



The Collins Dispatch

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

February 2016

Dates to Remember

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

Tues 2/9/16 Chapter BOM

Tues 2/16/16 Chapter Meeting
Speaker Jim Lance on Nathanael Greene

Fri./Sat. 2/12 & 13
Kettle Creek, Washington GA

Thu. to Sun. 2/25-28
Leadership Meeting Louisville, KY
(see page 8)

Sat. 3/12/16 Guilford Courthouse
Greensboro, NC

Tues 3/15/16 Chapter Meeting

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New Leaders

Three Collins compatriots were installed as officers of the Georgia Society at the state meeting held January 23. All are former presidents of the chapter.

Wayne Brown was elected Senior Vice President which aligns him for possible election to State President in 2017. Wayne previously served at the state level as treasurer.

Terry Gibbs will serve as Recording Secretary for the Georgia Society.

David Ludley replaces long time historian Walker Chewning.

Witnessing their installation were a contingent of compatriots from the chapter including President **Lee Hulsey**, **Bill Coffeen**, **Larry Guzy**, **David Martin**, and **Curtis McWaters**.

Allen Greenley, who installed Collins Chapter officers this year, was installed as the new state president. Greenley is a former member of the Piedmont Chapter who was instrumental in starting the young Robert Forsyth Chapter.



Terry Gibbs, Wayne Brown, Secretary General Mike Tomme, David Ludley, Bill Coffeen, President Lee Hulsey, Curtis McWaters, at Georgia State Society annual meeting.

The John Collins Chapter installed new officers at their annual banquet on January 19, with **Lee Hulsey** taking the helm as the new president.



Lee Hulsey accepted congratulations from former president **Harry Hagan**.

Awards were made at the annual banquet to recognize service from compatriots throughout the year.

A spirited presentation was enjoyed from speaker Joe Pugh who recounted the rise of the Baron DeKalb from German peasant to French royalty. DeKalb became the only general in the Revolution to die on the field of battle, earning the reverence of his troops who subsequently named 21 counties in his honor all over the country, including in the metro Atlanta area.

(more inside)

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

President's Message

Gentlemen,

2016 is upon us, and I am looking forward to serving the Captain John Collins Chapter this coming year. It is difficult for me to express just how humbled I feel in regard of the trust that you all have expressed. I will strive to earn that trust, and I will work to bring honor to the office of Chapter President.

Our Chapter finished 2015 in grand fashion, having won three awards at the Georgia Society SAR meeting January 23rd, 2015. These awards included:

Revolutionary War Patriot Grave Marking Certificate

Georgia Society Membership Award w/ Streamer

Distinguished Chapter Award w/ streamer

At the Annual Conference it was a great pleasure to witness our own **Wayne Brown** being elected as our newest State Senior Vice President, as well as **Terry Gibbs** as Recording Secretary and **David Ludley** as State Historian. Compatriot **Larry Guzy** was awarded the Certificate of Distinguished Service, and Compatriots **Wayne Brown, Bill Coffeen** and **Terry Gibbs** were awarded the Silver Roger Sherman Medal and Certificate. These accolades are all well deserved.

It is a tradition at this time for the incoming President to outline his ideas on moving the Collins Chapter forward. As you all know, we have one, if not the

most talented membership Society-wide. I have had the pleasure of getting to know most of these members and am looking forward to getting to know each and every one. At every meeting just looking out and witnessing the turn-out is most encouraging.

First and foremost is membership retention, and bringing more individuals into our great organization. We need to make sure we get the word out, and make the SAR better known. How do we do this? A good question, but we truly need ideas as to how we can spread the word. Funny how many folks know about the DAR. But, the SAR? Maybe newspaper ads, or the next time we are at an event, how would it be to call the MDJ or AJC to cover it. They are always searching for news...let's let it be good news.



Also, President General Thomas E. Lawrence would like to see us sign up for access to Sharefile. Members now have access to many documents like meeting minutes and reports that were previously unavailable. The National web site is being revamped to make it more user-friendly. The Store Module has been completed making it easier to order items online.

