

A Historical Digest of **The Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution**

www.sar.org/gassar

Organized March 15, 1921 Incorporated July 24, 1998

The Georgia Society has 35 active chapters by the end of 2019: **Altamaha, Athens, Atlanta, Blue Ridge Mountains, Brier Creek, Button Gwinnett, Capt. John Collins, Casimir Pulaski, Cherokee, Col. William Few, Coweta Falls, Dalton, Edward Telfair, Fall Line, Four Rivers Patriots, George Walton, Joel Early, John Milledge, Joseph Habersham, LaGrange, Little River, Lyman Hall, Marquis de Lafayette, Marshes of Glynn, Mill Creek, Mount Vernon, Ocmulgee, Patrick Carr Rangers, Piedmont, Robert Forsyth, Rome, Samuel Elbert, Valdosta, Washington-Wilkes, and Wiregrass.**



The Georgia Society has had four Compatriots who rose to the office of President General: James R. Westlake, 1989, Col. Robert B. Vance, 1993, J. Michael Tomme, Sr. 2016, Larry T. Guzy, 2017. James R. Westlake served as Secretary General in 1988, was twice Historian General, 1986 and 1987, and Chairman of the Membership Committee for four years. Col. Robert B. Vance served as Secretary General in 1992, Treasurer General in 1991, and was Chairman of the Congress Planning Committee for seven years. J. Michael Tomme, Sr. served as Treasurer General in 2014 and Secretary General in 2015. Larry T. Guzy served as Treasurer General in 2015 and Secretary General in 2016.

Georgia Society Compatriots who have served as South Atlantic District Vice President General during the period covered by this history are: Dr. Homer E. Wright, 1983; John W. Loud, 1987; Hardwick S. Johnson, Jr., 1991; Lt. Col. Robert F. Galer, 1995; Dr. T. Fisher Craft, 1999; Larry Guzy, 2003; and Col. George Thurmond, 2007, Charlie Newcomer, 2011, Ed Rigel, Sr., 2015. Lt. Col. Robert F. Galer served as Chairman of the important Revolutionary War Graves Committee for ten years and has served on the Executive Committee three times.

Georgia Society Formation and Atlanta Chapter

From Atlanta Chapter History¹

This history was originally composed in 1996 compliments of Judge Alexander Dyer Williams, with updates from other Compatriots and we in the Georgia Society certainly appreciate its publication. Any review of the history of the Atlanta Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, must recognize that its origin cannot be separated from the origin of the Georgia Society, SAR. There is a story that bears repeating for the benefit of all members as to exactly how the Georgia Society was formed.

William LeRoy Doughtry on several occasions related the following many years ago to Compatriot Joe Brown of the Atlanta Chapter. Compatriot Doughtry said that while he was stationed in Europe during World War I, he was in the company of some other men from the New England area who were having a party which he was not allowed to attend because it was restricted to members of the Sons of the Revolution or Sons of the American Revolution. Compatriot Doughtry knew that as a descendant of John Pope, who had been appointed as Captain in the North Carolina State Militia by the North Carolina Assembly in 1776, he was eligible in all respects and was determined to become a member as soon as he returned to Atlanta. It was under his urging and direction that the Georgia Society was formed with sixteen charter members.

¹ Georgia Society *Source Book* & Chapter Web Sites, additional research by Lt. Col. Robert Galer, Col. George Thurmond, and Kline O. Pugh.

Those members along with their National and State Numbers were:

Allan Waters N# 32883 S# 1

Charles Moore McLaughlin N# 35202 S# 2

Eugene Chapman McLaughlin N# 35203 S# 3

Moultrie Moore McLaughlin N# 35204 S# 4

Lawrence Hall McLaughlin N# 35205 S# 5

William St. Julien Freeman N# 35206 S# 6

Howard Henry McCall, Jr. N# 35207 S# 7

Wellborn Hope N# 35208 S# 8

George Melville Hope, Jr. N# 35209 S# 9

Arthur Whitney Falkinburg N# 35210 S# 10

John Richard Watts, Jr. N# 35211 S# 11

Bert Albert Tyler N# 35212 S# 12

Joseph Wilton Puder N# 35213 S# 13

Daniel Chisholm Pate N# 35214 S# 14

William LeRoy Doughtry N# 35215 S# 15

Herbert Craig Carpenter N# 35216 S# 16

The first President of the Georgia Society SAR, Compatriot Allan Waters, who served for two terms, became a member of the New York Society on October 6, 1919, and was assigned National Number 32883. Compatriot Waters had transferred to the Illinois Society later in 1919; the exact date is not known.

Compatriot Waters' transfer request and the fifteen new applications for membership were all sent to National Headquarters together and approved on March 14, 1921. Compatriot Waters was assigned Georgia Number 1. Compatriot Doughtry was assigned Georgia Number 15 and National Number 35215.

The date of the Atlanta Chapter Charter is not known, but it is considered to be the date of the Georgia Society Charter, which was March 15, 1921. A certificate was signed on April 7, 1984 that stated that the Atlanta Chapter was a Chapter of the Georgia Society. It was signed by John W. Loud, President, and Leeward L. Dunn, Secretary. It remained the only Chapter in the Georgia Society until the formation of the John Milledge Chapter in Milledgeville in the early 1930's. Also, in 1921, Georgia Society President Allen Waters distinguished himself as the first Georgia Society delegate to a National Congress.

Compatriot Arthur Falkinburg also had a distinguished career in the Georgia Society by serving as Secretary for over nine years and served as acting President of the Georgia Society during 1923 and 1924. Although not a charter member, Compatriot William M. Francis served as Georgia Society President for a total of nine terms.

It should also be noted that in the mid 1970's when it became known that the National Society wanted to move from Washington, DC, the Atlanta Chapter extended an invitation for them to consider a building located on Peachtree Street in downtown Atlanta as a possible site for National Headquarters. National decided to move to Louisville, KY instead and in 1979 completed the relocation to Kentucky. Prior to the relocation but after the Washington property was sold, the Atlanta Chapter hosted a National Society Trustee's meeting held at the Biltmore Hotel. Noteworthy as well, is that the Georgia Society was the host when the National Society held its 1983 Congress in Atlanta, Georgia, and again in 2009.

Chapter Histories through 1988²

The Athens Chapter, Georgia Society was organized on November 9, 1936 in Athens, Georgia with local attorney Robert Russell Gunn elected as the Chapter's first President. Other original members included Steadman Vincent Sanford, for whom Sanford Stadium is named, and Dr. Robert Cumming Wilson, Sr., after which the Pharmacy building at the University of Georgia campus is named.³

² Georgia Society *Source Book* & Chapter Web Sites, additional research by Lt. Col. Robert Galer, Col. George Thurmond, and Kline O. Pugh.

³ Supplemented from information provided by James Larry Wilson.

Georgia Society had at least two large, active chapters that are now defunct. One was in Winder and was led by a retired Army officer named Watson who went to New York state, located William Few's previously unknown grave site, and got New York to transfer the remains to Augusta, GA where they are now located. The other was called the Wiregrass Chapter and was located in the area of Homerville in southern Georgia. The leader was Dr. Folks Huxford.

The Rome Chapter was organized in 1958. The Xavier Chapter of the DAR, under the leadership of Leonora Gordon, guided the Rome Chapter through the formative stage. The Rome Chapter became dormant in 2000 due to a lack of interest in the membership. Under the leadership of both James Clark and DeForest Hamilton, the chapter became active again in 2002. Since that time, the Rome Chapter has become very active in the community.⁴

Coweta Falls Chapter, chartered October 23, 1976, became the newest chapter in the Georgia Society SAR for many years. Its origin dates from January 19, 1976, when a group of men gathered at the Bradley Library to consider suggestions from a smaller group, which had met at Fort Benning in December.

