

**Newsletter of THE GEORGIA SOCIETY**  
**Sons of the American Revolution**



The

April—June 2015

# Hornet's Nest

## The President's Dispatch



Thomas M. Owen (Tom)

In the "President's Dispatch" I have covered Quality in presenting the SAR in a positive fashion; Traditional Values; Membership Retention; and some Training Skill sets. These are essentially wrapped under one umbrella which is the long term *sustainability of our Society*. An expanding membership will provide long term Sustainability and *Success* as well as free our Society to drive our goals. The *expansion* of our GASSAR Non-Profit Corporation as a vehicle where we honor our Ancestral Veterans, Founding Fathers and the Traditional Values they gave to America is the utmost goal of every Georgia Society President.

I ask that every chapter seek an answer to lessen the intensity of any turnover in membership. We must work to instill pride in the growth and retention of membership. Let

us not forget that our membership defines our organization. Increased membership would release us from the budget restraints of "Just Existing", to being a formidable organization. It would allow us to take our message "Out" to the public and business community. What the Public and potential Members witness, creates their image and determines their evaluation as to what we represent and who we are!

Expansion is always tied to new applicants and retention. As part of this effort our Society Registrar has indicated a systemic quality failure in 2015 applications. With the annual election of Chapter Registrars it has again been asked that all Registrars and interested members attend "**training**" in genealogy and the application process. To this end the *Honorable Robert A. Sapp* has requested to present training at our annual conference in January 2016. This will be the subject of a future communication and a potential supplement to our annual conference registration packet.

Please assure that everyone "SHARES" the "Hornet's Nest" with their membership and prospective applicants. Forward this publication to your entire membership. Sharing also means reaching every member of our society monthly and annually. Assure that the entire membership is as informed, engaged and as knowledgeable as the Society leadership. Take pride in *your* membership as "**pride**" emulates our character in everything we do and will drive new applicants.

If you have a Chapter email list forward it to NE Regional Vice President Carter J Wood. Vice President Wood is tasked with collecting up-to-date chapter emails in an effort to raise circulation and improve the Georgia Society's communication efforts. Growth and Sustainability are our Goals! Lists can be sent to Carter at his email address of: [carterjwood@yahoo.com](mailto:carterjwood@yahoo.com)

As the senior representative of the Georgia Society I pray that everyone is having a great summer. Please do not lose track of the many

challenges we face as the second half of 2015 dawns with the third quarter. The July 25<sup>th</sup> Board of Manager's meeting will be intense as our Society, and the South Atlantic District as a whole, swept the National awards. As I stated with immense pride in January, it is an honor to serve as your President. I will see everyone at the BOM in Barnesville.

### 125<sup>th</sup> National Congress Election Results, July 2015

Georgia was well represented at Congress as we had (21) Compatriots in attendance in Louisville, Kentucky with **three** of our society members elected to General Officer positions.

**Edward P. Rigel, Sr.** was elected as our NEW South Atlantic District Regional Vice President General. There could be no better leader at this time in our history to represent Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Florida. Ed hails from the Lyman Hall Chapter.

**J. Michael Tomme** has been elected to Secretary General of the NSSAR placing a Georgia Past-President in the second highest position of the National Society. It will be unique to have a Georgia Compatriot as Secretary General at the Kettle Creek NSSAR Historic Site & Celebration. Mike hails from the Marquis de Lafayette Chapter.

**Larry T. Guzy** was elected to NSSAR Treasurer General making a third General Officer from the Georgia Society. To have someone with Larry's background, character and knowledge moving up the NSSAR leadership ladder is exceptional for the Georgia Society. Larry hails from the Captain John Collins Chapter.

*The center of the fight for Independence in Wilkes County, Georgia, became known as "the hornet's nest" because of the stinging attacks made from there by the Georgia Patriots against the British and Tories.*

# The Hornet's Nest

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Visit the State Society Web Site: [www.georgiasocietysar.org](http://www.georgiasocietysar.org)

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George H. Wheelless

## Georgia Society, Sons of the American Revolution

### Summer 2015

#### Active Membership as of 01 Jan 2015.....1560

Plus: New Members	96
Transfers In	1
Reinstatements	66
Reinstatement-Transfers	3
<b>Total Additions</b>	<b>166</b>
Less: Deceased	10
Resignations	0
Transfers Out	0
<b>Total Losses</b>	<b>10</b>

Active Membership as of 30 Jun 2015 **1716**

#### Reported to National

Plus: Dual Members 24

Active Membership as of 30 Jun 2014 1740

#### BREAK DOWN OF GEORGIA SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP BY CATEGORY

Regular Members.....	1606
Jr. Members.....	61
Jr. Life Members.....	4
Emeritus Members.....	4
Life Members (Regular).....	41
Dual.....	24
<b>Total Membership.....</b>	<b><u>1740</u></b>

*George H. Wheelless, Secretary*

## MESSAGE FROM THE GEORGIA SOCIETY SECRETARY

### 2016 Membership Dues

The 2015 Congress approved an increase in National dues of \$5.00. National dues for 2016 will be \$35. This increase applies only to Regular Members, not Junior Members. In the past I have sent out Chapter Dues Reports around the first of August. They will not be sent out until later in the month of August. A number of chapters annually send me dues in August or early September. Due to the nature of the changes that must be made to our database to reflect the increase properly across several forms and pages, I request that NO chapter submit their dues for 2016 until I notify the chapters.

### Georgia Society Database

On August 7<sup>th</sup> the Georgia Society Database will be shut down for approximately 7-10 days for yearly maintenance and to make changes to multiple pages and forms that affect dues payments. During that time I will not be processing applications I receive from Registrar Bob Sapp or Membership Certificates I receive from National. I will be able to access the Database for information, but cannot make any changes.

### Chapter Directories

Chapters recently received their 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr. Directory. From this point on I will be sending out Chapter Directories around the beginning of each month. Once changes have been made to our Database, each Directory will be accompanied by a Chapter Dues Report.





# State Officers & Committees NEWS



## Veterans Committee - Bill Kabel

[flytier44@comcast.net](mailto:flytier44@comcast.net)

Many GASSAR Compatriots are veterans, and I've seen some who have specialty license plates that identify them as a veteran, or a handicapped veteran. The state of Georgia has a special program whereby a veteran can qualify for, and receive, any one of a number of specialty veteran license plates. Following is a recap of the program and its requirements.

**Eligibility:** Anyone who served during active military combat is eligible for a free commemorative service license plate if he/she is Georgia resident on active duty or a veteran with a discharge from the armed forces of the United States under honorable conditions. The surviving spouse of a qualified deceased active duty member or veteran is also eligible as long as he/she does not remarry.

There is no registration fee, manufacturing fee, or annual registration fee for this specialty plate. An applicant is also entitled to one additional specialty plate upon payment of a \$25 manufacturing fee. Applicants will also be required to pay a \$25 annual registration fee for the additional specialty plate.

Qualifying service during active military combat includes active duty service during:

- World War II •Korean War •Vietnam War •Operation Desert Storm •Global War on Terrorism (as defined by Presidential Executive Order 13289, Section 2) •Operation Iraqi Freedom •Operation Enduring Freedom

Honorably discharged veterans who did not serve during one of these conflicts may still qualify for a Commemorative Service License Plate under the "General Veteran" category.

**Disabled Veterans License Plates:** A veteran is eligible for a free disabled veteran's license plate if he/she is a Georgia resident, has qualifying service in the armed forces of the United States, and meets the disability requirements. Qualifying service includes current active duty service in the armed forces of the United States or a discharge under honorable conditions. The surviving spouse of a qualified veteran is also eligible as long as he/she does not remarry. The requirements and information for Disabled plates are too lengthy to include here, so please refer to <http://dor.georgia.gov/military-veteran-license-plates> for additional information.

**Gold Star License Plates:** The spouse, mother, father, sibling, child, or step-parent of a service member who has been killed in action while serving in the armed forces of the United States is entitled to a Gold Star specialty plate. Upon payment of all ad valorem taxes and other fees due at registration of a motor vehicle an eligible family member may apply for a Gold Star license plate. One free license plate shall be allowed for the spouse, mother, and father and they may purchase additional license plates for each motor vehicle they register in this state. Siblings, children, or step-parents may purchase Gold Star plates for motor vehicles registered in this state.

**Military Medal Award License Plates:** Anyone whose service during active military combat resulted in the award of a qualifying medal may be eligible for a free Military Medal Award License Plate. These plates are available to both honorably discharged veterans and active duty service members who are Georgia residents. The surviving spouse of a qualified deceased service member or veteran is eligible as long as he/she does not remarry. There is no registration fee, manufacturing fee, or annual registration fee for this specialty plate.

Applicants are entitled to one additional specialty plate upon payment of a \$25 manufacturing fee. Applicants are also required to pay a \$25 annual registration fee for the additional specialty plate.

Qualifying medals for the Military Medal Award License Plate are:

Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, Air Force Cross, Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Homeland Distinguished Service Medal, Distinguished Service Medal, Navy Distinguished Service Medal, Air Force Distinguished Service Medal, Coast Guard Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and Air Medal.

Qualifying service during active military combat includes active duty service during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Operation Desert Storm, the Global War on Terrorism (as defined by Presidential Executive Order 13289, Section 2), the war in Afghanistan, and the war in Iraq, including Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Other license plates are available for:

National Guard, Pearl Harbor Survivors, Prisoners of War, Reserve Component, Retired Military Veterans

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Renewal decals shall be issued at no cost to any person that received a free license plate upon the payment of ad valorem taxes and other registration fees, provided that the renewal is applied for on or within 30 days prior to the renewal date of the eligible person. **Please Note:**

*Regardless of the plate applied for, you will need to fill out a Form MV-9W. Remember to take this form and a copy of your DD Form 214 (or other supporting documentation for certain plates) to your local county tax office.* This article is only a summary of Georgia's *Special Veteran License Plate* program. The governing law for the program is O.C.G.A. 40-2-3, and the MV-9W form can be obtained by searching "MV-9W" on Google. Refer to <http://dor.georgia.gov/military-veteran-license-plates> for additional information not covered here.



### [Eagle Scout Recognition Committee - William Coffeen](#)

[billcoffeen@gmail.com](mailto:billcoffeen@gmail.com)

#### Eagle Scout Committee Report – 2nd Quarter 2015

Our committee has received 33 requests for letters of commendation year-to-date which is about on par with last year at this time. The chair passes on these requests to chapters who have active Eagle Scout programs or the chair fulfills the request himself if no chapter support presently exists. If your chapter is unfamiliar with how set up a recognition program please contact me at [billcoffeen@gmail.com](mailto:billcoffeen@gmail.com) or call me at 770-419-2549.

The Georgia Society can approve up to three compatriot applicants annually for the Robert E. Burt Boy Scout Volunteer award issued by NSSAR. No applications have been taken year to date. Therefore, I encourage all chapters to submit an application to me for those members who are involved in Scouting and deserve such recognition. You may download the application from the National website and forward it along with a check for \$20 to my attention at 3799 Westwick Ct., Kennesaw, GA 30152

Our committee continues to encourage all chapters to participate in our local, State and National Eagle Scout recognition and scholarship programs and we'll provide support and direction to help you grow your program. **To my knowledge the following chapters do not presently have a chairman for Eagle Scout Recognition:**

- Coweta Falls
- George Walton
- John Milledge
- La Grange
- Marquis de Lafayette
- Ocmulgee
- Patrick Carr Rangers
- Rome
- Sons of Liberty
- Valdosta

**If I am in error please contact me by phone so I can update my records.**

As a reminder, **the GASSAR college scholarship deadline for chapter participants is December 31, 2015.** All chapter winning entries should be forwarded to me at 3799 Westwick Ct., Kennesaw, GA 30152 or preferably by email at [billcoffeen@gmail.com](mailto:billcoffeen@gmail.com). **It is essential that all 2015 applicants use the current application available on the National website. No others will be accepted.**





### State SAR-C.A.R. Liason—Robert W. Moore

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The Georgia State Society Children of the American Revolution (G.S.S.C.A.R.) elected new officers at their annual State Conference that was held at the Wyndham in Peachtree City, GA. Miss Abby Garnett was elected as State President and R. Walker Chewning was elected Honorary State President. Walker's state project was very successful, raising over \$22,000 for the VA Hospital in Decatur, GA. Miss Abby Garnett's project will be "Rocking the Fort" to raise money for a new sign at Fort Hawkins in Macon, GA.

