



# The Collins Dispatch

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

August 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.

**Tuesday 8/18/15 Chapter Meeting**  
Speaker: Melodye Brown, Rome DAR

**Tuesday 9/8/15 Chapter BOM**  
6pm for dinner, 7pm for meeting Cherokee Cattle Co.

**Tuesday 9/15/15 Chapter Meeting**  
Speaker: Diane Barfield  
"Methodology-Getting Started in Genealogical Research"

**Tuesday 10/6 -7/15 District meeting** Spartanburg, SC & Kings Mtn

**Tues 10/17/15 Chapter Picnic**  
McFarlane Park & home of Larry Guzy 4531 Paper Mill Rd. \$10 ea

See the GA SAR website for other events: [georgiasocietysar.org](http://georgiasocietysar.org)

## Inside...

Dates to Remember	1
Willis West Dedication	1
President's Message	2
Member News	2
National Congress Louisville KY	3
Veteran's Committee	3
Book Review	4
My Patriot Ancestor	5-6
Message from the President General Lawrence	6
Message from the South Atlantic Vice President General Ed Rigel	7
Fall Outing October 17th At Froghaven	7

## Willis West Grave Dedication



A remarkable turnout of Willis West descendants arrived to honor their ancestor, with several generations represented. The grave dedication, organized by David Thompson, was held on Saturday, June 13. David, our former President 2007-2008, located the cemetery and identified many of those buried there. He cleaned the area of brambles, vines and decades of overgrowth with only a little help. He was able to obtain deed to the



property and obtained and installed the Willis West headstone. The estimated 70 attendees were able to enjoy a changed cemetery from when it was first located. A day well spent honoring a Patriot.



Collins members in attendance included Larry Guzy, Earl Cagle, Lee Hulsey, Terry Gibbs, David Thompson, Wayne Brown, Jim Castle, and Curtis McWaters.

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

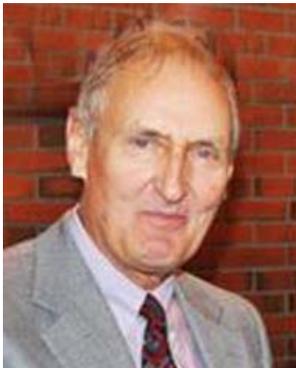
## President's Message

Greetings Compatriots!

I hope this edition of the *Collins Dispatch* finds you well and cool, despite the torrid temperatures that tend to slow our summer perambulations. Let us be thankful, in addition to our marvelous American heritage bequeathed to us by our ineffable Founders and Patriot Ancestors, for air conditioning! Most of us no doubt are able to recall, with no particular fondness, a time when artificial coolness was rare in our lives, if present at all. I think I remember that movie houses were the first cool public spaces in the nation.

Warm weather enhances life, doesn't it? This time of year gives our gardens such beauty! Every living thing seems to conspire towards its natural denouement: fruit, flower, fragrance. Ah!

But summer heat makes *everything* grow, and some of it doesn't smell so sweet, or at least it didn't in times and places mostly distant from most of us today. Do you remember the farm odors? I was reading recently about a reenactment of a parade during the summer in Colonial times in Williamsburg VA, and one participant's comments about its attendant odors of horses and their fumes, as well as the masses of men. The commenter spoke about the bathing habits in those days, which were few and far between. There was a consensus opinion in those days that bathing with soap was not good for peo-



ple, inasmuch as the bodily oils were essential to good health. I recall a good many comments in my youth, from soldiers who had fought in WWII, about that attitude's steadfast existence in Europe, and its contributing fragrances among the populace.

Times change. There have been many changes for the good, but also many dubious ones, alas. One thing that doesn't, or shouldn't, change, however, is our commitment to the principles propounded by our glorious Founders. "We have given you a republic, if you can keep it," Ben Franklin is supposed to have replied to a questioner. Soldiers, tradesmen, farmers--ordinary men and women throughout the former colonies--had endured eight years of hardship to win their independence. Let us always bear this profound thought in mind. It's our SAR mission, or at least a large part of our mission.

