



The Collins Dispatch

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

February 2015

Dates to Remember

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.

Friday & Saturday 2.13/2.14
Washington, GA Kettle Creek
Tuesday 2/17/15 Chapter Meeting.
Speaker Roger Hines
Friday-Sunday 3.6-3.8 Louisville,
KY SAR Leadership Meeting
Tuesday March 17 Chapter Meeting,
speaker Martin O'Toole on
Slavery during the Revolution
Friday/Saturday 3.27/28 Cleveland,
TN TN Society and Southern District
Annual Meetings
June 12, 2015 Willis West grave marking

Check the GA SAR website for other statewide events

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New Leadership for Collins Chapter



New President Harry Hagan received his gavel from Georgia State President Roger Coursey at the Collins Annual Awards and Installation Banquet on January 20. Coursey also presented the past president neck ribbon to outgoing **President David Ludley**.

The banquet, which was held at the Marietta Conference Center, featured awards to Collins compatriots who had served the chapter throughout the 2014 activity year.

2015 officers were installed by President Coursey who reminded them of their responsibilities to the chapter and administered their oaths of office.

Members attending were entertained by *Marietta Daily Journal* columnist Dick Yarbrough.



Certificates and Medals Awarded

Chapter Distinguished Service

Bert Christy, Secretary

Outstanding Citizenship Award

Sam Heaton, Cobb Public Safety Director

Certificates of Patriotism

Herman Van Beasley, Jr., Carey Pickens
Chandler Vreeland, & Ray Ruggles

Certificate for Immediate Past President, Past President's Pin, Neck Ribbon, and Member Medal

David A. Ludley

Bronze Roger Sherman Medal

Larry Lines, Leland Lee Hulsey
James Earl Castle, & Harry F. Hagan

Meritorious Service Medal and Certificate

Robert Van Blackwell
Terry Allen Gibbs

Meritorious Service Oak Leaf Cluster

Rodney C. Pritchett

Curtis E. McWaters

William R. Coffeen



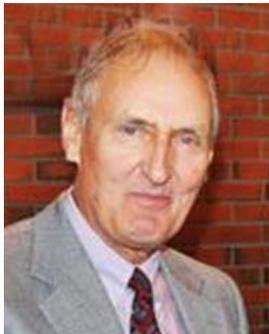
Speaker Dick Yarbrough

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

President's Message

Dear Fellow Compatriots:

Presto! And another year: 2015, and our 15th year of the justly celebrated Captain John Collins Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, finds us strong, eager, and willing to begin yet another year of our worthy pursuits in sowing and spreading patriotism among ourselves, our progeny, and our fellow citizens, as our beloved and ineffable Founders would have wished us to do.



It would be difficult to find a more inspiring name in Revolutionary history than that of Captain John Collins, who re-upped time after time 'til the War was won.

Our tasks pale in comparison to his, and all the great Patriot heroes, but our work is nonetheless very important and truly indispensable. We live in an age of paradox: technological marvels, but widespread ignorance of the abject personal sacrifices made by our Founders. It falls in large measure to us and our proud Society to do what we can in ameliorating that state. Think how it might be otherwise!

Our Flag efforts, Patriots' Day recognition, Public Safety recognition, Patriot Grave dedications and decorations, Independence Day presence, JROTC presentations, with many of our members in period dress, preservation of the Allatoona Cemetery, wreath presentations at the grave of our namesake Patriot Captain Collins, and our highly-regarded and rightly-heralded chapter newsletter, "The Collins Dispatch," altogether justify our

existence, and glorify the memory and purpose of our dear Founders. They would indeed be proud!

So let us now renew our personal vows to do all we can to propagate the principles on which we were founded, and to enlighten our brethren, where there may be darkness, on the importance of keeping true to those principles of Liberty and Freedom, and also those of personal responsibility and self-education in the areas of our history, our Founders, and their unique brilliance in the formation of our government.

John Dickenson wrote, in 1774, "*Honour, justice and humanity* call upon us to hold, and to transmit to our posterity, that liberty, which we received from our ancestors. It is not our duty to leave wealth to our children: but it is our duty, to leave liberty to them. No infamy, iniquity, or cruelty, can exceed our own, if we, born and educated in a country of freedom, entitled to its blessings, and knowing their value, pusillanimously deserting the post assigned to us by Divine Providence, surrender succeeding generations to a condition of wretchedness, from which no human efforts, in all probability, will be sufficient to extricate them; the experience of all states mournfully demonstrating to us, that when arbitrary power has been established over them, even the wisest and bravest nations, that ever flourished, have, in a few years, degenerated into abject and wretched vassals."

Let his charge be our platform!

Harry F. Hagan, President

Officers and Committees

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| President | Harry Hagan |
| Vice President | Lee Hulsey |
| Secretary | John Mattingly |
| Treasurer | James Castle |
| Registrar | Robert Van Blackwell |
| 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 | |
| Flags | Terry Gibbs |
| Membership | |
| Veterans | Leland Lee Hulsey |
| DAR Liaison | Bert Christy |
| Welcome | John Mattingly |
| Schools | John Mattingly |

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 larryguzy47@gmail.com or regular mail at 4531 Paper Mill Rd SE, Marietta, GA 30067-4025. Cell 678-860-4477

If you have new member leads, contact Registrar Van Blackwell rblackwell1001@comcast.net

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

John Mattingly 770-943-4402

JohnCWBuff@bellsouth.net

Collins Member News & Happenings

Member Bryan Black was featured in the *Marietta Daily Journal* Life & Style section D Friday 1.23.15 as Director of Music at the First United Methodist Church of Marietta. Our President was also mentioned in that paper as the new president of our chapter on Tuesday February 3rd 2015 in the People section of Around Town on the Editorial Page.

A supplemental for member Gene Irvine has not been returned from National yet. Frederick Wade Sherwood and William Lynn Jones III are submitting applications as is Allen McCahren.

Georgia Society Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the state society was held in Gwinnett county January 23-24.

Along with a business meeting, held on Saturday, the society held an awards banquet on Friday night. A number of Collins members were honored.



Curtis McWaters was honored with one of five Patriot medals awarded by the state. This is the most prestigious award given by the state society. It is the highest award given for service at the state or chapter level. This medal is presented only to individuals and may be received **ONLY** once. It represents long, faithful and outstanding service at the state and/or chapter level.

The number awarded is determined by the membership of the state society—with one possible per 500 members. Since Curtis was unable to attend the meeting, **David Ludley** accepted the award on his behalf.



Wayne Brown received a Meritorius Service Medal. The Medal was authorized in 1980 and may be awarded to SAR members who have rendered long, faithful and meritorious service to their chapter, state society, district, or to the National Society. Each may only award the medal once to any compatriot.

Photos courtesy of Rick Reese, Piedmont Chapter



It was announced that **Larry Guzy** had been chosen to receive the Roger Sherman Medal, which will be given at the Spring Leadership meeting in Louisville by the National Society.



The Collins Chapter received a Distinguished Chapter Certificate for having completed nine of ten goals set out by the Georgia Society.

The chapter also received a Flag Participation Certificate and the President General's Award of Special Recognition, Group III.



Eight Collins members attended the annual Georgia Society SAR meeting. Back row: David Ludley, Wayne Brown, Terry Gibbs, Lee Hulsey. Front row: Bill Coffeen, Harry Hagan, David Martin, Larry Guzy



Wayne Brown receiving Meritorius Service Award from PG C. Lindsey Brock.

Paul Prescott and George Thurmond, Piedmont Chapter, and Larry Guzy, with President General C. Lindsey Brock, after receiving the Roger Sherman medal.

In memoriam...



Compatriot William Reese
October 26, 1926—January 26, 2015

We seldom realize in what esteem we may be held by others until after our passing. Compatriot Bill Reese is one of those people to which we can look as such an example.

Compatriot Patrick Reese, his son, handled the arrangements for the funeral at the Catholic Church of the Holy Spirit. Held on February 5th, the funeral mass was concelebrated by 12 priests (including Monsignor Dillon) and 3 deacons! With over 300 in attendance, Bill would have been pleased.

Monsignor Dillon announced that the Library in the Prep School was being named in his honor.

Gretchen Gunning was there as well, the mother of 4 of our past members and responsible for Bill and Patrick also.

Member Profile:

Harry Hagan

The Collins chapter recently installed Harry Hagan as their new president. Harry was profiled in the June 2003 issue of the Collins Dispatch, Volume 3, Issue 3. That profile is reprinted here.

A man of diverse interests and skills, Harry has difficulty answering the inevitable question of 'What do you do?' "Just saying 'I play music', or 'I'm a musician' usually leaves one with the impression that you are an over the hill, a ne'er do well guitar player," Harry says, "I am doing now exactly what I wanted to do at 13 years old - playing the trombone."

In 1960, just after graduation from high school, he moved to Jacksonville, FL, where he played with a successful big band called the Buccaneers. He later moved to Los Angeles, where, among other things, he played jam sessions in Watts. "Wouldn't want to try that again!" Harry achieved a high level of proficiency in his field, which resulted in the opportunity to play with some of the best-known names in entertainment. "There were scores of those comedians, magicians, impressionists, and singers who worked conventions and fairs and any other place they could get themselves booked. I accompanied hundreds of them! Most of them never 'made it.'" Harry recalls.

But the people who made it, including Bob Hope and George Burns, had made it in pretty much those same ways. Harry has recorded with the Four Freshmen, Joe South, Charlie Byrd, Isaac Hayes, Brenda Lee, Marvin Gaye, Tams, Mac Davis, Jon Schneider, Atlanta Pops Orchestra, Charlie Spivak, Billy Butterfield, Gladys Knight, Curtis Mayfield, Pee Wee Erwin, Billy Joe Royal,

He has also done hundreds of commercial jingles, national and local. He has toured with: Johnny Mathis, Tom Jones, Brenda Lee, Boots Randolph, Bob Crosby, Chet Adkins, Supremes, Sammy Kaye, Clyde McCoy, Tommy Dorsey Band, Woody Herman, Glen Miller Band, Ray Eberle, Paula Kelly and Modernaires, Floyd Kramer, Warren Covington, Steve Lawrence and Edye Gorme, Les Elgart, Burt Bacharach, Sy Oliver, Righteous Brothers, Lou Christy, Jan and Dean, Charlie Spivak, and others.

He appeared in concert at least once with dozens of well know celebrities from Frank Sinatra to Barry Manilow. The ones he remembers include: Bob Hope, Dinah Shore, Vic Damone, Mel Torme, Captain and Tenille, Frank Sinatra jr, Lily Pons, Andy Williams, Ray Bolger, Sammy Khan,

Rudy Valley, Larry Elgart, Linda Ronstadt, Nelson Riddle, Jack Jones, Donna Summer, Frankie Valli, Lionel Hampton, Jerry Lee Lewis, Henry Mancini, Joani Mitchell, Fabian, The Who, Moody Blues, Bobby Rydell, Michael Bolton, Melissa Manchester, Gloria Swanson, The Four Tops, Temptations, Rufus Thomas, Jerry Vale, Ray Charles, Lynn Anderson, Ferrante and Teicher, Crystal Gale, Tony Bennett, George Burns, Carol Burnett, Jim Nabors, Martin and Rossi, Red Skelton, Little Richard, Carpenters, Alan King, Joan Rivers, Eddie Arnold, Ray Stevens, Pat Boone, Patty Page, Nell Carter, Andre McCardle, Nipsy Russel, Donald O' Connor, Debbie Reynolds, Rita Moreno, Phyllis Diller, The Letterman, Sammy Davis jr, Shirley Bassey, Engelbert Humperdinck, Gloria Loring, Liberace, Wayne Newton, Harry Connick jr, Pearl Bailey, Jose Ferrer, Cab Calloway, Michael Jackson, (Jackson 5), Smothers Brothers, Ella Fitzgerald, Anthony Newley, Bernadette Peters, Impressions, Tommy Roe, Sonny and Cher, Kenny Rodgers, Rosemary Clooney, Blue Baron, James Brown, Chuck Jackson, Natalie Cole, Freddie Cole, Ike Cole, Bob Newhart, Tony Orlando, Lennon Sisters, Yardbirds, Doc Severinson, Roger Williams, Myron Florin and Gladys Knight.

"I am doing now exactly what I wanted to do at 13 years old - playing the trombone."

Harry has done circuses, ice shows, jazz festivals, The Prairie Home Companion Radio Show, the democratic national convention '88, as well as many TV specials. He has been featured with the Atlanta Symphony, and on several albums, mostly jazz, and played for openings of nearly every building and mall around Atlanta. He has played for Presidents Nixon, Carter, Ford, and Bush (#41), and has done 13 river and ocean cruises. He toured the Orient five times, and did tours of Europe and parts of South America.



While in Italy as a young man, Harry had a small part in an Italian film, playing a bandelier.

Harry says it "has been and continues to be, a very interesting, but not very secure, career. I now play mostly with the "On The Air" band, an eight-piece band that mainly plays weddings, jazz clubs, and concerts, and which has been described by Town and Country Magazine as THE band to get in the Atlanta area."

He says he has supported his "chicken today, feathers tomorrow" music habit" by doing lots of masonry, a skill he learned from his father. "It has stood me in quite good stead over the years. I do mostly small jobs such as patios, steps, walks, etc., in nice people's back yards, where I'm able to listen to Brahms, Mozart, Wagner, et al, whose music really does matter!"

Harry is the father of six children, three of

Flag Certificate



On December 2, 2014, Larry Guzy presented a flag certificate to Marilyn Cain of the Bank of North Georgia in East Cobb.



An impressive contingent of SAR Color Guardsmen always attend the Cowpens commemoration near Gaffney, NC.

whom are still at home. His wife, Mary, teaches Honors British Literature at McEachern High School. He loves traveling, reading history and politics, The Great Outdoors, and all the flora and fauna, bonsai, cooking, photography, and most of all, golf.

The children are out of the house now, so

Wreaths Across America



On Saturday, December 13, 2014, Allen Greenly (Robert Forsyth Chapter), Shep Hammack (Piedmont Chapter), and **Wayne Brown** (Captain John Collins Chapter) represented the SAR during the annual Wreaths Across America ceremony at the Marietta National Cemetery.

Shep Hammack, Wayne Brown, Allen Greenley Montez Hammack, Marguerite Dyal, Sharon Sowders, and Sarah Meyer from the Martha Stewart Bulloch DAR Chapter were also in attendance. The event was organized by the GA Wing of the Civil Air Patrol, and was attended by veterans and active duty military personnel representing all branches of the military, as well as the American Legion motorcycle riders in full force. A record number of 6000 wreaths were donated to honor the more than 18,000 final resting place of veterans from all wars. During the event Robert Forsyth chapter President Allen Greenly read a proclamation from SAR President General Lindsey Brock honoring the Wreaths Across America event.

Photos courtesy Rick Reese, Piedmont SAR Chapter



Wayne Brown with Daughters of the American Revolution

Participants at the commemoration of the Battle of Cowpens were pleasantly surprised by acceptably warm weather. The January event is famous for cold and blustery, sometimes wet and icy, weather.

The Collins Chapter was represented by **Terry Gibbs, Larry Guzy, Harry Hagan, David Martin** and **Jerry Slate**.



Compatriot Jerry Slate premiered his new continental uniform which was made with the assistance of Nancy Pritchett.

Commemoration of the Battle of Cowpens



Terry Gibbs presented the Collins flag and Honors at the memorial.

Color Guard marched to the Battle-field monument



With a major contingent of militia and reenactors who camp on site, you never know what you might see like this fine fox hat.

A Patriot of the Orphan Strip

An area of the French Broad River in Cherokee Territory was settled through land grants sometime before 1786. The settlers believed this land belongs to South Carolina. However, the State annulled and withdrew claims to the western settlements. The grantees petitioned Congress for annexation to South Carolina. When the appeals failed, the settlers formed their own government in 1793. Similar to the State of Franklin, Tennessee settled by John Sevier, this area became known as The Orphan Strip because it was not claimed by South Carolina, North Carolina, or Georgia.

The Federal Government ceded the Orphan Strip officially in 1798. Believing it to be below the thirty-fifth parallel, which separates North Carolina and Georgia, it was ceded to Georgia in 1802.

Minutes had been kept by Orphan Strip settlers of their official meetings. A petition, along with the signed minutes, was submitted to Georgia Governor John Milledge requesting the settlement by recognized. The Georgia Legislature acted on the Governor's recommendation and on December 10, 1803 the Orphan Strip became Walton County, named for George Walton who was the last living signer of the Declaration of Independence. Walton also served as Congressman and former Georgia Governor.

The old Walton County should not be confused with the present day Walton and county seat Monroe that was formed from present day Jackson County on December 15, 1818. The Old Walton was right along the North Carolina and Georgia border and extended over the South Carolina line.

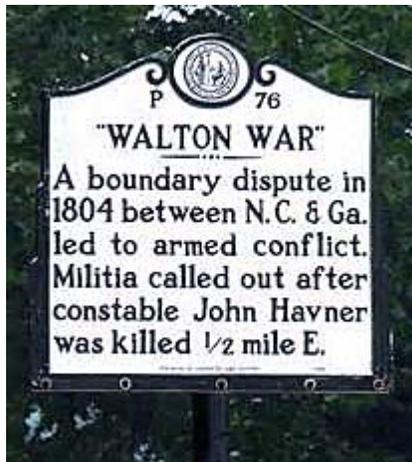
Two citizens were elected to represent Walton County in the Georgia Legislature—John Nicholson Sr. and John Akins.

Our history books do not record such things as the Walton War, but it was fought due to the confusion over who owned the Orphan Strip—North Carolina or Georgia. Disagreeing on survey team reports, Bun-

combe County, North Carolina claimed the land. Documents state that the "banditry" the area and "taken arms" and were "committing depredations on the honest citizens of the country." The citizens retaliated and several skirmishes ensued. John Nicholson was taken prisoner and jailed in the Morgan District. He was charged in a trial with refusing to accept the North Carolina claim to the contested area.

In 1807 the North Carolina and Georgia Legislatures agreed to a new survey. The result was Walton County was well above the thirty-fifth parallel. Georgia did not want to relinquish its claim and hired a nationally known surveyor, Andrew Endicott, to run the disputed line. Endicott found the line further south than the 1807 team had claimed. John Nicholson, who had served in the Georgia Legislature from Old Walton County in 1806, 1808, and 1809, relinquished his position finding himself a citizen of Buncombe and Transylvania Counties in North Carolina.

John Nicholson was born in Bute County, North Carolina on May 1, 1762/63, the son of William Nicholson who had settled in Virginia prior to the Revolution. John made the decision to volunteer for service in the Revolution serving four three-month terms.



The old Patriot's pension application relates the following service in the quest for freedom for the young nation. John enlisted in the service of the Revolution in 1780 under the command of Captain John White, in Colonel Eaton's North Carolina Regiment with General Caswell, which served at the Battle of Camden, where Major General Horatio Gates was

defeated. He was discharged on the Yadkin River. His second enlistment was in 1781 as a private under General Nathaniel Greene, in the North Carolina Regiment of Captains Fluwallen and Norsworthy. This regiment was in the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. He was discharged at Colonel Ramsey's Mill at the forks of the Deep and

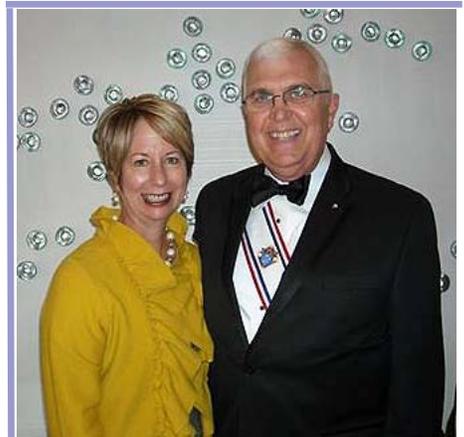
Haw Rivers. John's third three-month enlistment was under Colonel Linton in the North Carolina Troops. He was discharged at Tarborough, North Carolina. In 1782 John enlisted for the last time in Captain Cox's Company of the North Carolina Regiment under Colonel John Sevier and was discharged on the Tennessee River in North Carolina.

John Nicholson sold his Buncombe County, NC property and moved to Habersham County, GA. Later in 1830 John was living in Hall County, Georgia with his son John, Jr. It was while in Hall County, at age 70, he applied for and received a Revolutionary War pension of forty dollars per year. John's moves eventually brought him to Cherokee County, Georgia.

Patriot John Nicholson died December 20, 1858 in Union County, Georgia. He is buried in the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church cemetery about eight mile west of the Old Courthouse Square in Blairsville, Georgia, off Hwy. 76. A DAR tombstone marks his grave.

Patriot John Nicholson is the sixth grandfather of Compatriot Earl L. Cagle, Sr, of the Captain John Collins Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution.

- Earl Cagle



Chris and Terry Gibbs celebrated his recent achievement of reaching fourth degree in the Knights of Columbus.

Compatriot **Bryan Black** was featured prominently in the Jan 23 issue of the Marietta Daily Journal, leading the youth choir at First United Methodist Church of Marietta. The story was about a fund raiser for an upcoming trip to England.

Battle of Cowan's Ford

The Hopewell Presbyterian Church, just north of Charlotte, NC, is the site of the annual commemoration of the Battle of Cowan's Ford.

The battle occurred on February 1, 1781 at the intersection of Huntersville, Lincoln and Mecklenberg counties.

General Cornwallis and his army of British and Tories successfully crossed the Catawba River, defeating the Patriot forces of Gen. William L. Davidson, Maj. Joseph Graham, Col. William Polk, and Lt. Thomas Davidson. Davidson, perhaps the most loved of all North Carolina's commanders, was killed.

Cornwallis's southern strategy was to sweep through what he believed to be weak resistance in North Carolina and move North. He ordered the capture of Wil-

ilmington to be held as a port through which he could receive supplies. This occurred too late to be of help to his troops.

A correspondent of the "Pennsylvania Packet" summarized the British ill-fated two weeks in



David Martin and Larry Guzy represented the chapter at the commemoration of Cowan's Ford.

they had abandoned some twenty wagons, a large quantity of clothing, many tents and other equipment, and a number of guns. They had heard that Davidson had some 5,000 soldiers and was pursuing them; actually the brigadier general had hardly more than 300 men, but Davie with a part of Davidson's cavalry was harassing the fleeing Redcoats and the number of their pursuers must have seemed frightfully large.

The entire saga of the battle can be found in detail at

<http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/810201-cowans-ford/>

where the above information was gathered.



The PG Jim Westlake wreath represented the Collins Chapter.

Charlotte:

"Whilst the enemy lay at Charlotte, they were confined within their lines by our riflemen, who nabbed them if they set out their heads. In short, his lordship never found himself so far from home as at that place; and it may appear strange that although we were more than two weeks in surprising distance with our raw militia, yet the enemy never attempted it, owing, I suppose to the great attention of our commander in preventing them from obtaining intelligence, and moving his troops every night."

The British had left Charlotte in virtual panic; in their rush to leave the camp at Barnett's mill



Registrar General Larry Guzy brought greetings.

Robert Forrest "Bobby" Towns

Georgia Society Past President

National Historian General
Passes Feb. 10, 2015

Born in Elberton, GA on March 17, 1938, Bobby was the son of the late Forrest Grady Towns, 1936 Olympian and UGA Track Coach for whom the track stadium is named, and Martha Elizabeth Eberhardt.

He graduated from Athens High School as valedictorian. He graduated from the University of Georgia with BBA and MBA degrees, where he was Distinguished Military Graduate, a member of Omicron Delta Kappa, Scabbard and Blade, Georgia Football Lettermen's Club, "G" Club, Gridiron Secret Society, and Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities.

At UGA, he lettered in football and track. He played football in the NFL. Towns was retired from AFLAC, and retired from the United States Army with the rank of Colonel.

He served on numerous community charitable boards in Columbus and Athens. Towns officiated SEC Football for 30 years, and was inducted into the Athens Athletic Hall of Fame.



General William Lee Davidson is buried at the Hopewell Presbyterian Church cemetery where many other tombstones from the 1800's can be found, some noting patriots who were killed "by their enemy".

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

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It looks like half the chapter showed up for the January Board of Managers meeting at Charlie Rhyne's home. Back row: Bert, Terry, Van, Larry, John, David, Harry, Wayne, Chandler. Front row: Vann, Lee, David, Jim and Bill.



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, socks, 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.

Collins Annual Banquet *Photos courtesy of Ray Ruggles*



Charlie and Linda Rhyne posed with the civil war cannon.



The Outstanding Citizenship Award was presented to Sam Heaton, Cobb County Public Safety Director, by Larry Guzy and Wayne Brown.

Photographer Ray Ruggles and his wife, Carolyn, posed in the banquet hall entrance, behind the cannon.



The previous administration went out in a blaze of glory thanks to Mother Nature.