We could benefit greatly by creating a better rapport with the local DAR members, and the DAR in general. I recently visited a local SAR Chapter, and two DAR members were in attendance just to support that Chapter. Through the DAR Referral Awards program, the Georgia SAR can recognize a DAR member or Chapter for

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Officers and Committees

President	Leland Lee Hulsey
Vice President	Charles Sanger
Secretary	Larry Guzy
Treasurer	James Castle
Registrar	Robert Van Blackwell
Chancellor	Chandler Vreeland
Chaplain	Lloyd Blackwell
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	OPEN
Flags	Terry Gibbs
Membership	VP & Registrar
Veterans	Bert Christy
DAR Liaison	Bert Christy
Welcome	OPEN
Schools	David Martin assisting

The Collins Dispatch is published every other month. **April 4th** will be the next deadline for articles. Send articles, photos, or your bio to Stan Virden at [nedrivsf@gmail.com](mailto:nedrivosf@gmail.com)

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

larryguzy47@gmail.com or call 678-860-4477

Collins Member News & Happenings



Prospective Member Paul Belter

Look for **Paul Belter** at our meetings to welcome him.

Charter Member **Peter Lyon** has reinstated his membership. Peter was the one who set up our original Member Directory, and is interested in serving again on that or the Dispatch.

Douglass Talley will be receiving his membership certificate at our upcoming meeting. His search for links to Patriot Henry Tally was delayed since it took a while to realize the grandson was in reality the son since Henry was 65 years old when the son was born!!



State Attorney General Sam Olen was given the Outstanding Citizenship Award at the chapter's annual awards banquet. Larry Guzy presented.

Georgia Society Awards Given

The Captain John Collins Chapter received several certificates at the Georgia State Society meeting.

1. Revolutionary War Patriot Grave Marking Certificate for locating and marking the grave of Willis West Sr.
2. Georgia Society Membership Award with Streamer, recognizing the Chapter effort in retaining 90% of its members and submitting dues on time.
3. Distinguished Chapter Certificate with Streamer for meeting objectives of the Georgia Society such as member recruitment, retention, reporting, Flag respect, BOM attendance, regular meetings, community involvement and youth program activity.

Members **Bill Coffeen**, **Wayne Brown** and **Terry Gibbs** were each honored with the Silver Roger Sherman Medal. The medal is awarded in recognition and appreciation of outstanding service to the state society. **Wayne Brown** also earned the Bronze Color Guard Medal. **Larry Guzy** was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for his work as a judge of JROTC.

Roger Sherman Medal

This medal is named after Roger Sherman (April 19, 1721-July 23, 1793) who was an early American lawyer and politician, as well as a founding father. He served on the Committee of Five that drafted the Declaration of Independence, and was also a representative and senator in the new republic. He was the only person to sign all four great state papers of the U.S.: The Continental Association, the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the Constitution. Sherman had a large part in what is known as the "Great Compromise". In 1787 this combined the "New Jersey Plan" which proposed a one-house legislature where each

Youth Candidate Succeeds

The Chapter was proud to see their youth candidate, **Grant Mercer**, receive both the Eagle Scout and George S. and Stella M. Knight Essay contest awards at the state level.

Mercer is a member of **Bill Coffeen's** Boy Scout troop 353 at Due West United Methodist Church. Mercer submitted essays on the topic "Intolerable Acts: Spark of the Revolution". He received a \$600 award and an Eagle trophy in the Boy Scout competition, and an additional \$600 award in the essay contest. The Eagle scout will represent Georgia in both National competitions.



Collins First Lady Gwen Hulsey assisted the new president with his neck ribbon at the Installation and Awards banquet.

state could cast on vote, and the "Virginia Plan" where representation would be based on a state's population. The "Great Compromise" created a bicameral legislature, meaning there would be two houses, one house with equal representation, while the other is based on population of the state.

THOMAS JEFFERSON AND THE TRIPOLI PIRATES

—The Forgotten War That Changed American History



In an account that reads eerily like contemporary news from the Middle East, Brian Kilmeade and Don Yeager describe the coming of age of the U.S. Navy, the origin of the “Shores of Tripoli” in the *Marines’ Hymn*, and the change in thinking that led to the first overseas war initiated by the United States. Reminding us once again of the price of freedom, this exciting book carries us to the early years



of our republic, from 1783, as we were challenged by four Muslim states of the Ottoman Empire who were capturing and looting American ships in peaceful trade, west of Gibraltar to south of Italy, condemning their crews and passengers to cruel slavery, unless freed by high ransom.

