



# The Collins Dispatch

October 2008

### Dates to Remember

**Meetings—Spaghetti Warehouse, Delk Rd, East of I-75 6 pm to eat, 7pm meeting**

Oct 21 Chapter Mtg.  
Susan Lemesis speaks about “French General Le Rochambeux”

Nov. 8 10 am Flag retirement at Due West United Methodist Church

Nov 18 Jim Swain, Attorney discusses “Veterans Affairs Benefits”

Dec 15 Trombone Quartet Christmas Music and Election of Officers

January Annual Meeting will feature Marietta Daily Journal Editorial Page Editor Joe Kirby discussing this new book on the Bell Bomber Factory.

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## Fall Outing to New Echota

On Saturday morning, October 4<sup>th</sup>, an intrepid band of SAR members from the John Collins chapter ventured north to New Echota to visit a museum and associated historic buildings highlighting the achievements and sad demise of the capital of the Cherokee Nation from 1825-1838. It was here that a

planned community of 50 permanent residents laid out a 60’ wide main street, 50’ wide side streets, and 100 one-acre town lots plus a two-acre town square.

The Cherokees (through the 12 year efforts of Sequoyah) developed a written form of their language (the first aboriginal group to do so the U.S.) and proceeded to spread the use of both English and Cherokee by printing The Cherokee Phoenix, the first bilingual newspaper of its kind which is still printed today.

Many Cherokee attempted to adopt white ways by



*Judy, Addie and John Jones with Bill Coffeen look happy leaving the New Echota tavern. Photo David Martin*

becoming successful farmers and other professions. They even discarded the concept of a traditional town chief or leader for a republican form of government composed of two legislative bodies, an executive branch and even a Supreme Court. The Council House and Supreme Courthouse have been reconstructed

on the grounds along with a print shop and typical farmsteads.

Despite the incredible progress many Cherokee made in becoming one of the most recognized of the “Five Civilized Tribes”, the state of Georgia was determined to take over tribal lands upheld by previous treaties of the U.S. Government. Instead of going to war over such disputes as did many aboriginal groups, the Cherokee chose to fight the issue through the courts. Sadly, even though the Supreme Court of the United States ruled in their favor, President Jackson refused to come to their defense. So the Indian Removal Act which had passed in 1830 was finally applied to the Cherokee.

Georgia’s Land Lottery of 1832 coupled



*Cherokee printing press with guide. Photo Bill Coffeen*

*(Continued on page 5)*

*Send your articles and photos to Larry Guzy for inclusion in the next edition of the Collins Dispatch. Write the next Signers of the Declaration profile or profile a fellow chapter member. Have you studied a Rev War battle? Explain it to us.*

## President's Message

The hustle and bustle of Fall is here! Which means that we have some great opportunities for you to get involved.

For everyone who did not get the chance to attend the fall trip this year to the New Echota State Historic Site let me tell you. It was fantastic! The group had a personal tour, private access to all of the building, and the list goes on. We do have a video CD about the history of New Echota if you are interested. We will be viewing this 17 minute long video in the near future at our monthly meeting.

Looking ahead, we have a few items to keep in mind.

- First, membership dues: we do an excellent job of getting our checks in, but I just wanted to send out an early reminder.
- Second, we are at that time of year to start putting in place the leadership for next year. The process is fairly simple: we begin with a committee to help identify our candidates, then vote and install the new leaders. It is a great to get involved.
- Finally, we are starting to actively



contest.

Remember,

- Perpetuate the Revolution,
- Maintain the Institutions of American Freedom, and
- Promote Fellowship.

As you read this issue of the *Dispatch*, note how all our various activities fulfill these goals.

<http://www.sar.org/youth/americanism.html>

Stuart "Skip" Wesley Keaton,  
President

look for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade participants in the 2008-2009 Americanism Poster Contest. This year's theme is "Paul Revere's Ride."

The Captain John Collins Chapter is looking to reward participation. So if you know of a class that would be interested in this project please let me know. There will be a reward for the winning student and classroom. Please see the link below for more details about the

## Officers and Committee

President	Skip Keaton
Vice President	David Martin
Secretary	Jim Waide
Treasurer	Charles Covington
Registrar	Bill Teasley
Chancellor	Jack Gibson
Chaplain	John Jones
Sergeant-at-Arms	Rodney Pritchett
Historian	Bill Coffeen
Editor	Larry Guzy
Americanism	Charles Switzer
Cemetery	David Thompson
Dinner meetings	David Martin
Flags/Law/Fire	Curtis McWaters
Eagle Scouts	Bill Coffeen
JROTC & Veterans	Curtis McWaters
Membership	Bill Teasley
Patriot Grave	Brad Jones
Publicity/phone	David Thompson
Schools	Rodney Pritchett

The Collins Dispatch is published every other month. **December 4th** will be the next deadline for articles. Send articles, photos, or your bio to Larry Guzy by email [lg\\_adjservices@mindspring.com](mailto:lg_adjservices@mindspring.com), or regular mail at 4531 Paper Mill Rd SE, Marietta, GA 30067-4025.

