



CAPTAIN JOHN COLLINS CHAPTER

Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution

Jan-Mar 2026



DATES TO REMEMBER

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

Apr 21 —Chapter Meeting

May 19 —Chapter Meeting

Jun 16 —Chapter Meeting

Jul 21 —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 2026.

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 painting above, “The Battle of Long Island” by Alonzo Chappel in 1858, depicts the 1st Maryland Regiment counterattacking the British regulars (upper left of painting) to cover the retreat of General Stirling’s brigade as they flee across the Gowanus marsh to Brooklyn. This act of the 1st Maryland would be the most heroic act of the war.

The Battle of Long Island (Battle of Brooklyn) The Desperate Hours

When Americans think of the year 1776, we like to concentrate on the glorious event of the Fourth of July when Independence was declared. However, the year 1776 following July 4th was full of disastrous setbacks for the nascent Continental Army and its commander, George Washington.

1776 started off well enough. The British evacuated Boston in Mar 1776. And South Carolina repelled the British land and naval assault at Sullivan’s Island outside Charles Town on June 28th.

But scarcely seven weeks after the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the flame of independence was almost extinguished in the fighting for Long Island and the town of Brooklyn.

After the humiliating evacuation of Boston, the British returned with a vengeance, this time the objective was New York City.

30 Jun 1776: The first British fleet of 120 ships arrives off Staten Island and unloads 9,300 soldiers. More ships and soldiers are still to come.

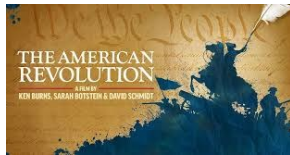
12 Aug 1776—The British force on Staten Island and in New York Harbor now consists of 32,000 soldiers and 400 ships.

Continued on page 2.

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Watch Ken Burns' "The American Revolution" on PBS!



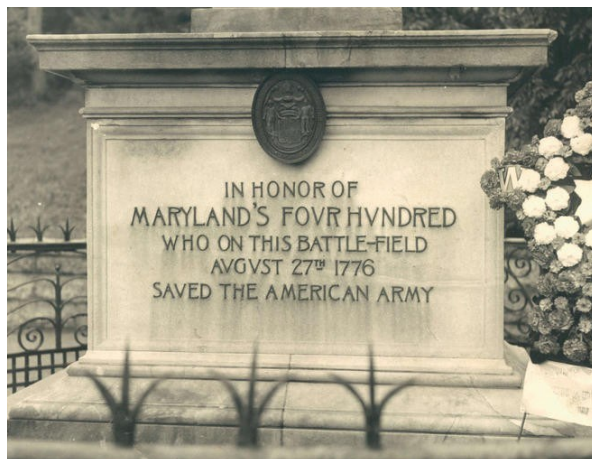
Early Afternoon, 27 Aug 1776—Col. Gist, commander of the 1st Maryland Regiment, along with General Stirling, launch a series of counterattacks against the British Gen. Grant's much larger force to buy time for the retreating Americans fleeing toward Brooklyn.

The Maryland Regiment consists of about 400 men, of which 256 will be killed in these series of counterattacks. Most of the survivors will be captured, with only a few making their escape to Brooklyn Heights. Amazingly, both Gen. Stirling and Col. Gist will survive, but will be captured by either the British or the Hessians.

Evening—The American Army is now trapped in Brooklyn, with a defensive position on the Brooklyn Heights. Gen. Howe, who personally witnessed the bloodshed at Bunker Hill, does not want to repeat that mistake. He pauses all further offensive action.

28 Aug 1776—American casualties after the battle were high, 300 killed, 800 wounded, and over a 1,000 taken prisoner by the British. Gen. Washington issues order to round up as many boats as possible.

29 Aug 1776—Gen. Washington decides to abandon Brooklyn in the night. At the place where today's Brooklyn Bridge stands, the American Army is ferried across the East River to Manhattan.



The Battle of Long Island, 250 years ago

Continued from page 1.

21-22 Aug 1776—British Gen. Howe begins landing 20,000 soldiers at Gravesend on Long Island (see map below).