The William Few Chapter, Georgia Society, Sons of the American Revolution was organized in 1976, the bicentennial year of the birth of the United States of America. With the assistance of Mrs. Edward L. Pietrowski and Mrs. P. Ulmer Savage of the Augusta Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and members of the College Hill Chapter, GASDAR and the North Augusta Chapter, SCSDAR, potential members were located in the area. On July 7, 1976 it was decided that the chapter would be named the Colonel William Few and a Constitution was adopted. Colonel William Few, a native of Maryland, moved from North Carolina to join his family in Augusta in the Fall of 1776. He served as an officer in the Georgia Militia during the Revolutionary War and was a signer of the United States Constitution from Georgia. After signing the Constitution, Few and James Gunn became the state's first two U.S. Senators. Georgia's two Senate seats are still known today as the Few and Gunn seats. Col. Few's grave is located at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Augusta.

In 1985 nineteen descendants of veterans of the American Revolution petitioned the Board of Managers of the Georgia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution to allow them to establish a chapter in Gainesville, Georgia. The chapter would be named for Dr. Lyman Hall, a native New Englander, who came to Georgia, settled at Midway and became one of Georgia's first representatives to the Continental Congress and one of three Georgians to sign the Declaration of Independence. He later served as Governor of Georgia and worked with Abraham Baldwin to get the General Assembly of Georgia to charter the first state university in America. On July 20, 1985, the Board of Managers of the Georgia Society approved the application for the charter.

On the evening of February 15th, 1986 at the Ramada Inn in Brunswick, Georgia, the Marshes of Glynn Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution was formally installed. President General Benjamin H. Morris presented the Charter to Joseph Denison Elder, President of the new chapter.

The George Walton Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution was chartered on the 22nd of March 1986 in Conyers, Georgia. The chapter is named for one of the three Georgia signers of the Declaration of Independence. Former President General James R. Westlake, then President of the Georgia Society, initiated the forming of the chapter. The Chapter was assisted greatly by Mrs. Margaret B. Stephenson of Covington, an active member of the DAR.

⁴ From revised Chapter History by James E. Clark, edited by Mark C. Anthony

Of historical interest is that an early chapter in the Albany area, now defunct, was also called the George Walton Chapter. As noted, the Conyers chapter adopted this name, and a new chapter formed in Albany.

The Abraham Baldwin Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution was chartered on March 27, 1988 in Albany, Georgia. The Chapter was named for Abraham Baldwin, a Patriot Chaplain in the Revolutionary War. State and National Representative and Senator; founder and first President of the University of Georgia, his most important work was his participation in the adoption, signing and ratification of the Constitution of the United States. Abraham Baldwin became inactive in 2009.

The contributions of these early chapters established a strong foundation for continued growth, as we begin the final decade and transition to the 21st century.

The Decade from 1989 to 1999

By Former President General James R. Westlake⁵
Supplemented by Chapter Histories⁶

The decade from 1989 to 1999 was one of growth and increased participation for the Georgia Society.

At the 99th National Society Congress held in San Francisco in July 1989, Compatriot Col. James R. Westlake was elected President General. Among the accomplishments of his administration was the production for National Society of a Centennial Video giving the history of the Society for the first 100 years from 1889-1989. The video was widely circulated among chapters of the National Society for showing to other civic groups, to new members and for use on Public TV. He presided over the 100th Congress in Louisville where the first Congress was held in 1890.



In March 1990, President General Westlake enrolled former U.S. President Jimmy Carter into the National Society as the 14th President to become a member since 1889. On February 14, 1996, President Carter was awarded a National Society Gold Good Citizenship Medal. President General William Gist presided over the ceremony at the Carter Center in Atlanta.

In August 1991, it was determined there was a sufficient number of members and candidates to approve the charter of the Altamaha Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution. Eight members of the William Miller Chapter transferred their membership into this new chapter and of these members; Lemuel Stanton Lee was elected president. The name, Altamaha, was chosen because it is representative of the geographical area and a popular local name for organizations and businesses.

On October 1, 1991, the organizational meeting of the Sons of the American Revolution for the Macon area was held at the Best Western Hotel on Riverside Drive. The meeting was called to order by Jeff Jowdy, who was instrumental in organizing this local chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. Col. Robert B. Vance, the Treasurer General of the National Society, SAR was on hand to oversee confirmation of charter members, the naming of the chapter and election of the first officers. James R. Holman, Senior Vice President of the Georgia Society, presented flags to the new chapter. The charter members voted that the name of this chapter be the Ocmulgee Chapter. Members come not only from

⁵ From *National Society SAR History, Vol. III*, pp. 455-457.

⁶ Georgia Society *Source Book & Chapter Web Sites*, additional research by Lt. Col. Robert Galer, Col. George Thurmond, and Kline O. Pugh.

Macon, but Warner Robins, Bonaire, Forsyth and Gray. The Ocmulgee River and the Ocmulgee Indian Mounds both played an important role in the development of this part of the State of Georgia.

The Samuel Butts Chapter organizational meeting took place on April 25, 1992. The Jackson-based chapter was named for Samuel Butts, born in south Hampton County, Virginia on November 24, 1777. His paternal grandfather was Captain James Butts who served under Light Horse Harry Lee along the Continental Line. His maternal grandfather was Spratling Simmons, who fought in such decisive battles as Guilford Court House, Brandywine and Cowpens. Samuel's father served as a captain in the Georgia Militia prior to the War of 1812. The Samuel Butts Chapter became inactive in 2009.

At the 103rd Congress in Phoenix in June 1993, Compatriot Col. Robert B. Vance, Sr., who had been Congress Planning Committee Chairman for the National Society, was elected President General. Compatriot Vance is also a five-time winner of the Florence Kendall Award for enrolling the most new members into the Sons of the American Revolution. President General Vance set up the National Society SAR Foundation as a financial vehicle for soliciting major contributions from Compatriots, corporate America, and Foundations in America. Future plans for development were also a hallmark of his Administration.

The Georgia Society donated a portrait of Abraham Baldwin in 1992 to the National Society, SAR Museum. Baldwin was the Founder of the University of Georgia, Delegate to the Constitutional Convention in 1787, Chaplain Patriot in the American Revolution and U.S. Senator from Georgia. The portrait was the State Project under Georgia Society President Charles "Hal" Dayhuff, III, and was made a reality by donations from members, chapters and support from the Endowment Trust Fund. James Westlake retrieved the original copy from the University of Georgia Archives from which the commission was to be created. Participation was encouraged by offering 8x10 copies to those donating \$100 or more. The Georgia Society, the Regent of the Abraham Baldwin DAR Chapter, and the President of the Abraham Baldwin SAR Chapter presented the portrait, by artist Gregory Stapko (after the original by C. F. Naegele), to President General Brandau. It was then to Headquarters in Louisville, Kentucky and hung in a prominent location, which continues to be a favored photo setting for Georgia delegations.⁷



Also, the Georgia Society contributed the portraits of the 14 U.S. Presidents who were enrolled as National Society SAR members. These portraits are on display in the Memorabilia Room in National Society SAR Headquarters. The Georgia Society further assisted the Library by purchasing Georgia U.S. Census microfilms to use in research.

Membership showed a healthy growth. In 1989, the official membership was 559 in the State Society. By 1999, it had grown to 930, for a 66% increase in total active members. In 1994, the Georgia Society received the Robert Sonfield award from the National Society for the largest numerical membership increase of any State Society. It continued in runner-up categories through 1999. This growth was enhanced by an increase in Chapters in the State to a total of 23 with several new prospects under consideration by the end of 1999.

⁷ Added text from information provided by Charles "Hal" Dayhuff, III.

The Georgia Society began a new newsletter in 1994 called *The Hornet's Nest* under Editor Compatriot Herman Tovey, winning the runner-up award at the national level for the best newsletter of its size and type. Tovey also revamped and published the *Source Book*, the Georgia Society reference tool for state and chapter officers.

