificates. It is the least we can do to say thank you.

Fellowship comes with participation, not only at Chapter meetings, but also at Board of manager meetings, presentation of certificates, clean ups and gatherings. All of these have resulted in getting to know each other better as well as making the chapter more visible

Membership:

New Members are the life blood of every organization. They spread the base of knowledge about the Revolutionary War, learn more about our only shared history, and share their own personal stories with us. We have been fortunate to have had an incredible number of men who recently became interested in discovering more about their ancestor's Revolutionary War Patriotism. Since our first year of Charter membership, we have not had as many seek out their roots as we have had so far this year. Those who would like to assist these newly interested fellows should jump in now to discover real immersion in our history.

## JROTC Medals



*Continued on page 7*

# Lookout Mountain's Ghost Town

By David O. Thompson



Working as a forester has allowed me to visit many unusual places that most people do not know about.

Such was the case earlier this year when I had to appraise the timber value on 1200 acres in DeKalb County, Alabama.

Five miles north of Valley Head, Alabama and about a 30 minute drive because of the rough road lays the abandoned town of Battelle. Battelle is located on a rail line that runs along the base of Lookout Mountain and



was a mining boom town in the late 1800s. It was named after the principal investor in the Lookout Mountain Iron Company, Colonel John Gordon Battelle of Ohio. There are no buildings standing today in Battelle, but there are the remnants of the coke ovens and furnace foundation there where pig iron was made. In its heyday, Battelle had a few hundred residents, a post office, hotel, and commissary.

By the early 1900s the mining resources were depleted and in 1905 the furnace was put on standby status. During World



War I, the British government purchased the furnace and moved it to Calcutta, India.



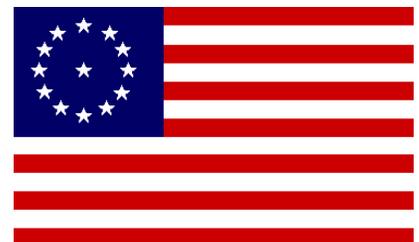
*Remains of the Lookout Mountain Iron Company. Take a better look at David's photos, and see additional pictures, on the Collins website.*



*Compatriot Fred Buford received the War Service Medal and Certificate from Bill Coffeen at the February chapter meeting. Fred is holding his World War II Navy uniform, with a 24-25" waistline.*



*Steve Davis, Manager of the Marietta Hilton Conference Center, received the Flag Recognition Certificate from Curtis McWaters and President Wayne Brown.*



# Flag Certificates

The presses have been hot printing flag certificates recently.

Compatriot Curtis McWaters joined Wayne Brown to present a certificate to Manager Steve Davis at the Marietta Hilton Conference Center.



*Certificate presented to Lowe's.*



*Chick-Fil-A Dallas Highway store #22*



*Presented to Captain Adcock, Precinct 2 Lamar Cheatham, Deputy Chief Storey and Chief Houser, of the Cobb County Police Department, Wayne Brown, Bert Christy*



*Wayne Brown, Bert Christy, Terry Gibbs and Larry Guzy presented at the Marietta Daily Journal to Otis Brumby Jr.*



*A certificate was presented to Precinct 5.*

## Police & Fire Recognition

In recognition of Law Enforcement Month, the Captain John Collins Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) with the cooperation and support of the Cobb County Police Department honored Detective J. W. Freidlander of Precinct 5 which is located at 4640 Dallas Highway. Detective Friedlander was honored with the Law Enforcement Commendation Certificate and Medal for his outstanding performance. Since his assignment to the Criminal Investigations Unit, he has led the unit in case clearance with over 255 cases cleared and \$100,0000 of stolen property recovered. Detective Friedlander is commended for his strong work ethic, endless efforts and commitment to the Cobb County Police Department. Present during the



award presentation and representing the Captain John Collins Chapter were: Curtis McWaters, Law Enforcement Recognition

Chair; Lamar Cheatham, Public Relations Chair; and Wayne Brown, Chapter President.