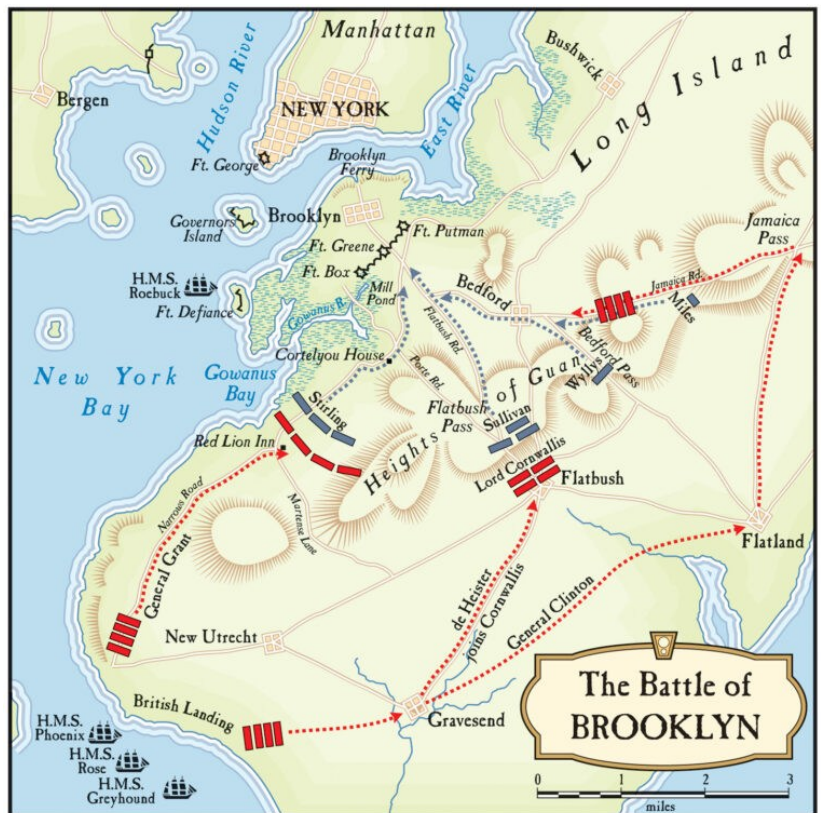
26 Aug 1776—Having learned from Loyalists on Long Island that Jamaica Pass is not guarded, British Gen. Clinton, along with Gen. Cornwallis and Gen. Howe, leads a 9-mile night march with 10,000 soldiers to outflank the American Army.

27 Aug 1776—The Battle of Long Island, the largest battle of the American Revolution, with 20,000 British and Hessian soldiers against 10,000 American soldiers.

9 a.m.—Gen. Clinton's column has outflanked the American Gen. Sullivan. At a pre-arranged cannon signal from Gen. Clinton, Gen. von Heister's Hessians attack Gen Sullivan's force from the front while Clinton's column attacks from the rear.

11 a.m.—British Gen. Grant, on the British left, attacks in force American Gen. Stirling's Brigade.

12 noon—Under attack from front and rear, Gen Sullivan's force collapses and flees in confusion to Brooklyn Heights where Gen. Putnam and the rest of the Continental Army are positioned. Meanwhile, Gen. Stirling has now become aware of the collapse of Sullivan's brigade and orders his brigade to begin retreating to Brooklyn Heights. To buy time for the retreat, Stirling orders his best soldiers, the 1st Maryland Regiment, to cover the retreat.



30 Aug 1776—At 7 a.m., the last American troops are ferried over to Manhattan. The American Army survives to fight another day.

As for the 256 brave 1st Maryland Regt soldiers who died in the rearguard action on Aug 27th, they are believed to have been buried in a mass grave somewhere in the vicinity of 170th 8th Street in Brooklyn.

Left: Maryland 400 monument in Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NY.

For the names of these heroic Maryland 400 veterans, visit:

<https://msamaryland400.com/biographies/>

*Greater love has no one than this: that he lay down his life for his friends.
 Jesus of Nazareth, AD 30
 (John 15:13)*

Officers and Committees

President – Jim Poole	Editor – Jami Andrew
Immediate Past-President – Jason Shepherd	Genealogist —Lewis Ray, Sr.
Vice President – Jason Shepherd	Public Service and Heroism - Wayne Brown
Secretary – Chris Thompson	Flags and Knight Essay - Terry Gibbs
Treasurer - Wayne Brown	Cemetery – Michael Reither
Registrar – William Edelen	JROTC - Jim Poole
Chancellor – Jason Shepherd	Eagle Scouts / Education - Bill Coffeen
Chaplain – Rodney Pritchett	Veterans - Gary Hoyt / Patrick Reese
Sergeant-at-Arms - Lewis Ray, Jr.	DAR Liaison – Dan King
Historian – Jim Castle	Chapter Directory – Chris Thompson

President’s Message

Compatriots,

Thank you for the honor of serving as your chapter president in 2026, America’s 250th birthday.

As we look forward to the United States Semiquincentennial on July 4th, 2026, marking when this great experience in self government began, we may remember America’s Bicentennial in 1976. Gerald Ford was President. Sadly, the only event I recall was the Fourth of July fireworks display at the Statue of Liberty. This year America is planning local and nationwide events to inspire future generations to appreciate the greatness of our country.

What happened in the early morning hours of April 19, 1775, in Lexington, Massachusetts was “a shot heard around the world” that resonates with us to this day. As we celebrate the legacy of freedom that began with the Declaration of Independence in 1776, the American Revolution is one of the most remarkable events in human history. What started as a dream required a struggle that stretched over eight exceedingly difficult years. We went from being subjects to citizens.

America’s “Quarter Millennium” will bring a greater focus and awareness of the debt that was paid by our Patriots to give us our freedom and liberty. Today, it is our responsibility to continue throughout the year sharing the events of the Revolution, an event that established our nation and gave us our future as free men.

In 2026 let us all commit to attending and participating in a once in a lifetime opportunity of celebrating our Patriots and their heroic actions that led to establishing The United States of America.

James Poole

President, Captain John Collins Chapter



Something else to celebrate this St. Patrick’s Day!
 After enduring an 11-month siege, the British Army evacuated Boston on 17 Mar 1776...250 years ago.