Former State Presidents were honored during the Annual Meeting in 1996, led by State President Jack Bozeman commemorating the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Georgia Society in March 1921. Those serving as State President in this decade include: 1989-90 Hardwick S. Johnson, Jr.; 1990-191 Dr. Julian D. Kelly, Jr.; 1991-92 Charles Hal Dayhuff, III; 1992-93 James L. Holman; 1993-94 Lt. Col. Robert F. Galer; 1994-95 Dr. James L. Bush; 1995-96 Rev. Jack R. Bozeman; 1996-97 Dr. T. Fisher Craft; 1997-98 James E. Clark; 1998-99 Herbert B. Braselton, Sr.; 1999-2000 Edgar B. Sterrett, Jr.; Larry Guzy, 2000-2001; Roger Lamb, 2001-2002; Milton Johnson, 2002-2003; Gen. John Gillette, 2003-2004; George Thurmond, 2004-2005 and 2005-2006; George Wheelless, 2006-2007; Charlie Newcomer, 2007-2008; Bobby Towns, 2008-2009; Terry Manning, 2009-2010; Michael Tomme, 2010-2011; Robert Sapp, 2011-2012.

In 1994 the Georgia Society Endowment Trust Fund was doubled in principal in six months through a state funds drive under State President Galer. The State Board of Managers concurrently approved a change in investment policy from certificates of deposit only to blue chip stocks, bonds and mutual funds. This led to a 600 percent increase in the Fund by the end of the decade.

The Piedmont Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution was chartered on the 17th of March 1994 in Roswell, Georgia. Instrumental in the forming of the chapter were Frank H. Darwin, Jr., Edgar B. Sterrett, Jr., Merrill Law and Aubrey R. Morris assisted by Col. Robert B. Vance and Lt. Col. Robert F. Galer. Both Vance and Galer are former Georgia Society Presidents, Col. Vance a Former President General of the National Society, SAR. Several names were suggested for the new chapter serving the Roswell-Alpharetta area. It was decided to let the location within the state determine the name. And so it was - *Piedmont, at the foot of the mountains.*

A Georgia Society history and genealogical library was established at the Atlanta Historical Society Complex. Over \$100,000 has been contributed by a private foundation to form a library of 6000-7000 volumes. Compatriot H. Ross Arnold, Jr. was the prime mover behind this development. He also originated and sponsored an 803-page two-volume county-by-county compilation of 3,421 Revolutionary War veterans who were buried in Georgia. Mrs. Mary Jane Galer (Mrs. Robert F.) participated in the publication of the second edition. In 1995 the Georgia Society Board of Managers approved the archives of the Atlanta History Center Library to be the permanent repository for Georgia Society records.

The newly formed Elberton Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, The Samuel Elbert Chapter, had their Charter Night festivities Friday, December 1, 1995 at the Elberton Country Club.



The Joseph Habersham Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, was chartered November 21, 1996, during the administration of Georgia Society President, Dr. T. Fisher Craft. Former National Society President General Robert B. Vance, Sr., and DAR members, Marilyn Vance and Rebecca Perry, were instrumental in organizational efforts.

In 1997 Compatriot Lt. Col. Robert F. Galer, serving as Chairman for the Georgia Society Historic Sites and Celebrations Committee, worked to restore the commemoration of the Battle of Kettle Creek near Washington, Georgia. More than 500 SAR's, DAR's, and others from over the country attended the event including President General Carl Hoffman. Forty-two SAR,

DAR and CAR organizations participated in laying wreaths. It is observed annually on the second Saturday of February. The "500 man" first anniversary celebration of the battle in 1998 was co-sponsored by the Samuel Elbert Chapter, Rev. Jack Bozeman, President.

The Color Guard for Georgia was begun in 1993 and by 1999 had grown to over 20 members in uniform. It has participated in programs at Cowpens, King's Mountain, Guilford Courthouse and Kettle Creek as well as for National Congresses. By 1999 there were a total of 12-15 events per year requesting Color Guard Activity, including Grave Markings throughout the State.

The first Color Guard committee chairman was James Westlake, and the first Georgia Society SAR Color Guard Commander was Captain Samuel Padgett (Ret.) of Coweta Falls Chapter. Earliest members in uniform were Westlake, Padgett, Homer Wright, Julian Kelly and James Bush. First appearance at all four quarterly Board of Managers meetings was 1993-94, with Padgett commanding. A female fifer from a high school band joined the Color Guard at the Annual/Spring Board of Managers meeting. She wore a uniform purchased by the State Society and issued occasionally to member and non-member students who performed with the Guard.

National Committee Chairmen serving the decade were Former Presidents General James R. Westlake and Col. Robert B. Vance, and Lt. Col. Robert F. Galer, Dr. Homer Wright and Hardwick Johnson.

Minuteman Award recipients in the decade were James R. Westlake ('89), Hardwick Johnson ('94), Lt. Col. Robert F. Galer ('99); Dr. Fisher Craft (2003); Larry T. Guzy (2006); Dr. Douglas T. Stansberry (2007); Col. George E. Thurmond (2008); Charlie A. Newcomer, III (2001).

Over 30 men signed the charter for the Button Gwinnett Chapter of the Georgia Society, which was presented and approved at the April 10, 1999, Board of Managers Meeting. Button Gwinnett was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence and the namesake of the chapter's home county of Gwinnett. It is interesting to note there had been an earlier chapter in Gwinnett with the same name that had disbanded in the 1960's. The grandfather of member, Hubert Tucker, was a member of that chapter.

Compatriot Galer was also appointed a member of the National Society SAR Executive Committee by President General Howard Horne at the 109th Congress in San Diego in July 1999.

The LaGrange Chapter of the Georgia Society was chartered at the Fall 1999 Board of Managers meeting, on October 23, 1999.

In October 1998, Georgia Society President Herbert B. "Kit" Braselton headed a delegation of State and National SAR officers who traveled to Valdosta to discuss chapter possibilities with the Valdosta members. It was at this meeting that Georgia Society President Braselton appointed Bill Carswell as Acting President of the Proposed Valdosta Chapter and gave the group authority to function as a chapter. An Application for Charter of the Valdosta Chapter was submitted and approved at the April 1, 2000 Board of Managers Meeting. Georgia Society President Larry Guzy presented the charter of the Valdosta Chapter during the charter banquet in June 2000.

The decade ended as it began, a State Society of enthusiastic Compatriots seeking to enter the new millennium to make further contributions to the growth and progress of Georgia Society and National Society SAR in the goals of patriotic, educational and historical matters and events for the SAR.

The Years from 2000 to 2005

By Billy H. Thompson⁸ Supplemented
by Chapter Histories⁹

The Georgia Society, SAR has a glorious and interesting history, and this is one way to preserve this heritage for future Compatriots. The Georgia Society, SAR has prospered and grown under the leadership and vision of its past and present Presidents, and the Chapter Presidents.

Starting the new decade, the Dalton Chapter of the Georgia Society was chartered at the January 8, 2000 Board of Managers meeting.

The 21st century began with Compatriot Edgar G. Sterrett, Jr., President. At the April 2000 Annual Meeting, Larry Guzy became President and brought youthful energy and vision into the Society. As time moved on many innovative ideas were developed to improve the Society's image and History.

The Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter of the Georgia Society had its first organizational meeting in July of 1999. The organizer of the chapter was Bill Fredrickson, a member of the Lyman Hall Chapter of Gainesville, Ga. They were chartered on April 1, 2000.

The Captain John Collins Chapter was chartered at the Fall 2000 Board of Managers Meeting, October 13, 2000. Patriot Collins, who is buried in Cobb County, served in the South Carolina Militia from 10 May 1776 to 26 Oct. 1776 under Captain Robert McAfee and Colonel Neal.

At the Annual Meeting held in Atlanta in March 2001 Roger G. Lamb, Jr. was elected President. President Lamb's goals were to increase the membership count and to promote the founding of new chapters. His purpose was to educate the public and especially school children of the freedoms secured by the heroes of the American Revolutionary War.