Our John Collins chapter needs you; every one of you. We are always in need of your service. If you can spare some time, we need an Education Chairman, for one thing, and there are other offices and committees that could use your help, as well. If you feel so called, please contact any one of the chapter officers.

Thanks, and see you soon!

In Patriotism,

Harry Hagan

## 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	<b>OPEN</b>
Flags	Terry Gibbs
Membership	<b>OPEN</b>
Veterans	Leland Lee Hulsey
DAR Liaison	Bert Christy
Welcome	John Mattingly
Schools	David Martin assisting

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](mailto: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](mailto:rblackwell1001@comcast.net)

## Collins Member News & Happenings

Several people are working on applications and supplements with **Registrar Van Blackwell**.

**Lloyd Blackwell**, **Gene Irvine**, and **Van Blackwell** are still working on additional supplements.

**Joe Wright**, **James Henson, Jr.**, **Andrew Burr**, and **Douglass Talley** have new applications in the approval process either at State or at National.

**John Carr Jones**, 183520, whose ancestor is Henry Mitchell, is transferring from AL

## 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](mailto:JohnCWBuff@bellsouth.net)

# National Congress—Louisville



The Collins Chapter was represented by **Charles Sanger, Wayne and Linda Brown, Larry and Karin Guzy, Terry and Chris Gibbs.**



The 125th NSSAR National Congress was held at the Historic Galt House in Louisville in June. The first congress had also been held at the Galt House which is only blocks from the new headquarters building, near the Ohio River.

The chapter was well represented by **Wayne Brown, Terry Gibbs, Larry Guzy and Charles Sanger.**

Larry Guzy was elected NSSAR Treasurer General for the upcoming year.

## Great News about the Life Membership Program!

After a detailed review of the great work done by Stephen Renouf (CA) and James Jones (TX) on the Life Program, **there will be no change in the Program** as a result of the Congress vote to increase 2016 dues by \$5. The Program will be monitored, but we do not foresee a change for a period of several years.

For members who wish to become a National Life Member **BEFORE 12/31/2015, they will save \$35** over the cost after that date. This is due to the fact that one must be current in dues to apply for the Program. Thus if one becomes a Life Member next year, they will have to have paid 2016 dues.

It is a great time to encourage anyone who may have thought about the Program but just never acted upon it. If you know members in this situation, let them know NOW is a great time to become a National Life Member.

## Veteran's Committee Report

By Bert Christy, Chairman Veterans Committee

**Larry Lines** and I delivered donated items to the VA Hospital in mid-July. The donations for the year total 930 items valued at \$2,809.

After we delivered the items, Larry and I spent a little time at the VA facility and had a very heartwarming experience. A young female veteran who had been previously admitted to the VA hospital saw our SAR shirts and asked us if we were the ones who bring the donated items to the hospital. We said we were. She explained that previously she had visited a doctor at the hospital, and had not expected, and was not prepared, to be admitted. She explained that when she realized she was being admitted to the hospital, she really felt desperate and alone until she was given socks, a tooth brush, tooth paste and other items that we had provided. She said that made her feel like someone cared. She thanked us warmly several times and commended us and the SAR membership and encouraged us to keep up the good work. We could see and hear the gratitude in her voice and her eyes.

By the way, Larry Lines has agreed to be member of the veterans committee, and I want to thank him for his help.

And I want to recognize the following who have honored our veterans by their donations so far this year:

- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Lloyd Blackwell</b> | <b>Charlie Rhyne</b>   |
| <b>Wayne Brown</b>     | <b>Ray Ruggles</b>     |
| <b>Bert Christy</b>    | <b>Mike Strickland</b> |
| <b>Bill Coffeen</b>    | <b>Bill Teasley</b>    |
| <b>Harry Hagan</b>     | <b>Harry Vaughn</b>    |
| <b>Lee Hulsey</b>      | <b>Stan Virden</b>     |
| <b>Larry Lines</b>     | <b>Don Webb</b>        |
| <b>Patrick Reese</b>   |                        |

The majority of these have contributed several times already this year.