*If you have new member leads, contact Registrar Bill Teasley.*

## Collins Member News

Bob and Ryan McGehee Natl. #172347 GA #4749 and Natl. #172348 GA#4750 were approved 8/25 and Samuel Keaton Natl. #172349 GA#4751 was approved 8/25/08.

Rich Morrison and his father's applications are at National awaiting review. Dennis Rebman has submitted his application and it will be at National on November 3rd.

## 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 David Thompson. [Sabl356256@aol.com](mailto:Sabl356256@aol.com)

# Overmountain Men Militia

I attended the reenactment on this Sept. 25th of early morning Sept. 25, 1780 when militia troops from southern VA and NC north of Sycamore Shoals/Ft. Watauga crossed the Watauga River to get to that muster place on that date to become part of the **The Overmountain Men Militia** who went after Ferguson and ended up at Kings Mountain.

Sevier & Shelby had financially guaranteed to cover any man who could not afford to make the trip on his own (If the battle had gone badly, both men would have been financially ruined, if not killed there anyway - their brand of patriotism took real guts!).

This is really the First Day of the "Full March" which started out from Sycamore Shoals later on the 25th and ended with the battle on Oct. 7th. Very few people witness this annual first day commemorative event or even know it exists! I was there because we had a Sevier Family Association Reunion planning meeting there as two of our officers were going on a few days of the early portion of the March.

Photos: Jack Gibson

Jack Gibson



## West Main Street Honored

The American Planning Assoc. has designated the 10 Great Streets in the country and among them they listed West Main Street, Louisville KY, where the new NSSAR Center for Advancing America's Heritage, the new headquarters, is being developed. For more info and a photo, follow the link on the Collins website to the story in the Louisville Courier-Journal Online.

## VETERANS' MENTAL HEALTH BILL NOW LAW

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Senator Daniel K. Akaka (D-HI), Chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, issued the following statement regarding enactment of S. 2162, the Veterans Mental Health and Other Care Improvements Act of 2008. S. 2162, introduced by Senator Akaka and cosponsored by a bipartisan group of Senators, makes various improvements to veterans' mental health and other forms of care. The bill pays tribute to Justin Bailey, an Iraq war veteran who returned from combat only to lose his life to PTSD and an accidental overdose of prescription medications.

"Now that S. 2162 has been enacted, VA can incorporate these provisions to improve its strategy against the injury and enemy of PTSD and other invisible wounds," said Akaka.

In his floor statement urging passage of S. 2162, Akaka detailed the origins of his legislation: "The legislation did not stem from a lobbyist or an interest group. It came about because of one letter - a letter to me from the parents of Justin Bailey - Mary Kaye and Tony Bailey.

"Justin Bailey was a war veteran who survived Iraq only to die while receiving care from VA for PTSD and substance use disorder. A week after his death last year, Justin's parents were naturally heartbroken by the death of their only son, but even more than that, they were concerned that other veterans might share his fate if VA mental health care did not improve," said Akaka. The Bailey family has worked actively to improve veterans' mental health, testifying before the Veterans' Affairs Committee and supporting S. 2162.

S. 2162's improvements to veterans' mental health care include:

- a. Setting a standard minimum level of care for substance use disorder, and creating innovative enhancements to treatment
- b. Improving treatment to veterans with multiple disorders, such as PTSD and substance use disorder
- c. Mandating a review of VA's residential mental health care facilities, to ensure that they are adequately staffed
- d. Creating a research program on PTSD and substance use disorder, in cooperation with the National Center for PTSD
- e. Enabling VA to provide mental health services to veterans' families, and setting up a program to aid the families of returning service-members

S. 2162 also makes significant improvements in other areas of veterans' health care:

**Rural Veterans:** More than doubles the beneficiary travel mileage reimbursement (from 11 to 28.5 cents per mile) eligible veterans can receive for travel to receive VA care, permanently sets the deductible to \$3 each way for such travel, creates a pilot program on the use of peers to enhance outreach to rural veterans, and encourages coordination between VA and rural community-based resources.

**Emergency Care for Veterans:** Corrects current procedures used by VA to reimburse community hospitals for emergency care provided to eligible veterans.

**VA Epilepsy Centers of Excellence:** In recognition of the link be-

tween traumatic brain injury, a signature wound of the current conflicts, and epilepsy, establishes up to six VA Epilepsy Centers of Excellence focused on research, education, and clinical care for epilepsy.

**Veterans' Pain Care:** Requires a pain care program, including care for acute pain, for all VA inpatient facilities for long-term mental health and substance abuse care and to prevent long-term chronic pain disability, expands VA health care staff education on pain assessment and treatment, and increases VA research on pain care.

**Veterans' Caregivers:** Extends authority for VA to provide institutional and non-institutional long-term care and caregiver assistance services.

**Medical Construction:** Authorizes a series of major medical facility construction projects and outpatient clinic leases.

**Homelessness:** Creates targeted programs to assist low-income veterans, and increases funding capacity for the successful VA Grant and Per Diem program, which assists community-based organizations that serve homeless veterans.

**Rehabilitating Veterans:** Expands a program to help formerly incarcerated veterans reintegrate into society through employment counseling and other services.

S. 2162, introduced by Chairman Akaka, was reported by the Senate Committee, then passed the full Senate unanimously before being amended and passed in the House, then passed again in the Senate. President Bush signed the bill into law on October 10, 2008.

## Flag Retirement

Bill Coffeen will coordinate a flag retirement ceremony with Boy Scouts at the Due West United Methodist Church on Saturday, November 8 at 10 a.m. Members are encouraged to attend. The ceremony will be at the church's pavilion. The church is located in Marietta, Georgia at the intersection of Acworth Due West Road, Kennesaw Due West Road, and Due West Road.



*The 2007 retirement ceremony.*



*Council House—New Echota  
photo Bill Coffeen*

*(Continued from page 1)  
Fall Outing to New Echota*

with the discovery of gold on Cherokee land convinced a small minority of Cherokee leaders to sign an agreement that traded their land and \$5,000,000 for removal to “Indian Territory” in what is now Oklahoma. The majority of Cherokee were so enraged that those few leaders who had formally ceded Cherokee lands were assassinated. Nonetheless, the Cherokee had no choice at that point but to move and were finally rounded up by 7,000 U.S. troops and forced to march west beginning in October of 1838. That forced march has since become known as the infamous “Trail of Tears”.

### Allatoona Gets Some TLC

Last September 20<sup>th</sup> saw a good turnout for a scheduled cleanup day at Old Allatoona cemetery. On this cleanup day, however, there was more to do than the usual transporting of fallen tree limbs and debris to the street and straightening wooden grave marker crosses. Two dead trees were targeted for removal. Accordingly, several members arrived with



*Kendall Abbott, David Martin, Charles Covington and David Thompson pose with the result of a good day's work.  
Photos: Bill Coffeen*

“heavy metal”, their chain saws. With everyone working together it did not take long to gather and remove fallen limbs and brush. Then, it was time for the big event.

David Thompson stepped forward. After surmising a possible area for the tree to fall without inflicting any damage to cemetery headstones or markers, he cranked up his machine, held his thumb in the air to check the wind direction, applied the chain saw to the tree and in a matter of seconds the tree was on the ground without having done any damage. Downing the second tree was



*Ken Farris presented a flag certificate to manager Luke Cook at the Hamilton Mill Chick-Fil-A. “He was very appreciative that his restaurant was given this recognition” Ken reports.*

*President Skip Keaton presented a Certificate of Appreciation to speaker Greg Jarrell from the Georgia Archives.*



more of a test of his skill when it became entangled with limbs of adjacent trees. This situation required special handling, but David was up to the task and eventually downed the tree free and clear of any headstones and markers. Kudos to David Thompson, the Paul Bunyan of west Cobb.

Other compatriots who risked life and limb for this cleanup effort deserve a hearty “well done”. They were Kendall Abbott from Sons of Liberty Chapter and his wife, Cindy, Bill Coffeen, Charles Covington, and David Martin. As the cleanup was ending Anne Martin arrived with fresh made cookies and coffee and tea. What a treat, and another “well done.”  
- David Martin

### Haygood Grave Marking

The grave of Patriot Benjamin Haygood was dedicated on Saturday October 4th in the Haygood-Stroud Family Cemetery off Worsham Rd in Monroe County, GA. The Chapter wreath was presented by Collins Treasurer Charles Covington.



*Piper John Mortison, Piedmont Chapter*



*Photos: Charles Covington*

**CAPTAIN JOHN COLLINS CHAPTER  
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Publisher: Stuart "Skip" Keaton  
132 Lakeshore Dr.  
Marietta, GA 30067

Editor: Larry T. Guzy  
4531 Paper Mill Rd.  
Marietta, GA 30067-4025

Phone: 678-860-4477  
Fax: 678-443-8992  
E-mail: lg\_adjservices@mindspring.com



**The Battle of Kings Mountain  
October 7, 1980**

**The Turning of the Tide of War**

An article with this title appears on the SAR National website, describing the events that are commemorated each year on the exact date in South Carolina. It was written by A. Mims Wilkerson of the Atlanta chapter. This battle was the destination of the Overmountain Men.

Charles Covington, among those who attended, took a series of photos to show the activities there. He also presented the John Collins wreath at this event.



*Overmountain Men told the tale of their trek.*

*Wreath laying the monument included an impressive showing of SAR Color Guardsmen.*

*How to start a fire on the trail.*



*Calvary skills were demonstrated*