Prior to gaining independence from Great Britain, American shipping in the Mediterranean fell under protection of the Royal Navy and British tributes paid annually to the Barbary states. At first, the U.S. policy was to pay off the pirates, but at a cost and under insurance rates that were breaking the U.S. economy. In March 1785, Jefferson and Adams, both ambassadors abroad, met in London with the Tunisian envoy, Sidi Haji Abdrahaman, who re-

sponded to their complaint by stating that the raiders were simply carrying out their religious duties, as decreed in the Qur’an. There was to be no peaceful resolution to the sufferings of Christian sailors, passengers, or cargoes.

For several years Adams and Jefferson argued over what to do. Jefferson favored creating a naval squadron to protect American commerce in the

Mediterranean. Adams thought our country could not afford a force sufficiently large to be effective. In succeeding Adams as President, Jefferson finally got his way with the construction of several frigates sent to do the job at which diplomacy had failed. Still too small an effort, the American ships were victorious over pirates when found, but plundering, ransom, and slavery remained a serious problem. Issues leading to the War of 1812 distracted the U.S. until 1815, but from that time we mounted a full court press and won.

Kilmeade and Yeager are not academic writers. Their prose is direct and down-to-earth. They describe the politics, the incompetents involved, and the heroes—the losses and the victories in plain language that leaves no doubt of the hardships and ingenuity that gained the day and firmly established America’s right to unimpeded navigation on the high seas. This is vivid history, easily digested, and well worth the time to read.

--A Review, by Stan Virden

A PATRIOT’S NAMESAKE

In 1646, the Virginia Colony established Fort Henry near the falls on the Appomattox River. Colonel Abraham Wood, was named Commander of Fort Henry, and over time sent out expeditions to explore points to the west, as far as the Appalachian Mountains.

Colonel Wood’s daughter, Margaret married Captain Peter Jones, who opened a trading post nearby known as Peter’s Point. He eventually became a Major and Commander of Fort Henry. In 1711, Jones was appointed Lieutenant of Rangers of Prince George County, Virginia.

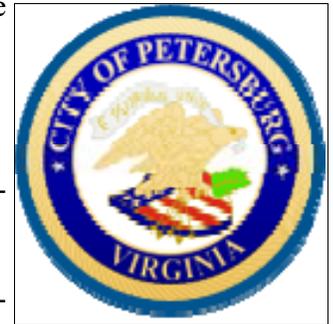
In 1733, Colonel William Byrd II, founder of Richmond conceived a plan for a city at Peter’s Point that would be renamed Petersburg. In 1748, the Virginia General Assembly incorporated Petersburg.

Peter and Margaret

Wood Jones had a son they named Peter. This Peter Jones became a Captain in the Virginia Militia. He married Mary Batte and they had ten children, one of which was named Martha.

Martha Jones married Benjamin Ragsdale, Sr. The Ragsdale’s parented twelve children one of which was Peter Ragsdale, no doubt named for his grandfather Peter Jones.

Peter Ragsdale, who married Sarah Charlton, served in the Revo-



(Continued on page 5)

National SAR Resources

The SAR Genealogical Research Library is pleased to announce the availability of two genealogy and Revolutionary War related databases that can be accessed by SAR members from anywhere outside the Library. The "Gale Genealogy Connect" is an e-Book collection of 189 titles of online genealogical research how-to materials and original sources. The "Sources in American History Online (SUSHO): The American Revolution" database contains nearly 500 significant primary source documents exploring the American Revolution featuring personal accounts, maps, pamphlets, monographs, Congresses, speeches, and material detailing the European point of view.