At the National Convention in Arlington, VA, Miss Erin Moore was elected 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the National Society, Children of the American Revolution. Georgia SAR was represented by R. Walker Chewning, Sr., N. Walker Chewning, Charles Garnett, R. Walker Chewning, Jr., and Kevin Baker. The Martha Stewart Bulloch Society of Atlanta was named the Best Society in the Nation. Miss Erin Moore and Miss Abby Garnett were installed on the grounds of Mount Vernon by Past National Chaplain, Lily Garnett of Georgia and current National Chaplain, Samuel Hinckley of Texas.

After the convention, several Georgia CAR members were named National Chairmen, Miss Carter Moore, Conservation, Miss Lily Garnett, C.A.R.-DAR-SAR-SR and Mr. Benjamin Dorney, Insignia.

For Memorial Day, several C.A.R. and SAR Societies met to remember our fallen. Coweta Falls held a service at Parkhill Cemetery with many Lucy Spell Raiford members participating and this ceremony was attended by SAR State President, Tom Owen and Martha Stewart Bulloch Society placed flags and attended the memorial day service at the Marietta National Cemetery. At the Southeastern Regional Meeting, the GA State Society SAR was represented by N. Walker Chewning, Charles Garnett and Robert Moore. GSSAR was a sponsor of the meeting with a check for \$100.

At a tea held for Miss Abby Garnett by the Cherokee Rose Society, GASSARCAR, Mr. Terry Manning portrayed General James Oglethorpe and gave a talk in period dress.

In closing, I would like to invite you to the Georgia State Workshop which will be held on Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 at the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame in Macon.



### National Trustee—James E. Stallings, Sr.

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This is the Trustee Report from the Trustee meeting held, during the 125th NSSAR Congress in Louisville, KY on 29 June 2015.

President General Brock called the meeting to order and after the usual opening prayer and pledges and assuring a quorum was present he gave a few opening remarks before proceeding with the business at hand.

The first order of business was the presentation of a business plan produced by the College of Business, University of Louisville, compiled by several IMBA Consultants represented by the presenter Matthews Higgs. This study was focused on the endeavor by NSSAR to further their outreach education activities. To further that end the NSSAR had purchased space, on Main Street in Louisville, KY to house their National offices and research library as well as to develop a museum.

The consultants acknowledged that the objectives has been delayed in achieving the original plans and the challenges that must be undertaken before the project can get fully underway, but the consulting team wished to create a viable framework the the NSSAR can utilize to develop a sustainable, relevant, and engaging facility and portfolio of programs that not only caters to the Louisville community, but will be remotely available to the organizations chapters who directly and indirectly support the development of the educational facility.

In outlining the Objectives and Mission of NSSAR the study had the following statements:

*The NSSAR's objectives and mission have one critical focus: the education and proliferation of American ideals, American civic duty, and the historical impact of the American Revolution. Through the engagement of its core members, they are able to connect to young and adolescent Americans and share their knowledge and passion for learning, helping the next generation of citizens be well-informed about their heritage and the ideals that created the United States of America.*

*The NSSAR, currently an organization mostly dedicated to supporting its membership base, wants to increase its outreach potential, positively impact its home community, and create value for its membership base and their affiliated chapters. In the pursuit of this mission, the organization will create the NSSAR National Education Center of the American Revolution, an education center and museum space to be attached to its national headquarters and genealogical library in Louisville, Kentucky. This center will provide an educational experience to the community, an opportunity to test and validate national teaching curricula, and a self-sustaining revenue source for the NSSAR.*

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Goals for 2015-2016 are:

Launch and make operational the first three modules known as the Member Programs Management system.  
Launch and bring to operational status an Events Module that allows administrators to bring all SAR events under internet based management and allows access to SAR programs through the Web and provides a secure means for paying for events by credit card.

Launch a Public Relations Module. The NSSAR Website will be a separate entity. Forty Thousand Dollars was approved by the Trustees to enable a Merchandise Module to enhance the security of credit card purchases through Merchandise Department in order to prevent data from being compromised and the liability of such an event being placed on NSSAR. This system is to be operational by September 2015.

Compatriot Rick Hollis, Southern District VPG and Chair of the NSSAR Committee on Branding made a few remarks regarding the completion of that project. He indicated that SAR should be considered to indicate our organization. He also made his thoughts known that more effort should be made toward the incorporation of IT in the area of expediting the ability to prepare SAR membership applications on line, as well as other member services.

Finally, as a result of President General Brock's recent visit to England, where he met with Queen Elizabeth, in the course of the visit discussed the Royal Archives Project to digitize and catalogue the over 250,000 pages of personal correspondence of King George III in order to help our understanding of the Georgian period especially events during the American Revolutionary War. He also attended a meeting with representatives of King's College London who will assist in conducting the project. Compatriot Michael Elliston, who has been appointed as liaison between the NSSAR and British entities, gave a somewhat lengthy report regarding this effort. He informed the Trustees that NSSAR was considering the expenditure of \$40,000 a year for five years to assist King's College London in this project. There was no action taken at this Trustees Meeting. Additional information will be forthcoming during the Fall Leadership Trustees Meeting.

I appreciate the honor of being elected and the opportunity to serve as your Trustee for the past year.



### [Source Book Committee—Ed Rigel, Sr](#)

[campatriotrigel@charter.net](mailto:campatriotrigel@charter.net)

The *Source Book* Committee shall regularly review and update the contents of the *Source Book*, the unofficial guide to the operation of the Georgia Society. A current version of the *Source Book* shall be maintained on the Georgia Society website.

**Website Information:** The Georgia Society SAR SourceBook is accessible for viewing by all members from the Society: [http://www.georgiasocietysar.org/index.php?option=com\\_wrapper&view=wrapper&Itemid=7](http://www.georgiasocietysar.org/index.php?option=com_wrapper&view=wrapper&Itemid=7)

Follows is a list of *Source Book* sections updated, revised, added or deleted in the 2nd Quarter 2015:

- 07.0 Georgia Society Bylaws 4\_2015
- 08.71 Protocol Ranking at SAR Functions\_2015
- 17.0 Update to Source Book
- 17.01 Georgia Addendum 2015
- 17.02 Target Points for Americanism Distinction and Excellence 2015
- 17.13.4 List of Annual Poster Contest Winners - 2003-2014
- 17.13.5 List of Annual Brochure Contest Winners.
- 17.3 Americanism Contest Overview
- 18.00.5 Color Guard Uniform Guidance

State and Chapter Officers, State Committee Chairs and Members, are encouraged to review sections in the *Source Book* pertinent to their area and either submit suggestions for improvement and/or proposed revisions to *Source Book* to the Committee for consideration.





### [Georgia Society Americanism Committee—Terry Manning](#)

[tmanning@aol.com](mailto:tmanning@aol.com)

As previously announced, there are no longer just three “winners” of the Americanism contest and three “winners” of the President General’s contest in the Georgia Society any longer. All chapters exceeding their previous year’s points in either category by more than 20% (with at least 1,000 points earned) will be recognized for 2015 as “Chapters of Distinction.”

All chapters exceeding 5,000 Americanism points or 4,000 PG points will be recognized for 2015 as “Chapters of Excellence” in that program area. Start earning your chapter streamers now!

It is important that in each chapter’s quarterly BOM report next September that they include the number of points tallied to date so that the Americanism Committee can assess ways in which it can help a chapter increase their scoring.

#### **The Source Book has been updated with current data.**

No reports of Americanism activity at the National Congress (additions or changes to the contest and national winners) have been received or posted to date at the National website. Awards made at the National Congress recently will be announced at the Summer BOM meeting in Barnesville on July 25.

Remember that in Section 14B that your chapter earns 10 points for each member whose dues are paid on time (December 31, 2015) for 2016. With 35 members you already have 350 PG points!

Approved Supplementals earn 10 points each in Section 14F. Remember to obtain the supplemental’s “ACN” number to enter in your spreadsheet.

Presenting a “Speaker’s Certificate” to your monthly program presenter earns 15 Americanism points in Section 12 each month for a potential of 180 points during the year. If you present your officers with a certificate of appreciation for their service during the year at your annual banquet you also earn 15 points for each of these (6 officers = 90 points).

Can’t find a chapter member to prepare a report? Still confused how to enter data in the national spreadsheet? Never seen an Americanism report done in your chapter? You need help!!!

Contact Chairman Manning to arrange a training session or to have the committee set up your spreadsheet for the year to send to you. Let us go over your BOM reports and spreadsheet with you to help get you started.

#### **Support Your State Society**

Regardless of whether this year you may be able to receive recognition for your chapter’s activity, all chapters are encouraged to file an Americanism form with the State Society to aid in the state’s competition among other states at the end of the year. Georgia and its chapters used to be the regular national winners of this competition in all chapter size categories and as the state society. Now other states and chapters see the benefit of using the Americanism contest to encourage more activity in their programs and have entered the competition.

With thousands of unreported points each year, we can be back at Number One more consistently with your help in reporting these missing numbers. Your chapter members are doing some wonderful things in the community and in your chapter. As their leaders, we want to seek ways in which their efforts can be recognized.

Georgia Society Member Group Photograph for the Memorial Service  
NSSAR 125<sup>th</sup> Congress, Louisville, KY



### Compatriots

**Back Row: L---R**

Mike Tomme, Don Burdick, Randy Moody (Dual), Michael Henderson, Walt Reed, Roger Coursey, Terry Gibbs, Ed Rigel, Jr., Bob Sapp and George Thurmond

**Center Row: L---R**

Mike Radcliff (Dual), Larry Guzy, Ed Rigel, Sr., Justine Reese, Jack Manning (dual) and David Jessel

**Front Row: Center**

President Tom Owen with 1<sup>st</sup> Lady Jane-pictured to Right

### Ladies

**Front Row: L--R**

Cilla Tomme, Nancy Burdick, Carol Radcliff, Karin Guzy, Linda Reed, Jane Owen, Joan Rigel, Jane Reese, Sheila Manning & Brenda Jessel

**Second Row, L--R**

Lee Moody, Anita Rochelle, Teresa Coursey, Christine Gibbs and Brandy Rigel

**Others who attended but were not present for the photograph:** Charles D. Sanger, Dess D. Smith, Charlie and Claire Newcomer, H. Wilder Smith, James E Stallings Sr, Randy Pollard, Homer "Chip" Durden





## GASSAR Color Guard at the 125th National Congress



L-R: James E Stallings Sr, Walt Reed, J. Michael Tomme, George Thurmond, Roger Coursey, PG Lindsey Brock, Jim Jones Jr, Ed Rigel Sr, Wayne Brown, Mike Radcliff, Ed Rigel Jr, Larry Guzy, Jack Manning



## GASSAR Color Guard at the Atlanta Braves—4th of July

The award winning Georgia Color Guard presented the colors before 44,000 fans at the Atlanta Braves game on Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Bill Kabel, President of the Piedmont Chapter made the arrangements for Compatriots to perform their proud duty and then to enjoy a great game and significant win over the Philadelphia Phillies. The game was followed by the Brave's signature Independence Day fireworks show.

Shown here as they depart the field after the Pledge of Allegiance, National Anthem and a stirring flyover by two USAF fighter planes.

L-R:  
Boise Hill, Allen Greenly, Carter J Wood, Bill Kabel,  
Rick Reese, Shep Hammack, Knox Herndon.

## Friends of Library—Franklin Flyer Award

Congratulations on your state winning the Friends of the Library Franklin Flyer Award for the highest percentage of new FOL members in your state size category. The award was for 2014 and the categories and winners were:

Less than 200 - Wyoming Society, President David Thompson (not pictured)  
200-499 - Arizona Society, President George Lipphardt (middle)  
500-999 - Missouri Society, President Robert Corum (right)  
More than 1000 - Georgia Society, President Tom Owen (far left)

This photo that I took of you with PG Brock (far right) and with Compatriot John Robinson (second from left) of the Montana Society accepting for the Wyoming Society, will be featured on the monitor in the Library reception area. You may want to feature the award in your respective newsletters to focus on "Friends of the Library Program" in your state. The Friends application may be found on the national website under NSSAR Forms.

Thank you very much for your special support of the Library.

Fraternally,  
C. Bruce Pickette  
Librarian  
General



Librarian General C. Bruce Pickette presented the Friends of the Library's **Franklin Flyer Award** to Georgia Society President Tom Owen at the recent SAR National Congress. The Georgia Society received the award for having the highest percentage of new members of Friends of the Library for our size category among state societies during 2014.

Currently the Georgia Society has 19 Chapters and 53 individuals (compatriots, spouses and friends) as members of the FOL. The Georgia Society and the Ladies Auxiliary of the Georgia Society are also members.