The Georgia Society has been in good hands. Dr. Milton Johnson was elected President for year 2002/2003 and continued the program in place to provide Society and chapter growth. The main thrust of President Johnson and his State Officers was to enhance all SAR activities. Senior Vice President BG John W. Gillette became the next President of the Georgia Society in April 2003. "Passion is the hallmark of every dedicated and devoted member of the Sons of the American Revolution" was the opening line of the first message of the newly elected President Gillette, quoted in *The Hornet's Nest* newsletter. President Gillette was installed at the March 2003 Annual Meeting in Atlanta. He emphasized that every Compatriot should dress and act like one, and to always wear a nametag.

The list of great Presidents with leadership skills goes on. Col. George Thurmond was elected President in April 2004 and again in April 2005 for a second term. President Thurmond provided excellent leadership, and the Society grew in membership and National acclaim during his tenure. The Georgia Society has become known as the "Award Winning Society" due to its many fine accomplishments and awards. Many of these awards are the result of years of dedicated, loyal and patriotic labor of many Georgia Compatriots.

⁸ Georgia Society Chairman, Americanism Committee (completed October 2, 2005).

⁹ Georgia Society *Source Book* & Chapter Web Sites, additional research by Lt. Col. Robert Galer, Col. George Thurmond, and Kline O. Pugh.

President Thurmond re-implemented the Leadership Training Conferences after a three-year hiatus for

chapter presidents and committee chairmen. These conferences were well-attended and provided needed information and training.

It is interesting to note that even though every President had unique goals for the Georgia Society, there was always a common concern for chapter and membership growth. Each understood that membership is the lifeblood of the organization. There were motivation contests, recognition lapel pins and ribbons and other incentives to secure new members.

It is noteworthy to mention that the total membership count for the Georgia Society exceeded 1400 members in 30 chapters. This record is a good indication that the Georgia Society is moving in the right direction.

It is a known fact that to be an active and viable organization, growth is a vital asset. The Georgia Society had the good fortune of chartering four new chapters during these years. This excitement, however, was dulled by the loss of two existing chapters (Middle Georgia and McIntosh) on January 22, 2005. The members of these chapters transferred their membership to other active chapters. In 2009 those becoming inactive were Abraham Baldwin, William Miller, and Samuel Butts,

The Pulaski Jubilee: October 9, 1779 was a dark day for the American Revolution Continental Army. On that day Brigadier General Casimir Pulaski was mortally wounded in the Battle of Savannah and died two days later on the U.S. brig *Wasp* in Savannah harbor.

The United States Congress had, shortly after Pulaski's death approved the erection of a marble monument to his memory, but this was not completed at that time. The second monument was begun in 1825, when General Marquis de Lafayette, on an official visit, laid the cornerstone, but not completed until October 1853, and dedicated in Monterey Square in Savannah.

Then on October 9, 2001, epitomizing another first for the Sons of the American Revolution, the Georgia Society had the opportunity to say "thanks" to General Pulaski, who had contributed so much to the Revolutionary War effort.

Many high-level officials and public people, including the Georgia Society, participated in rededication and commemorative ceremonies. The Georgia Society Color Guard was a principal element of the activity.

Another exciting event in October 2001 was the Coweta Falls Chapter 25th Anniversary and Banquet. One hundred twenty Compatriots and distinguished guests attended the gala affair, including Georgia Society State President Roger Lamb and Columbus City Officials. The 12 living charter members of the chapter were recognized as the guests of honor and were awarded certificates commemorating the occasion. Former President General James R. Westlake attended the original chartering banquet and was the featured speaker for this special occasion.

Space will not permit the telling in detail or even listing the many activities of the Georgia Society Color Guard. This colorful patriotic group of Compatriots dressed in their Colonial uniforms, musket unit, and drummer are in demand for many celebrations and events. One such event is the U.S. Army Birthday celebration each year at Fort McPherson. This is, indeed, a great honor to be invited year after year.

For the first time, the Georgia Society Color Guard was privileged to be a part of the 221st Anniversary Victory Celebration Parade at Yorktown, VA on Saturday, October 19, 2002.

The Georgia Color Guard is present at Regional Revolutionary War Site celebrations and has been given many medals and awards for outstanding performance over a long period of time. The Color Guard is a credit to the Sons of the American Revolution organization.

The King's Mountain Celebration in 2004 was dedicated to the 30 forgotten Georgians that participated in the Revolutionary War engagement on that site. The most notable wreath laid was the one presented by Compatriot Lt. Col. Robert Galer, Chairman of the Georgia Historic Sites and Celebrations Committee. A total of 23 Georgia Color Guardsmen mustered – nearly 80% of the requested 30, to honor the memory of 30 Georgians that history has largely forgotten.

After two days at King's Mountain, the Georgia Compatriots moved on to Savannah, GA to celebrate the 225th anniversary of the Siege of Savannah, the 2nd bloodiest battle of the Revolution, 2nd only to Bunker Hill in terms of casualties. The main event for the SAR was the presentation of the National Society, Georgia Society, Altamaha Chapter and the Marshes of Glynn Chapter wreaths on Saturday, October 9, 2004, at the Battlefield Park.

This describes the fourth and last of a series of events that were begun in 2001 in Savannah to honor the Polish General Casimir Pulaski who fought with the American troops and was mortally wounded in the Battle of Savannah on October 9, 1779. The Polish Ambassador, the National Society, the Georgia Society and others laid commemorative wreaths at the Pulaski monument to honor General Pulaski. The Georgia Society Color Guard participated in the ceremony. The Pulaski Jubilee was 2001-2005 in the City of Savannah.

The Casimir Pulaski Chapter, Georgia Society, was established October 13, 2001 in Carrollton, Georgia by Compatriot H M "Dutch" Dreyer and Col. Robert Bauchspies and named in honor of this Polish General of the American Revolutionary forces. Pulaski became a Revolutionary War hero.

The Georgia Society chartered a new chapter in Fayette County on July 13, 2002. Appropriately named the "Marquis de Lafayette Chapter," the group has increased from 11 organizational members. Said newly elected president, Doug Stansberry, "I am very proud to be associated with this organization and this chapter. We must always remember and honor those, whose freedoms were dearly won, so that we might be here today. I have a friend who teaches school, and he told me that the schools new history book only has eight sentences on the American Revolution."

The Joel Early Chapter was chartered July 13, 2002. The formative meetings were held in Blakely, Georgia, near Bainbridge. It is unique in that its members come from several southwest Georgia counties for a distance of about seventy-five miles from north to south. Meetings have been held in a number of locations within this area. The chapter name honors Joel Early, born in Virginia about 1745, the son of Jeremiah Early, a Colonel in the Bedford Militia in Virginia. Joel Early served his Revolutionary War service as a Lieutenant in the Virginia Militia.

An earlier Bainbridge chapter, named after Col. John Dooly, became defunct in 1991-92. Col. John Dooly (1740-1780) commanded a regiment at the Battle of Kettle Creek in 1779 and was killed at his home by Tories in 1780.

The Georgia Society Compatriots and the Georgia Society Color Guard participate in the various battle site celebrations in Georgia and the Carolinas on an annual basis. The Georgia Society Color Guard is always available for Revolutionary War Soldiers' grave markings and many other patriotic functions. It is

particularly impressive when the Color Guard participates in the burial ceremony of a fallen Compatriot.

The “marking” or identifying the graves of Revolutionary War Soldiers is a very important and significant event in the Georgia Society. This patriotic event is becoming increasingly popular.

The Georgia Society *Source Book*, since its beginning, has been a valuable source of information. Now, in this technical culture that we enjoy, the *Source Book* is available online.

The Award-Winning Georgia Society Compatriots have received many medals and certificates in recognition of outstanding service to the National Society and the Georgia Society. It would not be possible to list all the citations here. Some awards follow:

In 2003, Past Georgia Society President Larry Guzy was elected to serve as Vice President General of the South Atlantic District and served with distinction.