## 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.

**Book Review:*****SPAIN-OUR FORGOTTEN ALLY IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR:******A Concise Summary of Spain's Assistance***

The book is written by Judge Ed Butler, Southwest Historic Press, San Antonio TX. Judge Butler is a serious but cheerful former President General of the SAR, and also a passionate campaigner for recognition in American schoolrooms of the massive and pivotal contributions made by Spain to enable American success in our War of Independence. My wife, Beth, and I have encountered him several times, and accompanied him on an SAR expedition to Spain in 2010. (With intense magnification you can find us pictured on page xxxiii in the gathering at a private audience with [then] Acting King Felipe).

This book is not a flowing lineal narrative, as are most volumes of history. Instead, PG Butler has marshaled his legal expertise to lay forth the facts of his case: to wit, that without the attentions of King Carlos III and his Spanish treasury and armed forces, Americans today would occupy a much smaller portion of our continent, over which would fly the Union Jack. At best, our territory would reach from the Atlantic to the Mississippi River, and the Great lakes to the north border of Florida. Very possibly, our western border might even lie along the Appalachian Mountains.

Fortunately, from our viewpoint, our War of Independence was basically a side-show in a globally fought war brought on by conflicting territorial ambitions of an array of European powers who considered the rest of the world fair game. Principal, but not sole actors were Britain and Portugal lined up against France and Spain, with several other countries in the mix. France and Spain conspired to drive the British out of North America, and were eager to help the thirteen colonies in any way they could. Neither kingdom was particularly interested in democracy, as we conceive it, only in reducing and/or replacing English power.

Prominent among the many Spaniards involved in operations against Britain in America was Don Bernardo de Gálvez y Madrid. As colonel, Gálvez was appointed

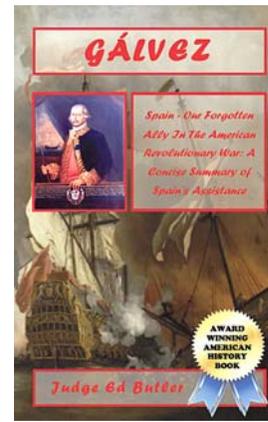
Governor of New Orleans in 1776. His exploits soon made him Governor and Captain General of Louisiana, progressing to ever higher rank and greater areas of governance, award of several titles of nobility, and appointment on May 26, 1785, as Viceroy of New Spain, headquartered in Mexico City. (Sources vary somewhat on these dates). Highly productive and popular in this post, he aggrieved some persons of influence who evoked for him a rebuke from the Crown, leading to melancholy and a mysterious illness. He died November 30, 1786, at the age of 40.



**Don Bernardo de Gálvez**

Gen. Gálvez was arguably the most astute military commander and strategist involved in the American Revolutionary War. Though usually outnumbered, he never lost a battle, while preventing the British from being able to win on eastern fronts. He provided enormous financial and logistical support to American forces, cleared away the British from the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers and the Gulf of Mexico, tied down British troops and ships away from where they were most needed, and helped draft the Peace Treaty of Paris in 1783.

During and after the Revolutionary War he received many honors from Spain and the United States. George Washington



placed Gálvez at his right side during his July 4 post-war victory parade. In 1783 the Congress voted to display a portrait of Gálvez “in the hall where Congress Meets.” [This was finally accomplished on December 9, 2014]. A commemorative Gálvez postage stamp was issued in 1980. By a joint resolution on December 4, 2014, the Congress voted Gálvez the eighth foreign individual to become an Honorary Citizen of the United States.

Despite its title, PG Butler's book describes not only Gálvez, but numerous other significant Spanish, French, and America personalities connected to Spanish political and military operations in North America during and shortly after our Revolutionary War. Pointing out that Spanish coinage was legal tender in the U. S. until 1849, he documents the reasoning for including descendants of these people and their associates as members of such organizations as the SAR and DAR, giving credit to those organizations for more recent recognition of Spain, in particular, as a major player in U.S. independence and inclusion of Spain in relevant curricula.

