



Captain John Collins Chapter
Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution

The Collins Dispatch

Winner of the Carl F. Bessent Newsletter Award 2011 & 2013

August 2014

The Chapter meeting starts at 7PM the third Tuesday every month. We gather at the Cherokee Cattle Co., 2710 Canton Hwy., about 6 for dinner and fellowship before the meeting. Family and friends are welcome.

Check the GASSAR website for other statewide events
www.georgiasocietysar.org

August 19 Chapter Meeting at new location—Cherokee Cattle Co. Speaker will be Martin O'Toole

Sept. 16 Chapter Meeting Cherokee Cattle Co

September 19 and 20, The Gathering at Sycamore Shoals Elizabethton, TN: see page 4

September 26-28 NSSAR Leadership Meeting Louisville, KY

Inside...

National Congress	1
President's Message	2
Member News	2
Collins Dispatch Award	3
Chapter on the Move	3
C.A.R. Project	4
Sycamore Shoals Info	4
Battle of Briar Creek	5-6
Visitors	6
Speakers	6

John Collins Chapter Well Represented at National Congress

Wow, the Chapter had five, that's right, five members who attended Congress in Greenville! **David Martin** (in Color Guard uniform), **Wayne Brown**, **Lee Hulsey**, **Terry Gibbs**, and **Larry Guzy** all participated in the 124th Congress.



Lee Hulsey, Chris Gibbs, Wayne Brown

The Chapter brought home a \$100 check that accompanied the First Place Award (the Carl F. Bessent) for the Chapter newsletter for the second time.



Larry Guzy and Terry Gibbs

Terry Gibbs became a member of the George Washington Endowment Fund as well as contributing to the Center for

Advancing America's Heritage.

Larry was recognized for recruiting with three oak leaf clusters (10 for each cluster that represented work not previ-



Michael Tomme, Larry Guzy, Ed Rigel, Bobby Towns, Cilla Leed-Tomme, Karin Guzy, Joan Rigel, Robin Towns.

ously recognized.) Larry was also elected to the position of Registrar General for the National Society.

The experiences gained will be shared with the chapter through stories and photos.



David and Hall Martin

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

President's Message

Happy Birthday, Compatriots!

On July 4, our great country turned 238. Many of us actively participated in the two days of celebrations, including several members in uniform. Among others, it was good to see former President Allen Henson again, in his unique uniform.

And, even more impressive, at the National Congress in Greenville, our compatriot Larry Guzy was elected to national office: our new Registrar General! On top of that, our *Dispatch*, for which Larry, as you all know, is the long-time Editor, won first place in the nation, with a \$100 cash prize to the Captain John Collins Chapter! Way to go, Larry!!! There is no telling how high he will eventually fly! It is noteworthy, as well, that we had five



of our chapter's members at Congress.

A new chapter in our history begins on August 19th, when we move to the Cherokee Cattle Company for our next meeting. This is located at 2710 Canton Road, Marietta, Georgia 30066. Several

members of the Board of Managers investigated the location thoroughly and we gave extremely careful thought to this move. We were most impressed by the beautiful remodeling, great service and food, wonderful management, and spacious layout dedicated to our group's meetings.

Please join us on that Tuesday, August 19. We don't believe you'll be disappointed.

- David Ludley

Officers and Committees

President	David Ludley
Vice President	Harry Hagan
Secretary	Bert Christy
Treasurer	James Castle
Registrar	Robert Van Blackwell
Asst Registrar	Earl Cagle
Chancellor	Chandler Vreeland
Chaplain	Larry Lines
Sergeant-at-Arms	Rodney Pritchett
Historian	Vann Beasley
Editor	Larry Guzy
Americanism/Fire/Law	Wayne Brown
Cemetery/Patriot Grave	WC Pickens
JROTC	Curtis McWaters
Eagle Scouts	Earl Cagle
Flags	Terry Gibbs
Membership	Bill Coffeen (acting)
Veterans	Leland Lee Hulsey
DAR Liaison	Bert Christy
Welcome	John Mattingly
Schools	David Martin and John Mattingly

The Collins Dispatch is published every other month. **October 4th** will be the next deadline for articles. Send articles, photos, or your bio to Larry Guzy at 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



Collins Member News & Happenings

AT THE 2014 CONGRESS, THE COST OF SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATIONS WAS RAISED FROM \$40 TO \$60 WITH THE FAMILY PLAN FROM \$20 TO \$30

Applications are in process for William L. Jones, III, James Roy Hollifield, and Matthew A. Martin. Three supplemental Patriots are also being submitted.

