

The Collins Dispatch

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

December 2019

DATES TO REMEMBER

The Chapter meeting starts at 7PM the third Tuesday every month. We gather at the Provino's Italian Restaurant, 440-A Barrett Parkway Suite 1, Kennesaw, Georgia, 6PM for dinner and fellowship before the meeting. Family and friends are welcome.

- Jan 21. John Collins Banquet
- Jan 24. GA Society SAR Annual Conference
- Feb 7. Elijah Clarke & Heroes of the Hornets' Nest -Remembrance Day

Additional events and activities, see the GA SAR website georgiasocietysar.org



SAR/DAR LIAISON

The combined incentive of the SAR/DAR Liaison Committee and the DAR / SAR Cooperative Committee is to identify prospective applicants for membership in Sons of the American Revolution. This is not to say, that is the only goal envisioned. With the many programs and ideals both organizations have and drawing on the assets and talents both possess a cohesive effort can accomplish much. When we think of our nation's history, patriotism, education, support of our veteran's programs and many more common interest and efforts, it stands to reason our combined resources will be best served if we work together. The response of the local Daughters of the American Revolution Chapters, namely, Fielding Lewis, Kennesaw Mountain, Liberty Hill, Old Noonday and Andrew Howser has been reassuring and rewarding. In the accompanying photo, (l.-r.) Kennesaw Mountain Chapter Second Vice Regent, Kate Sklikas referred two great nephews, William London and Jackson London (both not pictured), Dan King referred by his wife, First Vice Regent, Brenda King. All three are now members of the Capt. John Collins SAR Chapter.

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Officers and Committees

- President** - Earl Cagle Sr.
Immediate Past-President - Charles O. Sanger III
Vice President - Gary Hoyt
Secretary - E. Stallings Howell, Jr.
Treasurer - Wayne L. Brown
Registrar - Randall Huber
Chancellor - L. Chandler Vreeland
Chaplain - Lloyd Blackwell
Sergeant-at-Arms - Rodney Pritchett
Historian - Michael Reither
Editor - Drew Burr
Americanism/Fire/Law/EMS - Wayne L. Brown
Flags and Knight Essay - Terry A. Gibbs
Cemetery Harry F. Hagan
JROTC - Earl Cagle
Eagle Scouts / Education - Bill Coffeen
Veterans - Gary Hoyt / Patrick Reese
DAR Liaison - Bert R. Christy
Membership / Welcome - Lee Hulsey
Chapter Directory - E. Stallings Howell, Jr.

President's Message

Today is December 13th and the weather is rainy and cold as we prepare for Wreaths Across America tomorrow. Yet, there is a certain warmth that is felt within, as I address you my fellow Compatriots. This warmth comes from knowing we are descended from a people that would and did in some cases sacrifice all for their freedom and our Country. It also comes from my association with a group I have come to respect and admire for their encouragement and support as I attempted to serve a two term Presidency. Our achievements are to be shared, our shortcomings put behind us and our vision directed to the future. We have met the challenges presented to us, grown our membership, broadened our base to greater outreach and reaped the goals of our efforts. This will be my last message to you, The Chapter, and I as your President. I extend my sincere thank you and best wishes for the coming year. May God Bless each of you and God Bless America.