This book, as a compilation of well-supported facts, makes an excellent companion to *SPAIN and the INDEPENDENCE of the UNITED STATES—An Intrinsic Gift*, Thomas E. Chávez, University of New Mexico Press, 2002. Together, these works become an excellent basic reference to the world situation of the later 18<sup>th</sup> Century, to Spain's particular support of the U.S., and to the war west of the Alleghenies, along the Gulf of Mexico, and in the Caribbean. I recommend it as essential to the bookshelf of anyone presuming to be informed of how the United States won its independence.

-Stan Virden

# *My Patriot Ancestor*

## BUCKNER HARRIS -- TIMELINE OF A LIFE STORY

*Frank S. Virden (Stan)*

Buckner Harris was born in 1761 in Virginia, moved to Georgia, and died near Ocala, FL, 5 May 1814. In 1790, he married Nancy Matilda Early, and they had a son named Early Harris. Early's son, Wiley Pope Harris became prominent in early Mississippi history and was a justice of the state supreme court. His daughter, Fannie Mayes Harris, married my grandfather, Walter Virden in 1891.

In 1781, as a private soldier under Col. Elijah Clark, GA Militia, he took part in the Siege of Augusta.

He acquired agricultural and grazing properties in several Georgia counties.

In 1790 he was licensed by the Georgia governor to trade with Cherokee and other Indians. In 1804, as Brigadier General Harris, along with Col. William Barnett, he was appointed as a commissioner for laying out a road between Tennessee and Georgia, through the Cherokee Nation. Later, motivated by legal problems (tax evasion, slave running) he relocated to Florida.

Harris lived in interesting times.

### LOUISIANA PURCHASE

1699 France controls 828,000 square miles west of the Mississippi River from New Orleans to Canada.

1762 France cedes territory to Spain following the Seven Years War.

Americans have begun migrating into the area.

1795 Spain gives U. S. port rights in New Orleans; revokes same in 1798; restored in 1801

1800 Spain sells territory back to France, which waits three

years to take over.

1803 After three weeks of occupation, France sells territory to U.S. for 3¢/acre. Britain does not recognize the sale as legitimate.

### THE PATRIOT WAR (1810-1815)

1790-1812 Spanish controlled East Florida—major concern of U S Govt

Numerous Americans were settling there, outnumbering Spanish.

Referred to as "Patriots", they profited from lumber and cotton. They needed U. S. protection.

Spotty control by Spain led to regional anarchy.

The area offered an invasion route to the British, who now were at peace with Spain.

1791 First American permanent settlement at "The Cowford", named for a shallow spot on the St John's River, 1000 yards west of Spanish Fort San Nicolas, where cattle could cross.

1795 Spain cedes all Florida north of 31<sup>st</sup> parallel to U.S.

1811 Congress passes secret act permitting acquisition of Spanish Floridas for U.S.

President Madison appoints former GA Gov Gen. George Mathews to lead troops into Florida

1812 Napoleon overthrows the government of Spain; New World Spanish confused over national policy.

Three months prior to War of 1812, Patriot Army occupies Fernandina; declares Florida as U.S. territory; carries out combat operations against Spanish and Seminoles; free Negro allies.

Seminoles join Spanish in raiding homes and attacking Patriots.

1813 U.S. annexes West Florida, west of Perdido River to control anarchy and protect U.S. citizens.



*Seminole Warriors*

Tennessee volunteers enter northeast Florida to join the fracas for two weeks, in which they destroy Seminole settlements, crops, and cattle, leaving Indians to starve.

President Madison decides on diplomacy; pulls the plug on Patriots.

*(Continued on page 8)*



Compatriots,

This is the first in a series of communications from me to the leaders of the SAR. A recurring comment I have heard over the years is that the Trustees, state societies and chapters are not provided with enough information about the important business of the national society.

We are going to work to correct that this year. Attached is a copy of the speech I gave when I was installed as President General at the recent Congress in Louisville, KY. In it I set forth some goals and a vision for the upcoming year that I hope you will also find important.

Please share this e-mail with as many of your fellow compatriots as you can so we can insure that we are enhancing communications.