Officer Michael Shields of the Marietta Police Department, and Firefighter

*(Continued on page 7)*



*Wayne Brown with Detective J.W. Friedlander, Cobb Precinct 5*



*Field Training Officer Phillip M. Cronin was recommended by Deputy Chief Storey of the Cobb County Police Department. Compatriot and Officer, John Mattingly presented the award to Officer Cronin, shown here with County Commission Joanne Birrell, President Wayne Brown, Curtis McWaters and Mattingly.*

*Comp. Mattingly, in uniform, spoke about the Law at the May chapter meeting.*

*(Continued from page 6) Police and Fire Awards*

Jay Lawson, of the Marietta Fire Department, were also recognized. They were recommended by Deputy Chief David Beam. The recipients were escorted by their superior officers, Police Major Hathaway and Major R. H. Williams of the fire department, to the May 15th chapter meeting where certificates were awarded.



*Major Hathaway, Wayne Brown, Field Training Officer Phillip M. Cronin, Officer John Mattingly, Firefighter Jay Lawson, Firefighter B. H. Williams, Curtis McWaters*

## JROTC Awards

*Continued from pg 3*



*Joseph Logan, Hill Grove HS recipient with Wayne Brown.*



*J. Allen Henson placed medal on Cameron C. Reese at Pebblebrook.*



*Jacob Parham, Osborne HS, received his medal from Bill Coffeen.*



*Wayne Brown with Marietta HS recipient Craig Baker*



*Anderson Manoel with Terry Gibbs at Kennesaw High School*



*Robert Wilson of South Cobb with Wayne Brown.*



*North Cobb recipient Jonathan Harmon with David Martin*



*In attendance for the presentation of the Powder Springs Patriot's Day Proclamation were: Compatriots John Mattingly, Curtis McWaters, Larry Lines, President Wayne Brown, Mayor Patricia Vaughn and Compatriot Larry Guzy.*



*Cobb County Commission's Patriot Day Proclamation: Commissioner Helen Gorham; President Wayne Brown; Compatriots Larry Guzy; Jack Ferguson of the Piedmont Chapter; GAS-SAR Registrar Bob Sapp; Paul Prescott, Piedmont Chapter President; and Fielding-Lewis DAR Chapter Regent Elaine Rivers.*

## Proclamations



### PROCLAMATION

PATRIOTS' DAY, April 19, 2012

- WHEREAS:** April 19 marks the date in 1775 when the towns of Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts were marched upon by the British regulars in an effort to confiscate munitions of the local militia; and
- WHEREAS:** The resulting "shot heard 'round the world" and the defeat of the Redcoats are now celebrated as Patriots' Day; and
- WHEREAS:** On April 19, 1778, Colonel Samuel Elbert, commanding three Georgia Navy galleys, Lee, Washington and Bulloch, encountered three British ships in the Frederica River near St. Simons Island; and
- WHEREAS:** After five hours of naval action, the British ships were captured by Colonel Elbert and the Georgia Navy, a victory which boosted the morale of all Georgia patriots and caused the British to delay their invasion of Georgia by more than eight months; and
- WHEREAS:** Patriots' Day serves to remind citizens of our Revolution and the sacrifices endured during the years of struggle for American independence by patriots such as Captain John Collins; and
- WHEREAS:** The descendents of the soldiers who fought in the American Revolution encourage the community to proclaim April 19<sup>th</sup>, of each year, Patriots Day in commemoration of the American Revolution and the struggle for American independence.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** we, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Acworth, Georgia, do hereby proclaim April 19, 2012 as *PATRIOTS' DAY* and urge all residents to become more knowledgeable of the role which the Revolutionary War played in establishing the United States of America.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Acworth, Georgia to be affixed this 19th day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand twelve.



Signed this 19<sup>th</sup> day of April 2012.