Hugh Rodgers, Chairman



# 125th National Congress Election Results



President General  
Thomas E. Lawrence



Secretary General  
J. Michael Tomme



Treasurer General  
Larry T. Guzy



Chancellor General  
Davis L. Wright



Geneologist General  
John D. Sinks



Historian General  
John (Jack) Manning

Registrar General.....  
 Librarian General.....  
 Surgeon General.....  
 Chaplain General.....  
 SAR Foundation Board.....  
 SAR Foundation Board.....

Russell F. DeVenney, Jr. (MO)  
 C. Bruce Pickett (AL)  
 Larry M. Leslie, MD (KY)  
 Rev. James C. Taylor (TX)  
 Michael J. Elston (VA)  
 Richard D. Hollis (TN)

As you go about the business of the Georgia Society please extend your cooperation to our newly elected Officers.



*Report From The***Georgia  
Society  
Color  
Guard****Ed Rigel, Sr.  
Commander**

- | Item # | Date                                                                                                   |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 37     | 1 July-- Annual NSSAR Congress Installation Banquet, Louisville, KY                                    |
| 38     | 2 July -- Northeastern Judicial Circuit reading of the Declaration of Independence, Gainesville        |
| 39     | 4 July – Atlanta Braves Game, Turner Field, Atlanta                                                    |
| 40     | 25 July -- GA Society BOM Meeting, Barnesville, GA                                                     |
| 41     | 1 Aug – Old Soldiers Day Parade, Alpharetta                                                            |
| 42     | 12 Sep -- Multiple Grave Marker Dedication, Oak Grove Cemetery, St. Marys, GA                          |
| 43     | 17 Sep – Constitution Day sponsored by Chapel Hill and Augusta DAR, St. Paul's Church, Augusta, GA     |
| 44     | 19 Sep – GSSDAR Constitution Week Luncheon, Piedmont Driving Club, Atlanta                             |
| 45     | 19 Sep – Vigil at Washington's Tomb, Mount Vernon, VA                                                  |
| 46     | 25-26 Sep – NSSAR Fall Leadership                                                                      |
| 47     | 3 Oct -- Patriot Abraham Marshall grave marking, sponsored by William Few Chapter, Appling, GA         |
| 48     | 7 Oct – Battle of Kings Mountain                                                                       |
| 49     | 9 Oct – Battle of Savannah                                                                             |
| 50     | 10 Oct – Southern Heritage Festival (Mule Days) Callaway Plantation, Wilkes Co.                        |
| 51     | 17 Oct -- Compatriot Joe McConnell Grave Dedication, Georgia National Cemetery, Canton, GA             |
| 52     | 24 Oct -- GA Society BOM Meeting, Barnesville, GA                                                      |
| 53     | 31 Oct – Patriot William Haley Grave Marking, Haley Cemetery, Elbert Co.                               |
| 54     | 31 Oct – Patriot Archibald Burden Grave Marking, Elbert Co., 1400 hrs                                  |
| 55     | 7 Nov – Compatriot Andy Jones Grave Marking, Martin Baptist Church Cemetery, Martin, GA                |
| 56     | 14 Nov – Grave Marking Compatriot Harold Gosnell sponsored by Casmir Pulaski Chapter Mableton          |
| 57     | 21 Nov – Commemoration of Fort Morris' "Come and Take It!", Fort Morris Historic Site, Midway, GA      |
| 58     | 5 Dec -- Commemoration of the Battle of Vann's Creek, Richard B. Russell State Park, Elbert County, GA |
| 59     | 12 Dec – Wreaths Across America: James Stallings                                                       |

**2016**

- 12 Feb -- "Heroes of the Hornet's Nest" Commemoration sponsored by the Atlanta Chapter SAR, Elijah Clark State Park
- 13-14 Feb Kettle Creek
- 16-17 Apr Fort Frederica
- 30 May - Community Memorial Day Ceremony, Rome, 1000-1200 hrs
- 17 Sep Constitution Day
- 7 Oct Kings Mountain
- 9 Oct Savannah
- 19 Nov Fort Morris



*Georgia Society Meeting Dates*



**President  
Thomas M. Owen**

[gassarpresident2015@gmail.com](mailto:gassarpresident2015@gmail.com)



**BOM Meeting Dates & Location 2015—16**

**Location: Garden Patch Restaurant (770-358-9895)  
100 Southland Drive (old hwy 41)  
Barnesville, GA. 30204**

**25 APRIL 2015: BOM, BARNESVILLE, GA. 10:00 A.M.**

**25 JULY 2015: BOM, BARNESVILLE, GA. 10:00 A.M.**

**24 OCT 2015: BOM, BARNESVILLE, GA. 10:00 A.M.**

**Annual BOM Meeting**

**23 January 2016**

**Sonesta Gwinnett Place Hotel  
1775 Pleasant Hill Road, Duluth, GA. 30096**

**Room Location TBD: 9:15 A.M.**

## National Treasurer General

### A View From A Different Circle by Larry Guzy

It is with great pride that I have been given the honor to serve the Georgia Society as the National Treasurer General for 2015-2016. And no the rumors are not true that I am moving to Florida!!

There are three intersecting circles of groups in the SAR: Chapter, State, and National. I have been in all three since 1999 when I went to my first Congress and Leadership Meeting. I gain a little more knowledge of our organization with each meeting and new job. The important thing is to pass on this knowledge to the group. I have modified an article I wrote for my Chapter's newsletter since it is apropos:

What does all the activity have to do with me, you ask? It is nice that the "Chapter" has been doing Scouts, JROTC, School Posters, and Proclamation things. However you say "I have my own thing and have not taken the time to participate. Sure, I go to meetings every once in awhile, but I have these other things that take up my time."

A July 2007 National Geographic Magazine article was on Swarm Theory. What does this have to do with the SAR you say? Everything!

"A group won't be smart if its members imitate one another. Slavishly follow fads, or wait for someone to tell them what to do. When a group is being intelligent, whether it's ants or attorneys, it relies on its members to do their own part. ...our actions matter, even if we don't see how.

"None of us knows what Society as a whole needs, but we look around and say, oh, they need someone to volunteer at school, or to mow the church lawn, or help in a political campaign."

What is your part in the SAR Society as a whole? What are you doing to further its goals? What small part can you play? Is it worth your time? It is the reason you are here, and will be here when you are not, but will be so much more if you do your part. Your actions do matter, no matter how small, even if you do not see why.

Have you considered what an honor it is to know you are descended from a Patriot of the American Revolution? What do you do to honor that fact and take your part?

One trend today for the SAR is to recognize that we seem to have lost our focus, or perhaps we never recognized that we needed to focus. When one says DAR, do you know what that is? Most everyone has some idea. What about SAR? If you were not a member, would you know?

National is in the process of "Branding" so it will be a recognizable entity. Focus on SAR and separate the State from the name, GA SAR or SAR Georgia versus GASSAR that might be some gas company. What about "SAR, Sons of the American Revolution: where belonging brings your history to life." or "Your Past Lives On." Whatever it may be, we need to be proud of our heritage and identify the entity SAR as a means to achieve this.

As per the Swarm Theory, every little thing you do to honor your past and preserve your heritage serves a purpose even if we cannot see how. So talk to your friends and neighbors about the organization in which you belong, perhaps they too would like to honor their past by attending a meeting to hear a speaker talk about their heritage **EVEN IF THEY DO NOT QUALIFY**.

If you do not partake of any activity you are missing a chance to make a difference. We need change to make the SAR a means for preserving our heritage, not just yours or mine, but all Americans. We must engage younger people, and they do not view the SAR as worth their time. Millennials, those born between 1981 and 1997, value contributions to the world over monetary and material wealth. Since they want to make a contribution, we must find ways to engage them since **THEY** are our future.

If I have learned anything in my 20 years this year as a member, it is that we must step up to the plate and take a swing. Who knows you might even hit the ball! Oh, and say hello to everyone in your circles, they are probably related to you.

Larry Guzy



Larry Guzy  
National Treasurer General



## National Secretary General



J Michael Tomme Sr  
National Secretary General

It is an honor to be elected as Secretary General of the National Society Sons of the American Revolution and to serve you. We have a golden opportunity for the future of our organization. We should all take pride in the fact that we are members of the SAR.

This is your society and each of us has an important role to play. We need to take these opportunities to educate the public on whom we are and why we are relevant. We should all be engaged and involved in our chapters and state societies to make sure that principals and the mission of the SAR are carried out. We are the largest male lineage society and we need to continue to grow.

With our headquarters moving from the old Fourth Street location and now to Main Street, we are located among numerous museums and tourist attractions. This new visibility in this location should attract some new prospective members who visit the area. With our library finished, visitors are coming by to conduct research. However, we cannot just rely on visitors doing research to attract possible new members. Each chapter member must constantly attempt to seek out new members in our communities and travels.

First, we need to retain and reinstate our members. Second, each member should seek out at least one new member and assist them with researching their lineage to see if they have an ancestor who either fought or gave aid to the founding and building of this country. We must engage every DAR member and other heredity societies to assist us in securing new members. Once a new member has been installed, each chapter should have an individual assigned to ensure that this new member is welcomed and an active part of your chapter.

Help the new member find their strengths and interests and where they may fit into your chapter and our organization. This process is called mentoring and it is an ongoing process year after year. I believe that each chapter should have at least one or more mentors. With this process in place we will continue to grow and educate those out in our communities. Regardless of whether we are at work, at play, or serving in our community, each day presents an opportunity for us broaden our horizon and seek new members. There is still a great deal of work to be done by all of us.

## Hornet's Nest Commemoration Moves to Friday

### Compatriot Terry Manning

It's so exciting! The Friday of Revolutionary Days in Washington, Georgia, to celebrate the battle of Kettle Creek in February is no longer just a boring "let's-get-there-in-time-to-eat-supper" day or a "it's-too-far-to-drive-Saturday-morning-so-let's-stay-over-on-Friday-night" day. It's now a day to celebrate the **Heroes of the Hornet's Nest** with a new format from its previous schedule of Sunday afternoon. Now you can stay Friday night in Thompson, Lincolnton, or Washington; participate in events in Lincolnton all day on Friday and half a day in Washington on Saturday; and return home on Saturday afternoon if you're not staying over for the Sunday colonial worship service; thus avoiding three things: Saturday night lodging, waiting forever to get supper on Saturday night in Washington, and spending a third day on Sunday driving in the wrong direction away from the Atlanta area in the morning and having a longer drive home Sunday afternoon.

The New Friday will kick off in Lincolnton, Georgia, at Elijah Clark State Park on February 12th for most of us with a free chili cookout at lunchtime compliments of the Friends of Elijah Clark State Park, followed immediately by a wreath ceremony at the Elijah Clarke gravesite, and topped off with a free dessert buffet compliments of the Stephen Heard Chapter NSDAR and the Friends. The wreath ceremony will be streamlined to get us all to the dessert buffet as soon as possible, will feature the Georgia Society Color Guard and Elijah Clarke Militia Unit, and will feature remarks by noted Hornet's Nest and Kettle Creek author Christine Swager. Tired of packing around a 2-foot wreath and a 3-foot stand but want to get credit for presenting a wreath? No problem! Participate in our Penny Wreath Program. Donate a penny when you check in and you'll be a part owner of a joint Partners in Patriotism Wreath representing all of the chapters that donated toward its purchase. Afraid it might rain (or snow!)? No problem! An alternate indoor, heated building is available right on site if needed.

The fun and learning experience doesn't stop there. Re-enactors from the sponsoring groups will also be stationed at the Elijah Clark Museum and at other points in the park after the ceremony to give a variety of demonstrations on the colonial lifestyle. Friday morning is also being planned to provide special programming by SAR and DAR members to the area students either at the park or in the schools.

There's more good news! Those wishing to stay at one of the 20 lakeside cottages or at a campsite at the park will receive a special discount, probably 20% less for this special occasion (2-night stay required at the cottages). The large number of chain motels in nearby Thomson, Georgia, on the Interstate close to Lincolnton will offer an opportunity to begin your weekend in Thomson on Friday and from there keep moving west toward home as the weekend progresses. It also provides an option to celebrate the Battle of Kettle Creek for those unable to attend any events on Saturday because of other commitments.

Sponsors or supporting chapters of the event already include the Atlanta, Lyman Hall and Button Gwinnett chapters SAR; Friends of the Elijah Clark Park; the Elijah Clark Park; Lincoln County Historical Society; and the Stephen Heard chapter NSDAR. For further details contact Terry Manning (temanning@aol.com).

## Vice President General



Dr Ed Rigel, Sr  
Vice President  
South Atlantic District

It was quite an honor to be elected to represent the GA Society as Vice President General of the South Atlantic District. Not only is the District the largest in terms of membership, but also, based on the number of awards the individuals within each State Society as well as the State Societies receive each year at Congress we are the busiest and have the most diverse programs of any District.