There is a need for a Chapter Webmaster as well as an assistant Editor. Both require dedication to obtaining current Chapter information. Contact Larry Guzy for either one.

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

National Congress – Greenville SC

The National Society
of the
Sons of the American Revolution®



Larry T. Guzy, Editor

Collins Dispatch – Captain John Collins Chapter, GASSAR

has been awarded the

Carl F. Bessent Award

to the editor of the most outstanding multiple sheet Chapter newsletter

2013 - 2014

124th Congress
Greenville, South Carolina
July 21, 2014

Date

Joseph Lee Dooley
President General



President General Joe Dooley presenting certificate and check to Larry Guzy.

possible to win first place in alternate years. The *Dispatch* will not be eligible for 2014 competition.

AWARD

The Carl F. Bessent Award is given by a committee of judges who evaluate the multi-page newsletters submitted by chapters throughout the country. This year, the *Dispatch* tied with *The Quill & Bugle* newsletter of the Saramana chapter, Florida. The award is accompanied by a \$100 check to the chapter. It is only possible to win first place in alternate years. The *Dispatch* will not be

New Venue for Chapter Meetings

The Chapter is growing and moving with experience, it is physically moving the meeting location starting this month (August 19th) to the Cherokee Cattle Company. This location is about three miles southeast of the present location at 2710 Canton Hwy, Marietta, GA. If you think it odd that we are moving, consider that the Chapter has met at seventeen, yes, 17 locations since starting 15 years ago.



Our initial organizational meetings in 2000 took place at: the Cobb Library in Kennesaw 3.23.2000, at St. James Church in downtown Marietta, then at the visitors center at Kennesaw Mountain. We chartered and held 3 annual meetings at the Cheatham Hill Community Center in west Cobb (02,05,06). {4 locations}

In 2001 we met at what is now the Switzer Library in Marietta and the Road House Grill near the Big Chicken. In 2002 we met at Life University where we had an in because Dr. Sid Williams became a member. Charles Switzer arranged for our annual meeting

to be at the Old Log Cabin community center south of Smyrna in 02. In 2002-3 we explored The Smyrna Library, Ryan's on the 120 Loop, and held our annual meeting (03 & 04) at the Holiday Inn on Franklin and Delk roads. {7 locations}

In 2004 we moved to Shoney's near the Big Chicken for most of the year, but also met at the Rock Barn in Canton once. In December of 2004 we settled in at Ryan's on the Loop till they closed in June of 2006. The move to the I-Hop at Barrett and US 41 was short lived in 2004 but served in an emergency again in July 2006 and was followed by the Hong Kong Star across from the Civic Center from Oct. 06 through June 07. {4 locations}

The Spaghetti Warehouse served us well from July 07 till they closed in November 2009 when we moved to the Golden Corral in December 2009. The Marietta Conference Center has served us well as our Annual Meeting location for six years from 08-13. {2 locations}

So if you wonder about our move, it is not the first time we have changed, and we are certain it will not be our last!



The State President of The Georgia State Society Children of the American Revolution (GSSCAR) made a presentation to the State Board of Managers (BOM) re-

garding his project for 2014-2015. It is in support of Veterans. Named "Honoring Patriots and Helping Veterans", it utilizes outdoor green space at the Atlanta VA Hospital. It hopefully will provide 50 rocking chairs, planter boxes for evergreen or perennial plants and wheel chair-height boxes for vegetables in the summer. For further info visit: <http://www.gsscar.org>



Sycamore Shoals

The Gathering at Sycamore Shoals is Friday evening September 19 and Saturday morning September 20 (10am to about 12noon)

If you had an ancestor who was at Kings Mountain, this event is a must do for you. It is where the people gathered who went over the mountains to fight in that Battle. Over 1000 people gathered and this event is a celebration of the gathering. The State Historic Park has a new center with a great museum attached along with a reconstructed fort. You will not be disappointed.

Ronnie Lail of the Tennessee Society, email: wataugatnssar@gmail.com, is coordinating. The participants usually gather at the Holiday Inn in Johnson City, TN 37604 phone 423-282-4611. The rate for the hotel is just \$77 plus tax. The Inn is about 290 miles through Greenville then Ashville to Johnson City.

If you are only going to the Fort, it is located at 1651 W. Elk Ave. Elizabethton, TN 37643 and would be about 275 miles from Marietta.

Fourth of July Parade—Marietta



Collins Color Guard members Wayne Brown, Larry Guzy and Jim Castle in uniform for Fourth of July parade in Marietta.