*Thomas W. Allegood*  
Thomas W. Allegood, Mayor

Attest:  
*Regina R. Russell*  
Regina R. Russell, City Clerk

# Youth Contest

“The Battle of Guilford Courthouse” was the topic chosen for the 2011-2012 Elementary School Poster Contest. David Martin reports that Chapter-level winners were chosen in the Annual Poster Contest and they included:

At Sope Creek Elementary

Dipen Mehta, a student in Mrs. Cronin’s class, 1st Place; Daniel Smith, a student in Sherona Pfaff’s class, 2nd Place; Chris Hunt, a student in Mrs. Seymour’s class, 3rd Place.

At Kincaid Elementary

Jacob Laske, a student in Mrs. Rausch’s class, 1st Place; Emma Rasmussen, 2nd Place; and Jezreel Robinson, 3rd Place, both students in Mrs. Thompson’s class.

First place winners competed at the state level to move forward. Students can win \$100 for First, \$75 for Second, \$50 for Third, \$30 for Fourth and \$15 for Fifth, in addition to ribbons and certificates. The winning entry was not from among the Collins entries. State winners will be evaluated at the National Congress in Phoenix where the First Place Winner will receive a \$300 Bond.

## May Speaker

Robert Jones entertained the members at the May meeting with information about the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History in Kennesaw. Terry Gibbs presented Jones with a Certificate of Appreciation



Acworth Patriot’s Day presentation. Attending were John Mattingly, Curtis McWaters, Lee Hulsey, Bert Christy, Terry Gibbs and Wayne Brown, with Mayor Tommy Allegood.



Board of Managers earning their pay at May 10 meeting at Charlie Rhyne’s home.



Compatriots Bill Coffeen, Wayne Brown, Mayor Mark Matthews, Compatriots Terry Gibbs and Lee Hulsey after receiving Proclamation for Patriot’s Day.





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

*(continued from above)*

This all changed a few months back when I was browsing Find-A-Grave on the internet. There it was - a picture of the grave of Willis West Sr., my 3G Grandfather. Wasting no time, I contacted the person who submitted the picture and information on Willis to Find-A-Grave. It turns out that the submitter is a distant cousin similarly related to Willis, who visited the grave several years ago. She is also a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and has documented Willis's service in the Revolutionary War.

Fayette County has changed rapidly over the past few years. The location of the cemetery was not straight forward. Piecing together my new cousin's description of the cemetery in a cow pasture, a rough legal description of the cemetery, and an aerial photo from the county tax assessor, I was able to locate the cemetery which is now in an undeveloped subdivision. A visit was made to the cemetery and several photos were taken. From these photos, we were able

## *Hiding in Plain Sight*

*by David O. Thompson*

A Revolutionary War Patriot ancestor's grave will be honored thanks to today's wealth of knowledge available from various sources, some collaboration between distant cousins who have never met face to face, and a little perseverance. The really interesting thing is that the cemetery where the unmarked grave is located was unknown to the current generation of my branch of the family. Over the years, I am certain that I have passed by the cemetery at least a thousand times without knowing it was there or that my 3G Grandfather was buried there.

While growing up in the Fayette county area, we knew (like numerous other families in the region) that we were related to the West family. However, with no marked graves of any of my direct West ancestors, I never dug very deep into my West family genealogy. *(continued below)*

**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!**

## *My patriot ancestor*

to confirm Willis West Sr.'s grave from a unique fieldstone marker.

The Veteran's Administration will supply a grave marker for a veteran of the Revolutionary War if the veteran's grave has no inscription. Willis' grave has a unique fieldstone marker, but no inscription, so I began the task of documenting his service to the VA. On the third submission of original documentation from the Revolutionary War period, the VA finally approved and Willis' new grave marker should arrive around the Fourth of July.



*"A visit was made to the cemetery and several photos were taken. From these photos, we were able to confirm Willis West Sr.'s grave from a unique fieldstone marker."*

Willis West Sr. was born in North Carolina in 1755, and served as a private in the North Carolina Continental Line during the American Revolution. Willis had 10 children by his first wife and 10 children by his second wife. Around age 70, Willis and wife Silvey moved from Sampson County, North Carolina, with several of their children and their children's families to Fayette County, Georgia. Willis West Sr. died on November 23, 1837.