I was very proud to have been selected by President General Tom Lawrence to serve as Vice Chairman of the Council of Vice Presidents General. PG Lawrence addressed the incoming VPsG at the conclusion of the business sessions of the 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress. He spoke on his initiatives and goals for his term that he presented at the Installation Banquet later that evening. Broadly, the PG wishes to improve communications between National and the States and Chapters. One venue is the area of Education Outreach; what can National provide in the way of resources to provide States and Chapters the ability to expand their Education Outreach programs? This is a high priority for the PG.

What do the States and Chapters want in the way of promotional material; specifically mentioned was fundraising? A beautiful interactive Education Center is under construction on Main Street and needs financial support for completion.

And lastly, what have the States not been getting from National that would be assisting their programs? PG Lawrence would like the preliminary results of his survey returned prior to Fall Leadership, so please respond to me as soon as possible. I look forward to serving the District during the upcoming year

### VPG Rigel's Tentative Schedule

#### 2015

15 Aug: 235th Anniversary of the Battle of Camden  
25-26 Sep: NSSAR Fall Leadership Trustee Meeting, Louisville, KY  
6 Oct: South Atlantic District Meeting, Spartanburg, SC 4:00 PM  
7 Oct: Commemoration of the Battle of Kings Mountain, Blacksburg, SC  
9 Oct: Commemoration of the Siege of Savannah, Savannah, GA 7:00 AM  
21 Nov: Fort Morris-Sunbury Memorial Ceremony, Midway GA  
5 Dec: Commemoration of the Battle of Vann's Creek, Elbert County, GA 11:00 AM  
13 Dec: Wreathes Across America  
TBD Dec: SCSSAR Colonial Ball

#### 2016

9 Jan: SCSSAR Board of Governors Meeting, Columbia, SC 9:30 - 2:00  
15 Jan: Ceremony Honoring Gen. Daniel Morgan, Spartanburg, SC  
15 Jan: South Atlantic District Annual Meeting, Spartanburg, SC, 4:00 PM  
15 Jan: Cowpens Lecture, Wofford College, 7:00 PM  
16 Jan: Commemoration of the Battle of Cowpens, Chesnee SC, 10:00 AM  
22-23 Jan: GASSAR Annual Meeting, Duluth, GA  
TBD Feb: NCSSAR Winter Board of Managers Meeting  
13-14 Feb: Revolutionary Days/Battle of Kettle Creek Commemoration, Washington, GA  
18 Feb: President's Day Community Dinner, Charlotte, NC - Benjamin Franklin to Speak  
26-27 Feb: NSSAR Spring Leadership Trustee Meeting, Louisville, KY  
12 Mar: Commemoration of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, Greensboro, NC, 10:00 AM  
TBD Apr: SCSSAR Annual Meeting, Columbia, SC  
29-30 Apr: NCSSAR Annual Convention, Charlotte, NC  
16-17 Apr: Patriot's Day Celebration, St. Simons Island, GA  
13-15 May: FLSSAR Spring Board of Management/Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL  
TBD Jun: Commemoration of The Battle of Ramsour's Mill, Lincolnton, NC  
7-13 Jul: 126th NSSAR Annual Congress, Boston, MA  
12 Jul: South Atlantic District Breakfast & Meeting, 7:00 AM





[Georgia Society](#)  
[Historic Sites & Celebrations—Scott Collins—\[scollins@collinscpa.com\]\(mailto:scollins@collinscpa.com\)](#)

Please assist the members of the HS&CC in the performance of their tasks to deliver a quality and professional program to honor our Revolutionary War ancestors and to deliver these public orientated events in the best interests of the Georgia Society SAR.

### [2015 GASSAR HS&CC Sanctioned Events Remaining](#)

- 1) Constitution Day--William Few (Chapel Hill & Augusta DAR--St Paul's Church)  
[September 17, 2015](#)
- 2) Battle of Savannah (Coastal Heritage Society--GASSAR)  
[October 9, 2015](#)
- 3) Fort Morris, Sunbury (Marshes of Glynn)  
[November 21, 2015](#)
- 4) Battle of Vann's Creek (Samuel Elbert)  
[December 5, 2015](#)

### [2016 GASSAR HS&CC Sanctioned Events](#)

- 1) Battle of Kettle Creek & Revolutionary Days  
[February 13 & 14, 2016](#)
- 2) Fort Frederica/Patriots Day (Marshes of Glynn--St Simons Island)  
[April 16 & 17, 2016](#)
- 3) Constitution Day--William Few ( Augusta, Georgia St. Paul's Church)  
[September 17, 2016](#)
- 4) Battle of Savannah (Coastal Heritage Society--GASSAR)  
[October 9, 2016](#)
- 5) Fort Morris, Sunbury (Marshes of Glynn)  
[November 19, 2016](#)
- 6) Battle of Vann's Creek (Samuel Elbert)  
[December 3, 2016](#)

**2nd Quarter 2015 GASSAR BOM Report**  
**Office of the President GASSAR**  
**Events and Activities attended**

7 April: attended UGA Professor History Program at the Athens Chapter in Watkinsville, Georgia.

8 April: Launched a review of criteria for the establishment of a GASSAR Ethics Board/Committee. As a 501 c 3 Non-Profit Corporation we must protect ourselves from both internal and external incidents that may damage our Integrity.

9 April: attended the regular meeting & brought greetings at the Robert Forsyth Chapter in Cumming, GA.

11 April: Canton National Cemetery. Wreath & Program assignment at the Grave Marking for Compatriot Jack Ferguson.

17-19 April: GASSAR Historic Sites & Celebrations Event, Patriots Day and Fort Frederica on St. Simons Island with the Marshes of Glynn Chapter.

17 April: Attended a pre-event joint program dinner for GASSAR & NSDAR Personnel, St. Simons Island, GA.

18 April: Frederica-Patriot Days on St. Simon. Participated in the program and Delivered Comments from the GASSAR. Presented Greetings as our Society President as well as a Memorial Wreath, participated in the Living History & Color Guard and attended the post-event dinner.

19 April: Served in the Color Guard in the Colonial Worship Program and open the Memorial Service by giving the Invocation.

23 April: attended the monthly KCBA Director Meeting in Washington, GA. This is an oversight function in lieu of our \$41,634+ donations in 2013.

25 April: Lead the Spring GASSAR Board of Managers meeting in Barnesville, GA. Business Agenda included Awards, By-law changes and Student Oration event where we presented cash awards and identified a GASSAR Student Candidate for competition at the 125<sup>th</sup> Congress.

26 April: Roger W. Coursey represented my office at the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Gen. Screven & Stewart monument-Midway, Georgia.

30 April: I supported the GSS NSCAR Open House for the Presidents Project at the Atlanta Veterans Hospital in Decatur, GA. It was a blessing to witness the gratitude of our hospitalized veterans for this event.

1 May: As Guest of the GSS NSDAR, I attended their Annual State Conference and Banquet at the Evergreen Resort, Stone Mountain, GA. I presented Greetings and donated GASSAR funds (\$500) to the Regents Project for the preservation of Meadow Garden. Also, I addressed our partnership for improving membership and joint programs.

2 May: An International event my office was represented by *Sr. V. P. Allen Greenly* at the "Hopewell 1825" Re-dedication of the Marie Antoinette Oak in Fayette County. Allen pinned a Bronze Good Citizenship Medal on the French Arborist from Versailles, France.

5 May: attended the evening meeting of the Athens Chapter at Hops & Chops Grill in Watkinsville, Georgia.

8-11 May: attended a Funeral in Los Angeles, CA., of a Georgia Compatriot from the Washington-Wilkes Chapter.

14 May: As part of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary I joined with two National Park Rangers and presented a wreath at Fort Steadman, Petersburg, Virginia to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps ANV (Georgia Divisions/Regiments under General Gordon), and Registered the NPS guestbook for the GASSAR. This action was to honor the Sons, Grandsons and Great Grandsons of our Georgia Revolutionary War Patriots in War Between the States. America's second Civil War after the Revolution that also divided our Nation on similar lines.

15-22 May: NSSAR International Memorial & Educational Cruise with the PG Lindsey Brock. 47 National / State Members & wives.

16 May: As GASSAR President I Presented a Program on the history of Kettle Creek 1779—2014 at an open forum aboard the Cruise Ship. Audience included 47 NSSAR members of the PG's SAR international tour.

17 May: assisted the President General in a ceremony and wreath presentation at the Veterans Memorial Center, Merritt Island, Cape Canaveral, Florida, in honor of the Last Naval Battle of the American Revolution.

16-17 May: The President-GASSAR was represented by *Sr. V.P. Allen Greenly* at the *South Carolina SAR Annual Convention* where he brought Greetings from the Georgia Society and participated in the Color Guard.

18 May: As GASSAR President I participated (Continental Uniform) in an International Color Guard event and Wreath Memorial by the NSSAR President General at Fort Montagu, Nassau, Bahamas. This was to honor the First U. S. Marine Corps Amphibious Landing and Assault in March of 1776.

*(Continued on next page)*

*(Continued from previous page)*

Personnel from the U. S. Embassy participated as well as the USMC Embassy Guards and Security Director. Governmental Officials of the Bahamas, members of the Bahamian Defense Forces and their National Defense Force Band also participated in this Joint International Ceremony.

20 May: GASSAR Vice President Allen Greenly represented the Georgia Society with a wreath at the Ramseurs Mill memorial.

23 May: The President—GASSAR was represented by *Sr. V. P. Allen Greenly* at the annual Boy Scout Flag Ceremony at Marietta National Cemetery.

25 May: Presented a Memorial Day Speech at the annual Coweta Falls Chapter SAR event at Park Hill Cemetery, Columbus, Georgia. Additionally, I attended a portion of the Memorial Day events at the National Infantry Museum, Fort Benning, Columbus, GA.

28 May: Participated in a Chamber of Commerce pre-planning meeting for the 2016 Calendar of events of which the Kettle Creek NSSAR Historic Sites & Celebrations program and Revolutionary War Days was discussed for the 13<sup>th</sup> of February 2016.

May: Announced the appointment of John E. Turrentine as GASSAR SE Regional Vice President. John hails from the Marshes of Glynn Chapter and is a practicing physician, re-enactor and historian. John joined the GASSAR via the Dalton Chapter some years back.

4 June: Attended the Samuel Elbert Chapter quarterly Chapter meeting where I presented a snap-shot of GASSAR activities from the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarters.

11 June: As GASSAR President I participated in a Membership and a new Chapter Organizational meeting in Sylvania, Screven County, Georgia with the William Few and Wiregrass Chapters. In attendance were East Region VP Chip Durden, Wiregrass President Wilder Smith, GASSAR Chaplain Emory Fennell, and Bill Tankersley for the President of the William Few Chapter. Also present was the President of the GASSAR *Ladies Auxiliary*, Jane Owen to answer questions for wives in attendance.

13 June: As part of the Captain John Collins program for Patriot Willis West. I delivered the Invocation, Dedication of the SAR Marker, presented the West Family to place flags and delivered the Benediction.

18 June: Presided over the Washington-Wilkes Chapter meeting. The N.E. Regional V.P. was in attendance and assisted with the Induction Ceremony for a new GASSAR member. Presented short review of GASSAR President 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter activities.

25 June - 2 July: Represented the GASSAR at the 125<sup>th</sup> NSSAR Congress in Louisville, KY. This entailed serving in the NSSAR Color Guard, Chaplaincy Committee, Council of State Presidents Committee, Color Guard breakfast, GWEF Breakfast, Historic Sites Committee & GWEF Distribution Committee meeting.

25 June: As GASSAR President I was Host & Sponsor of the Georgia Society SAR Dinner for GA Participants at Congress. This event was held at Doc Crowe's Southern Smokehouse and Raw Bar in Louisville, KY.

28 June: As a Member of the National Chaplaincy Corps, I participated in the NSSAR Procession & Memorial Church Service to Honor our deceased Compatriots. I gave the Benediction to close the Service at the Catholic Cathedral of the Assumption.

30 June: I Attended the South Atlantic District Breakfast Meeting where I presented a summary snap shot to the District membership & Leadership for the GASSAR SAD quarterly report.

