



FOUR RIVERS MUSKET

FOUR RIVERS CHAPTER
VIDALIA, GEORGIA

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Issue 4

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Compatriots,

Our 4th monthly meeting of 2022 was held on Thursday night, May 19, 2022 at Chatters Restaurant in Lyons at 6:30. Dual member Dess Smith III presented his program on “Cowpens, A Battle Remembered.” President George E. King presided with 9 attendees present. Our 5th meeting will be held on Thursday night, September 15th at Chatters Restaurant at 6:30. NO MEETING’S WILL BE HELD IN JUNE, JULY & AUGUST.

2ND QUARTER MEETINGS.

May 19, 2022: Four Rivers Chapter meeting at Chatters Restaurant in Lyons at 6:30.

May 19, 2022: Little River Chapter meeting at the Thomson Library at 6:30.

Jun 2, 2022: Brier Creek Chapter meeting at the American Legion at 7:00.

Jun 9, 2022: Wiregrass Chapter meeting at the New China Restaurant, 6:30.

Jun 14, 2022: Fall Line Chapter meeting **NO MEETING FOR JUNE, 2022.**

Jun 16, 2022: Four Rivers Chapter meeting **NO MEETING FOR JUNE, 2022.**

Jun 16, 2022: Little River Chapter meeting at the Thomson Library at 6:30.

Jun 21, 2022: Mill Creek Chapter meeting **NO MEETING FOR JUNE, 2022.**

3RD QUARTER MEETINGS

Jul 7, 2022: Brier Creek Chapter meeting at the American Legion at 7:00.

Jul 9-15, 2022: 2022 SAVANNAH NSSAR CONGRESS, Hyatt Regency, Savannah, GA

July 12, 2022: Fall Line Chapter meeting NO MEETING FOR JULY 2022.

July 14, 2022: Wiregrass Chapter meeting at the New China Restaurant, 6:30.

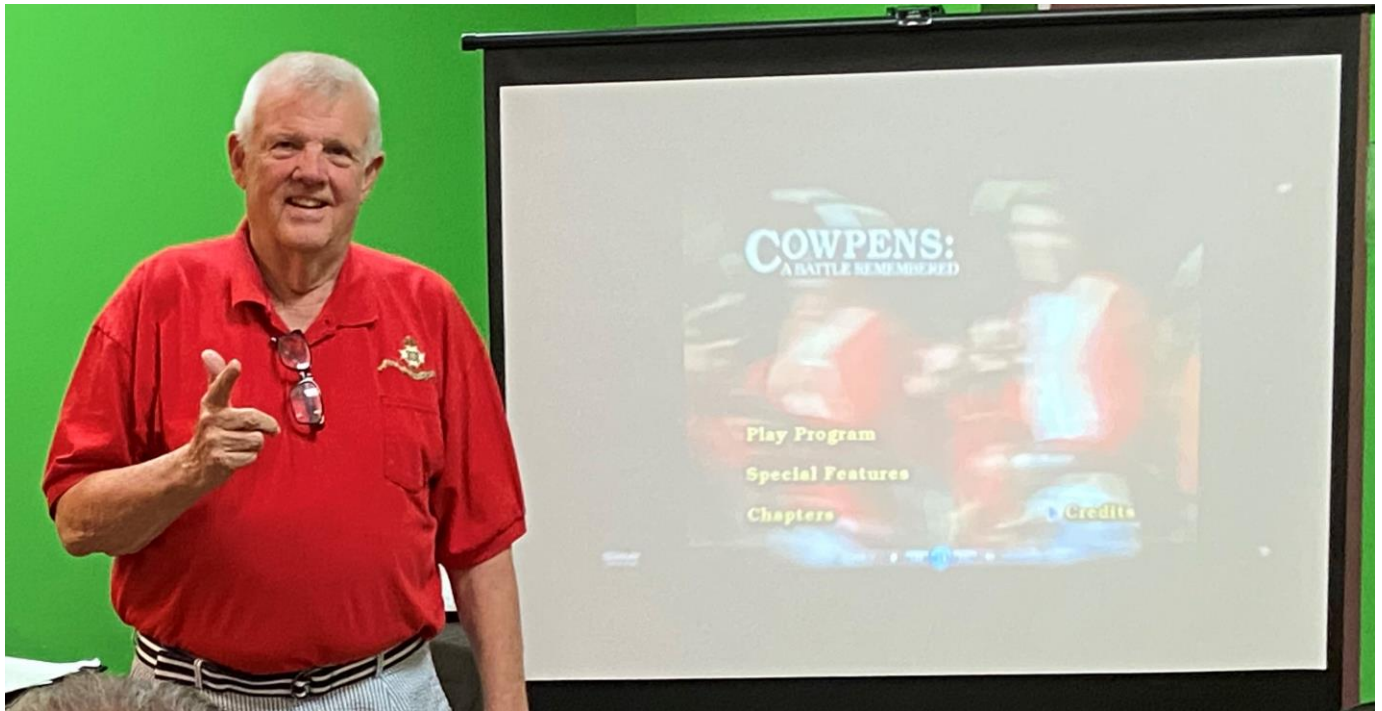
July 19, 2022: Mill Creek Chapter meeting NO MEETING FOR JULY 2022.