The Georgia 250 License Plate is here!

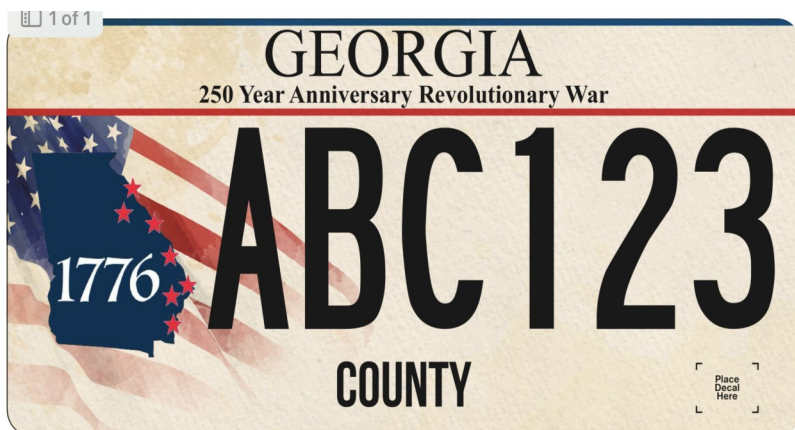
You can contact your local tag office to get the new Georgia 250 license plate. Cost should be \$20, but depends on the County Tag office.

The seven stars shown on the map of Georgia on the new license plate (see below) represent the seven major conflicts in Georgia between the Patriots and British/Loyalist forces. They are, from the top:

- 1) Vann's Creek 1779
- 2) Kettle Creek 1779
- 3) Siege of Augusta 1781
- 4) Brier Creek 1779
- 5) Siege and Battle of Savannah 1779
- 6) Fort Morris 1778-79
- 7) Frederica Naval Action 1778



The designer of the GA 250 License plate is 8th-grader Eden Pethel, pictured above at the Kettle Creek Commemoration on 14 Feb 2026. She is the daughter of compatriot Adam Pethel of the Lyman Hall Chapter.



Right: Eden Pethel was honored by the Georgia State Assembly for her design on Feb 18, 2026



247th Anniversary of the Battle of Kettle Creek

On Saturday, Feb 14, 2026, the Kettle Creek Battlefield Association sponsored the observance of the 247th anniversary of this famous Georgia battle of the American Revolution. The battle was a rousing victory for the American Patriots.

The battlefield is the best preserved of all the Revolutionary War battlefields in Georgia. 28 graves have been identified of unknown soldiers buried there. Since 2021, the Kettle Creek Battlefield has been an Affiliated Area of the National Park Service, which puts it on the path to eventually becoming a national park.

The day's celebration began on the town square of Washington, GA, on Saturday morning. In the afternoon, the commemoration moved to the nearby Kettle Creek battlefield for a wreath laying ceremony.

Our chapter President-elect, Jim Poole, was able to attend the commemoration on Saturday and represent our chapter.

Left: Jim Poole presents a wreath on behalf of the John Collins Chapter commemorating the Patriot victory at Kettle Creek.



Above: Jim Poole with incoming Georgia SAR president, Bill Tankersley, at the Kettle Creek Battlefield festivities.



Wreaths Across America

Marietta National Cemetery

Wreaths across America is a non-profit organization with the objective of placing wreaths on veterans' graves all across the nation to commemorate their service to the United States of America. The second or third Saturday in December has been designated as the day of observance. In 2025, over 3.1 million wreaths were placed on the graves of veterans in 5,600 locations.



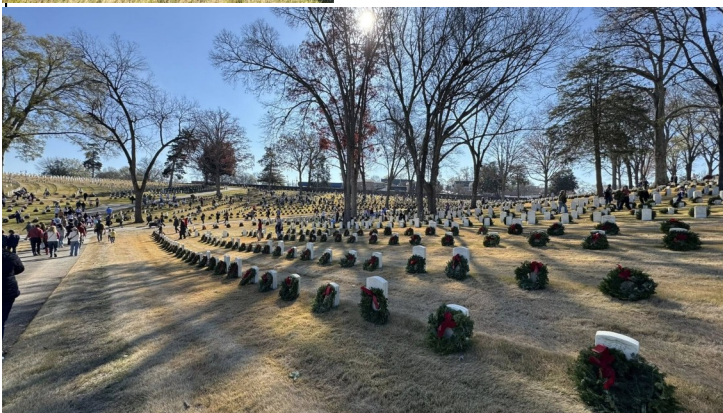
The Wreaths Across America ceremony was held at 12 noon on 13 Dec 2025 at the Marietta National Cemetery. The photo above shows the ceremony being held at the Rostrum in the cemetery.

The Marietta National Cemetery was established in 1866 as a burial ground for the Union dead from General Sherman's Atlanta campaign of 1864. It is one of 164 National Cemeteries in the United States.

Left: Brenda King places a wreath on a Union soldier's grave.



Right: Jason and Alexander Shepherd at the Cemetery.



Above: Marietta National Cemetery with wreaths laid on every grave. There are over 18,000 graves in this National Cemetery. 3000 of them are unknown Union soldiers from the Civil War.