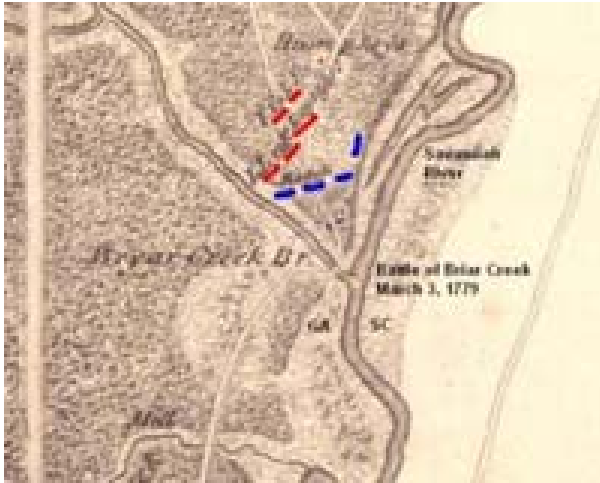


Bert Christy, Larry Lines, Harry Hagan, David Ludley and Allen Henson ready to march in the Marietta parade.

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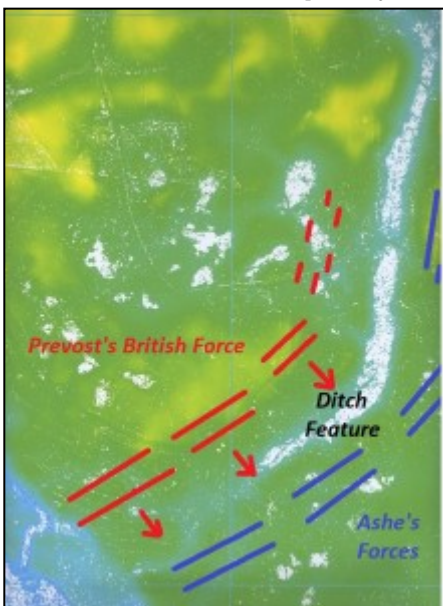
EUREKA! The Battle of Briar Creek

Excellent news. Cypress Consulting's Archaeologist, under the leadership of Dan Battle, have located and identified key locations of Georgia's Battle of Briar Creek. Part of the strategy for defining the location and footprint of the March 3, 1779 Battle of Briar Creek has been successful. These assessments, however, are still in the early stages of development and photographs of the artifacts and maps will be forthcoming.



After carefully examining the excellent maps produced from aerial LiDAR, it was possible to theorize the topographical situation at hand that was laid before the

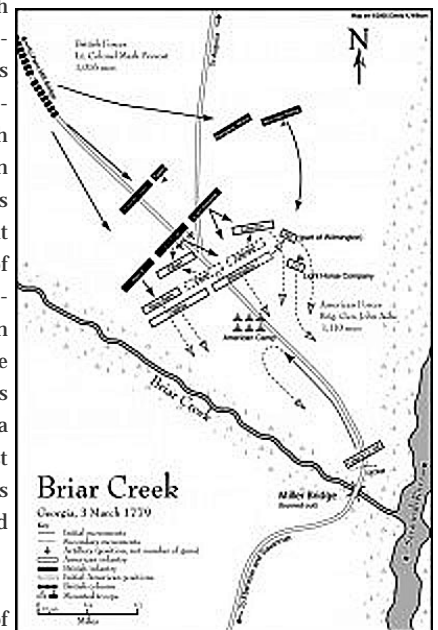
opposing armies facing off during the Battle of Briar Creek Georgia. One natural feature, unseen on the typical USGS maps but prevalent on the LiDAR mapping, was in the form of an elongated swag hundreds of meters in length but only about 30-40 meters in width. This feature suspiciously coincided with the



directional battle formation lines hinted at in the British maps produced by Lt. Col. Archibald Campbell. This natural feature was targeted by the team during the reconnaissance phase of this project. Positive results in the form military artifacts were indeed located along this feature proving that it played a significant role in the battle. On March 3, 1779, a quickly established defense was necessitated by American Gen. John Ashe. At 4:00 pm on the evening of March 3, 1779, the Americans found themselves trapped

in an area that many believed to be a strong defensive position. British Forces were incorrectly perceived to be entirely located south of a narrow but defensible rushing watercourse known as Briar Creek. In a skillfully executed military maneuver, the British Army quickly reversed this situation and put the Americans at a great disadvantage. An inconsequential swag wet spring feature behind the American Army was obviously not the intended defensive position of choice. Out of necessity and being perhaps the only option still left to the Americans, a battle line was hastily formed to contend with the surprising arrival of attacking British Forces in the rear of the American Bivouacs. Evidence now strongly suggeststhat this low feature is what the Americans tried to defend from on March 3, 1779.