Announcements of these and other services available to members are announced on the NSSAR website: www.sar.org

(Continued from page 4 Namesake)

lutionary War as a Sergeant in the Sixth Virginia Infantry, Sixth Regiment under Captain Samuel Hopkins and Colonel James Hendricks. Peter Ragsdale died in 1799 in South Carolina and was buried in the Lebanon United Methodist Church cemetery, formerly known as Old Grove. His wife Sarah died in 1830 at the age of one hundred. A marble marker at the cemetery entrance honors the Revolutionary soldiers and heroines of the Lebanon area.

The Jones-Ragsdale generational namesake, Peter, not only provided family ties but lent recognition to a prominent place in our nation's history. From colonial times, through the Revolutionary War, and later as a key military objective when a young nation struggled to preserve it union, Petersburg stayed the course. A Patriot's namesake that began in the mid-1600s, is still evidenced today.

Patriot Peter Ragsdale is an eighth generation ancestor of Compatriot **Earl L. Cagle, Sr.** and ninth generation ancestor of Compatriot **Earl L. Cagle, Jr.** of the Captain John Collins Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution.

- Earl Cagle



*Members of the Georgia SAR Color Guard presented colors during the National Anthem at the Georgia Tech- University of Virginia basketball game January 9. L-R: Shep Hammack, Allen Greenley, Bob Sapp, **Wayne Brown**, Bill Kabel.*



Energized speaker Joe Pugh detailed the life of Baron DeKalb as the speaker for the Collins Chapter Awards and Installation Banquet.

Membership renewals for the Chapter reached 90% before the December 31 cutoff this year. Only four members dropped.

Annual Awards Banquet

A number of certificates and awards were distributed at the annual banquet, including a Bronze Roger Sherman medal awarded to **Curtis McWaters** and a Distinguished Service Medal awarded to **Terry Gibbs**.

Certificates were also given as follows:

Certificate of Patriotism

Bill Coffeen (Eagle Scout)
Bert Christy (Veterans Comm. Chair)
Carey Pickens (Graves Comm. Chair)
Chandler Vreeland (Chancellor)
Charles Sanger III
(Nominating Comm. Chair)
Larry Guzy (Editor)
Jim Castle (Treasurer)
Rodney Pritchett (Sergeant-at-Arms)
Vann Blackwell (Registrar)
Vann Beasley (Historian)
John Mattingly (Secretary)
Lee Hulsey (VP)
Larry Lines (Chaplain)
Earl Cagle, Sr. (Assistant Registrar)

Perfect Attendance

Harry Hagan
Lee Hulsey
Van Blackwell
Jim Castle
Bert Christy
Charles Sanger III

An Analysis of *FRANCE'S CONTRIBUTION TO AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE*

Seven Years of Close Cooperation and Sacrifices

Unquestionably, France's contribution to American independence was crucial to our success in separating the United States from dominance of the English Crown and Parliament. The value of France's alliance can hardly be overstated, although the French Society, SAR, has managed a good run at doing so. Their pamphlet and two DVDs of the above title contain much information of interest, but claim considerable credit for France due to others, especially its partnership with Spain, to which this account gives short shrift.

Having read a considerable amount on Carlos III, Gen. Bernardo Gálvez, other Spanish notables of the time, and the contributions of Spanish land and sea forces in direct support of our Revolutionary War, I will attempt a comparison of their efforts with the somewhat inflated claims of the subject document. My source for statistical data will be *GÁLVEZ- Spain-Our Forgotten Ally In The American Revolutionary War: A Concise Summary of Spain's Assistance*, by Past SAR PG Judge Ed Butler.

Initial involvement: F: December 1775; S: December 1774, covertly, for reasons of diplomatic maneuvering with Portugal, with open support after June 1779. F & S were in secret collusion to support the Americans; each contributing an initial one million livres to set up a dummy corporation, Rodrigue Hortalez & Co., to channel logistical support to the colonies.