President G. E. “Tucker” Haught of the Ocmulgee Chapter presented the Good Citizenship Medal and Certificate to Former U.S. Senator and Compatriot Sam Nunn.

Former President and Georgia Compatriot General James R. Westlake was honored by being elected Commandant of “Old Guard” of the Gate Guard of Atlanta.

The Georgia Society Color Guard has received awards, medals, certificates of recognition for participation in many events in Georgia and elsewhere.

The Georgia Society received several awards at the 113th Annual National Congress held in Chicago. The awards ceremony belonged to the Georgia Society. The Georgia Society is one of the most active State Societies in the nation. The Georgia Society qualified for the National Flag Certificate Award for the first time ever since it’s beginning 84 years ago. Nineteen Chapters participated with 85 Flag Certificate presentations. Of special note was the presentation of the National Society SAR’s highest honor, the Minuteman Award, to Compatriot Dr. T. Fisher Craft.

The Georgia Society news is well reported in its quarterly newsletter, *The Hornet’s Nest*. The publication has won numerous National awards. Editor Jack McCord served for eight years in this position.

Larry Wilson served as Registrar of the Georgia Society from April 1998 through March 2004; Compatriot Wilson decided to retire from this position. He was very knowledgeable, a great source of information and an expert researcher. During Larry’s 6-year tenure he processed 975 applications. Larry will be missed and difficult to replace.

Georgia Society Chaplain Rev. Dan Gates, Coweta Falls Chapter, revitalized the State Chaplaincy with energy and purpose. His compassion, excitement, and talents were received well all across the National Society.

Compatriot Kline O. Pugh retired in 2010 after 12 years as the Georgia Society Secretary, having been elected at the Annual Meeting in 1998. His long tenure and organizational skills were of great benefit to the society.

Georgia Society Compatriots continue to reap awards for activities beyond the Georgia Society. "Tucker" Haught of the Ocmulgee Chapter has been commended by the United States Secretary of Defense for his volunteer activities with the Georgia Committee of the Office of the Secretary of Defense Medal, for exceptional public service. The medal was presented in a private ceremony in Atlanta, GA.

President George Thurmond and a large group of Compatriots attended the National Society 114th Annual Congress in Pittsburgh, PA. President Thurmond commented "It was with a great deal of pride and pleasure that I represented you at the Awards Night." Compatriots from the Georgia Society appointed to National Society positions were: Dr. T. Fisher Craft, Ambassador to Switzerland; BG John W Gillette Ambassador to the Military; Douglas H. Stansberry Vice President International.

The Georgia Society and its chapters received various National awards for exceptional service to the Sons of the American Revolution organization.

The Georgia Society was saddened by the death of Past State President James L. Holman, a longtime member and President of the Coweta Falls Chapter. Compatriot Holman was a loyal and active supporter of the SAR. Compatriot Holman died November 10, 2000.

Compatriot Herman R. Tovey, Jr. lost the battle with cancer on September 2003, but he never surrendered. The Georgia Society lost a great friend, great Compatriot and a sincere, loyal and long-time member. Compatriot Tovey was a former member of the Piedmont Chapter, originator and author of the *Source Book*, as well as other firsts in the Society. Herman Tovey contributed in many ways to the Georgia Society through his creative and talented personality. At the time of his death he was a member of the Coweta Falls Chapter.

January 30, 2002 was a sad day for the Sons of the American Revolution organization. From the Chapter, State and National levels, President General Robert B. Vance, Sr. served the SAR well with great vision and energy. It has been said that the greatest honor we can give to Col. Robert B. Vance, his family, his ancestors and family descendants is to remain strong links in the American chain ourselves, to see that it is not broken on our watch. Bob carried his flag high, and never wavered. He now has crossed over the river and rests beneath the trees. President General Robert B. Vance, Sr. was Mr. SAR. He organized new chapters and helped many Compatriots with their application papers. He believed in the purposes and goals of the SAR.

The Georgia Society's loss of Compatriot Herman Ross Arnold, Jr. who departed from this life July 20, 2005 at his vacation home on St. Simon's Island, Georgia, was a great one. He joined the Atlanta Chapter in 1985 and was an active member. He was always interested in history and was a prime supporter of the SAR Library and was responsible for the two-volume publication, "Georgia Revolutionary Soldiers & Sailors, Patriots & Pioneers. He served as Chancellor of the Georgia Society for many years.

Tuesday, September 11, 2001, was a day that America shall always remember when terrorists made the United States aware that it is possible to be attacked and lives and property be destroyed in a moment. It was a direct attack on democracy, freedom, and life, as we know it. The call is for all Sons of the American Revolution, descendants of the Revolutionary Army War heroes, to stand up for America. The SAR stands for patriotism.

On July 2, 2003, the Georgia Society Board of Managers increased the number of the Society's Geographical Regions from 7 to 10, effective in the 2004-2005 administrative year. The purpose of the change was to reduce the traveling distances and increase the efficiency of the Regional Vice Presidents in starting new chapters and membership growth. The Regions were later reduced to eight.

Compatriot Lt. Col. Robert Galer received the Silver Good Citizenship Medal from the Wisconsin Society. After years of effort the Wisconsin Society dedicated a bronze plaque honoring a Revolutionary War Patriot buried in the state. For his support in this effort, Lt. Col. Robert Galer was invited to be the keynote speaker at this event.

One of the prestigious awards of the Georgia Society is the President General Robert B. Vance, Sr., Membership Trophy that is presented at the Annual Meeting Awards Luncheon to the member who sponsored the most new members in the preceding year.

For the calendar year of 2002 the award was presented to Larry T. Guzy (John Collins Chapter) for sponsoring 20 new members; for 2003 to Douglas H. Stansberry (28) of Marquis de Lafayette Chapter; and for 2004 H. Harrison Tillman, Sr. (9) of Valdosta Chapter; Charlie Newcomer (12); George W. Dismukes (10); William F. Ramsaur (20); Bob Sapp (14); Bob Sapp (15); Bob Sapp (10).

Georgia Compatriots are active in all areas of National SAR activity. President General James R. Westlake continued to make a difference in the organization. He received the Distinguished Service Award from the Presidential Families of America. The PFA Membership consists of persons who can prove direct or collateral descent from a President of the United States.

Two events held annually are noteworthy. Kettle Creek has expanded to activities conducted over four days and reached a high in participation with 67 organizations represented in 2005. The Frederica Naval Action program was organized in 2005 by the Marshes of Glynn Chapter as an annual observance on Patriot's Day, April 19, the date of a very successful engagement by Col. Samuel Elbert, capturing three British ships in 1778. A Historic Sites marker was unveiled on this occasion – the first ever by the Georgia Society.

The past history of the Georgia Society is exciting and records the many activities and accomplishments of this great Society. Many Georgia Society Compatriots have held National office and have won awards. The Georgia Society, under capable and dedicated leadership, is destined to move on and accomplish great progress in the future. Georgia Society trusts and foundation funds are growing, membership is on the increase, new chapters are in process and interest in educational programs is on the rise with more chapter participation.

The Georgia Fellows Fund is up and running and doing well. The money donated is being used wisely for un-funded and under-funded activities, and the membership is growing. This is open to any Compatriot or spouse that makes the minimum contribution of \$250 which can be donated in any amount over time.

The new Education Committee is a step forward in the cooperation between the local school systems and the SAR. The poster and essay contests have been around for a long time with positive results. However, the Education Committee will create new emphasis and participation. This effort was implemented during President George Thurmond's tenure.

The Georgia Society hosted the 119th National Society Congress in Atlanta in 2009. Compatriot Larry Guzy was Chairman of the Georgia Society Committee, which planned this event.

The Georgia Society announced the formation of the new Cherokee Chapter, with Billy Templeton elected President. It was through the vision and energy of former Georgia Society President Roger Lamb and others that the Cherokee Chapter joined the other 28 chapters. The Cherokee Chapter was chartered July 23, 2005.