Earl L. Cagle, Sr, President



EAGLE SCOUT RECOGNITION

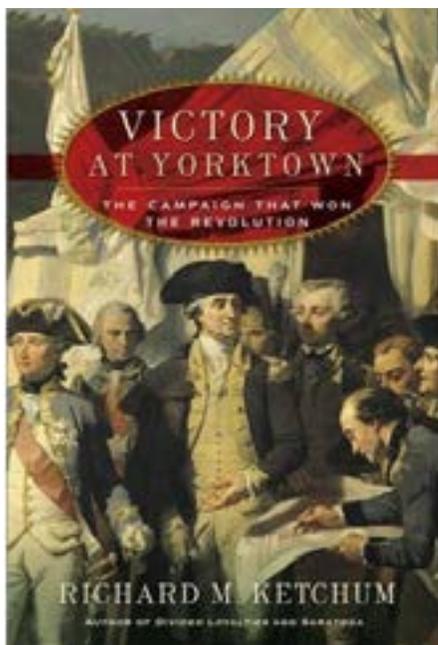
The Court of Honor for Eagle Scout Julien Chase Withrow of Troop 404 was held Sunday, December 15, 2019 at Gates Chapel Methodist Church in Gilmer County. Julien's Eagle Project was a chimney swift tower built on the Talking Rock Nature Preserve. The project was funded with a grant from the Department of Natural Resources to the Southeastern Trust for Public Lands. The purpose is to provide habitat for the endangered chimney swift. In commemoration to this summer's 75th anniversary of Operation Overlord, Julien dedicated his project to Allied service members who stormed the beaches of Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944. Julien is descended from numerous pioneer families that include several Patriots. Julien's father, Greg Withrow is the Scoutmaster for Troop 404 and the nephew of Capt. John Collins Chapter President, Earl Cagle.

VICTORY AT YORKTOWN

The Campaign That Won the Revolution

Richard M. Ketchum

In 1780, who'da thunk? To date the Colonial Army had won only one major victory, Saratoga, in three years previously. Otherwise, it engaged mostly in skirmishes, winning some, losing some, as it continued to evade traditional head-on clashes with the British Army, the finest and most experienced in the world. At least, Saratoga gave the French incentive to be helpful, but they were difficult allies. Washington's forces were exhausted and thread-bare. There was a shortage of weapons and other military equipment. There was no money. There was little food. There were no shoes. The private soldier faced many incentives to slip away and go home. The American public was war weary, ceasing to care who won. They just wanted the fighting to end. How could the Revolution ever succeed?



Sentiment in Britain was also tiring of the war. Long-range logistical support of their army was frightfully expensive, especially with losses at sea from American privateers and French naval intercepts. Many in the UK wished just to give it up and go on with life. Britain imagined there would be more Loyalist feelings in the South, and focused on capturing control over Savannah and Charleston, essentially collapsing organized American southern forces. Sir Banastre Tarleton's cavalry terrorized Americans thought to be unsupportive of the crown. Satisfied that all was well in the South, General Henry Clinton, the overall British commander, returned to New York, leaving General Charles Cornwallis to mind the store.

Washington sent his most able commander, General Nathanael Greene, to take over American Southern Forces, which consisted primarily of guerilla bands. A courageous and adroit leader, Greene was unable to retake the two major cities, but harassed Clinton in a manner that drove him unsteadily north, incurring heavy casualties, eventually to Virginia, where he finally dug in at Yorktown to await help from the Royal Navy.

A small American force led by the Marquis de Lafayette kept him under close observation.

Meanwhile, Washington focused his attention on recapturing New York, but his planning was indecisive. Reinforced by 5,500 French troops recently landed at Newport RI, he pondered with Comte de Rochambeau, who advised that New York might be too tough a nut to crack, and that Comte de Grasse was bringing his French Fleet from the West Indies to the Chesapeake Bay to unsettle Cornwallis. De Grasse was also transporting additional troops and 500,000 silver pesos collected from citizens of Havana, Cuba, to fund supplies for the siege and payroll for the Continental Army. [Simultaneously, Spanish forces, under General Bernardo Galvez, through successful attacks on Mobile and Pensacola, were drawing off Royal Navy units to the Gulf of Mexico]. This situation was too good to pass up. Washington and Rochambeau therefore pointed their armies toward the south, commencing a difficult and painful forced march to Yorktown, leaving behind a small force to throw Clinton off guard by pretending preparations for a siege of New York.

(Continuation on page 4)

My Patriot Ancestor

If you have done research on your Patriot Ancestor, share the information with us through a short story for an upcoming edition of *The Collins Dispatch*.

De Grasse, in September 1781, managed to engage and drive off a Royal Navy relief fleet, leaving the way clear for him to take control of Chesapeake Bay and bottle up Cornwallis. Shortly afterward, American and French ground forces assembled at Yorktown to put the cork in that bottle. Cornwallis was left with no choice but to defend against siege. Through brilliant tactics and bravado, in which Hamilton and Lafayette demonstrated heroic leadership, Cornwallis was compelled to give it up. His band played “The World Turned Upside Down” leading over 7,000 British soldiers onto the surrender field to lay down their arms and become POWs. An embarrassed Cornwallis feigned illness and did not attend. The war continued in a suspended state for two more years, until the Treaty of Paris acknowledged the United States as a free and independent nation, reaching from the Atlantic to the Mississippi River, below Canada and above Spanish Florida.

It is interesting to compare our War for Independence with our war in Vietnam. There are many parallels. They each lasted about the same length of time and were settled by international treaty. They each saw a rag-tag army of partisans, having some outside support, pitched against an overseas military force acknowledged as the best in the world, but weighted down with extended logistical lines and tiring, hostile public sentiment and support. Would the outcome have been different if the American leadership had studied their own history more carefully?

Richard Ketchum, a distinguished and prolific writer on the Revolutionary War, gives us a fine and lively account, focused on Yorktown, but including the full scope of military and political factors leading to that epic event. Along the way we become much better acquainted with “The General,” His Excellency George Washington. It is a breathtaking narrative that needs to be well understood by anyone claiming to be American.

--Reviewed by Stan Virden



December Meeting: FESTIVE HOLIDAY MUSIC



“Chapter President, Earl Cagle had the honor of placing the MIA wreath.”

Harry Hagen (left) and Rodney Pritchett (right).
Christmas entertainment at our last meeting.



FLAG RETIREMENT

The annual Flag Retirement Program at Due West Methodist Church, while not well attended, was a great success in regards to the customary ceremony presentation. If one listens closely to the presentation there is a great deal to be learned historically. The solemnity of the setting and delivery of the script along with the actual disposal process can bring a lump to the throat of most observers. The longevity of our nation's history is told in the analysis of "Our Flag". It is a creation, with an humble beginning, that has traveled the world over and signifies who we are. From the classroom to the battle field to the cemetery the "Stars and Stripes" have provided comfort and reassurance to all that hear and recite "Our" pledge.



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

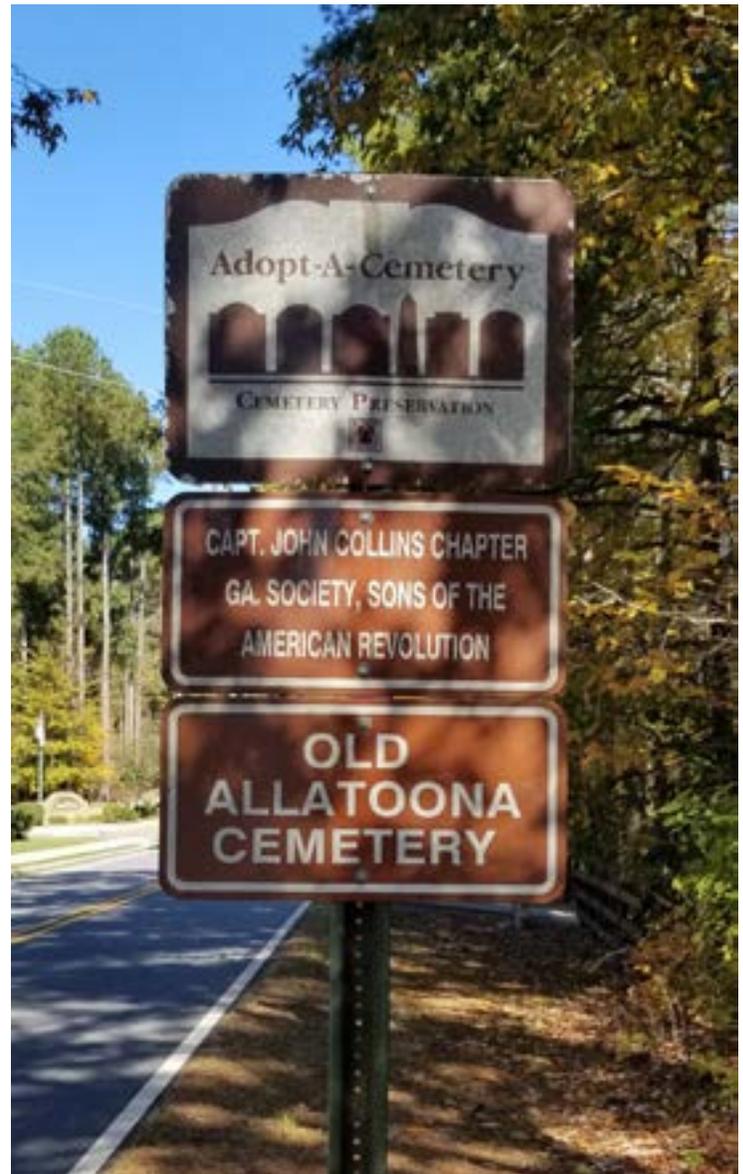
On Saturday, December 14th, America observed the traditional Wreaths Across America, and the Marietta National Cemetery had its dependable response to honor and pay respects to those thousands that served and more importantly those that gave their all. This is the fourteenth year that the observance has been coordinated by Civil Air Patrol LTC Paige Joyner. While the weather was cold and windy, spirits were high and responsive. The various military branches were represented and participated with a designated representative from each placing a wreath. Brad Quinlin, our Civil War and Marietta National Cemetery authority was present with informative information on the site. Adding to the honors, the rumble of motorcycles carried across white array of markers that mark the final resting place for so many.

John Collins Chapter President, Earl Cagle was designated the honor of placing the Missing in Action (MIA) wreath. A brief commentary was presented on his efforts with the Department of Defense beginning in 2006 to identify a relative for a mitochondrial DNA sample. The search was eventually successful and in 2008 the remains of the Army medic, killed in Korea in December of 1950, came home and received full Military Honors at Arlington Cemetery.

Old Allatoona Cemetery Clean Up

Compatriots of Capt. John Collins and the Liberty Hill DAR chapter held a work day at Old Allatoona Cemetery on November 9th.

In addition to cleaning up the cemetery grounds, three (3) broken tombstones were repaired (see photo – red circle mark repaired tombstones).



VETERANS DONATIONS:

Toiletries (but not small bar soap), blankets, and socks are needed at Veteran care facilities. Bring items to be donated to the chapter meetings and report your visits to Vets and other activities.

VETERAN'S DAY PARADE:



Veteran's Day Parade in Marietta

Joe Vancura was asked to participate with the the Jack Shields military reenactors group. This year we were in patrol formation, in order of historical precedence. So I led the group. Represented were Revolution, Civil, WWI, WWII, Vietnam, Desert Storm.

Over 30 organizations participated, including area high school marching bands and civic groups. The parade began at Roswell St Baptist Church and marched to and around Marietta Square, with Pass In Review just prior to completion near the courthouse.



NEW MEMBERS:

Matt Burton, Luke Burton, Will Burton



December, 2019 new member induction (l.-r.) Vice-President Gary Hoyt, Phillip Solida, Matthew Burton, Luke Burton, William Burton



Back row- Matt Burton, Luke Burton, Will Burton
Front row- Lydia Burton, Carolyn Burton, Mary Burton, President Earl Cagle.

Members are encouraged to submit articles and photos to Drew Burr for inclusion in the next edition of The Collins Dispatch. Deadline February 18th.