July 21, 2022: Four Rivers Chapter meeting NO MEETING FOR JULY 2022.

July 21, 2022: Little River Chapter meeting at the Thomson Library at 6:30.

"Smith Speaks to the Four Rivers Chapter"

"The Four Rivers Chapter of the Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution held its monthly meeting, Thursday night, May 19, 2022, at Chatters Restaurant in Lyons. With President George King presiding, we had 9 in attendance. We had two new prospective members present that signed their application's that will be mailed the next day, Ron Hall and Dan Brown. The program for the evening was presented by Compatriot Dess Smith, a dual member of the Four Rivers Chapter. His presentation and video were on the battle of Cowpens, a battle to remember. The Cowpens battle was held on January 17, 1781. Brigadier General Daniel Morgan won the Battle of Cowpens, a decisive Revolutionary War victory over British Lieutenant Colonel Banastre Tarleton. This American victory had an estimated 1,017 casualties with 149 Americans and 868 British."



"Sons of the American Revolution take part in the 2022 PTF parade"

"On May 7, 2022, members of the Fall Line Region Continentals, Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution traveled to Swainsboro to participate in the 75th Annual Pine Tree Festival. Members from the Little River Chapter (Thomson) Alton McCloud, Tommy Chappell; Brier Creek Chapter (Screven County) Don Bazemore, Bernard Martin, Cam Quick, John Joyner, Trey Boyer; Wiregrass Chapter (Swainsboro) Steve Burke, John Tapley, Alton Reynolds, Ruskin Powell, Dess Smith III, and Ryan Williams marched in the PTF Parade firing their 50 Cal. flintlocks and 75 Cal. muskets 4 times in different spots along the route. Early that morning, Swainsboro Police Chief Randy Ellison fired our 6-pounder Naval Cannon at the Corner of Green Street and Pine Street to start the annual "Knotty Pine 5K Run". At 10:30, the 75th Annual Pine Tree Festival parade was started for the 6th time by the firing of our 6-pounder Naval Cannon by Compatriot John Joyner. After the parade, the FLRC's set up our "Traveling Truck" in the vendor area. Our display had 4-8' tables set up with revolutionary artifacts that Compatriot Steve Burke has made over his lifetime. Our display was viewed by thousands and Compatriot Steve talked and explained the artifacts to hundreds of spectators for over 3 hours."

Photo #1: Compatriot John Joyner firing the 6-pounder Naval Cannon to start the 2022 PTF parade while Commander Steve Burke gives the command to fire.

