



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

# The Collins Dispatch

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

February 2014

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

Feb 7-8 Kettle Creek, Washington, GA

Feb 18—Chapter Meeting Bruce Maney, President of the Button Gwinnett Chapter SAR and State Genealogist, will speak on “The Lost Fort McClusky”

Feb 28-Mar 1 Leadership Meeting at National in Louisville, KY

March 4 will be our first BOM at Charlie Rhyne’s home

Mar 15 Guilford Courthouse Battle Anniversary

Mar 18 Chapter meeting with George Hatfield as speaker

Apr 15 Chapter meeting with MDJ Editorial Mgr Joe Kirby as speaker

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## Annual Banquet Celebrated 2013

Our chapter continues to thrive. On January 21st, the chapter held its 13th annual meeting with awards for jobs well done, an informative speaker, and officer installation by past State President and current GASSAR Color Guard Commander Dr. Ed Rigel, Sr. With over 50 in attendance, good fellowship and celebrations of a good year completed were well appreciated.

Our speaker was Dr. Joseph Kitchens of Reinhart College who spoke on Native Americans during Colonial and Revolutionary times. Ray Ruggles chimed in with several apropos questions. It was a very informative talk indeed.

Our award recipients follow:

### CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

as chapter officers serving the President--8--

- David Ludley
- Bert Christy
- James Castle
- Robert Van Blackwell
- Larry Lines
- Rodney Pritchett
- Vann Beasley
- Larry Guzy

as committee chairs--7--

- Wayne Brown
- Leland Hulsey
- Curtis McWaters
- Earl Cagle
- Bill Coffeen
- John Mattingly
- David Martin



*Newly installed President David Ludley accepted his gavel from GASSAR Past President Ed Rigel, Sr.*

as BOM Hosts--2--

- Charlie Rhyne
- Linda Rhyne

### Bronze Good Citizenship

- Robert Van Blackwell
- Larry Lines
- Rodney Pritchett--Oak Leaf Cluster--1st given in 2005

### Meritorious Service Medal

- Bill Coffeen
- Earl Cagle, Sr.
- James Castle--Oak Leaf Cluster--1st given in 2005

### Past President's Pin, Neck Ribbon & Medal

- Terry Gibbs

### Chapter Distinguished Service Medal

- Presented at discretion of Chapter President*
- Wayne Brown

Members are encouraged to submit articles and photos to Larry Guzy for inclusion in the next edition of the Collins Dispatch. Deadline April 1st.

## President's Message

I am honored and humbled that you have selected me to be your next Chapter President. I do thank you for the confidence you have shown in me by allowing me this honor and I will do my best to live up to that trust, which I do not take lightly. Despite Georgia's recent freeze-up in Wonderland, I look forward to the coming year with great optimism and excitement. I am inspired as well by a recent Facebook post by Compatriot Charlie Rhyne. Despite his lovely wife being separated from home by the freeze-up for a long couple of days, Charlie nonetheless refused to be laid low. He articulately and effectively expressed an optimistic view of the whole snow mess, putting it all in perspective for me. Attitude makes all the difference. As I expressed at our Annual Banquet, that refusal to be kept down or to be laid low is a spirit, I hope with the help of God, we can inspire in each other throughout our lives and friendships. Especially our friendships within the Sons of the American Revolution.

Our January Annual Banquet was outstanding. Held once again at the Hilton Marietta Conference Center, it was well attended. A real highlight of the evening was the intriguing presentation by Dr. Joseph H. Kitchens on "Creek Indians Between Two Worlds" leading up to the American Revolution. Dr. Kitchens is the Executive Director of the Funk Heritage Center at Reinhardt College.

Later that week I, along with several of my John Collins Compatriots, attended the annual conference of the Georgia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (GASSAR), held in Duluth. That too was most rewarding. The address by the

NSSAR President General Joseph Doolley was both inspiring and instructive—explaining, as he did how General George Washington was a conservative revolutionary in the best sense of the word. He spoke of how that led to our American Revolution being far different from other European revolutions, most of which ended up with dictatorships.