The Georgia Society is alive and well with a great future. Many Georgia Society leaders are called upon to serve as National Officers and Committee Chairmen. The Georgia Society has a fabulous past and there is no limit to the future.

The Years from 2006 to 2015

By N. Walker Chewning
State Historian



The Georgia Society was very active during the period from 2006 to 2015. While the society deactivated three chapters, it also established five new chapters and is approaching its statewide membership goal of over 1800 members. In December, 2015, the Georgia Society was proud to have 32 active chapters: **Altamaha, Athens, Atlanta, Blue Ridge Mountains, Button Gwinnett, Captain John Collins 2000, Casimir Pulaski, Cherokee, Coweta Falls, Dalton, Edward Telfair, Four Rivers Patriots, George Walton, Joel Early, John Milledge, Joseph Habersham, LaGrange, Lyman Hall, Marquis de Lafayette, Marshes of Glynn, Mill Creek, Ocmulgee, Patrick Carr Rangers, Piedmont, Robert Forsyth, Rome, Samuel Elbert, Sons of Liberty 2006, Valdosta, Washington Wilkes, William Few, and Wiregrass.**

Every year during this period was filled with important milestones in the area of education, training, historical preservation, and Georgia Society Color Guard participation at historic celebrations which brought national recognition to the Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution.

2006 - 2007

In 2006, George H. Wheelless was elected President of the Georgia Society. He began his administration with the commitment to honor our patriots "by carrying on the tenants of educational, historical, and patriotic activities that serve to keep the flame of the American Revolution alive." These ideas were stressed during the Georgia Society Annual Leadership Training program in March 2006. New state officers, chapter officers and committee chairman were invited to attend so that they might gain important information on their new positions and become better leaders.

An important education goal was reached in 2006 when the Endowment Trust Fund of the Georgia Society proudly added 100 new microfilm reels of early North Carolina records to the collection of the Genealogy Department of the Washington Memorial Library in Macon, Georgia. These reels are a valuable additional asset for researchers.

Promoting historic and patriotic activities has always been important for the Georgia Society and, in 2007, the Historical Sites and Celebrations Chairman, Bob Galer, expanded the popular Battle of Kettle Creek Celebration by adding a parade around the square on Saturday and a historical discussion at the Mary Willis Library to the event. A celebration at the Elijah Clarke State Park on Sunday also was included in the three-day celebration. Other significant historical events included the second annual observance of the Frederica Naval Action on St. Simons Island, Georgia. The Georgia Society was well represented at the 225th Celebration of the Battle of Guilford Court House and at the 225th Celebration of the Battle of Kings

Mountain where loud “huzzahs” echoed over the battlefield as the "Georgia 30" wreath was carried forward to be presented.

The Georgia Society Color Guard continued to expand its membership under the leadership of Commander Paul Prescott. This year the Color Guard was represented in 77 state and national events while the membership increased to 61 members on the active role. The Georgia Society Color Guard was also the beneficiary of four new flags: Bedford, Hopkins, Sons of Liberty and Commander- in- Chief Flag. A fife and drum were also donated by Past PG James Westlake.

The Georgia Society Chaplaincy Corps gained national recognition as the most active in the 50 states with 22 Chaplains. State Chaplain Reverend Dan Gates was proud to award the Chaplaincy Corps Certificate of Merit to six Georgia chapters for their outstanding service. Chaplain Reverend Gates also produced a Chaplaincy Training CD which was made available to other state societies.

The Georgia Society added another chapter to its roll: The Sons of Liberty Chapter. It was chartered on October 14, 2006, in Hiram, Georgia and was named in honor of those heroes in New England who believed independence and freedom were rights given to all men. The Sons of Liberty expressed their feelings against increased taxes with the event which came to be known as the Boston Tea Party.

The Georgia Society was proud to have their members serve in positions in the National Society. Compatriot George Thurmond served as Chairman of the NSSAR Historic Sites and Celebrations Committee and was a member of the NSSAR Executive Committee. Compatriot Charlie A. Newcomer, III served as the Chairman of the NSSAR Eagle Scout Committee. The Georgia Society ended 2007 with membership of 1480 members and 30 local chapters.

2007 – 2008

The Georgia Society elected Charlie A. Newcomer, III President in 2007. His term in office featured an emphasis on education and historical events. The local chapters were encouraged to promote school programs on colonial life during the American Revolution.

With the rising cost of mail delivery, the Georgia Society decided to turn to email as the primary means of delivery for the award-winning Hornet's Nest newsletter. The mail option remained for those members who wanted to receive a copy in that manner. This effort received strong support among the membership.

In July, the Georgia Society was led by President Charlie Newcomer to the 115th National Congress in Williamsburg, Virginia with the largest number of delegates ever to attend from the Georgia Society. The National Congress attendance was highlighted when Georgia received the most awards of any state: 25.

The Georgia Chaplaincy Corp continued to march forward as Chaplain Reverend Dan Gates initiated a state-wide lapel pin program for members of the Georgia Chaplaincy Corps. Chaplain Reverend Gates said that the wearing of the new lapel pin instilled "a sense of pride and renewed dedication to their commission as Chaplains in the Georgia Society". Further, he initiated the Sheriff Letter Writing Campaign which involved sending a letter of appreciation to every county sheriff in the State of Georgia. Gates said, "This is a simple way for the 1,400 members of our Georgia Society to say thank you to each of them."

To commemorate the 250th anniversary of the birth of French hero Marquis de Lafayette, the Georgia Society planned statewide activities. The Georgia Society attended the signing of a proclamation from Governor Sonny Purdue which established September 6 as Marquis de Lafayette Day and the welcoming of the French

frigate Lafayette in Savannah.

The Georgia Society Color Guard again attended many historical events including the annual celebration of the Battle of Savannah, held at Battlefield Park. This year's event was special since the Guardsmen were also invited to attend the dedication of the Haitian Monument which commemorates the Haitian soldiers who fought alongside the French and Patriot forces as part of the Battle on October 9, 1779. This was part of the Georgia Society Color Guard's continued success with its attendance in 373 state and national events. The GASSAR Color Guard consisted of 52 members who participated in 71 state events with a total attendance of 729 color guardsmen. Jo An Chewning volunteered to serve as the 2007-2008 Color Guard Historian, and she documented events in the annual scrapbook of GASSAR Color Guard which is archived in the Kennan Library at the Atlanta History Center, Atlanta, Georgia.

The 119th Congress Planning Committee, under the leadership of Chairman Larry Guzy, put in many hours preparing for a successful NSSAR Annual Congress to be held in Atlanta in 2009. Plans were made for a Congress Medal, C.A.R. design contest for the 2009 Congress Pin, hotel reservations, rooms, meals, entertainment, tote bags, stickers, and many other items. The Georgia Society prepared to host hundreds of SAR members and their guests from the 50 states.

As part of the Georgia Society historic preservation efforts, the society celebrated the February 11, 1779, Battle of Cherokee Ford/Vann's Creek with a wreath-laying ceremony. At the event, the Georgia Society and the State of Georgia dedicated a new historical marker near the battle site. The monument was erected by the Samuel Elbert Chapter of Elberton, Georgia.

This was the tenth anniversary for the Georgia Society to celebrate the observance of the anniversary of the Battle of Kettle Creek. Since the first observance in 1997, this celebration had grown to a three-day event with a parade, reenactors, lectures, a wreath-laying ceremony, and the Thirteen Colonies Ceremony of the Georgia State Society Children of the American Revolution to commemorate the importance of this battle during the American Revolution.

This was the fourth year for the celebration of the Frederica Naval Action which occurred on April 19, 1778. This annual Georgia Society celebration in St Simons Island, Georgia was combined with Patriot's Day, which commemorates the battles of Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775. The event drew national attention with the attendance of NSSAR President General Bruce Wilcox.