Photo #2: Fall Line Region Continentals parade float with their 8-pounder Field Gun.

Photo #3: FLRC - Wiregrass, Brier Creek and the Little River Chapters marching and firing their flintlocks and muskets.

Photo #4: Commander Steve Burke's "traveling trunk" of artifacts from L to R: Bernard Martin, Steve Burke, Dess Smith III, Trey Boyer, John Joyner, Cam Quick.







"Burke Speaks to the Four Rivers Chapter"

"The Four Rivers Chapter, Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution held its monthly meeting, Thursday night April 21, 2022 at Chatters Restaurant in Lyons at 6:30. With President George King presiding, we had 10 in attendance. President George asked Compatriot Dess Smith to come forward with 2 presentations for the Chapter. On March 7, 2022, our Chapter presented a wreath to honor those 150 patriots that were killed at the Battle of Brier Creek on March 3, 1779. We received a streamer to hang on our Chapter flag. Compatriot Dess also presented a streamer to President George that we received for presenting a wreath at the Frederica Patriots Day event on April 16 at Saint Simons Island. The program for the evening was presented by Compatriot Steve Burke. His presentation was on the "Sharpshooter's Shooter". Steve began by telling us all about the period rifles that he brought for demonstration. The Matchlock 50 cal. musket (1600's), which had a burning piece of rope that would fall onto the powder when the trigger was pulled. The flintlock eventually replaced it. The flintlock (1700's) had a much better ignition system, and they came in rifled 50 Cal. barrels, 69 Cal. and 75 Cal. smooth bore muskets that could mount a bayonet for hand-to-hand fighting. In 1842 the percussion cap was invented to replace the flint on the rifle and

smooth bore muskets. The fourth weapon that Steve showed us was the sniper percussion cap smooth bore Whitworth 45 Cal. musket."

Photo #1: Compatriot Steve Burke presenting his program

Photo #2: Compatriot Dess Smith III presenting President George King with Chapter flag streamers.





"East Fall Line Region members attend Frederica Naval Action "Patriots' Day"

"On Saturday, April 16, 2022, members of the East Fall Line Region, GASSAR and the Henry Laurens Chapter of the SCSSAR traveled to Saint Simons Island, GA to participate in the "Frederica Naval Action, "Patriots Day". The event started at 10:00 am with the Presentation of the Colors by the combined GASSAR Award Winning Color Guard, led by Commander Scott Collins. For the first time this event was a National Society Sons of the American Revolution event and our President General Davis L Wright was in attendance. Also in attendance was the Georgia Society President Joe Vancura, Regent Georgia Society NSDAR O.B. McCorkle and the President, Ladies Auxiliary, GA Society SAR Jane Durden of Swainsboro. A special tribute was given to event organizer the late William "Bill" Foye Ramsaur who passed away on Saturday, February 19, 2022, in Brunswick, GA. This year there were 40 Wreath presentations and afterward taps was played by William "Bill" Bowers, SR. Next for the first time ever, the Tall Ship Lynx, America's Privateer sailed into the harbor representing the original British ships that were part of the Frederica Naval Battle. Over 300 soldiers and sailors participated in the capture of the three British ships, but Colonel Samuel Elbert reported, "What is extraordinary, we have not one man hurt". In the action at the event today, the Elijah Clarke Militia and the Brier Creek Militia fired their flintlocks at the Lynx and the Brier Creek Artillery fired 9 rounds from its 8-pounder Field Gun, 6-pounder Naval Cannon and its 6-pounder Mortar at the Lynx, while the Lynx fired only 6 rounds from its Naval cannons. THE PATRIOTS WON AGAIN. At 12:00 noon, the GASSAR, NSDAR, local ROTC unit's and bands marched in a parade downtown and around the square. But the real treat

was after the parade, we all got to pay a visit to our favorite seafood restaurant, "The Mullet Bay".