At the GASSAR conference our own John Collins Chapter received several notable awards including "Distinguished 2013 Chapter" and "Chapter Flag Recognition Certificate". Bill Coffeen was awarded the State Roger Sherman Medal for his dedication to the Eagle Scout Program. Larry Guzy was endorsed by the GASSAR for the position of Registrar General.

I arranged for Bruce Maney to be our February Speaker. He is the President of the Button Gwinnett Chapter and a Patriot Medal recipient. He will speak on "The Lost Fort McClusky".

I promise to do my best to serve you well in the coming year with the help of the outstanding team of officers and committee men from the Chapter. We do have a few committees for which we are in need of volunteers. Bill Coffeen needs help with the Eagle Scouts, and we need a compatriot or two to take over Flags/Law/ Fire and Veterans. Let me know if you are willing to help. I again thank you for your trust in me as your President, and look forward to 2014 with great optimism for our Chapter.

- David Ludley

## Officers and Committees

President	David Ludley
Vice President	Harry Hagan
Secretary	Bert Christy
Treasurer	James Castle
Registrar	Robt Van Blackwell
Asst Registrar	Earl Cagle
Chancellor	Larry Lines
Chaplain	Larry Lines
Sergeant-at-Arms	Rodney Pritchett
Historian	Vann Beasley
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. **April 1st** will be the next deadline for articles. Send articles, photos, or your bio to Larry Guzy at [larryguzy47@gmail.com](mailto:larryguzy47@gmail.com) or regular mail at 4531 Paper Mill Rd SE, Marietta, GA 30067-4025.

*If you have new member leads, contact Registrar Van Blackwell—[rblackwell1001@comcast.net](mailto:rblackwell1001@comcast.net)*



## Collins Member News & Happenings

**The chapter ended the year 2013 with a record number of members, 98. After non renewals, passings and a transfer, we started the 2014 year with 87, a record start!**

**Lee Hulsey** was approved and registered on 12.26.13 National number 189479 for Ancestor Jonathan Tip-ton, a founder of the State of Franklin.

**Eugene (Gene) Irvine** was approved 1.15.14 National number 189749 for Ancestor Abner Hammond

**Frank Riley** has his application at National since 1.9.2014 and news should be available soon on his status. He lives in Cartersville.

**Matthew Martin** has submitted his application, but it is not yet at National. Perhaps you were able to meet he and his wife, Rita, at the Annual Meeting. They are native to Smyrna.

**Bryan Black** has submitted a supplement on his ancestor Moses Payne, arriving at National on 1.15.14.

## 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)

# Christmas for Collins



**Veterans** 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.

The Collins Chapter was fortunate to have their traditional musical program for the December meeting, presented by Harry Hagan , Rodney and Nancy Pritchett. Staff at the Golden Corral sidled over to open the meeting room door so that other patrons could enjoy the music, several of whom came and stood outside the door with their children.

## Women Veterans

In a discussion with the VP from the Piedmont Chapter, Bill Kabel, who retired a from the VA service, here are some of his conclusions: Assuming that living female veterans require the same proportion of medical services as do males, one might surmise that approximately 10% of VAMC services, and patients, are females. However, that isn't true. Since a greater portion of female veterans served during the

Gulf War Era, it's likely the number of female veterans using VA medical services is lower than their older male counterparts who served in previous eras. As veterans from WWII, Korea, and Vietnam die, and their numbers become a lesser portion of the whole, the % of Females to the Total will become greater, and therefore it's reasonable to conclude the % of females using VAMC service will show a steady increase, in reflection of the significant increase the numbers of females who entered military service beginning with the Gulf War Era.

In our support of veterans, we need to consider the women veterans as well as the men. The VA distributes socks to all veterans and goes through an enormous number. Consider all our veterans this year in your donations.

### Kettle Creek Commemoration

Kettle Creek, Feb 7 & 8, is remembered in Washington, GA, a short drive from the metro area.

- ◆ The Washington library is the site of a film viewing that details the battle.
- ◆ Members gather the evening before for a meal with old and new friends.
- ◆ On Saturday a short parade featuring the award-winning Georgia Color Guard takes everyone from the library to the town square.
- ◆ On the historic square, members portray Revolutionary War characters.
- ◆ A battle re-enactment takes place behind the square.
- ◆ Wreath laying ceremonies are held on the hill that was at the center of the Kettle Creek battle, where some participants names are engraved on a large memorial.