The Georgia Society was proud to have their members serve in positions in the National Society. Compatriot George Thurmond served as Vice President General for the South Atlantic District and Chairman of the NSSAR Historic Sites and Celebrations Committee. Compatriot Charlie A. Newcomer, III was chairman of the NSSAR Eagle Scout Committee. Compatriot John Michael Tomme, Sr. was National Color Guard Adjutant. The Georgia Society ended this year with membership of 1321 members and 30 local chapters.

2008 - 2009

At the April 2008 Annual Meeting, LTC Robert Towns became President of the Georgia Society. In order to increase participation and support for Georgia Society events, the GASSAR Ladies Auxiliary was created and held its first meeting on April 4, 2008. This support from the wives of the Georgia Society members presented another opportunity for the state society to increase public awareness of its goals.

A significant step forward was made with the publication of the Georgia Society Source Book as an online publication. Placing the Source Book online provided guidance to all members, officers, and committee

chairmen. Its accessibility was increased significantly by its inclusion on the society website.

The Georgia Society was busy planning for the 119th NSSAR Annual Conference in 2009. Under the leadership of NASSAR Committee Chairman, Larry Guzy, the Georgia Society was excited about the opportunity to host the event in its home state. In preparation for the event, the Georgia Society challenged the Georgia State Society C.A.R. members to design a special lapel pin for the Congress. The "Official Congress Pin" was designed by 14-year-old Kindl Lynne Chewning, a member of the Allen Howard Society C.A.R.

This was the first year for the biennial Georgia Colonial Ball and Debutante Presentation. The event was sponsored by the Georgia Society, and twelve young ladies were presented. This exciting gala was accompanied with dinner and dancing. The formal eveningwear for the presenters, escorts, and marshals was white tie. The Georgia Society was proud to sponsor this event and the presentation of the lovely debutantes.

At the October 2008 BOM meeting, the Georgia Society members received from the Alignment Committee a regional map which proposed reducing the previous ten regions to eight regions in order to improve overall coordination of activities. The committee recommended to the BOM the redistricting of the Georgia Society into Northwest Region, Northeast Region, Metro Region, West Region, Central Region, East Region, Southwest Region and the Southwest Region. This change was accepted by the BOM membership.

The Georgia Society voted at the Winter 2008 BOM Meeting to change the name of the State Americanism Award to the Billy H. Thompson Americanism Award. The BOM also voted to establish the General James R. Westlake, Sr. Communication Award. The addition of these two awards would honor the contribution of these compatriots and recognize two important areas of communication within chapters, newsletters and websites.

The Executive Committee recommended that the charters be revoked for the Samuel Butts Chapter and the William Miller Chapter due to inactivity. The revocation of the charters was approved unanimously by the voting members at the Annual Meeting in 2009.

The C.A.R./DAR Liaison Committee was split into two separate committees to recognize the individual importance of each of these partner lineage societies and to better implement interaction with each of them. A Flag Respect Committee was created to better monitor the presentation of Flag Certificates by SAR Chapters within their communities. These changes were made to signify to the Georgia Society membership the importance of these activities.

As an effort to further promote the American Revolutionary War battle sites in Georgia, the Georgia Society created the Georgia Revolutionary War Trails Committee as part of the Historical Sites and Celebrations Committee. The GRWT Committee was directed to develop pamphlets for Georgia's eight major battle sites. The design for the pamphlets and map brochure was created by compatriot Ed Fluker. The narrative for the "Fight at Van(n) Creek" was created by Gordon B. Smith, "Battle of Kettle Creek" was prepared by Steven J. Rauch and LTC Robert F. Galer, "Heroes of the Hornet's Nest" by Charlie A. Newcomer III, "Augusta in the American Revolution" by Dr. Russell K. Brown, "Battle of Brier Creek" by Rabun A. Lee, "Savannah in the American Revolution" by Norman J. Hoffman, "Sunbury, Fort Morris and Midway" by Bill Ramsaur, "Frederica Naval Action" by Bill Ramsaur, and the "Georgia Battles" map by Bill Ramsaur. Larry Wilson was instrumental in obtaining a grant from the Georgia Tourism Division for the publication of the pamphlets. Committee Chairman N. Walker Chewning announced project completion with the publication of 280,000 pamphlets and 45,000 Georgia Battle Map brochures. These publications were distributed to ten Georgia Visitor Information Centers, local chambers of commerce, libraries, community organizations, and to over 50,000 school students as part of the GASSAR Educational Outreach program. The program was so

successful that a reprint of the pamphlets was conducted in 2012 and another reprint will be again in 2016.

The Education Outreach Program of the Georgia Society was enhanced with the addition of the John Dooley Education Outreach Award and the Nancy Hart Education Outreach Award. These annual awards recognize an SAR member and a female who significantly contribute to SAR education outreach programs during the year. The first recipients of these awards were Ted Smith of the Joseph Habersham Chapter and Jo An Chewning of the William Day Chapter NSDAR.

In February 2009, the Georgia Society celebrated the 230th Anniversary of the Battle of Kettle Creek for which Bill Ramsaur and Ed Fluker designed a special limited-edition lapel pin. The three days of activities in Washington, Georgia and at the Kettle Creek Battlefield were attended by more than 500 visitors and wreath presenters. Enthusiasm for this historic battle had increased since the publication of the Lamar Institute publication, "Stirring Up a Hornet's Nest: The Kettle Creek Battlefield Study," in 2008. Through the efforts of the Georgia Society, attendance continued to grow as knowledge of this event and the archeological discoveries at the site have spread.

The Georgia Society was proud to have their members serve in positions in the National Society. Compatriot George Thurmond served as Vice President General for the South Atlantic District and Chairman of the NSSAR Historic Sites and Celebrations Committee. Compatriot Charlie A. Newcomer, III was chairman of the NSSAR Eagle Scout Committee. Compatriot John Michael Tomme, SR. was National Color Guard Adjutant. The Georgia Society ended this year with 1480 members and 28 local chapters.

2009 - 2010

The Georgia Society elected Terry Manning as State President at their Annual Meeting. He brought an emphasis to awards presentation, by-laws revision, financial controls, and education outreach programs.

A major revision to the state bylaws helped to better delineate the standing committees and their responsibilities. Changing the date of the annual meeting to earlier in the calendar year from April to January would better reflect "annual" activity and match the turnover in chapter elections, membership, and budgeting. Budget format, reporting and processing were also significantly revised and changed to monthly updating and reporting.

The Distinguished Chapter Award was created to award streamers annually to chapters completing 10 of 11 program areas considered representative of an active, distinguished chapter.

The Traveling Trunk program was established with the Georgia Fellows Program funding half the cost of a starter trunk for 12 chapters. The trunks provided examples of clothing, home, and military items from the colonial period for use in providing educational programs at schools, churches, clubs, lineage societies, scouts, senior homes, and similar groups on life during the American Revolutionary War.

The Georgia Society Color Guard assembled on March 13th in Columbus, Georgia on the grounds of the National Infantry Museum for the dedication of America's First Soldier Monument. The ten-foot granite monument was presented to the Infantry Foundation by the Coweta Falls Chapter of the Georgia Society.

The highlight of the summer of 2009 was the 119th NSSAR Annual Congress sponsored by the Georgia Society and held at the Waverly Hotel in Marietta, Georgia. After several years of planning, all of the hard work performed by the Congress Committee headed by Larry Guzy came to fruition. As hundreds of visitors from around the U.S. arrived, they were welcomed graciously by their Georgia host. In the words of

Committee Chairman Larry Guzy, "If anyone mentions a Congress in any particular State for the past 118 years, it is not the General Officers nor is it the National Society that they remember. They recall the welcome they received, the events they enjoyed, and the people they met." Before the convention started, the attendees were able to enjoy golfing, touring, shopping, and the area's fine dining. At the opening ceremony, all attendees were ready for business. After several days of meetings and discussions, the 119th Congress came to a successful close with new officers installed and voting on motions completed. After all was done, the attendees were able to return to their respective homes with the feeling that they had experienced true Southern hospitality.