Photo #1: Photo of the Brier Creek Artillery cannons during the ceremony

Photo #2: Photo of the Tall Ship Lynx used to assault the Patriot forces

Photo #3: Photo of the Brier Creek Artillery firing on the Tall Ship Lynx

Photo #4: Several members of the East Fall Line Region eating lunch at the Mullet Bay Rest.







"Derden Speaks to Four Rivers"

"The Four Rivers Chapter, Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution held its monthly meeting on Thursday night, March 17, 2022 at Chatters Restaurant in Lyons at 6:30. With President George E King presiding, we had 10 members in attendance. President George opened the meeting by asking Chaplain Emory Fennell to say the invocation and to led us in the Pledge to the U.S. Flag and the pledge to the SAR. We enjoyed a very good meal and then President George called on Dual Member Dess Smith III for a special presentation to the Chapter. Dess presented President George with the "Come and Take It" streamer from the event at Fort Morris in Sunbury, GA held on November 20, 2021 where Dual Member Wilder Smith, Jr. presented the Four Rivers wreath to honor those brave Americans who died there and also Dess presented President George with the "243rd Anniversary Celebration of the Battle at Brier Creek" streamer that Member Dess Smith III presented a wreath for the Four Rivers Chapter on March 5, 2022. President George then asked Dess to introduce our speaker for the evening, Dr. John Derden a member of the Wiregrass Chapter in Swainsboro and a member of the Brier Creek Revolutionary War Battlefield Association, Inc. Dr John's presentation was on General John Ashe, Commander of the American Forces at the Battle at Brier Creek, held on March 3, 1779 in Screven County, GA. Dr. John talked about the days leading up to the battle, the actual battle and events taking place after the battle, including personal letters written the night after the battle by American leaders and British leaders. The meeting ended with the SAR processional and a prayer by Chaplain Emory Fennell. Our next meeting will be held on April 21, 2022 at Chatters Restaurant at 6:30. If you would like to become a member of our Chapter, please contact our Registrar Dean Mills at 912-537-4621 or e-mail him at uqaclassof1966@yahoo.com."

Photo #1: Dr John Derden presenting his program.

Photo #2: Dual member Dess Smith III presenting the "Come and Take It" and the "243rd Anniversary Brier Creek Battlefield" streamers to President George E. King.





"243rd Celebration Held at the Brier Creek Battlefield"

"Patriots from all over the southeast gathered at the Brier Creek Revolutionary War Battlefield on Saturday, March 5, 2022 to celebrate the 243rd Anniversary of the Battle that was fought on March 3, 1779 between the American Patriots and the British. The ceremony began at 11:00

am with the invocation, Presentation of Colors by Color Guard Commander Bill Palmer & the Color Guard and the Pledge of Allegiance. After the Recognition of Honored Guests, Greetings were brought by Dr. David Ludley, Senior Vice President GASSAR, O.B. McCorkle, State Regent Georgia State Society NSDAR, Max Burns Georgia State Senate, District 23, and Jon Burns Georgia House of Representatives, District 159. William J. Tankersley, Sr., the East Fall Line Region Vice President, GASSAR then introduced the speaker, Dr. John K Derden. Dr. John then gave his presentation of the "Court Martial of General John Ashe", commander of the American Forces at the Battle of Brier Creek. After the presentation, over 50 groups made their "Wreath Presentations" to honor the more than 150 Patriots burned in unmarked graves, after which a 3-round volley was fired by 25 militia and continentals and the Brier Creek Artillery consisting of our 6-pounder Naval Cannon, 6-pounder mortar and our 8-pounder Field Gun. Taps was then played by Compatriot Don Bazemore with his bugle. We then had the Retiring of the Colors by the Georgia Society Combined SAR Color Guard, the Benediction and Closing Remarks."

Photo #1: Dr. John Derden presenting his program on the Court Martial of General John Ashe, the commander of the American Forces at the Battle at Brier Creek.

Photo #2: The Brier Creek Artillery with their 8-pounder Field Gun.