Above: Dan King, Jason Shepherd, and Alexander Shepherd lay wreaths on graves at the Marietta National Cemetery.

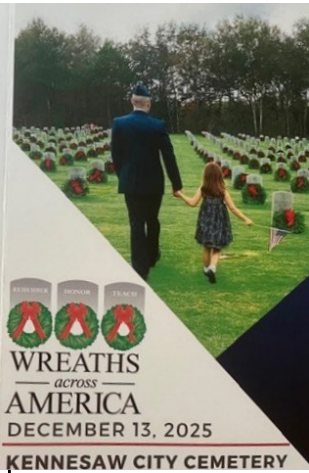
Wreaths Across America Kennesaw City Cemetery

The core mission of Wreaths Across America is to “Remember, Honor, Teach.”

Remember the Fallen; Honor those who serve and their families; and Teach future generations about the sacrifices made to preserve our freedoms.

Approximately 140 veterans are buried in the Kennesaw City Cemetery.

The Kennesaw Mountain Chapter, National Society DAR organized the event.



Left: A behind-the-scenes look at what goes into the Wreaths Across America event! Vice President Jim Poole and his wife Elaine met the tractor trailer delivering wreaths for the Wreaths Across America ceremony at Kennesaw City Cemetery. That is Jim’s truck and trailer hauling the wreaths to the cemetery.



Above: The Ladies of the Kennesaw Mountain Chapter, DAR who organized the event for the Kennesaw City Cemetery.



Above: Attending the event and presenting wreaths: L to R: Mayor Derek Easterling, (retired Lieutenant, USN); Bill Floyd, President, GASSAR; Cpt Paul Johnston, GANG; and Gary Hoyt.



Above: Also Attending the event from the GASSAR, L to R: Jim Poole, Gary Hoyt, Bill Floyd, and Lewis Ray Jr.



Left: CJCC wreath along with other wreaths presented at the cemetery ceremony.

Chapter Meeting, 16 Dec 2025



Compatriots Rodney Pritchett and Harry Hagan on trombones playing some old time Christmas favorites.

For our December meeting, we were fortunate to have the return of Rodney and Nancy Pritchett along with Harry Hagan who presented a series of Christmas songs .

President Jason Shepherd read the story of a Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens and recited from memory the perennial favorite poem “Twas the Night before Christmas.”



Lead singer Nancy Pritchett singing a popular Christmas Carol.



President Jason Shepherd in appropriate regalia reciting from memory the poem “Twas the Night before Christmas” to an enthralled audience!

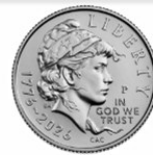
Be on the Lookout!

For the Semiquincentennial anniversary of the United States (i.e., quarter of a millennium, or 250 years) the US Mint will be issuing commemorative circulating coins as depicted at right.

The dime will carry a portrait image of Lady Liberty. Old timers may remember that the 1936 dime had the Winged Liberty Head, better known as the Mercury dime. That image was replaced in 1945 with a portrait of FDR following his death.

As for the Quarter, there will be 5 variations recalling major events in American history.

1. The Mayflower Compact.
2. George Washington and the American Revolution.
3. Thomas Jefferson and the Declaration of Independence.
4. James Madison and the US Constitution.
5. Abraham Lincoln and the Gettysburg Address.



Emerging Liberty Dime
Obverse



Emerging Liberty Dime
Reverse



Mayflower Compact Quarter
Obverse



Mayflower Compact Quarter
Reverse



Revolutionary War Quarter
Obverse



Revolutionary War Quarter
Reverse



Declaration of Independence Quarter
Obverse



Declaration of Independence Quarter
Reverse



U.S. Constitution Quarter
Obverse



U.S. Constitution Quarter
Reverse



Gettysburg Address Quarter
Obverse



Gettysburg Address Quarter
Reverse

Chapter Meeting, 20 Jan 2026



Above: Pam Younker presenting the Team Dobbins program.

For our January meeting, we were fortunate to have Pam Younker, the Civic Leader for Air & Space Forces on Team Dobbins to be our guest speaker. Pam serves nationally as an Air and Space Forces Civic Leader under the direction of the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Chief of Staff of the Space Force, and the Secretary of the Air Force. She also serves as an Air Mobility Command Civic Leader and an Air Force Reserve Command Civic Leader.

Pam talked to the chapter about the purpose of Team Dobbins.

Dobbins Air Reserve Base supports over 5,700 personnel from the Air Force, Army, Navy, and Marine Corps. It is home to the 94th Airlift Wing, 22nd Air Force, and C-130 Hercules aircraft.

"Team Dobbins" is a collaborative effort by local leaders, businesses (like Lockheed), and elected officials to protect Dobbins ARB from budget cuts and ensure its viability for future military missions.

The Team supports the welfare of service members, their families, civilian employees, and first responders.



Above: President Shepherd presents Pam Younker with a chapter Certificate of Appreciation as Vice President Poole looks on.

Revolutionary War Rarities Podcast

Did you know?

Revolutionary War Rarities is the Podcast from the "Sons of the American Revolution". This Podcast is available on YouTube and all major podcast applications. It focuses on the rarely known, rarely taught, aspects of the American Revolution. A new episode is released every two weeks.