Respectfully Submitted

Thomas M. Owen  
President GASSAR

## The Last Naval Battle

On May 17<sup>th</sup>, The Georgia Society paid tribute to the Last Naval Battle of the American Revolutionary War at Veterans Memorial Center, Merritt Island, Cape Canaveral, Florida. President Owen led the Georgia delegation as part of the President General's 2015 NSSAR cruise and tour. Accompanying President Thomas M. Owen were GASSAR Past-Presidents J. Michael Tomme, James E. Stallings, Sr. and Roger W. Coursey. The Last naval battle of the American Revolutionary War took place off the coast of Cape Canaveral on March 10, 17783. The fight began when three British ships sighted two Continental Navy ships, the "Alliance" commanded by Captain John Barry and the "Duc De Lauzun" commanded by Captain John Green sailing northward along the coast of Florida.

The Alliance, a 36-gun frigate, and the Duc De Lauzun, a 20-gun ship, were loaded with 72,000 Spanish silver dollars they were bringing from Havana, Cuba to Philadelphia to support the Continental Army. One of the British ships, the HMS Sybil, a 28-gun frigate, commanded by Captain James Vashon, chased the Alliance and Duc De Lauzun to the south. The HMS Sybil fired first, exchanging shots with the slower Duc De Lauzun.



Then in a daring strategy Captain John Barry aboard the Alliance reversed his course, and while under fire, waited until the HMS Sybil was close. When the British ship was alongside he returned fire to the broadside with greater number of cannon. The battle lasted less than an hour, when the HMS Sybil, outgunned and badly damaged, broke off from the battle and fled. The Alliance and Duc De Lauzun then continued on their mission at dawn on March 11, 1783.



L-R James E. Stallings Sr., Roger W. Coursey, Thomas M. Owen, J. Michael Tomme

## 2014 Georgia Colonial Ball and Debutante Presentation

A most successful 2014 Georgia Colonial Ball and Debutante Presentation, held at the Thompson House and Gardens, Bogart, Georgia, on Monday, December 29, 2014, was sponsored by the Athens Chapter NSSAR. Thirteen lovely young ladies were presented to the society, including Amberlee Anne Allmond, Savannah Carolyn Culver, Emily Anne Garnett, Regan Abigail Hardaway, Morgaine Justice Hatcher, Emma Brady Hawthorne, Megan Ashley Herlihy, Callah Moree McLeod, Katherine Clements Martin, Virginia Scarlet Elena Matsumoto, Erin Catherine Moore, Mary Elizabeth Neisler, and Emily Shea Wagner.

The Georgia Colonial Ball was honored with the presence of numerous dignitaries. In attendance were NSSAR Historian General Colonel Robert F. Towns, Debutante Ball Chairman, and his lady Robin, National President, SAR National Ladies Auxiliary, and Debutante Presentation Chairman; South Atlantic District Vice President General Mark C. Anthony; Captain Roger Coursey, President, Georgia Society SAR, and his lady Teresa; Thomas Owen, Senior Vice President, Georgia Society; COL Joseph B. Neighbors III, Past President, Athens Chapter SAR, and his lady, Lois; Major General Donald Burdick, President, Athens Chapter SAR; Mrs. Hans E. Fischer (Bea), State Regent, Georgia State Society NSDAR; Miss Erin Jackson, National First Vice President, National Society Children of the American Revolution; Mrs. N. Walker Chewning (JoAn), Senior State President, Georgia Society C.A.R.; R. Walker Chewning, Jr., State President, Georgia Society C.A.R.; Mrs. Eugene C. Lashley III (The Honorable Bonnell W. Lashley), National Historian, National Society Southern Dames of America; and Patricia E. Gallagher, State President, Louisiana Society, US Daughters of 1812. Also introduced were Post Debutantes in attendance: Kathryn Leverett Towns, Toni Guest, Chappell Claxton, Carter Moore, Sarah Moe, Lily Garnett, and Lauren Hawthorne.

Colonel Joseph B. Neighbors, III served as Master of Ceremonies for the evening. Dr. Mark H. Pelton, Associate Vice President, Georgia College and State University, served as Debutante Herald. Peggy S. Gates served as Grand Marshall, and serving as Pages were Abby Garnett and Olivia Pelton. The Highland Color Guard, including Compatriots Jackson W. Guest, Commander, William R. Galt III, Captain David A. Martin, Captain Hall A. Martin, Virgil W. Palmer, and Kirby M. Towns, in magnificent traditional Scottish dress, did a fine job of presenting the Colors.

Numerous dedicated ladies and gentlemen served on the Colonial Ball Committee, including: Music, Amelia Pelton; Catering and Band, Camille Baxter; Decorations, Ashley Carter, Toni Guest, Robin Towns, Compatriots Christopher Carter, Jackson Guest, and Kirby Towns; Debutante gifts, Kathryn Towns; and bouquets and corsages, Lynne Yarbrough.

Following the early morning rehearsal, a Mother-Daughter Luncheon was given by Apalachee Chapter DAR, with Bonnell Lashley serving as chairman. Each Debutante received an engraved silver picture frame as a remembrance of the occasion, and each mother received a corsage of white roses for the evening.

For the presentation, each Debutante wore a beautiful white ball gown and long white gloves, and carried a bouquet of one dozen white roses. After the formal Debutante Presentation, the Debutantes danced with their Presenters, and then with their Escorts. The remainder of the evening was filled with a sumptuous buffet supper and dancing to the music of the Big Biscuit Band. A wonderful time was had by all, and even before the evening ended, plans were being enthusiastically discussed for the Georgia Colonial Ball and Debutante Presentation for 2016.



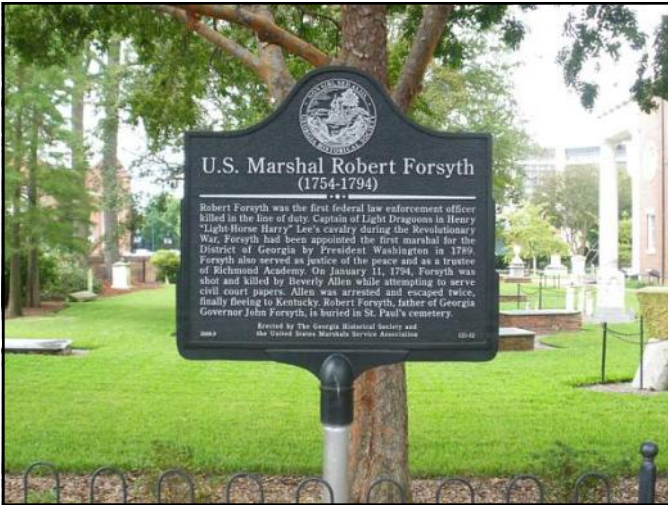
## Debutantes Presented at 2014 Georgia Colonial Ball



Front (L to R):Katherine Martin, Callah McLeod, Emily Garnett, Virginia Matsumoto, Regan Hardaway, and Savannah Culver;

Back: Erin Moore, Megan Herlihy, Emma Hawthorne, Amberlee Allmond, Morgaine Hatcher, Mary Elizabeth Neisler, and Emily Wagner

## The First Fallen Peace Officer



Robert Forsyth (1754–11 January 1794) was an American patriot who served as a Captain in Lee's Legion under Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee. He was selected by President George Washington to be the first United States Marshal for the state of Georgia and became the first U.S. Marshal and first law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty.

Forsyth was the first of over 200 U.S. Marshals and Deputies killed in the line of duty. Forty years old at the time of his murder, he left behind a widow and two sons. One of the sons, John, became governor of Georgia and, later, United States Minister to Spain. While at the latter post, he negotiated the treaty ceding Florida to the United States. John Forsyth also served as Secretary of State under Presidents Andrew Jackson and Martin Van Buren. The city of Forsyth, Georgia is named in his honor.

Robert Forsyth was born in Scotland in 1754. As a teenager, he moved to America with his family, where they first settled in New England before moving to Fredericksburg, Virginia in 1774. At the age of 22, Forsyth enlisted in the Continental Army after the start of the American Revolutionary War. Three years later, on 10 January 1779, he received a commission as Captain in the Corps of Partisan Light Dragoons under Major Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee.

Within the year, Forsyth resigned from Lee's Legion to accept another post. His transfer prompted a letter from General Washington expressing regret that he was leaving Lee's command, but relief that Forsyth would be "in another line of the Army." Working as aide-de-camp to General Avery, Forsyth's new responsibility was to provision the Southern Army. For this work, which he performed quite well despite almost insurmountable hardships, Forsyth earned a promotion to Major of the First Virginia Legion on 21 March 1781.



L-R: Paul Prescott, George Thurmond, Roger Coursey, Bob Turbyfill, Robert Sapp



L-R: Paul Prescott, George Thurmond, Bob Turbyfill, Roger Coursey, Robert Sapp

After the war, Forsyth returned to Fredericksburg, but moved to Augusta, Georgia in 1785. He soon established himself in the new community, becoming a member of the Board of Commissions, where he worked successfully to acquire a new jail for the county. He also worked as a tax assessor, justice of the peace, and trustee of the Richmond Academy. By 1792, he also owned 6,000 acres of land. In addition, Forsyth was a member of the Society of the Cincinnati and the Freemasons. He became Master of the Lodge Columbia and Deputy Grand Master for the state of Georgia. Washington appointed him Marshal on 26 September 1789; Forsyth was 35 years old.

On 11 January 1794, Marshal Forsyth, accompanied by two of his deputies, went to the house of a Mrs. Dixon to serve a civil court process on two brothers, Beverly and William Allen. Beverly Allen, a former Methodist minister from South Carolina, saw the Marshal approaching, so he hid in a room on the second floor of the house. When Forsyth knocked on the door of the room, Allen fired his pistol at the direction of the knocking. The ball hit Forsyth in the head, killing him instantly. Forsyth's Deputies arrested the killer, Allen later managed to escape. He was never recaptured.



## Chapter News

### Altamaha

### Athens

### Atlanta

### Blue Ridge Mountains

### Button Gwinnett

By Charles A. Gustafson

In our April Chapter meeting, several members read their Patriot Biographies revealing ancestors that answered the alarm at Lexington and Concord, The Boston Tea Party, Guilford Courthouse, Eutaw Springs, Kettle Creek and Savannah. One Patriot, Henry Seeber, survived the Revolution, lived to be over 100 years of age was wounded three times in the Battle of Oriskany and was buried with a British musket ball in his leg. Extensive research by each member made the historical presentations come to life as more was learned about our member's Patriot Ancestors. Many of these bios noted that some of our Patriots were in the same battles and now their descendants are meeting some 200 years later. Many other biographies are on tap to be read this year.



Mary Jordan, a *Real Daughter of the American Revolution*, whose father was John Jordan, Revolutionary War Soldier was recently honored by the Elijah Clarke Chapter NSDAR in Athens, Georgia. A new DAR Bronze marker for her grave site replaced the original 1928 marker that disappeared several years ago. She was a Charter Member of the Elijah Clarke Chapter DAR. Button Gwinnett SAR members in attendance were Charlie Newcomer, Walker Chewning, Mike Watkins and Bill Palmer.

Button Gwinnett Chapter supports eight JROTC units and has presented all eight with a SAR Outstanding Cadet Medal for 2015. The NJROTC in Duluth, Ga. is headed up by Captain Jim Roger, USN, Ret. and Master Gunnery Sergeant Elliot Martin, USMC, Ret. JROTC Committee Chair, Bill Palmer presented the 2015 SAR Outstanding Duluth High School NJROTC Award to Cadet Minjae Cho.

The GASCAR's President N. Walker Chewning, Jr.'s state initiative raised over \$20,000 to extensively upgrade garden areas and planters at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Decatur, Georgia. Also, sixty-one rocking chairs for the Veterans to enjoy were sponsored by the CAR, several DAR and SAR Chapters and all five branches of the U.S. Armed Forces.

With American Patriotism in the air, National Flag Day observance at the Snellville City Hall celebrated and honored The Stars and Stripes as well as our nation's military. A flag that flew over the Capitol building in Washington D.C. was raised by the Snellville Police Honor Guard. Also, SAR members in Revolutionary attire, gave a musket salute to some of the historic flags that have flown over our nation. BGSAR members attending were Bruce Maney, Bill Palmer, Mike Watkins, Walker Chewning,

Mike Ruff, Terry Manning and Charlie Newcomer. Other NSSAR chapters in attendance were Atlanta, Lyman Hall and Blue Ridge Mountains as were members of the William Day and Philadelphia Winn Chapters of the NSDAR.

Also honoring America's National Flag, our June meeting was highlighted by Compatriot Terry Manning's exhibit of twenty historic flags, with provenance, that have been raised on American soil. From the Cross of St. George flag planted at Plymouth

Rock in 1620 to the many flags named for Revolutionary War Battles. In the War of 1812, at Fort McHenry where the "Garrison Flag" was seen "by dawn's early light" inspired a poem that became our National Anthem. Many styles of the "Stars and Stripes" and "non-official" flags have represented our nation through the Civil War and for the past 150 years. But on July 4, 1960 President Eisenhower by Executive Order made the Fifty Star Flag the first official National Flag of our country. **Old Glory** will be a young 55 years of age this year.

Our May chapter meeting was highlighted by a Power Point presentation prepared by Compatriots Bill Palmer and Bruce Maney, with narrative, of the history and dedication of America's Citizen Soldiers and National Guard. Twenty-five slides beginning with the French and Indian War, Lexington, Concord to Afghanistan and Iraq covered over two hundred years of Citizen Soldiers answering America's call to duty.

BGSAR Compatriots Gordon Woodard, Bruce Maney and Mike Watkins, in Revolutionary War uniforms, presented a wreath at the grave marking of Patriot John Farrow. Combining with a family reunion, Compatriot Bennie and Linda Koon and their extended relatives honored the Patriot's grave site at Cross Anchor, South Carolina on June 13, 2015. The Orlando Chapter NSDAR, Orlando, Florida and the William Day Chapter NSDAR, Duluth, Georgia were among several SAR and DAR Chapters sponsoring this ceremony. John and his brothers Thomas, Landon and Samuel were known as the "Fighting Farrowes" with John enlisting for seven tours of duty.



Kennesaw Mountain High School  
 Presenter: Bill Coffeen, Eagle Scout Chair  
 Cadet: Henry Garcia



Sprayberry High School  
 Presenter: Lee Hulsey, Vice President  
 Cadet: Michael Cooper



Alatoona High School  
 Presenter: Jim Castle, Treasurer  
 Cadet: Deacon Harris



North Cobb High School  
 Presenter: Stan Virden  
 Cadet: Louis Ramos



Osborne High School  
 Presenter: Lee Hulsey, Vice President  
 Cadet: Charles Hague



Marietta High School  
 Presenters: L-R Wayne Brown, Past President, Harry Hagan, President  
 Cadet: Nia Myrthil



**Captain John Collins**

Congratulations were in order in the Captain John Collins Chapter this spring. True to their namesake chapter Compatriots honored Junior ROTC cadets of various branches of military service.



Pebblebrook High School  
Presenter: Earl Cagle

**Casimir Pulaski**

**Cherokee**

**Coweta Falls**

**Dalton**

**Edward Telfair**

**Four Rivers Patriots**

**George Walton**

## Joel Early

## Lyman Hall



Roscoe McMillan, Lyman Hall Chapter,  
Recognizes Navy JROTC Cadet at East  
Hall High School.

## John Milledge

## Joseph Habersham

Reprinted from the letter to the Editor

### Freedom is Being Free

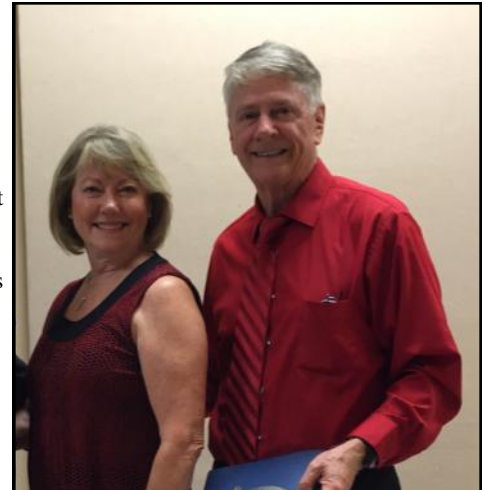
Another 4<sup>th</sup> of July is come and Gone. Do not let this 4<sup>th</sup> and all of the others be forgotten or for what Freedom really stands for. Our Country is now under Suppression and it is time that we do not forget the Men and Women of this Nation who Fought and died for us to have the Freedom we have today. Of all the Wars that the Patriots of our Country have Fought thanks to the Lord our Flag is still Waving. Only we as a Great Nation can overcome the perils that have been brought against Our Constitution, Declaration of Independence, and Our Flag. United we Stand and let us be as a Proud Nation of all Races who will never let our Freedom be taken away. Our Forefathers encouraged us to believe in the Lord and is my opinion also based our Country's Beginning as a free Nation on these Principles. The Bible teaches us to Love one another and be a Blessing to all. Greed will be the Downfall to Everyone. Lest We Never Forget.

William H. Raper

In May the Lyman Hall Chapter 'stepped off' with a new and different program. Compatriot David Long and his wife Karen presented and demonstrated a 'History of Dance'.

Arrangements had been made with the First Presbyterian Church in Gainesville to provide a hard surface dance floor. Dave and Karen explained and showed meeting attendees dances all the way back to 'Minuet' followed by dances that were popular during the Colonial and Revolutionary era.

Their performance moved on to the development of dances through our history up to the modern steps. Their program was very well received by members and guests. They are available to other Chapters.



## Joseph Habersham

The second firing of the "Cannon On the Lawn" took place July 18, 2015 at the Rabun Gap Nacoochee School soccer field. The six-pound Revolutionary War field artillery piece was researched and built by Dess Oliver at the industrial arts building at Rabun Gap Nacoochee School with assistance from Compatriots Mark and Cody Coleman and Compatriot Lyn Cash. The cannon is an authentic reproduction in every detail. It was completed in June 2014.

Dess held a fine arts degree from Florida and managed and taught the industrial arts program at RGNS since 1972. He has impacted the



lives of thousands of students. He was multi-talented in wood working, welding, designing, leading people, and imagination. Any project he undertook was first begun by research and a demand for accuracy in completion. He was a walking encyclopedia of history.

Dess Oliver passed on March 31, 2015. The cannon had been fired several times before his passing and it was his desire that the cannon be displayed and fired at every possible opportunity. The Rabun Gap Continental Artillery Command has been incorporated just for that purpose.

Any person interested in preserving and presenting the history of the founding of the United States, may be a member of the Command. Preference for scheduling an exhibition of the cannon will be given to the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution local chapters.



There were approximately two hundred people in attendance at the second firing of the "Cannon On the Lawn". Dess had joked that he wished to be fired out of the cannon, if he passed before Lyn or Mark. Three shots were fired and the ashes of Dess Oliver were included in each shot. A color guard and gun crew was provided by the Joseph Habersham Chapter SAR and the William Day Chapter DAR.

Three of Dess's former students traveled from Florida, South Carolina, and Marietta, GA to serve on the gun crew. Each one of the students lit the fuse with the linstock to fire a shot.



Joseph Habersham

Continued



L-R: Dess Oliver, Lyn Cash, Jim Patton, David Burton, Bill Raper  
Front Makayla Powell



L-R: David Burton; Joseph Habersham Chapter: Mike Watkins, Bruce Maney; Button Gwinnett Chapter: Lyn Cash; Joseph Habersham Chapter: Leslie Watkins (aka Molly Pitcher); William Day Chapter DAR: Eric Colgrove; Joseph Habersham Chapter  
L-R: kneeling: Keith Arnold, John Miller, Scott Fagan; students

LaGrange

Marquis de Lafayette

Marshes of Glynn

Please see pages—40-43

Mill Creek

Ocmulgee

Patrick Carr Rangers

Piedmont



Piedmont Chapter compatriots were busy in late May participating in and attending a number of events commemorating Memorial Day.

The period of activity got started with the chapter receiving a Memorial Day Proclamation from the City Council of Milton on May 18. This was followed three days later by members of the chapter's Color Guard Presenting the Colors at the annual Roswell Rotary Club Memorial Day Luncheon.

This was the fifteenth consecutive year the chapter has been asked to do the honors.



Members of the chapter participated with the GASSAR Color Guard and the GASSAR Elijah Clarke Militia for "Scout Day" at the Marietta National Cemetery.

Over 18,000 American flags were placed on the graves of fallen veterans, and where approximately 700 Scouts and visitors were in attendance.



The following day, May 24, members of the Piedmont Color Guard returned to the Marietta National Cemetery to Present the Colors for the Pearl Harbor Survivors Day commemoration.



Memorial Day services saw chapter compatriots at three separate

Memorial Day services. An estimated 6,000 people attended "Roswell Remembers," where the chapter Color Guard presents the Colors each year.



Many of the visitors to the SAR/DAR tent enjoyed seeing and hearing Compatriot George Thurmond show and discuss flags in the chapter's display of historic American flags. Visitors also showed interest in items from the chapter's "Traveling Trunk" display.



Just up the road, a Memorial Day program was taking place in the city of Milton, and there was also a service at the Marietta National Cemetery attended by a Piedmont compatriot.

The influence of Piedmont celebrating Memorial Day wasn't limited to just Georgia.

While Chapter President Bill Kabel was vacationing in Hawaii he attended "Scout Day" at the National Cemetery of the Pacific at the Punchbowl in Honolulu. Later that day he visited the USS Arizona memorial at Pearl Harbor and paid his respects to the 1,177 men who were lost on the ship on December 7, 1941.



## Rome

### Samuel Elbert

June 4, 2015, the Samuel Elbert Chapter hosted our esteemed Northeast Georgia GASSAR Vice-President and was treated to a very interesting special program talk on "Agent 355". During the American Revolution, Gen. George Washington had to have secret agents – spies, who informed Washington of the British's strategic moves and "Agent 355", a women, provided valuable information to Gen. Washington. After the war and even in today's times, many research "who was that spy"? The Samuel Elbert Chapter has been told George Washington had one of the most secretive and informative spy systems the U. S. has had, and this informative program from Carter Wood reinforced our knowledge. "Agent 355" has never been identified! Thank you VP Carter Wood!

During Memorial Day, our Sergeant -of-Arms officer Starke Jaudon (ex. Veteran of Viet Nam and of the National Guard) along with other volunteers, undertook placing U. S. flags on gravesites of deceased veterans of foreign wars, and counted some 3,000+ flags distributed. Thank you Starke Jaudon!

Our Registrar Larry Richardson reported recently he and the Hartwell "task force" placed some 2,500 wreaths during the 2014 "Wreaths Across America". He suggested we do this in Elbert County for "Wreaths Across America".

Our membership "finally" stands at 74 plus 2 dual members. Our treasurer Tommy Starrett and secretary George Tate plan to get an early start next year on collecting dues beginning in September! Maybe we can cut down on telephone calls and extra postage!

The County Administrator of Elbert County recently informed our Chapter we will have to move our meetings to another venue since the "Civic Center" is closing. After narrowing down the selections, we have identified two locations...the **Country Club** and the **Elberton Arts Center** to contract with. Both look feasible and a committee of the former president Jim Lloyd, Secretary George Tate and Treasurer Tommy Starrett will make the final decision. I will report to you that location in the next quarterly Hornet's Nest.



*Gene Burton and his wife Phyllis were cited for "Outstanding Service to the Samuel Elbert Chapter".*

**Stratton\***, Secretary; **Russell Slaton\***, Registrar; **William Banks Sr\***, Chaplain; Ross Banks; Kirk Bozeman; **James Louie Bradley\***; **L. H. Hunt\***; Charles Mann; Thomas Sigman Jr.; **Thomas Sigman III**; **Timothy Sigman\***; Larry Wilson; Marion Slaton. (Note: \*members highlighted in bold type are now deceased). *You are invited* to our Christmas program December 3<sup>rd</sup> at either the Country Club or the Elberton Arts Center to celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary! Come see us. Call Tommy Starrett at 706-283-1620 for reservations.

Olds Harris, chairman of the Samuel Elbert Chapter's Sites and Celebrations Committee, reports on October 30<sup>th</sup>, the Samuel Elbert Chapter will be hosting two Revolutionary War gravesite ceremonies....**William Haley** (11:00 am) in the Rock Branch Area and **Archibald Burden** (2:00 pm).

Details are now in the planning stages, but I am told you should plan to eat BBQ at one of the local Churches nearby the William Haley gravesite. Color Guard and wives are free.

This year the Samuel Elbert Chapter will be celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of becoming a chapter member of the Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution! A summary of that meeting is reported: "***The Samuel Elbert Chapter was chartered at the Elberton Country Club on Friday, December 1, 1995, with 15 members. Seven of the charter members are deceased now. Charter Members were: Jack R. Bozeman\****, President; ***Robert Heard\****, V-President; Charles Cecchini, Treasurer; ***Leon***



Cadet 2LT Jacob Heydinger receives the "Most Outstanding Cadet" for the JROTC Elbert County School system. General Joel Seymour (left) and President Larry Wilson (right) made the presentation.