Photo #3: SAR Militia and Continentals during the Presentation of Colors.

Photo #4: Some of the 125 Attendees at the Celebration.

Photo #5: Firing of the 3-round volley by the Brier Creek Artillery.







"The BCRWBA, Inc. Holds its 3rd Annual Banquet"

"The Brier Creek Revolutionary War Battlefield Association, Inc. held its 3rd Annual Banquet on Friday night, March 4, 2022 at the First United Methodist Church Social hall at 6:30. With President Stephen Hammond presiding, we had 51 attendees to enjoy a great evening. After calling the event to order, President Stephen asked Commander Steve Burke to Present the Colors and then Compatriot Tommy Christopher lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag. President Stephen then asked our Georgia Society Senior Vice President of the Sons of the American Revolution to bring Greetings. Next Compatriot Bernard Martin said the invocation and blessing. After a fantastic catered meal, Dr. John Derden presented us an update on the BCRWBA, Inc and the future plans for the battlefield along with the Department of Natural Resources and the Tuckahoe Plantation. President Stephen then asked for member Betsy Sternau to come forward to receive the Brier Creek Battlefield Legacy Lifetime Member Plaque and J.C. Lewis Ford representative Scott Lewis to receive the Georgia Militia Lifetime Member Plaque. Then President Stephen asked member John Fitzner, Sue Pittman and Sonny Pittman to come forward and receive the Paris' Mill Lifetime member certificates. Next Compatriot Wilder Smith, Jr. introduced our speaker for the evening, Jason West, who presented his program on Button Gwinnett, one of the 3 Georgia signers of the Declaration of Independence. Next President Stephen made a few announcements and then asked Bernard Martin to say the benediction. Next years 4th Annual Banquet will be held on March 3, 2023."

Photo #1: Photo in the Methodist Church Social hall at the banquet.

Photo #2: Jason West preparing for his presentation of his "Button Gwinnett" program.

Photo #3: Dr John Derden updating us on the accomplishments of the BCRWBA at the battlefield.

Photo #4: President Stephen Hammond presenting the "Paris' Mill lifetime member Certificates" to John Fitzner, Sue Pittman and Sonny Pittman.





"Education Day held at Brier Creek Battlefield"

"Members of the Brier Creek, Wiregrass, and Little River Chapters of the Georgia Society and the Henry Laurens Chapter of the South Carolina Society held an Education Day, Friday March 4, 2022, at the Brier Creek Battlefield for over 65 students and adults from the Screven Christian Academy located on 603 E. Ogeechee Street, Sylvania, GA. SAR members John Derden, Ted Walker, Allen Mincey, Alton McCloud, Bernard Martin, Don Bazemore, John Tapley, Ryan Williams, Dess Smith III, and John Fitzner arrived at the battlefield around 9:00 to set up the 3 stations that the students would rotate between starting at 11:00. Each station lasted about 20 minutes with instruction at Station #1 from Dr. John Derden on the actual battle. Station #2 was instructors Ted Walker and Allen Mincey who discussed artifacts and weapons systems. Station #3 was instructors Steve Burke and Alton McCloud who discussed a lifetime of artifacts, relics and roadkill skins made into vests, hats and cloths. At the end of each 20-minute session, Compatriot Alton McCloud would fire his flintlock for the students to move to the next station. At the end of the period, Compatriots with their 50 cal. Pennsylvania/Kentucky Rifles, 69 cal. Charleville muskets and 75 cal. Brown Bess muskets fired in demonstration with the Brier Creek Artillery's 6-pounder Mortar, 6-pounder Naval Cannon, and our 8-pounder Field Cannon, 3 rounds each. The students left with a much better idea of what it was like here on the battlefield 243 years ago on March 3, 1779, when over 150 American Patriots were killed and murdered. Their bodies are buried in unmarked graves over the battlefield. Next year's education day will be on Friday, March 3, 2023. For reservations for your school class of different times at 9:00, 11:00 and 1:00. please contact Chair Dess D Smith III at 478-299-1039 or e-mail him at saussure@bellsouth.net."