Viewers can learn from the podcast about the little-known facts of the American Revolution.

The SAR has been doing these podcasts since Jun 2022 and just recently did its 100th episode in February.

Check it out!

<https://www.youtube.com/@revolutionarywarrarities790>



Chapter Banquet 17 Feb 2026

On 17 Feb 2026, active members of the Captain John Collins Chapter and their guests met at the venerable Marietta Country Club clubhouse for an evening of awards, speeches, and the induction of new officers. The Guest Speaker for the evening was the incoming President of the Georgia SAR, the Honorable William Tankersley. Our other guests for the evening were the Honorable Devan Seabaugh of the Georgia House of Representatives, the Honorable Keli Gambrell, Cobb County Commissioner, and Commander Greg Radner of the American Legion Post 294 along with his wife, Donna.

President Shepherd presented both Representative Seabaugh and Commissioner Gambrell with the SAR's "Outstanding Citizenship Award" for their leadership.



Left: President Shepherd presents State Representative Devan Seabaugh with the SAR Outstanding Citizenship Award. Representative Seabaugh represents House District 34 in the State Assembly, which includes an area northwest of Marietta that contains downtown Kennesaw, McCollum Airfield, and Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield.



Right: President Shepherd presents State Representative Keli Gambrell with the SAR Outstanding Citizenship Award. Commissioner Gambrell represents Cobb County District 1, which covers northwest Cobb County.



Left: The Ladies attending the Chapter Banquet for 2026 pose for a group photo.

Below: The Chapter Banquet is the occasion for the 2026 chapter officers to be sworn in.

Chapter Officers for 2026:

President	James (Jim) Poole
Vice President	Jason M. Shepherd
Secretary	Chris Thompson
Treasurer	Wayne L. Brown
Chancellor	Jason M. Shepherd
Registrar	William S. Edelen, Jr.
Genealogist	Lewis D. Ray, Sr.
Historian	James (Jim) Castle
Newsletter Editor	Jami Andrew
Sergeant-at-Arms	Lewis D. Ray, Jr.



New officers for 2026, L to R: Jason Shepherd, Lewis Ray Jr., Lewis Ray Sr., Jami Andrew, Bill Edelen, Jim Castle, Wayne Brown, Chris Thompson.

Highlights of Chapter Banquet 2026

At the banquet, Compatriot Jim Poole was sworn in as Chapter President for 2026.



Above: GASSAR President Tankersley (standing at podium) administers the oath of office to President Jim Poole (standing in front of the Georgia flag, hand raised). The new 2026 chapter officers look on.



Above: The peaceful transfer of power. Outgoing president Jason Shepherd hands incoming president Jim Poole the President's Gavel.

Past Presidents of the Captain John Collins Chapter



Above: Past Chapter presidents and their year of presidential leadership. Front Row, L to R: Bill Edelen-2024, David Ludley-2014, Bill Tankersley- current GASSAR President, Gary Hoyt-2020, Stallings Howell-2021, Earl Cagle-2019&2020. Back Row, L to R: Wayne Brown-2012, Harry Hagan-2015, Bill Coffeen-2010, Jim Castle-2006, Terry Gibbs-2013, Jason Shepherd-2025.

Highlights of Chapter Banquet 2026

During the Banquet, the Captain John Collins Chapter presented the following awards:

Perfect Attendance for 2025: **Robert Blackwell, Wayne Brown, Earl Cagle, Jim Poole, Gary Hoyt, Dan King, Lewis Ray Sr., Patrick Reese, Chris Thompson**

Bronze Roger Sherman Medal: **Robert Blackwell, Jim Poole, Lewis Ray Sr., Lewis Ray Jr.**

Bronze Roger Sherman Medal, Oak Leaf Cluster: **Jami Andrew, Wayne Brown, Jim Castle, Earl Cagle, Bill Coffeen, Terry Gibbs, Gary Hoyt, Dan King, Michael Reither, Chris Thompson**

Bronze Meritorious Service Medal: **Jason Shepherd**

Bronze Henry Knox Medal: **John McAskill**

John Collins Chapter Distinguished Service Medal: **Bill Edelen**

Awards presented at the State Conference:

Eagle Scout Award (Bill Coffeen, Chairman) – 2nd place winner was **Abigail Amos**, sponsored by the chapter.

Flag Recognition Certificate (Terry Gibbs, Chairman) – Winner was the **Captain John Collins Chapter**

James R. Westlake Communication & Newsletter Award;

Website: Captain John Collins Chapter (johncollinssar.org)

Newsletter: Captain John Collins Chapter (**The Collins Dispatch**)

Georgia SAR Ladies Auxiliary Medal of Appreciation Oak Leaf Cluster: **Janet Edelen**



Above: Outgoing and incoming presidents Jason Shepherd and Jim Poole displays Governor Kemp's Commendation of the Captain John Collins Chapter.



Above: President Tankersley presents Bill Edelen with the chapter's Distinguished Service Medal.



Above: President Tankersley and President Shepherd present Janet Edelen with the GASSAR Ladies Auxiliary Medal OLC.

Upcoming Events

27 Mar-Apr 12th—The Freedom Plane Documents will be coming to Atlanta!
Location -Atlanta History Center 130 W Paces Ferry NW, Atlanta, Ga 30305
Cost is Free. Parking is Free

28 Mar 2026—Commemoration of the Battle of Thomas Creek, Seaton Creek Historic Preserve Park, Jacksonville, FL.

12 Apr 2026—250th Anniversary of the Halifax Resolves, Halifax, NC 1:30-2:30pm

17 Apr 2026—Patriot Grave Marking, Brunswick, GA 4:30pm

18 Apr 2026—Commemoration of the Frederica Naval Action, Time: 10am to 12 noon.

26 Apr 2026—Midway Church Service and Patriot Grave Markings, Midway, GA. Time: 10am to 4pm.

9 May 2026—Liberty Tree Dedication—Columbus, GA 10am

16 May 2026—Patriot Enoch Smith Grave Marking, Ellijay, GA 1pm

14 Jun 2026—National Flag Day

20 Jun 2026—Battle of Alligator Bridge, Callahan, FL

28 Jun 2026—Carolina Day (Battle of Sullivan’s Island), Charleston, SC

4 Jul 2026—Independence Day!



250 years ago...1776



24 Jan 1776—Henry Knox delivers his artillery train to General Washington at Cambridge, MA.

11 Feb 1776—Royal Governor Wright of Georgia, who has been under house arrest since Jan 18th, escapes at night to a British warship in the Savannah River.

27 Feb 1776—Battle of Moore’s Creek Bridge in NC, near Wilmington. Major victory for the NC Patriot Militia over the Loyalists.

2 Mar 1776—Battle of the Rice Boats in Savannah Harbor. First engagement in Georgia involving British troops. The British are successful in capturing most of the merchant vessels with 1,600 barrels of rice. This rice is needed for the besieged British troops in Boston.

4 Mar 1776—The Americans seize and occupy Dorchester Heights overlooking Boston, dig fortifications

and emplace their Ticonderoga artillery, all in one night!

17 Mar 1776—The British evacuate Boston, never to return!

12 Apr 1776—The Provincial Congress of North Carolina instructs its delegates at the 2nd Continental Congress to vote for Independence from Great Britain. They are the first colony to take such a stand. This becomes known as the “Halifax Resolves”

3 May 1776—Admiral Peter Parker’s fleet with troops under Gen. Cornwallis, rendezvous with Gen Clinton’s force near Cape Fear, NC. Gen Clinton decides to attack Charles Town, SC.

1 Jun 1776—Admiral Parker sails his fleet to the mouth of Charles Town Harbor and finds the Patriot forces are prepared to fight and fire on the fleet.

9 Jun 1776—Gen Clinton lands his troops on Long Island, near the entrance to Charles Town harbor.

20 Jun 1776—The Connecticut General Assembly proclaims it independence from Great Britain.

21 Jun 1776—Former Royal Governor of NJ and son of Benjamin Franklin, William Franklin, is brought before the Continental Congress and interrogated. Afterwards, he is turned over to Governor Trumbull of Connecticut.

28 Jun 1776—Battle of Sullivan’s Island, SC. The British fleet is repulsed by American artillery under Col Moultrie. Sgt Jasper will become famous for re-attaching the Palmetto flag to the flag post during the heat of battle.

30 Jun 1776—The initial British invasion force of 120 ships and 9000 soldiers arrive at Staten Island in New York Harbor.

4 Jul 1776—The Continental Congress fully approves of the language in the Declaration of Independence and submits it for printing. But no one has signed it yet! The Declaration will be quickly published in newspapers and read aloud in public places. General Washington orders it to be read to all soldiers in the Continental Army.

2 Aug 1776—In silence and with great solemnity, the Declaration of Independence is signed by most of the delegates. Many of them believe that they may be signing their own death warrant.

Ancestor Anecdote—Patriot Benjamin Andrew

By Jami Andrew

This is an anecdote about my 4th great-grandfather, Benjamin Andrew, a Whig (Patriot) politician in Georgia during the American Revolution and a member of the Georgia Council of Safety.

The background is Mar 1776. Patriot Colonel Stephen Bull is in Savannah in command of a South Carolina militia regiment. He is writing to Col Henry Laurens, President of the South Carolina Council of Safety in Charles Town, appraising him of the military situation.

Source: R.W. Gibbes, Documentary History of the American Revolution, p.268

Letter of Colonel Stephen Bull to Henry Laurens

To Col. Henry Laurens, President of the Council of Safety in Charles Town.

Head Quarters Savannah, March 14th, 1776

The 1st part of the letter is a report on the military situation in the Savannah area, and about the number of troops available in the area.

The 2nd part of the letter is about a rumor Col. Bull has heard about a combined Franco-Spanish fleet having attacked and captured Port Royal, Jamaica. That was definitely a rumor as that attack never happened.

Col. Bull did not intend for the following paragraphs of his letter to become well known, as he writes them himself and advises that only members of the South Carolina Council of Safety should know the contents.

This in my own hand. If the Congress is still setting, no doubt my letters will be read in Congress, if so, I hope the Council will think as I do; that is, not to have this last paragraph read to so large a number of people, but to be known only to the Council, for no one does, at least ought not to know, anything of the following matter, but the members of the Council of Safety of this Province and myself. The matter is this: It is far better for the public and the owners, if the deserted negroes on Tybee Island, who are on Tybee Island, be shot, if they cannot be taken, if the public is obliged to pay for them; for if they are carried away, and converted into money, which is the sinew of war, it will only enable an enemy to fight us with our own money or property.

Col. Bull is suggesting to Henry Laurens that Negroes who have escaped to Tybee Island should be massacred so as not to fall into the hands of the British who would just turn around and sell them at a profit. He goes on to say that he has located some Creek Indians who are willing to do this bloody work. However, he reports that Benjamin Andrew(s), a member of the Georgia Council of Safety, does not go along with this scheme!

The reference to "Congress" above is the South Carolina Provincial Congress and not the Continental Congress.

Therefore, all who cannot be taken, had better be shot by the Creek Indians, as it, perhaps, may deter other negroes from deserting, and will establish a hatred or aversion between the Indians and negroes. Some of the Council of Safety are timid, **particularly one Mr. Andrews, from St. John's Parish, Sunbury**, who has influence, and through whose means Gov. Wright has been enabled to carry on his plans of late. There are a few others in the same way, but, notwithstanding that, you may depend the business shall be done agreeably to the orders of Congress; but it will be best the Council of Safety here should give the orders, at least, if they have not men of their own to do the business. I am told my coming here, with my command and orders from our Congress, had great good effect.

Continued on p. 16

Continued from p.15

I have just this moment had proper and certain assurance, that a good leader and party of the Creek Indians are willing and desirous of going to take the runaway negroes upon Tybee Island, if I choose it; but as I have no authority from you to send the Indians on such an errand, must decline it, but still think the Council of Safety will do it. The two of that board, who I a few minutes ago had a private interview with, seem to doubt whether they will have a majority from it. But it must be kept a profound secret, lest the negroes should move off, or they should ask for arms, and so lay an ambuscade for the Indians. I have something farther to say on this subject but defer it until I come to Charles Town.

I have the honor to be, sir. Your most obedient servant,

STEPH'N. BULL.

(This meeting with Col. Bull probably occurred on 13 Mar 1776.)

Benjamin Andrew was a member of the Georgia Council of Safety. They had recently ordered the arrest of Royal Governor James Wright on 18 Jan 1776. Gov. Wright and his family escaped from the Governor's mansion on the night of Feb 11th to a waiting British warship in the mouth of the Savannah River. Benjamin Andrew and Gov. Wright had known each other for years and they probably respected each other.

Twelve days later, on 25 Mar 1776, a small number of Georgia Patriots led by two members of the Georgia Council of Safety, along with some Creek Indian allies, did attack the small British presence on Tybee Island and captured 12 Negro slaves.


It is reassuring to find that my esteemed ancestor, Benjamin Andrew, was opposed to being any part of such a blood-thirsty act (i.e., war crime) as described above. In Nov 1778, the British burned his plantation house and forced him and his family to flee to safety in South Carolina. He remained active in the Whig cause and part of the revolutionary government of Georgia for the rest of the war.

Col Campbell's Map of Georgia, 1780






Attendees at the Banquet were surprised to learn the Captain John Collins Chapter had not only received a Commendation from Governor Brian J. Kemp recognizing the chapter's 25th anniversary (see following page), but also two resolutions, one from the Georgia Senate, the other from the Georgia House, both recognizing the chapter (see below).



Georgia Senate



A RESOLUTION

Recognizing the 25th Anniversary of the Captain John Collins Chapter of the Georgia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution; and for other purposes.

WHEREAS, the Captain John Collins Chapter of the Georgia Society of Sons of the American Revolution organized in Cobb County on October 14, 2000, with the purpose, commitment, and enthusiasm of promoting patriotism and preserving America's founding history and heritage; and

WHEREAS, the Captain John Collins Chapter's proud members are descended from the patriots who won American independence during the Revolutionary War; and

WHEREAS, the Captain John Collins Chapter continues to perpetuate the ideals of the war for independence, through the stories of patriotism, courage, sacrifice, tragedy, and triumph of the men and women who achieved the independence of the American people; and

WHEREAS, for 25 years, the exemplary community service undertaken by the members of Captain John Collins Chapter includes working with Cobb County's veterans; placing markers at Revolutionary War patriots' gravesites; offering the services of the color guard to parades and grave dedications; planting Liberty Trees, and building dedicating markers and monuments recognizing America's 250th, and other appropriate events, including participating in new citizenship swearing-in ceremonies; and

WHEREAS, the Captain John Collins Chapter annually honors individuals for outstanding patriotic achievement as well as service to our community; and

WHEREAS, moreover, the Captain John Collins Chapter annually acknowledges outstanding high school students with the Awards and Scholarship opportunities, works closely with and recognizes exceptional Cobb County JROTC cadets, conducts and participates in induction ceremonies to recognize new Eagle Scouts, and hosts a verity of programs for students in Cobb County promoting patriotism and preserving American history; and

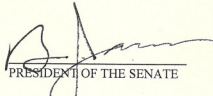
WHEREAS, the elected officers of the Captain John Collins Chapter, including President and Chancellor Jason M. Shepherd, Vice-President James Poole, Secretary J. Christopher Thompson, Treasurer Wayne L. Brown, Registrar and Immediate Past President William S. Edelen, Jr., Chaplain Rodney C. Pritchett, Sergeant-at-Arms Lewis D. Ray, Jr., Historian James C. Castle, and Newsletter Editor Jami Andrew have honorably lead the Chapter to a conclude its first quarter century and the beginning of the next chapter, which will celebrate America's 250th anniversary.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body recognize and commend the members, both past and present, of the Captain John Collins Chapter of the Georgia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution for 25 years of their outstanding service to Cobb County, applaud them for their ongoing commitment to patriotic and public service, and wish them much continued success in all their endeavors.

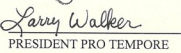
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the Captain John Collins Chapter of the Georgia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.


Senate Resolution 623
By: Senators Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, Albers of the 56th and Setzler of the 37th

Adopted in the Senate January 28, 2026


PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE


SECRETARY OF THE SENATE


PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE


SENATOR, DISTRICT 32nd

House of Representatives

House Resolution 1085
By: Representatives Seabaugh of the 34th, Burchett of the 176th, Cooper of the 45th, Ridley of the 22nd, and Gullett of the 19th

A RESOLUTION

Recognizing the 25th anniversary of the Captain John Collins Chapter, Georgia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution; and for other purposes.

WHEREAS, the Captain John Collins Chapter of the Georgia Society of Sons of the American Revolution organized in Cobb County on October 14, 2000, with the purpose, commitment, and enthusiasm of promoting patriotism and preserving America's founding history and heritage; and

WHEREAS, the Captain John Collins Chapter's proud members are descended from the patriots who won American independence during the Revolutionary War; and

WHEREAS, the Captain John Collins Chapter continues to perpetuate the ideals of the war for independence, through the stories of patriotism, courage, sacrifice, tragedy, and triumph of the men and women who achieved the independence of the American people; and

WHEREAS, for 25 years, the exemplary community service undertaken by the members of Captain John Collins Chapter includes working with Cobb County's veterans; placing markers at Revolutionary War patriots' gravesites; offering the services of the color guard to parades, grave dedications, planting Liberty Trees and dedicating markers and monuments recognizing America's 250th, and other appropriate events, including participating in new citizenship swearing-in ceremonies; and

WHEREAS, the Captain John Collins Chapter annually honors individuals for outstanding patriotic achievement as well as service to our community; and

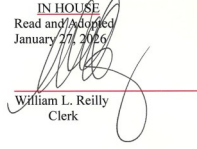
WHEREAS, moreover, the Captain John Collins Chapter annually acknowledges outstanding high school students with the Awards and Scholarship opportunities, works closely with and recognizes exceptional Cobb County JROTC cadets, conducts and participates in induction ceremonies to recognize new Eagle Scouts, and hosts a verity of programs for students in Cobb County promoting patriotism and preserving American history; and


WHEREAS, the elected officers of the Captain John Collins Chapter, including President and Chancellor Jason M. Shepherd; Vice-President James Poole; Secretary J. Christopher Thompson; Treasurer Wayne L. Brown; Registrar and Immediate Past President William S. Edelen, Jr.; Chaplain Rodney C. Pritchett; Sergeant-at-Arms Lewis D. Ray, Jr.; Historian, James C. Castle; and Newsletter Editor, Jami Andrew have honorably lead the Chapter to a conclude its first quarter century and the beginning of the next chapter, which will celebrate America's 250th anniversary.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that the members of this body recognize and commend the members, both past and present, of the Captain John Collins Chapter of the Georgia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution for twenty-five years of their outstanding service to Cobb County, applaud them for their ongoing commitment to patriotic and public service, and wish them much continued success in all their endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the Captain John Collins Chapter, Georgia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

IN HOUSE
Read and Adopted
January 27, 2026


William L. Reilly
Clerk



Commendation from the Governor of Georgia



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A COMMENDATION

- WHEREAS:** The Captain John Collins Chapter of the Georgia Society of Sons of the American Revolution organized in Cobb County on October 14, 2000, with the purpose, commitment, and enthusiasm of promoting patriotism and preserving Americas founding history and heritage; and
- WHEREAS:** The Captain John Collins Chapter's proud members are descended from the patriots who won American's independence during the Revolutionary War; and
- WHEREAS:** For twenty-five years, the exemplary community service undertaken by the members of Captain John Collins Chapter includes working with Cobb County's veterans; placing markers at Revolutionary War patriots gravesites; offering the services of the color guard to parades, grave dedications, markers and monuments recognizing America's 250th, and other appropriate events; and participating in new citizenship swearing-in ceremonies; and
- WHEREAS:** The Captain John Collins Chapter annually honors individuals for outstanding patriotic achievement as well as service to our community; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby commend

THE CAPTAIN JOHN COLLINS CHAPTER OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 9th day of January in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Six.




GOVERNOR

ATTEST

CHIEF OF STAFF