During the reconnaissance phase of this battlefield assessment by the study group, only a small portion of the area was required to be sampled in order to positively identify the area of this historic event. Sites were identified by use of metal detection. This had extremely minimal impacts to the located resources. Several additional sites of interest were also located and recorded. All sites were given mapped location points by use of Global Positioning Systems (GPS) equipment. These sites of interest might again be revisited whereas more traditional archaeological methods might be applied to them. Although heavy vegetation proved challenging to our reconnaissance team, the American line of battle is believed to have been identified for the formal upcoming study still several months away. Early assessments indicate that a linear field of strewn battlefield evidence stretches several hundred meters along a naturally low topographical feature. These locations appear to retain excellent information gathering potential. Samples so far collected include several musket and rifled musketball projectiles of various calibers. Most are unfired with the exception of one or two that need closer inspection and analysis. Other artifacts include military gun hardware parts, watch pieces, and various clothing related artifacts. As limited as this reconnaissance was from overgrowth vegetation, its information was highly productive. It is believed, for example, that at least one key aspect of the battlefield was located. This is the location that is believed to be where the Georgia Continentals regulars and militia made a legendary stand against repeated British attacks before being overwhelmed and captured.



The current condition of the site, impacted noticeably by tree farming activities, is of concern and should be addressed to the State Archaeologist Bryan Tucker immediately. This is a neces-

(Continued on page 6)

**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.

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.



VISITORS

Stan and Beth Virden, artisans in wood and fabric, just moved from Louisiana to Acworth to be near grandchildren. They recently visited to see what our meetings are like. Stan was a Chapter President of his chapter in LA. Beth is a quilter. We hope to welcome them again. They can be reached at nedrsvsf@gmail.com

COLLINS DISPATCH

(Continued from page 5)

sity due to the maturity of the pines present at these locations which could be harvested at any time. A management plan should be put in place that will protect this particular site. Any additional heavy damage impacted at this site may greatly diminish our understanding of the events surrounding this battlefield. It is believed that the buried remains of United States soldiers exist at these locations and may be well preserved. Included are also interments of various militia soldiers from several states and the remains of soldiers from the British Army.

Daniel Battle BrierCreek@hotmail.com

Principal Investigator, Cypress Cultural Consultants, Beaufort, SC

Dan Battle and his research team have been working on surveying the site of the Battle of Brier Creek for about a year and have just announced their exciting results. Interestingly, they are using social media, FaceBook, to share some documents and comments on their research. See <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Battle-of-Brier-Creek-Georgia-American-Revolutionary-War/120105654709176>

This project has come a long way since Sylvania, Georgia Mayor Margaret Evans and SCAR hosted a group of Briar Creek scholars at R & D's Restaurant for a discussion and tour in December 2009. SCAR's "hat's off" to Dan Battle's excellent research team and the local Remember Brier Creek Committee, including Jason Beard, Alex Lee, David Buie, Al Freeland, Norm Hill, and Mayor Evans who gave consistent vision and leadership to this project. (In addition to the Briar Creek Remembrance Committee, are David Wilson, Nancy Lindroth, Dan Elliott, Rita Elliott, Charles



Registrar Van Blackwell speaks on his newest supplement awarded at the meeting

Baxley, Steve Rauch, Barbara Abernethy, Robert Scott Davis, and Kim Stacy.)

Now all we have to do is to permanently protect the site from the state, interpret the site, make it accessible, and spread the word of this important piece of our Nation's birth story.

The Brier Creek plaque and picnic area is located on the north side of Brier Creek, 12 miles east of Sylvania, Georgia, on Brannens Bridge Road. It is about one mile upstream of the colonial bridge crossing and the battlefield. The battlefield is in the 15,000 acre Tuckahoe Wildlife Management Area, owned by the State of Georgia and managed for timber and hunting.

Map top is from Lt. Col. Archibald Campbell's report, annotated by Charles B. Baxley. The green map is an artificial LiDAR image of the battlefield area annotated by remote sensing archaeologist Matthew Luke. The map below, by David K. Wilson, is from his excellent book, *The Southern Strategy* (Columbia, SC: USC Press, 2005).

August 5, 2013



The speaker at the July meeting was Ms. Lynn Bracken, past DAR Regent of the chapter in Sandy Springs who spoke on "America's First Prisoners of War--The British Prison Ships of the Revolution". An amazing, seldom-heard account of the terrible conditions in which as many as 11,500 Patriots perished within sight of our shores. If in New York City, visit Green Park, named for Nathaniel Green, where there is a memorial to those who were imprisoned aboard the 16 British prison ships.