Photo #1: Station #1, Dr. John Derden instructor.

Photo #2: Station #2, Ted Walker & Allen Mincey instructor.

Photo #3: Station #3, Steve Burke & Alton McCloud instructor.





"2022 Four Rivers Chapter Officers Sworn In"

"The Four Rivers Chapter, Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution held its monthly meeting, Thursday night, February 17, 2022, at Chatters Restaurant in Lyons at 6:30. With Interim President Dean Mills presiding, we had 9 members present. Those were Interim President Dean Mills, Steve DeWeil, Allen Morris, Al Johnson, George King, Dess Smith III, Wilder Smith, Jr., Emory Fennell, and John Tapley. Interim President Dean asked for Dual Member Emory Fennell to say the blessing. We then had an outstanding meal with a lot of fellowship. Dean then asked for Emory to led us in the Pledge to the U.S. Flag and then the SAR Pledge. The first order of business was to except the transfer of George Everett King of Soperton from the Wiregrass Chapter in Swainsboro to the Four Rivers Chapter in Vidalia. The Chapter then excepted the Dual membership of Emory Fennell. Dean then called on Dual member Dess Smith III for the presentation of the Battle of Kettle Creek Chapter Flag Streamer to the Four Rivers Chapter. Dual member Dess presented a wreath for the Chapter at this past weekend's Anniversary Celebration of the Battle at Kettle Creek in Wilkes County, GA where he received the Flag Streamer for the Four Rivers Chapter. At the same time Interim President Dean asked Dess to give a report on this past weekend's Elijah Clarke Heroes of the Hornet's Nest event at the Elijah Clarke State Park in Lincoln County and the 243rd Anniversary of the Battle at Kettle Creek held in Washington, GA and at War Hill in Wilkes County. Interim President Dean then held the election of the 2022 Four Rivers Chapter officers. Elected for 2022 were President George E King, Secretary Al Johnson, Treasurer Dean Mills, Chaplain Emory Fennell, Registrar Dean Mills, Genealogist Dess Smith III, and Editor of the Four Rivers Chapter newsletter Dess Smith III. Dean then had the Chapter to vote on a name for the newsletter which was decided to be "The Musket", published monthly. There was a discussion of several persons that might like to join our Chapter and some members will contact them between tonight and our next meeting on March 17, 2022, Thursday night at 6:30 at Chatters. The SAR processional was then led by Chaplain Emory Fennell and President George then asked Chaplain Emory for a closing prayer. President George then adjourned the Chapter meeting. If you would like to become a member of our Four Rivers Chapter, please call our Registrar Dean Mills at 912-293-5980 or e-mail him at ugaclassof1966@yahoo.com."

Photo #1: L to R: George King Four Rivers President, sworn in by the Wiregrass Chapter President Wilder Smith, Jr.

Photo #2: L to R: Dess Smith III, Dean Mills, Emory Fennell, Al Johnson, George King & Wilder Smith, Jr.

Photo #3: L to R: Dess Smith III, Interim President Dean Mills.





Treasurer's Report: Our treasurer, Dean Mills, reports that we have a great balance in our account.

Registrar's Report: Our registrar's, Dean Mills and Dess Smith III, report that our membership stands at 12 and we are working on applications for Andrew Carey, Justin Lowry, David Barry, Andrew Webb, Paul Eason, Tim Eason, Don Betts, Roger Adams, and Jeremy Powell (his dad & son). Ronald V. Hall and Daniel Brown have signed their applications and Registrar Dean mailed the applications to the Georgia Society on Friday, May 22, 2022. If you have anyone interested in becoming a member of our Chapter, please contact Dean or Dess with their contact information.

In SAR Friendship & Service,

Dess