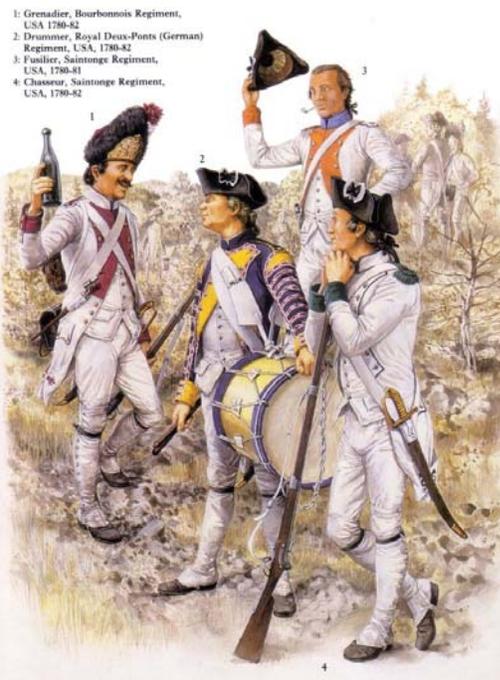
Combatant personnel: [Approximate and variable numbers; given data are confusing]

F – 6,000 soldiers, officers, military engineers, including the valiant Marquis de La Fayette and the Prussian Baron de Steuben. Also some 75,000 sailors at various times. These forces operated along the Atlantic, primarily in conjunction with American ground forces.

S – From 1775, independent raids against British up the Mississippi River as far as Michigan. Once turned loose in 1779, 17,000 soldiers and sailors, operating under Gen. Gálvez, cleared out British forces along the Mississippi River and Gulf Coast, including Mobile and Pensacola. At Pensacola four French frigates assisted.

Offshore operations. Both F and S forces conducted extensive diversionary actions in Caribbean, North and South Atlantic, and Mediterranean waters. In addition, substantial F forces were massed on East shores of the English channel, threatening an invasion of England. This activity tied up numerous British forces, denying their availability for the American theater. It should be noted that these actions were part of an ongoing world-wide conflict between European powers, and that certain Mediterranean and Caribbean colonies, especially Gibraltar and Jamaica, were considered more prize worthy than the 13 American colonies. While such distractions obviously assisted the American cause, they most likely would have occurred in any case.

Combat casualties: Some of the follow-



ing estimates seem to have been suffered offshore as well as in the American theater.

F – 5,000 KIA, 9,000 WIA; additional unspecified losses to disease.

S – Undocumented, but estimated in the thousands.

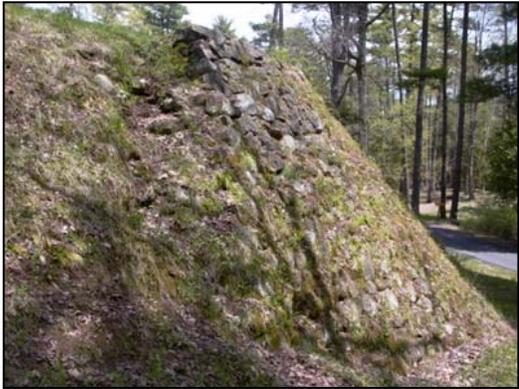
American Indians – Significant losses in support of both sides in the war.

Financial and Logistical Contributions. These amounts are hard to quantify, but totaled to a great deal. The French expenditures were considerable, the Spanish likewise. Spain channeled huge sums through France, who garnered the credit. Spain also funded the French fleet on several critical occasions. Both nations furnished enormous quantities of ordnance, food, and other critical supplies, as well as access to their ports. Spain is credited with the first American cattle drive, from Texas to Washington's forces at Valley Forge. While France was focused primarily in the East, Spain provisioned Gen. George Rogers Clark on the Western Front, enabling him to forestall British encirclement of the American colonies and deny to the British supportive use of the Northwest Territory. Spanish operations in the Gulf of Mexico were carried out without reference to the Americans, but very much to their benefit. Interestingly, America's first gold dollar was the Spanish half Escudo coin, backbone of the American economy until 1793 and legal tender until 1849.

Conclusions. It must be noted that Spain had no formal alliance with the United States, but acted out of self-interest and alliance with France. In addition to direct logistical and financial support, Spain and France together eradicated thousands of British and allied warriors, captured tens of thousands more, with their personal arms; captured or sunk hundreds of British ships; captured thousands of artillery pieces, tens of thousands of tons of gunpowder and other ordnance; and captured for America numerous British forts. It is clear from the record that Spain and France were, by and large, co-equal in their benefits to American victory in it's War of Independence from Great Britain and in the sacrifices they suffered throughout that conflict.

--Stan Virden

STONE WALLS FROM UNFINISHED BRITISH FORT DISCOVERED IN UPSTATE NEW YORK



As reported by the Associated Press, an archaeological dig this summer in the southern Adirondacks has uncovered large sections of stone walls believed to have been constructed within a larger British fortification. Excavations at the state-owned Lake George Battlefield Park by about four dozen volunteers and students dug numerous pits in an area occupied by thousands of British and Colonial American soldiers during the French and Indian War more than 250 years ago.

The dig, sponsored by State University of New York at Adirondack, uncovered musket balls, gun flints and pottery pieces amid an infrequently visited 35-acre park. Most significant, according to David Starbuck, the supervising archaeologist, was discovery of intact stone walls buried in a bastion of the incompletely built Fort George.

In 1759, the commander of British forces in North America, Jeffery Amherst, initiated construction of a large fort on high ground at the south end of Lake George, the site of two previous battles. However, the capture of the French fort at Ticonderoga made this unnecessary. Only one corner bastion of the stone and earthen fort was completed, as well as an underground casemate.



Although it fell into disrepair after that war ended in 1763, Americans reoccupied Fort George early in the Revolutionary War. The British took it back in 1777, lost it after the Battle of Saratoga, then regained it in 1781, after which they burned it. What remains today is a U-shaped, 20-foot-high grass-covered ruin. After 25 years of excavating wood-walled military sites in the region, Starbuck considers finding a structure with stone walls 6 feet high and up to 5 feet thick to be a major highlight. He plans to come back later and dig further.

LAKE GEORGE was known as "La Lac du Sacrement" - so named by the French prior to the 1700's because of the beauty and purity of the Lake. After the "The French and Indian War" 1754-1760 Sir William Johnson, who led the English defeat of the French, changed the name to LAKE GEORGE in honor of his king. [Information from "Call Me Adirondack" by Murray Heller].

ANDIA-TE-ROC-TE [Adirondack]

is translated as, "Where The Mountains Close In" [taken from the booklet of the same name, by Charles Clifford King, Jr.]

Fort George is located near Fort William Henry. It was captured in 1757 by Marquis de Montcalm after a six-

day siege by the French and Indians, who massacred all. The event provided James Fenimore Cooper background for his famous novel *The Last of the Mohicans*. The fort was reconstructed and opened to the public as a museum in 1953.

[Wikipedia]

See more photos at www.captainjohncollins.org



President Lee Hulsey accepted a Patriot Grave Marking certificate and streamer from state chairman Don Burdick at the annual Georgia SAR awards banquet.
Photo: Terry Gibbs

(Continued from page 2 President's Message)

referring at least 5 new members. Let's see if we can encourage our local DAR ladies to refer new members.

As many of you know activities that are now in place, Jr. ROTC, Flag certificates, Law and Fire, Americanism, Veterans, Graves, Scouts etc. are activities that continue to be supported by an able group of talented patriots.

In closing I would like to say, it is a pleasure to be associated with such committed men, and lovers of freedom. Thank you so much for trust and above all, friendship that I have experienced over the past years.

Leland Hulsey,

**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.



PG Thomas Lawrence

President General Tom Lawrence recently announced that the Spring Leadership meeting, being held in Louisville, KY, will follow a slightly longer format to allow for the full agenda of work to be done. Meetings will start Thursday, Feb 25.

In other news, the PG announced that there will be a cruise on the Ohio River for the Thursday night dinner and that, because the Friday banquet will include a talk on Caribbean involvement in the War, attendees are invited to wear island garb rather than suits. A steel drum band and pina colada bars will be provided!

All compatriots are welcome to attend leadership meetings, held twice a year in Louisville. Registration deadline for the Spring meeting is February 10 and registration is available online at the national website.



Harry Hagan and Rodney Pritchett provided the Chapter with their wonderful seasonal music at the December meeting. Nancy Pritchett sang.

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



Members and wives pledge allegiance to begin annual banquet. Below, new officers are installed by then Sr. Vice President GA SAR Allen Greenley. Photos Ray Ruggles