On October 3, 2009, the Georgia Society chartered the Washington-Wilkes Chapter in Washington, Georgia. The chapter was named in honor of Gen. Washington, for whom the city was named, and John Wilkes, who supported the Patriot cause in the House of Commons and Parliament against King George III. The new chapter's Charter Membership was 33 compatriots.

The first annual GASSAR Color Guard Banquet as a separate function was planned to occur early in the calendar year beginning in 2010 in an effort to shorten the awards ceremony at the annual meeting. Also, as a separate function, more time would be available to recognize the accomplishments of the GASSAR Color Guard and to celebrate its past year activities as well as to better celebrate the contributions of members' spouses to the Color Guard program.

In 2009 -2010, the Georgia Society was proud to have their members serve in positions in the National Society. Compatriot George Thurmond served as Chairman of the NSSAR Historic Sites and Celebrations Committee. Compatriot Charlie A. Newcomer, III was chairman of the NSSAR Eagle Scout Committee. Compatriot John Michael Tomme, Sr. was National Vice Commander Color Guard of the National Color Guard.

At the annual Kettle Creek Battlefield Celebration, compatriot Bob Galer was honored as the "Father of Revolutionary Days" by a proclamation issued by the Mayor of Washington, Georgia. Compatriot Galer was recognized for his role in developing the Georgia Society's first Historic Sites program 13 years earlier. Succeeding chairmen of the Historical Sites and Celebrations Committee have developed programs that include the annual celebrations of eight historic Revolutionary War battlefields within the state of Georgia. These celebrations have brought national recognition to the Georgia Society and increased awareness of the important place that Georgia played in the American Revolution.

In October 2009, the charter of the Abraham Baldwin Chapter, Albany, Georgia was revoked due to inactivity. The Georgia Society ended this year with membership of 1388 members and 28 local chapters.

2010

When Mike Tomme became the Georgia Society President, he promoted the advancement of the Georgia Society Education Outreach Program. At his inauguration, Mike explained that he chose Education Outreach as his administration's primary goal to make sure that our youth and new citizens understand why our country was created and what our hardships our ancestors experienced to create our great country. Mike was the first State Recording Secretary, Registrar, Sr. Vice President and State President to come from the Marquis de Lafayette Chapter in Fayetteville, Georgia.

Community service was also an important goal, and the Georgia Society took steps to honor all Peace Officers during Police Week by obtaining a proclamation from the Governor recognizing the annual observance honoring law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. Peace Officer Memorial Day takes

place on May 15, and Police Week is the calendar week in which the Memorial falls. The Georgia Society chapters were encouraged to pay tribute to their local and state peace officers during this time.

The 2010 celebration of the Battle of Kettle Creek was memorable for 18" of snow which fell in Wilkes County, Georgia, on Friday night and awaited the visitors when they awoke for the parade in Washington on Saturday. However, the snow deterred neither the spirit nor the actions of the valiant members of Georgia Society Color Guard who marched in the snow nor the courageous members of the Georgia Color Guard's Elijah Clarke Militia who conducted the battlefield skirmish as planned. The Patriot forces again prevailed against Col. Boyd's greater number of Provincial troops.

In 2008, an archeological study was conducted by the Lamar Institute at the Kettle Creek Battlefield. Many revolutionary war artifacts were discovered during the study and were placed on display at the Washington Historical Museum. As a result of the Georgia Society's long history of support for the preservation of the battlefield and its efforts to promote the American Revolution in Georgia, the Georgia Society was loaned some of the artifacts. The artifacts, some in a shadow box and others loose, have been used in school presentations around the state and have been viewed by thousands of students as part of the Educational Outreach program.

The Boy Scouts of American have always received strong support from the Georgia Society, and in 2010, this connection was strengthened by the participation of the Georgia Society in the August National BSA Jamboree at Fort AP Hill, Virginia. The Georgia Society was proud to have a large number of its members present in colonial attire discussing the American Revolution and colonial life with the attending Boy Scouts.

2010 was first year when the state bylaws went into effect which changed the beginning and the end of the term of office of the Georgia State President and other elected state officers. With this change, the term of all state offices began in January 2010, rather than April 2010, and the term ended in January 2011 when the next state election of officers was held. The change of command ceremony continued to occur at the time of the Annual Meeting.

The Georgia Society Color Guard transferred command from Paul Prescott to Ed Rigel, Sr. in a solemn and impressive ceremony with many of the Color Guard participating. Outgoing commander Prescott was recognized for his service with a "gorget".

During the 2010-2011 NSCAR terms of officers, the Georgia Society was proud to have their members serve in positions at the National Society. Compatriot George Thurmond served as Chairman of the NSSAR Historic Sites and Celebrations Committee and compatriot John Michael Tomme, Sr. was Vice Commander of the National Color Guard. The Georgia Society ended this year with membership of 1560 members and 28 local chapters.

2011

Robert A. Sapp became President of the Georgia Society in January 2011. At the annual State Conference, he set forth his goal to expand the GASSAR membership by increasing the number of local chapters. This effort was enthusiastically supported by the Georgia Society with the announcement that five new chapters were in various stages of development.

In 2011, the Battle of Brier Creek would become an annual celebration for the Georgia Society. GASSAR supported the event as part of the development of "The Georgia Revolutionary War Trail" and to honor our fallen patriots who are buried there. The March ceremony was sponsored by the city of Sylvania, Georgia

and was attended by school children from around the county. The Georgia Society Color Guard presented the National Colors, and the Elijah Clarke Militia of the Georgia Society Color Guard fired a three-volley salute to the fallen patriots.

At the Summer BOM, Historic Sites and Celebrations Committee Chairman N. W. Chewning requested a letter of support for the "Kettle Creek Battlefield Master Plan" which was being funded by the Central Savannah River Area Regional Commission. This Master Plan would further advance the efforts of the Georgia Society in preserving this important state historic treasure. The Society strongly supported this effort to develop the master plan for the Kettle Creek Battlefield.

In 2011, the National Society SAR established a working relationship with the George Washington Foundation which allowed members of the SAR to stand guard at the historic site of the tomb of George and Martha Washington at Mount Vernon, Virginia annually in September. The first year for this event was 2011, and Georgia Society Color Guard members N. Walker Chewning and Bruce Maney proudly stood guard at the site. The 12 noon to midnight vigil was designated a National Color Guard event, and it has become an annual pilgrimage for Georgia Society Color Guard members.

In April 2011, the Wiregrass Chapter was chartered in Swainsboro, Georgia with a membership of 50 compatriots. The chapter was named for the undergrowth that once carpeted the forest floor of the region. Early colonial settlers had found this to be a land of sandy soil with many creeks, rivers, and swamps--characteristic features which fostered the growth of pine trees and a round-bladed perennial undergrowth called wiregrass.

The Four Rivers Patriots Chapter was chartered on September 22, 2011 with a membership of 51 compatriots in Vidalia, Georgia. The name was chosen because, since the time of the American Revolution, this area was known as Four Rivers due to the convergence of the Oconee, Ocmulgee, and Ochoopee rivers into the Altamaha River which then flows into the Atlantic Ocean.

The Patrick Carr Rangers Chapter was chartered with 20 members in 2011, in Waynesboro, Georgia. Patrick Carr had emigrated from Ireland to Saint George Parish (Burke County) before the Revolutionary War. Captain Carr and his troops mounted a vicious and bloody raid on the British garrison at Sunbury on April 11, 1782. Virtually all of the members of the garrison were killed in savage hand-to-hand fighting. Carr is said to have killed at least 100 Tories with his own hands during the Revolutionary War. He claimed, however, that God had given him a too-merciful heart to make him a good soldier.

In 2011, the Georgia Society was instrumental in helping to form the Kettle Creek Battlefield Association in Washington, