



CAPTAIN JOHN COLLINS CHAPTER

Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution

Jan-Mar 2024



DATES TO REMEMBER

The Chapter meeting starts at 7 PM on the third Tuesday of every month.

Mar 19— Chapter Meeting

Apr 16—Chapter Meeting

May 21—Chapter Banquet

Jun 18—Chapter Meeting

Additional events and activities, see the GASAR website:

www.gasocietysar.org

and the chapter website:

www.johncollinssar.org/events/

Next edition of the Dispatch is planned for Jun 2024.

Our chapter newsletters, current and previous editions, can be downloaded from the chapter website.

If you have articles or photos for publication in the newsletter, please send them to:

jami.andrew@att.net

The 1st Continental Congress convenes in Philadelphia on Sep 5, 1774.

Painting by Allyn Cox, 1974, US Capitol.

Left: Colonist paying taxes to the British Crown

Center: Patrick Henry oration

Right: British military blocking woman and child, symbolizing armed occupation

The Intolerable Acts: The Empire Strikes Back

250 years ago, in 1774:

The Boston Port Act was passed by Parliament on 31 Mar 1774.

But Parliament did not stop there. There were 3 more “Intolerable Acts” passed by Parliament in an attempt to put the American Colonies “in their place”.

These acts were:

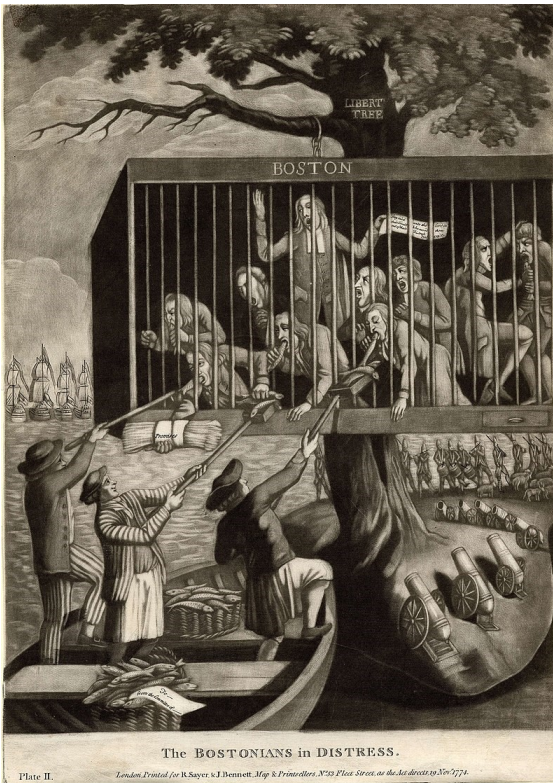
1. The Massachusetts Government Act
2. The Justice Act
3. The Quartering Act

Boston was seen as the “troublemaker” in America and the first three “Intolerable” acts were directed at Boston. If Boston could be made an example, it was assumed the other American colonies would “fall into line”.

Since 1763, Lieutenant General Thomas Gage had been the British Commander-in-chief in North America. During this time, his headquarters was in New York City. He had witnessed the disturbance over the Stamp Act of 1765 and had become convinced that colonial unrest was due to a small number of agitators, with

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Political Cartoon from a London newspaper, Nov 1774, showing Bostonians starving and being feed by local fishermen after the closing of the port. In actuality, the other colonies came to Boston’s aid and sent food relief to the city. And the nearby town of Salem, 25 miles away, became the official port of entry for all goods being shipped to Boston.

the worst of them being in Boston.

After the Boston Tea Party, General Gage was made the Royal Governor of Massachusetts and retained his position as Commander-in-Chief of all British forces in North America. He arrived in Boston in May 1774 to begin implementing the Intolerable Acts.

The Massachusetts Government Act gave the Royal Governor (i.e., General Gage) more power. The Executive Council to the Governor was no longer elected by the people, but appointed by the King. Many civil offices that have been elected positions were now filled by appointments by the governor. And the popular town meetings were now forbidden without the prior approval of the governor

This was followed by the Justice Act, which allowed the Royal governor of Massachusetts to grant a “change of venue” for any royal officer accused of a crime. The trial could then be held either in Great Britain, or another British Colony. American Patriots called this the “Murder Act” because they believed royal officials could now literally “get away with murder”.

The Quartering Act applied to all the colonies and was designed to provide better housing for British soldiers. Soldiers were to be billeted in “unoccupied” houses (and not in private family residences, as is often stated).

The billeting of British soldiers had been a contentious issue in the past, and the use of private residences for quartering soldiers had been resorted to during the French and Indian War.

General Gage saw to it that Boston Harbor was closed to all commercial shipping on June 1st, 1774. The hardship this produced on the Bostonians became a rallying point for the other colonies who saw this act as excessive punishment for the vandalism of only a few. General Gage began enforcing the other “Intolerable Acts” and quickly ran into problems with the local Bostonians. To maintain order, Gage resorted to martial law and brought in British military units from New York and Philadelphia to Boston. The British fleet was also moved to Boston to enforce the Boston Port Act.

Samuel Adams capitalized on all this by quickly organizing “Committees of Correspondence” in each of the colonies. This correspondence kept sympathetic supporters informed. Newspapers were now filled with editorials either denouncing Parliament or defending the British Crown. The term “Loyalist” starts to appear in newspapers in 1774 identifying those persons who still support the British government.

If these “Intolerable Acts” appear vaguely familiar, that is because some of them were listed by Thomas Jefferson in the “Declaration of Independence” as examples of abuse by the British Crown.

Officers and Committees

President – William S. Edelen	Editor – Jami Andrew
Immediate Past-President – John McAskill	Public Service and Heroism - Wayne Brown
Vice President – Jason M. Shepherd	Flags and Knight Essay - Terry Gibbs
Secretary – Chris Thompson	Cemetery – Michael Reither
Treasurer - Wayne Brown	JROTC - Tom Harnden
Registrar – William Edelen	Eagle Scouts / Education - Bill Coffeen
Chancellor – Jason Shepherd	Veterans - Gary Hoyt / Patrick Reese
Chaplain – Rodney Pritchett	DAR Liaison – Dan King
Sergeant-at-Arms - Bruce E. Wampler	Membership / Welcome - Bill Coffeen & Lee Hulsey
Historian – Jim Castle	Chapter Directory – Bruce Wampler, Larry Guzy

President’s Message from our new President...

I stand before you in the footsteps of the past twenty-four Presidents of the Captain John Collins Chapter and I am genuinely honored and humbled to be your President. Allow me to acknowledge the work and contributions of the past Presidents, officers, and members who have helped us to become the successful Chapter we are today. A special thanks to President John McAskill for his service to the Captain John Collins Chapter bringing his skills and abilities to the job.

We, the members of the Sons of the American Revolution, should not limit our commemorations for the 250th Anniversary and the 25th Anniversary of the Captain John Collins Chapter, our mission is much broader. As necessary today as ever, the Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, educating, and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our Country. We will continue to focus on membership; recruitment, retention, and reinstatement as well as mentorship, an area that can benefit our retention and reinstatement efforts.

Let me express my pride in the Sons of the American Revolution and in you, the membership who are the backbone of the Captain John Collins Chapter and the Sons of the American Revolution. The Chapter membership puts in the work and each of us is a volunteer, and every member is valued. I want to thank each of you for your ongoing friendship and support of me and the Chapter.

Let us remember the Revolution was, above all, a revolution of ideas which are timeless and endure to this day. I look forward to working with each of you and your continued support of the Captain John Collins Chapter and the Sons of the American Revolution.

God bless you, the Captain John Collins Chapter, the Sons of the American Revolution, and the United States of America.

William Stiles Edelen Jr.
 President, Captain John Collins Chapter SAR

Wreaths across America - Remembering Capt. Collins



As part of the Wreaths across America honoring American veterans of all wars, Jim and Elaine Poole remembered to visit our Chapter namesake, Captain John Collins, and place a wreath there in his memory.

Capt. Collins (1760-1852) is buried in the Mars Hill Cemetery on Mars Hill Church Road in Acworth.

He was quite active in the Patriot cause and saw a lot of action during the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution. He started in the South Carolina militia at the age of 16. When the war ended in 1782, he was a captain in the SC militia at the age of 22!

By 1840, John Collins was living in Cobb County, where he died at the age of 92.

Researching WWII veterans

Researching a veteran who fought in WWI, WWII, or Korea can be complicated.

In 1973, a massive fire broke out at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri. The fire destroyed 16-18 million military files including 80% of Army files for Personnel discharged between November 1912 – January 1960; and 75% of Air Force files for Personnel discharged between September 1947 – January 1964. No duplicate copies of these records were ever maintained.

Because of this, it is easier to research a Revolutionary War or Civil War veteran than a WWII veteran!

However, record collections like WWII War Diaries, WWII Submarine Patrol Reports, unit histories, the Holocaust Collection, division records and photos, and WWII US Air Force photos can help with WWII military research.

As most of us are either sons or grandsons of WWII veterans, we should be doing our best to fill this knowledge gap by collecting the stories and photos that our ancestors have told us about their service in WWII.

Do you have a good story about your ancestor's participation in World War II? Write it up and provide some photos and I will be happy to put it in a future edition of the Collins Dispatch.

And you will be doing your ancestor a service; preserving a little bit of history with his role in the defining event of the 20th century.



The WWII Victory Medal issued to all veterans of the war.

The Poet Robert Burns—A Man for America

By Jason Shepherd

On and around January 25, at dinners in Scotland, the UK, the United States, and around the world, people gathered for Burns Night Dinners to celebrate the anniversary of the birth in 1759 of the Scottish poet, Robert Burns. Most today only know him for his works like “Auld Lang Syne” and his “To a Mouse” which includes the famous line, “the best laid schemes of mice and men gang aft agley (often go astray).”

But most don't know the Burns, who died in 1796 at the age of only 37, was an admirer of the American Revolution and the leaders of the Revolution were admirers of him! In fact, an English officer once challenged Burns to a duel when after a toast to the Prime Minister, William Pitt, Burns replied by raising a toast “to the health of a much better man - George Washington!”

Burns supported the American Revolution because he was an unwavering advocate for the common man, as he himself had been born into a common family, but through his amazing talent, rose to a prominence in literature that endures to this day.

Robert Burns knew something of the common man, and he knew much about the grit and blood and sinew from which the American nation was forged.

Burns knew something of the love of liberty that was being espoused all around him by the philosophers of the Scottish Enlightenment like David Hume, Francis Hutchinson and Adam Smith, who all left their fingerprints on our founding documents as America and the world began to yearn desperately for Liberty.

Burns himself spoke of his own love for liberty and the inspiration from across the pond as he wrote in his “ode for General Washington's Birthday”:

See gathering thousands, while I sing,
A broken chain, exulting, bring,
And dash it in a tyrant's face!
And dare him to his very beard,
And tell him, he no more is feared,
No more the Despot of Columbia's race.
But come, ye sons of Liberty,
Columbia's offspring, brave as free,
In danger's hour still flaming in the van:
Ye know, and dare maintain, The Royalty of Man.

It is the idea that the common people, not born to a dynasty or born to claim a special Divine Right to rule, but a royalty of man. We are a nation of We the People, a nation of pioneers, a nation of inventors, warriors, teachers, entrepreneurs, lawyers, and yes, a nation of poets and a nation of ploughmen.

We are a nation, a country, a people, who no matter how divided on transient issues, are forever united on a dream, a vision, a common destiny for a nation of common people, and that dream is liberty, and her sister, Freedom.

It's a dream we first had to realize at home, to secure the blessings of liberty to our own people, held in bondage and enslaved because of old ideas inherited from old world regimes and old world thinking, thinking which was quickly fading as the old order began to pass away.

It's a dream we dream not just for our own people, but one which we dream for all people. It is why for over 100 years, the United States of America has been seen by those yearning for freedom and liberty on distant shores and in darker corners of the world as the beacon of freedom...a shining city on a hill...the arsenal of democracy.

We have taken the same blood, sinew, and grit that built our nation to Belleau Woods, to the beaches of Normandy, the Battle of the Bulge, to Iwo Jima, to the Choson Reservoir and Khe Sanh. We have taken it to the deserts of Iraq and the mountains of Afghanistan as well.

We don't come as conquerors, but as liberators. We don't seek to expand our nation by swallowing up others, like we see others in the headlines today, poised to do, but only seek enough land to lay our dead to rest, knowing full well that the Tree of Liberty must always be refreshed by the blood of Patriots and Tyrants.

And while we have dedicated our great nation first and foremost to the cause of freedom, we are also a nation that has found within us to invent rock and roll, cured the diseases which have plagued mankind, put men on the moon. Most importantly, we have uplifted the entire world by giving it baseball and college football.

243rd Anniversary of the Battle of Cowpens



On 17 Jan 2024, our own Bill and Janet Edelen braved the cold weather to attend the 243rd anniversary of the Battle of Cowpens, near Gaffney, SC. Back in 1781, on another bitterly cold morning, the American forces under General Daniel Morgan handed the British a stunning defeat at Cowpens. The 1000-man British unit under the command of Col. Banastre Tarleton was almost entirely eliminated, with only 200 men escaping from the battle, the rest being killed, wounded, or taken prisoner. The American victory was a huge morale boost for the Patriot cause across the 13 American colonies.

Chapter Meeting, 18 Dec 2023

The evening program consisted of delightful Christmas instrumental music by Rodney Pritchett and Harry Hagen on trombones. Accompanying them was Nancy Pritchett who did a great job with the vocals from some favorite Christmas songs.



This was followed by Jason Shepherd's impressive recitation from memory of the famous poem "Twas the Night Before Christmas" by Clement Clarke Moore.



Also present at the meeting was an interesting Christmas tree. Santa had left a presents of a \$5 Lottery scratcher on the tree for each active member of the chapter. Santa's helper in this was none other than Bill and Janet Edelen. Did anyone win a prize?

Chapter Meeting, 16 Jan 2024



In the January chapter meeting, we were fortunate to have a presentation from a leading citizen of Boston who was a witness to the Boston Tea Party. Ms. Brenda Harris, dressed in period attire just like a proper lady of Boston, gave a dramatic account of the events leading to the Boston Tea Party on the evening of 16 Dec 1773.

We learned from Ms. Harris that due to the taxes placed on tea by the British Parliament, the East India tea had now become an "odious weed" to Bostonians.

Fearing that the governor of Massachusetts was going to force the unloading of tea off the ships in the harbor, the Sons of Liberty pre-empted the Governor by throwing the tea overboard into the harbor the night before. The aftermath of that, they say, is History!

Chapter Banquet - 20 Feb 2024



The new chapter officers are sworn in at the annual chapter Banquet held at the Marietta Country Club on Feb 20th, 2024. From L to R: Chris Thompson, Rodney Pritchett, Jami Andrew, Bruce Wampler, Jim Castle, Wayne Brown, and incoming President, Bill Edelen.



The Georgia Society SAR incoming president, Edward P Riegel, Jr, above, was the guest speaker at the annual Captain John Collins Chapter Banquet. In his speech Compatriot Riegel outlined one of his 2024 objectives was to improve member retention in the Georgia SAR.



Most distinguished dress award goes to our new Vice President, Jason Shepherd, who wore his clan's Tartan kilt to the banquet . Jason is a member of the clan of the House of Gordon.



Past Presidents of the CJCC: Front Row, L to R: David Ludley, Gary Hoyt, Larry Guzy, GA SAR President Edward Riegel, John McAskill, Terry Gibbs.

Back Row: Wayne Brown, Lee Hulse, Bill Coffeen, Bruce Wampler, Earl Cagle, Harry Hagan, Stallings Howell

Veterans Upward Bound



Compatriot Chris Thompson donating Wheelchair to Veterans Upward Bound

Compatriot Chris Thompson recently donated a wheelchair to the LEARN Foundation as part of the Veterans Upward Bound initiative.

Recently, Chris had to help his mother move out of her apartment into a skilled nursing facility. Since the new care facility already had wheelchairs, Chris had a surplus wheelchair. Donating it to a charity turned out to be easier said than done. The Veterans Administration does not take medical equipment, and four other veterans charities did not have the room. Chris posted on Reddit asking for advice and found Veterans Upward Bound out of Dallas, GA who were interested in taking it. Chris was happy that it could go to a place where it can be appreciated.

Veterans Upward Bound (<https://www.learnfoundationinc.org/veteransupwardbound>) was founded by Dr. Dalton J. Lemelle Jr., a retired 20-year Air Force veteran. His military background has profoundly influenced his work in community service and education. At L.E.A.R.N., he focuses on diverse outreach programs, emphasizing education, family support, and workforce development. Dr. Lemelle's efforts are particularly inspiring for military veterans transitioning to civilian roles, demonstrating the impactful use of military experience in community and educational development.

Flag Retirement Ceremony— 10 Feb 2024



Compatriots Bill Coffeen, Larry Guzy, Jim Castle, Wayne Brown and Earl Cagle lead the Flag Retirement ceremony at Due West Methodist Church.

Ever wondered about the proper way to dispose of our National Symbol, the American Flag?

Once an American flag is worn or faded due to weather and heavy use, it just does not seem right to throw it in the garbage. There is in fact a formal ceremony for retiring an old American flag.

Such a Flag retirement ceremony was recently held with Boy Scout Troop 540 at the Due West Methodist Church on Saturday, February 10th.

SAR has a formal ceremony for honorably disposing of American flags. See the link below for how the ceremony is to be conducted:

<https://www.sar.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/National-Society-Sons-of-the-American-Revolution-Revised-Changed-003.pdf>

Eagle Scout Court of Honor



On Saturday, January 27th, Compatriots Bill Coffeen and Chris Thompson attended an Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Mr. Garret Briick at Due West Methodist Church in Marietta. Bill presented Garret with an SAR Certificate of Achievement and provided information about the SAR's Arthur M. & Berdena Eagle Scout Contest Scholarship.

Eagle courts of honor are ceremonies recognizing Scouts who have attained Scouting's highest rank.

The Arthur M. & Berdena Eagle Scout Contest is open to all active Eagle Scouts. It involves writing a 500-word essay on some aspect of the American Revolution. The National 1st Place Winner will receive a \$10,000 award either as cash or a scholarship to an education institution. There are cash/scholarship awards for 2nd through 15th place winners.



250 years ago...1774



20 Jan 1774—News of the Boston Tea Party reaches London.

27 Jan 1774—British Customs Collector Loyalist John Malcolm is tarred and feathered by an angry mob in Boston, MA.

29 Jan 1774—Benjamin Franklin appears before the King's Privy Council.

31 Mar 1774—Parliament passes the Boston Port Act, the first of the "Intolerable Acts".

10 May 1774—Louis XVI becomes King of France on the death of his grandfather, Louis XV.

13 May 1774—General Thomas Gage arrives in Boston to take over as Royal Governor of Massachusetts

20 May 1774—Massachusetts Government Act passed by Parliament. The 2nd "Intolerable Act". This act prohibited town meetings without the Governor's approval. It also curtailed election of officials, who would now be appointed by the Royal Governor.

20 May 1774—Administration of Justice Act passed by Parliament. The 3rd "Intolerable Act". This act gave a Royal Governor the ability to move the trial of any Royal Official overseas (i.e., Great Britain).

1 Jun 1774—The British close the port of Boston to all commercial shipping.

2 Jun 1774—Parliament passes the 4th Intolerable Act, known as the Quartering Act, requiring American colonists to provide better housing for British soldiers, on demand.

1 Sep 1774—The Powder Alarm. British troops quietly transfer gunpowder to a more secure location, but the event is blown all of proportion by Patriot propaganda to the extent that rumors spread throughout New England about skirmishes with British soldiers and Patriot casualties. Rumors finally subside a week later.

5 Sep 1774 —The First Continental Congress assembles in Philadelphia. Representatives from 12 of the colonies attend. (Georgia is not able to send delegates, as the colony is still dominated by Loyalists).

20 Oct 1774—The 1st Continental Congress passes the Continental Association, a continental agreement to boycott all imports from Great Britain, Ireland, and the West Indies.

26 Oct 1774—The 1st Continental Congress adjourns.

1 Dec 1774—The Continental Association goes into effect, and 12 American colonies began boycotting British goods.

14 Dec 1774—New Hampshire militia seize the gunpowder and cannons at Ft William & Mary in Portsmouth Harbor, NH.

Kennesaw City Cemetery



Brenda King standing in the entrance to the Kennesaw City Cemetery.

Regent Brenda King and HoDAR (i.e., Husband Of DAR) Dan King have spent five years mapping and photographing veterans and their family graves at Kennesaw City Cemetery to assist in DAR Service to Veterans projects.

Aerial and section maps were created in 2019 to help Chapter members when posting U.S. Flags and poppies on veteran graves for remembrance on Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

Additionally, the maps are used to assist the community in locating graves when placing Wreaths Across America ceremonial wreaths each December.

Brenda and Dan's most recent accomplishment was publishing a 285-page book submitted November 1st to the DAR Library for the Genealogical Records Committee (GRC) indexing initiative. The book evolved when Genealogy Records State Chair Linda Lopez learned of this mission and urged them to publish their work. To date, there are more than 1,539 burials, 136 known veterans, in the Cemetery. Because this is a living cemetery, with less than 40 remaining plots, the book will be amended annually to include any additional veterans who have been laid to rest. The motivation for the project has always been to honor our heroes who served so that we may enjoy freedom in this great country.

Kennesaw Veterans Luncheon—10 Nov 2023



The Kennesaw Veterans Day Luncheon was held on Friday, November 10. The Kennesaw Mountain Chapter of the NSDAR, has worked at this event for 6 years now. Veterans from the local community are treated to a luncheon sponsored by the KMCDAR.

Above, the Kennesaw city mayor, Derek Easterling, himself a veteran and wearing the uniform of a Navy Lieutenant, presented the Veterans Day proclamation. Brenda King, 3rd from left, is receiving a certificate of appreciation from the Mayor along with other members of the Kennesaw Mountain Chapter of the DAR.



Left: Mayor Derek Easterling delivering his Veterans Day luncheon speech.



Above: Compatriots Dan King and Jim Poole from the CJCC at the Luncheon supporting the Kennesaw Mountain Chapter of the DAR

Did you know?

Have you ever been in a cemetery and saw coins laying on a headstone?

A coin left on a headstone lets the deceased soldier's family know that somebody stopped by to pay their respect.



A penny means you visited.



A nickel means you and the deceased veteran trained at boot camp together.



A dime means you and the deceased veteran served together in some capacity.



A quarter is very significant because it means that you were there when that veteran died.

The tradition of leaving coins on the headstones of military men and women can be traced to as far back as the Roman Empire.

Soldiers would insert a coin into the mouth of a fallen soldier to ensure they could cross the "River Styx" into the afterlife. In the US, this practice became common during the Vietnam war, due to the political divide in the country over the war, leaving a coin was seen as a more practical way to communicate that you had visited the grave than contacting the soldier's family, which could devolve into an uncomfortable argument over politics relating to the war.

What happens to the coins? It is collected from the gravesites monthly and the money is used for cemetery maintenance, the cost of burial for soldiers, or the care for indigent soldiers.



A Georgia Solider comes Home



PFC Hood E. Cole (1925-1944)

In Feb 2023, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) identified the remains of PFC Hood E Cole, who had been reported missing since WWII.

PFC Cole was in the 276th Infantry Regiment, 70th Infantry Division. He was killed in action near Baerenthal, France on 14 Jan 1945 during the famous Battle of the Bulge. He was 19 years old.

PFC Cole was from Atlanta, GA.

Compatriot Gary Hoyt attended PFC Cole's funeral where full military honors were rendered at the Georgia National Cemetery at 10:00 AM on 15 January 2024. Representing the Button Gwinnett Chapter were James Walters, a member of the Georgia National Cemetery Committee, Chapter President Thomas Leo Jacques, and Compatriot Ray Kyle. The crowd was very large and many people attending the funeral were wearing WWII military issue/replica clothing. The casket was delivered on a WWII flatbed trailer towed by a WWII Jeep.

It may have taken a long, long time for PFC Cole to come home, but generations of his kinfolks were there to honor his return.

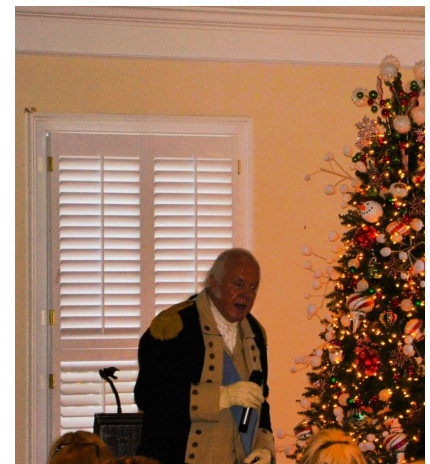
Boston Tea Party 250th Celebration



From Left to Right: Bill Edelen, Janet Edelen, Jim Poole, Elaine Poole, Earl Cagle, Marguerite Cagle, Brenda King, Dan King, Amber Ray, Sue Ray, Lew Ray.

A commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party was observed at the Pine Tree Country Club on McCollum Parkway in Kennewick on 10 Dec 2023. The event was sponsored by the Fielding Lewis Chapter, NSDAR.

Compatriot Dan McMichael portrayed George Washington in full uniform regalia.



Georgia Day Luncheon—Feb 3, 2024



Georgia DAR State Officials (R to L): Kitty Watters (National Vice Chair Genealogical Records & GA State Organizing Secretary), Helen Powell (GA State 1st Vice Regent), Betty Harrah (GA State Regent), Ann Ameye (GA State Treasurer).

The Georgia Day Celebration and luncheon hosted by Hightower Trail Chapter, NSDAR was held at the Canton First United Methodist Church in Canton, Georgia on February 3, 2024. Six 6 DAR Regents attended from fifteen DAR chapters, as well as several GA State Officers and a National Chairperson – Kitty Watters (National Vice Chair Genealogical Records & GA State Organizing Secretary), Helen Powell (GA State 1st Vice Regent), Betty Harrah (GA State Regent), Ann Ameye (GA State Treasurer), Phyllis King (GA State Coordinator of Districts). The fellowship hall was filled to capacity with 90 attendees. After lunch, HoDAR (Husband Of DAR) Dan King, DAR Liaison for the Captain John Collins Chapter, GASSAR gave greetings and praised Hightower Trail Chapter for its exemplary job of hosting an educational Georgia Day Luncheon for over 35 years and thanked them for its gracious hospitality. After which, an informative program on the female heroines of the Revolution from Georgia was presented by America 250! Committee State Vice-Chair Leslie Watkins.

245th Anniversary of Siege of Fort Morris—18 Nov 2023



SAR Compatriots from across the Southeast pose for a photograph on the parade ground of Ft. Morris. In the background is the earthworks of the fort that overlook the Medway River and St. Catherine's Sound. Photo by Janet Edelen.



SAR Compatriots prepare to fire a replica Revolutionary War British 6-pounder cannon at the Ft. Morris commemoration activities. As you would expect, this cannon fired a shell weighing 6 pounds. The shell would have been about the size of a baseball (which weighs only 5.25 ounces!) During combat, with a full powder charge when fired, the shell would have travelled at about 500 miles per hour. Unlike what you see in the movies, shells during the American Revolution were not the exploding type, but behaved more like bouncing bowling balls, tearing through everything in their path.

Fort Morris, located 350 yards south of Sunbury, Georgia, in Liberty County is a State Historic Site, opened to the public 7 days a week.

During the American Revolution, it was fortified and garrisoned by two hundred Patriots in order to protect the port of Sunbury, Georgia's 2nd largest port after Savannah.

The fort was an enclosed earthwork in the shape of an irregular quadrangle with a parade ground of about one acre. The fort was surrounded by a parapet and moat with wooden spikes (abatis) built into the slope of the parapet and standing upright in the bottom of the moat. It was named in honor of Continental Captain Thomas Morris, who commanded the 2nd Company, Georgia Artillery. The fort served as the base for three unsuccessful Patriot expeditions against British East Florida in 1776, 1777 and 1778.

When British Colonel Fuser demanded the fort's surrender on November 25, 1778, the defiant Patriot Lt. Col. John McIntosh, Commander of the Continental, and Militia troops replied. "We, sir, are fighting the battle of America ... as to surrendering the fort, receive this laconic reply - Come and Take It!" The British declined to assault the fort and withdrew back to Florida.

Forty-five days later, the British returned with a superior force, and on January 9, 1779, Fort Morris fell under a short but heavy bombardment.

Today, you can stand within Georgia's only Revolutionary Historic site with earthwork remains and view St. Catherine's Sound just like the Patriots did over two hundred years ago.

Nearby are the historic Midway Church and Cemetery and the colonial and Revolutionary War port of Sunbury.