## Sons of Liberty

## Valdosta

## Washington-Wilkes

## Robert Forsyth

## William Few by William Colbert, President

The Col. William Few Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), met Monday evening June 22nd at the Pizza Central restaurant in Evans for our 2015, 2nd Quarter chapter meeting with 35 members and guests in attendance. We continue to enjoy growth over past years and are thankful for those that choose to request membership in our chapter!



Recognition certificates were also provided to College Hill 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Regent, Patricia Colbert for her research and preparation of numerous SAR applications; and to chapter member Don Thomas for his participation in the reenactment of the Battle of Kettle Creek.

President Bill Colbert brought the quarterly report from our BOM, emphasizing our 13 recent ROTC/JROTC events; participation in the Briar Creek memorial ceremony; participation, with the Wiregrass Chapter, in promoting a new SAR chapter in Screven County; and encouragement of member participation in a number of events involving the chapter for the rest of year. Of particular note was an update by Bill Tankersley on the planning for our upcoming grave marking for 6 members of the Daniel Marshall family on October 3rd at the Marshall Cemetery in Appling, GA.

Guest speaker Tim Lord brought an excellent presentation on the development of the U.S. Constitution, including it's eventual impact on the advancement of the information age through the use of automated systems in the national census as required by the Constitution.

Many thanks to all that were able to attend, including guests and SAR applicant Randy Penland, with spouse Debbie, and pending transfer member, James Brady.

Pizza Central is a new venue for us: facilities, service, food and AV support were excellent. With approximately 35 members and guests in attendance, we saw the presentation of new member certificates by VP Bill Tankersley to Jerry Brigham, Doug Duncan, John Garcia, Sr. and Christian Mason. Christian Mason also accepted SAR membership certificates on behalf of his sons, Grant and Jarrett. Each new member had an opportunity to address the group on the significance of their membership. Bill also noted the receipt of chapter recognitions from GASSAR for a Revolutionary War Grave marking and Flag Certificate presentations in 2014.



## Wiregrass Chapter

Members of the Wiregrass Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution attended the Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution Spring Board of Managers meeting on Saturday, April 25, 2015 in Barnesville, GA. Wiregrass members in attendance were GASSAR Vice President East Region Chip Durden, GASSAR Chaplain Emory Fennell and Wiregrass Registrar Dess Smith III. With President Tom Owen presiding there were about 80 attendees from the Georgia Society. President Tom called us to order at 10:00 am and the Presentation of Colors was done by the "Award Winning Georgia Society Color Guard". Several reports were conducted, Old Business covered, and New Business was discussed. Also, Award Presentations were given out to members present. Members of the Wiregrass Chapter received a Certificate of Appreciation from the GASSAR in recognition of their willingness to answer the call for the muster of volunteer militia at the skirmish in Washington Park, Washington, GA as a "Kettle Creek Battle Reenactor" on February 14, 2015. These Certificates were presented for Wiregrass Chapter President Wilder Smith, Wiregrass Chapter Vice-President Steve Burke, Wiregrass Chapter Secretary/Treasurer Ruskin Powell, and Wiregrass Chapter Registrar Dess Smith III.

At the end of the meeting, President Tom Owen asked Compatriot Dess Smith III to give the GASSAR an update on the proposed pipeline that was scheduled to be built over the unmarked graves of over 150 Patriots of the American Revolution that were killed and buried at the Battle of Brier Creek on March 3, 1779 in Screven County, GA by the British and the Loyalists. Compatriot Dess thanked President Tom and Past President Roger Coursey for attending the Wiregrass Chapter's March Meeting to hear Archeologist Daniel Battle give a report on the status of the Brier Creek Battlefield. He also asked the GASSAR to consider getting involved by supporting Screven County and the City of Sylvania in developing the Battlefield for the citizens of Georgia and the U. S. to see and tour the Battlefield.



A lot of work needs to be accomplished to secure and protect the Battlefield. After the Closing recessional around 12:00 noon, a outstanding lunch buffet was served.



Early morning mist over 150 flags for Patriots lost at the Battle of Brier Creek



Reprinted from: John Woodrow Cox June 6 at 11:53 AM

YORKTOWN, Va. — Like an apparition, the 17-story ship glided through the cool morning mist, its towering skeleton of masts and two sternward flags — one French and one a 13-starred American — all that were visible from shore. Forty-eight days after the start of its voyage, and 237 years since its story began, the French tall ship *Hermione* maneuvered into the York River on Friday morning, and as its gilded-lion figurehead came into full view, hundreds of people on the beach waved and cheered. The much-anticipated vessel — which took 17 years and nearly \$30 million to build — fired its unarmed cannons as it neared shore. A flurry of red, white and blue fireworks exploded in the air as the ship touched the dock. Even reenactors dressed in period clothing broke character and snapped photos, unwilling to miss the moment.

“Welcome to America !” one woman bellowed, as six crew members balanced on the ends of crossbeams that extended from the ship’s three Oregon pine masts. The original *Hermione* (pronounced “err-me-own,” unlike the Harry Potter character) carried the Marquis de Lafayette across the Atlantic Ocean more than two centuries ago with a message that would change this nation’s destiny: France was sending critically needed soldiers and ships to support the American Revolution. The replica is among the most authentic in the world, and its voyage is a source of immense national pride in France, where President François Hollande personally bid it bon voyage in April. A small horde of French media covered Friday’s festivities. “Look at her,” Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D) said, grinning, as he and his entourage briskly walked past the official George Washington reenactor on their way to the gangplank. The French ambassador to the United States, Gérard Araud, was also among the dignitaries who attended the welcome, which was held in Yorktown because both the original ship and its most famous passenger were involved in the operation there that led to British Gen. Charles Cornwallis’s momentous surrender in 1781. The tall ship is expected to draw huge crowds in coming weeks as it travels to Alexandria, Annapolis and Baltimore, then up the East Coast. It

is a marvel of intentionally unmodern engineering, which is why the vessel took so long to build; its makers used 18th century techniques to construct it. Hoping to boost tourism in the once-thriving shipbuilding coastal town of Rochefort, France — where the original was manufactured in just four months — the project’s



leaders began construction in 1997. They scoured France for 3,000 mature oaks that had just the right bend to fit the ship’s hull. Its 26 cast-iron cannons were fashioned by the same company that made the originals in the 1700s. Its 19 linen sails, adorned with 4,250 handmade eyelets, are large enough to cover five NBA courts. Its quarter gallery, a section on the stern, required 3,000 hours of labor to complete — about three times longer than it took the ship to cross an ocean. “At every point, people have said this was mad,” recalled Miles Young, president of Friends of *Hermione-Lafayette* in America. “That it was crazy.”

The modern features were few and mostly mandatory for safety purposes: fuel tanks, generators and a pair of engines; metal bolts instead of wooden dowels; electric winches to hoist the 3,300-pound anchors rather than the arms of 60 crew members. “What you have,” said Young, chairman and CEO of public relations giant Ogilvy & Mather, “is a tall ship that’s pretty honest to the core.” Even commands made on board are done so using 18th century terminology. The *Hermione*’s evolution has generated intense interest in its homeland, where 4.5 million people visited the ship during construction. At the 2012 launch of its hull, which included a jet flyover, a woman wearing a white dress dangled in a harness above deck as she tossed flower petals into the wind. Hollande described the 216-foot craft as a “masterpiece.” Its voyage to the United States has been repeatedly called a reminder of France’s integral and supportive role in American history.

*(Continued on page 39)*



"I am honored to join in commemorating the journey of the *Hermione*," President Obama wrote in April, "and in celebrating the enduring bonds of friendship and solidarity that bind our nations together." But like many extended long-distance relationships, the bond between France and the United States is an imperfect one.

In 2003, France opposed the U.S. plan to invade Iraq so, in a form of schoolyard payback, congressional lawmakers changed the name of their cafeteria French fries to "freedom fries." Years before that, "Simpsons" character Groundskeeper Willie referred to the French as "cheese-eating surrender monkeys," a phrase that became so popular it was later included in the Oxford Dictionary of Modern Quotations. France's help in the Revolutionary War was, in fact, critical.

Two decades later, its leaders sold the United States the Louisiana Territory for four cents an acre in one of the sweetest real estate bargains in history. And in the 1880s, the French gave the United States the Statue of Liberty, one of the country's most significant symbols of freedom. America, for its part, deployed 73,000

troops onto Normandy's beaches in 1944. And yet, a perplexing tension has existed from the start. Many of the French who volunteered to help in the War of Independence came from prestigious families who brought with them a sense of entitlement that annoyed the American patriots. Lafayette was also of noble birth, but he displayed a sincere passion for the American cause. He had grown up in a rural area of France and lost both of his parents early, which left him without the polish and sophistication valued by French aristocracy. "He was very frank and open and honest," said Laura Auricchio, author of "The Marquis: Lafayette Reconsidered." "All of these things were a detriment at Versailles, but when he got to America, people thought he was amazing." So amazing that, after the war, he took a "13-month triumphal tour of every state in the Union" (as Auricchio put it) during the 1820s.

Dubbed "The Nation's Guest," he was welcomed with parades and the ringing of bells almost everywhere he traveled. Today, 181 years after his death, at least two universities, 80 schools and dozens of towns are still named for him, and in Washington, where nearly every patch of grass honors an important historical figure, the Frenchman's square claims the most prestigious plot in town: directly in front of the White House.

The ship's sun-baked crew of adventure-seekers understood the greater significance of their journey. Manon Muret, dressed in a ruffled white shirt and shin-length maroon trousers, is from Rochefort. Now 22, she built a miniature model of the ship at age 3. While at sea, she hasn't missed Facebook or computers or even her cellphone. "It's not important," she said, "when we are here."

Loic Baillard, 29, relished the crew's mid-Atlantic swim and the sunset dance parties, but their arrival in Virginia, where his generation's ancestors died for an American rebellion, gave the trip a deeper meaning for him. "Until now," he said, "we were just on a ship, sailing."

And while he had long looked forward to reaching Yorktown because of the achievement's larger importance, America's coast offered something else almost as meaningful, though perhaps a bit less grand: the chance to drink a cold beer.







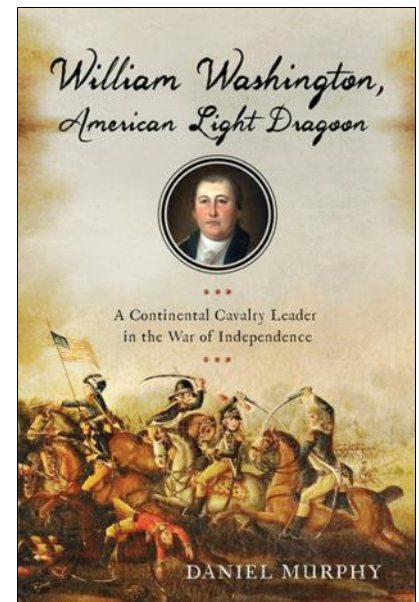
By Hugh T. Harrington—Gainesville, GA

***William Washington, American Light Dragoon: A Continental Cavalry Leader in the War of Independence*** by Daniel Murphy

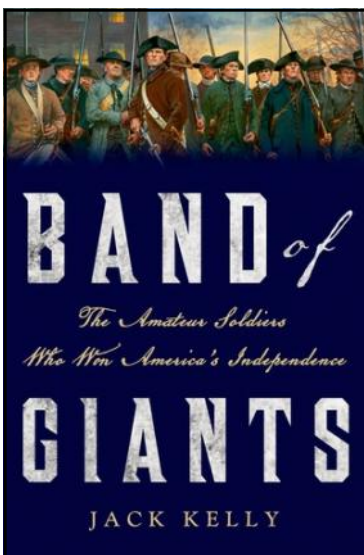
William Washington, the Revolutionary War cavalry commander, is relatively unknown. However, he played an important role in the War especially in the South, and should be recognized for his skills and accomplishments.

Virtually every written account of the military career of William Washington has been consulted in creating this book. However, what makes this book unique is “the view from the saddle.” Daniel Murphy is an experienced horseman with extensive knowledge of 18th century cavalry. The book shines when tactics and such details as the complications involved in changing a charge in column of fours to line abreast are discussed. Facts such as the distance covered per second by a charging horseman gives the reader an insight into combat found nowhere else.

It is insights such as these that encourage the reader rethink just what takes place when cavalry are involved in combat. The advantages, limitations, capabilities and various uses, and misuses, of cavalry are discussed which may alter the dismounted historian’s views and understanding of mounted combat. Murphy speaks from a position of knowledge and practical experience that is refreshing. This book should find a welcome place on anyone’s shelf.



***Band of Giants: The Amateur Soldiers Who Won America's Independence***  
by Jack Kelly



It is difficult to condense the Revolutionary War into one volume and make it readable, informative, entertaining and even fascinating. Jack Kelly has done just that by focusing on the key players and the events surrounding them. This is not an in-depth look at any individual or event but rather an overview of the war aimed at the general reader.