### Women as Veterans

The Veterans' Administration website showed the following as of **9/30/2010**:

Total living veterans:

23, 031,982 with **9.6% as women** or 2,204,790.

In Georgia the numbers were 778,282 total with 13.1% as women or 101,580.

Surprisingly, female vets are not just from recent actions. These were the numbers for the wars involved:

WWII: 104,363//2,035 GA;

Korea: 66,521//2,296 GA;

Vietnam Era: 287,834/9,463 GA;

Gulf War Era: 1,156,644/63,090 GA or 25.9% female from GA!!

## GEORGIA SOCIETY

### SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



The Georgia State SAR held its Awards Banquet and Annual Meeting on Friday 24 January and Saturday 25 January. Collins members attending included member Lee Hulsey, President David Ludley, Past Presidents: Terry Gibbs, Wayne Brown (also serving as State Treasurer), Curtis McWaters, Bill Coffeen, and

Larry Guzy. The Chapter received recognition for Flag Respect Recognition and Outstanding Chapter Status.

President General Joseph Dooley was present to give a keynote speech on Friday evening on The American Revolution: A Conservative or Radical Revolution. He also was present on Saturday to install the 2014 State officers who are:

President: Capt. Roger Coursey, Coast Guard Retired, from Savannah

Sr. VP: William Hay from Columbus

Secretary: George Wheelless from Carrollton

Recording Secretary: Edward P. Rigel, Sr from Gainesville

Treasurer: Wayne Brown from Cobb County

Registrar: Robert Sapp from Marietta

Genealogist: M. Bruce Maney from Gwinnett County

Sergeant-at-Arms: Jackson "Jay" Guest from Athens

Historian: N. Walker Chewing from Gwinnett County

Chancellor: Christopher E. Chapman from Atlanta

Chaplain: Emory D. Fennell

Editor: Allen Greenley from Cumming

Member at Large: Terry Gibbs from Cobb County

Our NW Region VP: Curtis McWaters from Kennesaw



*Immediate Past President GASSAR James Stallings with NSSAR President General Joseph Dooley.*



*Past President John Collins Chapter Wayne Brown joined the Award-Winning GASSAR Color Guard in presenting the colors.*



*Bill Coffeen presented the Boy Scout Awards at the GASSAR luncheon.*

## Collins Sponsored Winner

A very special Collins sponsored entrant, **Evan Mercer**, placed second in the GASSAR Knight Essay Contest. He was awarded \$400.00 by the Georgia Society. The Medallion, Certificate and check will be presented at the chapter level at our February meeting.

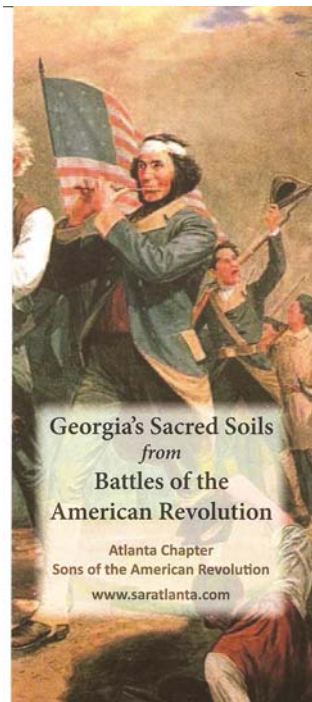
He also was selected as the GASSAR entry to the National Eagle Scout competition. Congratulations to Evan and all who worked to help make these recognitions possible. Our past President Bill Coffeen will introduce him at the next meeting.



## Opportunities to be Involved ... in more than just the Chapter

There are many ways to be involved, and to form friendships throughout the National Society, not just within our Chapter. It is as simple as being interested in something you already like to do. History, Patriotism, Education, Scouting, Reenacting, Genealogy, or any of several dozen other things we like. Sharing your knowledge and interest with others is what happens at National Leadership Meetings twice a year in Louisville, KY.