Many of you will be receiving a communication to join ShareFile, which is a replacement for Dropbox that we have been using. If you join ShareFile then you will be able to view documents, meeting minutes and reports on SAR business. Separate folders are being established for special groups but there is one big folder for all members who join and those members will be able to access a wealth of information.

In my next communication, which I expect will be the first week of August, I will include reports from PG Nathan White on the status of construction on our building; Bill Stone on the status of the Solid Light project; and from Director of Education Colleen Wilson on our efforts at outreach education. It will also include a survey to be filled out and returned asking for your opinion on what the SAR should do in the area of outreach education, and it will also ask for ideas on what information and news your state societies and chapters would like to receive from the leadership or from headquarters.

I look forward to being able to provide you with more information than you have been receiving in the past and I ask for your support for the SAR over the upcoming year.

Tom Lawrence (TX)

President General

President Generals second message:

There are several important matters I want to bring to your attention in this message.

1st I want to talk about Sharefile,

2nd about reports from our project chairmen,

3rd about communications, and

4th about outreach education.

I hope to be able to send these communications at least once a month but it will depend largely on my travel schedule which will begin to get busy later this week.

The 1st topic is Sharefile. As I have mentioned before we will not be adding any new information to Dropbox and will transfer all of the files in Dropbox to Sharefile. Sharefile is a document management system that allows many people to access information simply by joining the SAR Sharefile account when you are sent a request to join. Some of you have already received this invitation and many more will receive it in the next few days.

Thanks to Operations Director Mike Scroggins providing the e-mail addresses, our IT committee chairman Bill Marrs will be sending out over 17,000 invitations to SAR members. Please accept the invitation and join so you can access important business records of the society. There will be several different folders for the EXCOM, Trustees and committees, but everyone will have access to the members folder and that will contain documents such as officer reports, meeting agendas, committee reports, and other news of the society.

2nd I am attaching reports from the following people who hold important positions in our society:

- PG Nathan White, who is the Building Construction Manager on the construction progress of the library and the HQ
- Bill Stone, who is the Solid Light Project Manager on the Solid Light project
- Don Shaw, Executive director on news and events at SAR HQ
- Colleen Wilson, Education Director on our progress with outreach education
- Sam Powell, SAR Foundation President on the plans to raise money for our projects
- IT committee chairman Bill Marrs on our software enhancement projects and website redesign.

There is a lot of important information in these reports so I

*(Continued on page 7)*

(Continued from page 6)

hope you will take the time to read them.

3rd and 4th is a survey about outreach education and communications where you have an opportunity to respond about what is important to you .

Please fill out the attached form and return it as indicated on the form. The outreach education position of the survey is particularly important because decisions will be made about the design of the lower level of the HQ building which is set aside for education. We need to know what the members want before we make any assumptions about how that area should be designed.

Please share this with other members in your states and chapters.

Tom Lawrence (TXSSAR)  
President General

*Communication continues and includes a message from our Vice President General South Atlantic District, GA member Dr. Edward Rigel, Sr. MD*

Monday, August 10, 2015

To: All Chapter Presidents and Members in the South Atlantic District

PG Lawrence addressed the incoming Vice Presidents General at the conclusion of the business sessions of the 125th Annual Congress. He spoke on his initiatives and goals for his term that he presented at the Installation Banquet later that evening.

Broadly, the PG wishes to improve communications between National and the States and Chapters. One venue is the area of Education Outreach; what can National provide in the way of resources to provide States and Chapters the ability to expand their Education Outreach programs? This is a high priority for the PG.

What do the States and Chapters want in the way of promotional material; specifically mentioned was fundraising? A beautiful interactive Education Center is under construction on Main Street and needs financial support for completion.

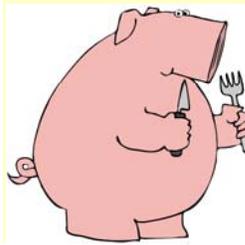
And lastly, what have the States not been getting from National that would be assisting their programs?

Chapter Presidents, please distribute this message to your Chapter membership, especially your Chapter Education Committee and those involved in Education

## Fall Outing Saturday, October 17

### Let's Pig Out!

Park at McFarlane Nature Park, 280 Farm Road  
Visit the Park and then catch a carpool to  
Froghaven (Larry Guzy's Home)  
BBQ starts at 11:30 a.m.



RSVP before October 12th

Barbeque will be served, with sides and water. Bring other drinks as you wish.

Outreach.

PG Lawrence would like the preliminary results of his survey returned prior to the Fall Trustee/Leadership Meeting that the issues might begin to be addressed at that time, so please send me your thoughts as soon as possible.

Patriotically,

*Ed*

Vice President General  
South Atlantic District  
[compariotrigel@charter.net](mailto:compariotrigel@charter.net)



VPG Ed Rigel

#### South Atlantic District Officers

**Ed Rigel, Sr.**, Georgia  
Vice President General

**Ed Rigel, Jr.**, Georgia Secretary

**Chuck Sweeney**, Florida Webmaster

**Florida SAR**  
Larry Fehrenbaker, President

**Georgia SAR**  
Tom Owen, President

**North Carolina SAR**  
Tim Berly, President

**South Carolina SAR**  
Greg Greenawalt, President



Georgia President  
Tom Owen

**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.*

*(Continued from page 5 Buckner Harris)*

Spain cedes Mobile Bay area to U. S. to provide Gulf Access; proclaims amnesty for Patriots. Some decide to stay as Spanish subjects; others go home; some stay to fight on.

**THE LAST GASP (1813-1814)**

Malcontents fall under leadership of Gen. Buckner Harris. Given the title of President of Legislative Council, Territory of East Florida, he intimidates the remaining settlers into rejoining the Patriot Army, and seeks a treaty with the Seminoles to form an independent colony, free of Spanish control.

Several bands of cutthroats and thieves, assuming the title of Patriots, plunder the area, burning farms and houses, stealing cattle, and capturing free Negroes to sell in Georgia, creating hate and discontent.

Harris and the Patriots make plans and develop logistics for planned settlement in Alachua county. They petitioned the Spanish governor for:

- Removal of Negro troops
- Amnesty for all offenses
- Land grant in Alachua



*Van Blackwell received a Certificate of Appreciation from Vice President Lee Hulsey after his presentation to the chapter about the DNA approach to genealogy.*



*Douglass Talley has signed his application for membership*



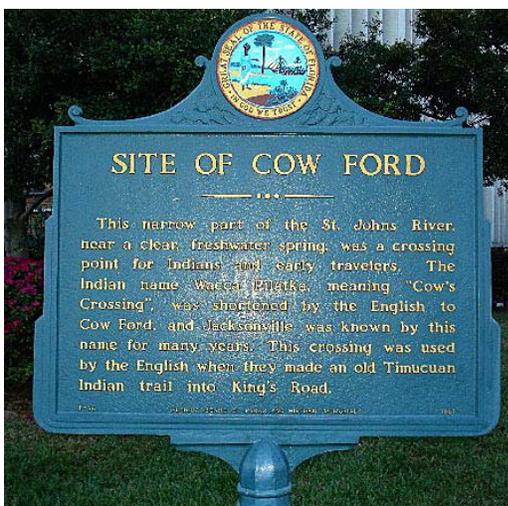
**Veterans**

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.

The Spanish refuse and publish a bounty for Harris.

Harris and the Patriots relocate from St. Mary's to settle near Ocala, where they build two story blockhouse named Fort Mitchell. They create paper government with Harris as Director of The District of Eltochaway of the Republic of East Florida, and send a minister to Secretary of State Monroe seeking recognition; Monroe declines. Harris ventures out to conduct a survey of the new district.

15 May 1814 an Indian arrives at the Spanish Governor's office with Harris' scalp in one hand, and the survey book in the other. Within two weeks, settlers at Fort Mitchell disperse and disappear. The Governor's family receives the largest land grant in Florida history—identical to the area surveyed by Harris.



The Patriot War accomplished one thing the War of 1812 did not. It brought Florida Territory into the U.S. when Spain sold it in 1821. In 1822 the Cowford settlement at the bend of the St. John's River gets a new name: Jacksonville.