The enticing narrative takes the reader from man to man and scene to scene in a very pleasing style. The war-time characters are shown facing decisions which generally were new and unknown to them. Their responses to those situations make for some exciting reading. Men like Washington, John Stark or Dan Morgan become more real than is often the case in similar books. The on-the-job training these amateurs faced and the bloody cost of errors will be enlightening to many. The American leaders were rarely “military men” but rather civilians in uniforms...and, often those uniforms carried a rank far surpassing the abilities of the men wearing them. But, often these same men rose above their backgrounds and experience to excel.

To its credit the book covers the war in the South, although only briefly, as well as the George Rogers Clark expedition in the West. There are also several very useful maps. The pace of the book is quick and pleasing. It is much like reading a good novel. There are sporadic footnotes which add very little. Either they should be omitted altogether or there should be far more of them to lead the novice Revolutionary War reader to good sources of further information. I would prefer to have seen far more footnotes. Oddly, all references are to secondary sources even when superior primary sources are readily available. The dependence upon secondary sources brings both accurate and questionable history into the book. The casual reader may not notice the problems but many could have been avoided.





ON MY MIND...

## Patriots Get Their Recognition

There is little doubt if I could take a time machine back to the founding of our island I'd jump in quicker than you could say Oglethorpe. I don't really believe in reincarnation, but how else can you explain a constant fascination with the past and the people who lived it? Surely it's not because it would be a more comfortable lifestyle. Wearing heavy woolen clothes in this 90-degree heat would be a killer. The only plus being, not having to whack those pesky insects that come in waves throughout the summer and you probably only washed them once in a blue moon so your natural scent was repellant enough. Housing would be spartan at best, the advantages being not having to hear or see any of the Kardashians; they would still be back in native Armenia terrorizing the homeland. Transportation would require an inflatable donut be taken everywhere, as I image Frederica Road was quite bumpy with all the live oak roots crisscrossing the road. Watering the horse has to be cheaper than rising gas prices and if I wanted to go around about in circles, it would be of my choosing. I can't wait to count how many times during the 4th of July holiday some out-of-towner stops or cuts off someone at Demere and Frederica.

Talking history, especially the period surrounding the founding of our country with islander Bill Ramsaur is like strapping on a seat belt in that time machine, he speaks of events 200-years ago as if they happened last week. The former accountant and CPA with the old Arthur Andersen group's first love has always been history and once he retired making St. Simons home, he finally had a chance to pursue that love. As a member of the Marshes of Glynn Chapter of Sons of the American Revolution, Ramsaur's curiosity with our founding fathers is one he shares with countless history buffs.

To become a member of SAR you must prove that an ancestor was part of the patriot cause, either serving directly in the military or supporting those who did in one manner or another. One area that our local SAR feels is important is recognizing the final resting places of those patriots. Oak Grove Cemetery in St. Mary's is one of the local burial grounds that feature a large number of these men. In the day, the St. Mary's River divided English and Spanish controlled territories. The shipping trade dominated the lives of the local people, so with that came diseases like Yellow Fever. Skirmishes with the Spanish and loyalist were ever present as well.



September 12 the SAR will permanently honor these men during a ceremony at Oak Grove Cemetery, just a stones throw from the St. Mary's River that brought many of these men to their final resting places. Names you recognize like Gascoigne, Burroughs and Baird and 26 others will be honored with individual markers also, and SAR is hoping relatives will come forward to take part in the celebration of these men's accomplishments. Look at the photo above and if you are or know anyone who is a descendant, contact Brent Taylor at 634-2685 or at btandct@comcast.net for details on the fall event.

July 4th is not only a time to remember those who put their lives on the line in forming the greatest country ever known, but it also means the Sunshine Festival will turn the pier village area into one big patriotic celebration. The tradition started in the 1950s by the Junior Chamber of Commerce is full of memories for many who grew up here. We talked to a few about their fondest memories of the three-day event.

Food and drink is also at the center of the holiday and we've got you covered with how to pull off the perfect picnic and of course columnist Jim Henderson has a couple adult beverages you need to try.

Celebrate and have fun, but be safe this July 4th and enjoy the issue!

Bob Swinehart  
Editor  
bwswhart@coastalillustrated.com



# Trail to the Revolution

He dons a replica of Gen. George Washington's uniform and falls into character at the drop of a wool tricorne hat. After a lifetime of earning a living crunching numbers, William "Bill" Ramsaur now has turned his attention back to his first love, history.

Recently honored as "Patriot of the Year" by the Veterans Council of the Golden Isles, the St. Simons Island resident is dedicated to honoring the founders of our country. Remembrance and recognition of the final resting places of compatriots is high on his list. Besides Washington, Ramsaur also has portrayed, Gen. Anthony Wayne, Col. Samuel Elbert and Raymond Demere.

Entering Ramsaur's home he shares with Gloria, his wife of 52 years, the first thing you notice is a photo of a Civil War general by the name of Stephen Dodson Ramsour. At one point, he was one of the youngest generals in the Confederate army, he was wounded at the Battle of Cedar Creek in Virginia, dying the following day at the age of 27. Though it was Stephen's father, Jacob Ramsour, that served in the revolutionary cause, which is the only way one can become a member of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR).

The family name has several variations through the generations who lived in Lincolnton, NC. The Ramsour family owned the town's only mill, which was the center of many activities and site of a skirmish between loyalists and patriots.



Above, a replica of the parchment plaque that will be unveiled at Oak Grove Cemetery in St. Marys this fall; also individual grants will receive designation with small in ground markers. If you recognize any of the names as family descendants, please contact Brent Taylor at 634-2685 to be a part of the honoring of these patriots.

The Battle of Ramsour's Mill took place on June 20, 1780 near present-day Lincolnton. About four hundred American militia defeated 1,300 Loyalist militiamen. The battle did not involve any regular army forces from either side, and was literally fought between neighbors. Despite being outnumbered, the Patriot militia defeated the Loyalists.

The battle significantly lowered the morale of Loyalists in the south, weakening their support of the British.

The Marshes of Glynn chapter of (SAR) started in 1986 and by the time Ramsaur joined in 2002, only two regular members remained. Having grown to 69 members today, community service and honoring the founding fathers has always been at the heart of SAR. Teaching elementary students is one way Ramsaur and others in the group enjoy bringing events to life for the next generation of history lovers.

"Reading about these figures is one thing, but seeing someone dressed in period clothes talking about the events really gets 4th and 5th grader's attention," says Ramsaur. "We have visited some 30 schools in the area over the last few years."

Marshes of Glynn SAR have also recognized patriots buried at Christ Church on St. Simons, but recently, members Harry Lewis and Brent Taylor along with Ramsaur, are working with the Oak Grove Cemetery Authority in St. Marys, discussing ways to honor Revolutionary War soldiers buried in Oak Grove Cemetery.

This fall there will be a dedication by the Daughters of the American Revolution and SAR with the unveiling of markers for eleven Revolutionary War soldiers buried in Oak Grove Cemetery. The event is scheduled for Sept. 12, along with a ceremony in the St. Marys Waterfront Park.

"We are doing our best to try and locate descendants of these patriots, so they can be in attendance," says Ramsaur.

A bronze plaque for an additional 12 soldiers buried



William (Bill) Ramsaur

Photo by Bill Hurdman

in unidentified graves will also be dedicated, thereby recognizing Oak Grove Cemetery as the resting place of a large number of Revolutionary War soldiers.

According to Ramsaur, St. Marys was a destination for many in the shipping business and one of the southern most colonial outposts, with the Spanish in control of Florida to the south.

"Many died from yellow fever outbreaks and were quickly buried, usually that same day to contain the spread of the disease."

When asked what people can do to honor the Fourth of July, Ramsaur basically answers, "Read the Declaration of Independence, it isn't that long and it is reminder of what these people sacrificed. If you can't do that, watch the movie 'The Patriot'

or read a Revolutionary period book. It is rather amazing when you find out more about our founding fathers. I think, how in the world did they think they could win the war, taking on the most powerful nation at the time?"

They did and that's why people like Ramsaur continue to honor them.

The Marshes of Glynn Chapter of SAR meets at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month (except Summer months and December) at the St. Simons Island Airport Fire Station, at the corner of Demere and Airport Roads. For more information contact Brent Taylor at 634-2685 or btandct@comcast.net. Also if you are related to or can trace any of the Oak Grove Cemetery patriots to your family, please contact Taylor as well.

- Bob Swinburn



## Patriot of the Year

The Marshes of Glynn SAR Chapter wanted you to know about the recognition of Bill Ramsaur at a Memorial Day Ceremony yesterday.

In the photo, Colonel Nick Hart, Past President of the Veterans Council and member of our SAR Chapter presents the 2015 Veteran's Council Patriot of the Year award to Bill Ramsaur

The morning newspaper announced: *BRUNSWICK | Glynn County will observe Memorial Day with morning and twilight ceremonies, one with a veteran who still wears a Revolutionary War uniform and the other with an address by a Medal of Honor recipient.*

*At its 10:45 a.m. ceremony at Glynn County's historic courthouse, the Veterans Council of the Golden Isles will honor St. Simons Island resident William F. "Bill" Ramsaur as its Patriot of the Year.*

*The Patriot of the Year award emphasizes both civilian and military accomplishments. A Navy veteran, Ramsaur has long ago put away his government issue uniform, but as a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, Ramsaur often dons a Revolutionary War uniform for historic re-enactments, school programs and the April Patriots Day observance on St. Simons Island.*

During the ceremony, Bill said that he was pleased that the award recognized his efforts in two organizations which mean a lot to him – the Navy and the Sons of the American Revolution. He said that the Navy taught him how to be a Good Citizen - to serve his country as well as those in his community. He added that as for the Sons of the American Revolution - it is very difficult, If not impossible, to be a member and not be Patriotic and a Good Citizen."



Colonel Nick Hart recognizes Compatriot Bill Ramsaur as the Patriot of the Year



Bill thanked the Veterans Council for the recognition of his Patriotic and Community service, and acknowledged Gloria for her support and good advice, and those in the Sons of the American Revolution who helped him to accomplish the achievements.

FYI- The Veteran's Council of the Golden Isles includes thirteen represented Veterans organizations – including our Marshes of Glynn SAR Chapter- from throughout the Golden Isles and represents thousands of Veterans from this area. The Veterans Council is dedicated to honoring current members of the military and veterans for their service.

Brent Taylor, Secretary, Marshes of Glynn



# Tribute to Revolutionary War Patriots

## Waterfront Park and Oak Grove Cemetery

St. Marys, Georgia

Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am

### THE FOLLOWING NAMED REVOLUTIONARY WAR PATRIOTS BURIED IN OAK GROVE CEMETERY

\*JOHN BACHLOTT  
\*JAMES BAIRD  
ELEAZER BEAMIS  
\*ABRAHAM BESSENT  
\*JOHN BESSENT  
\*JOHN BROWN  
JOHN BURROUGHS  
THOMAS DARRELL  
WILLIAM DELONEY  
\*RICHARD GASCOIGNE

WILLIAM GORMAN  
JOHN JUSTUS GROVENSTEIN  
ELIHU HIBBARD  
CHARLES HOWELL  
JOHN HOWELL  
THOMAS HOWELL  
DESIRE LAMBERTOZ  
\*LEWIS MORY  
\*JOHN PATTERSON  
JOHN PEARCE

RICHARD ROBERTS  
\*THOMAS RUDULPH  
\*WILLIAM SCOTT  
JAMES SEAGROVE  
JAMES SLEIGH  
JOHN SLEIGH  
JOHN STOTESBURY  
WILSON WILLIAMS  
DARIUS WOODWORTH  
\*MARKED GRAVESTONES

- **Memorial Ceremony at Waterfront Park**
- **Patriotic Procession to Cemetery**
- **Dedication Ceremony at Oak Grove Cemetery**



**Sponsors:** Earl of Camden Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Marshes of Glynn Chapter, Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution

Oak Grove Cemetery Authority, St. Marys, GA

Ceremonial Wreaths will be presented at the graves of each of the ten Patriots. Please submit name of Organization and Presenter's name, title and location to [StevenHinson61@comcast.net](mailto:StevenHinson61@comcast.net) OR Mail: Steven



Hinson; 456 Moss Creek Lane, Brunswick, GA31520; Tel: 912-258-2033. Deliver wreath to Cemetery for placement by 9:00am on Saturday morning, Sep 12<sup>th</sup>. Bring portable chair to Waterfront Park if seating is desired.