Two men from the Atlanta Chapter just finished a project they are sharing with the State and National: "Georgia's Sacred Soils from Battles of the American Revolution in Georgia". Their display was debuted at the 2014 GASSAR Annual Meeting. It involved travel throughout Georgia to obtain soils from the 28 identified Battles fought in Georgia. They were able to fulfill a desire to preserve Georgia History and share it with other kindred souls. They hope to have it included in the Center for Advancing America's Heritage in Louisville. Do you have a similar desire to preserve and inform?



Most of the nearly 200 who gather in Louisville do so not just to promote our goals and mission. They do so because someone made them feel welcome and included them in their sphere of interest. They come back because they have made friends with others throughout the US and most return to the same place twice a year to share more of their lives. If you love to meet others interested in the things that interest you, you should consider joining the Georgia contingent of about 18+ who regularly travel to Louisville.

### NOTE: Supplement Costs May Grow

It should be noted that at Congress this coming July, it is expected that a motion will be approved raising the cost of supplements from \$50 to \$80. This rate will be effective as of close of Congress. Therefore, if you have a desire to submit an additional patriot(s) you should consider doing so before the rate increase to save \$30 each. Sorry, there are no "forever" costs in the SAR and this reflects the actual cost of the review and process.

## Regulars

Believe it or not, there were six, that's right 6 of our members who made every chapter meeting in 2013. They are Van Blackwell, Bert Christy, Bill Coffeen, Terry Gibbs, David Ludley, and John Mattingly. Congratulations and encourage others to join you in 2014.

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

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



Dr. Joe Kitchens was the speaker at the Collins Awards Banquet. The professor tied together the Creek Indians and their matriarchal society, the trading community, and how they interacted with the progress of the Revolutionary War.

*Compiled by Larry Guzy from Sources: Rev. Charles A. Goodrich Lives of the Signers to the Declaration of Independence. New York: William Reed & Co., 1856. Pages 410-415; and PFG, EA, John Dandridge Nelson*

## *Signers of the Declaration*

### **Thomas Nelson, Jr. 1738-1789**

Nelson was born into the aristocratic Society of Virginia in Yorktown, VA on 26 December 1738. He was educated in England where he developed views on individual liberty, and after his degree from Cambridge returned to York in 1761. His father, William, had acquired a large fortune as a merchant of highly respectable character. He held several offices of distinction in Virginia and died a few years before the Revolution began.



Nelson joined Washington and Rochambeau to besiege the British in his hometown. As commander of the Virginia militia, Nelson was in charge of one third of the American troops during the battle. A legend of the battle has Nelson offering money to the first American artilleryman to hit his home. He believed British officers would be occupying the house. Evidence of the damage still exists today.

In November 1781, poor health forced Nelson's resignation as governor. The war had ruined his business, and his personal loan of over \$2,000,000 to help finance Virginia's war costs was never repaid by the state. Nelson was left a poor man with a wife and 11 children. Living on the edge of poverty, he died at one of his estates, in Hanover County, in 1789 at the age of 50 in 1789 of asthma eight years after the 1781 siege and was buried in an unmarked grave at Yorktown's Grace Church so that his creditors could not hold his body as collateral.

When asked if he felt embittered about his treatment, Nelson stated "I would do it all over again." A true patriot, willing to sacrifice his home, livelihood, and life. Nelson personified the closing words of the Declaration of Independence, upon which he fixed his signature:

"...and for support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."

Thomas was married in 1762 to a daughter of Philip Grymes, Esq. of Brandon and settled in York. It is uncertain when Nelson started his political career, but he was elected to the House of Burgesses in 1774, and was one of eighty nine who convened at the Raleigh tavern when that house was dissolved by the royal Governor. He was a member of the Virginia provincial convention in 1775, and there he undertook the creation of the Virginia Militia. He then assumed duty as its first Commander and assumed the commission of General of the Militia. At this same convention he was appointed as a delegate to the Continental Congress. Nelson suffered ill health which caused him to resign his duties on several occasions, only to recover and again resume his positions.

On June 12, 1781, Nelson was elected to succeed Thomas Jefferson as governor of Virginia. Nelson was granted almost dictatorial powers due to the British invasion and the resulting military emergency. He used those powers to coordinate Virginia's defense against Cornwallis.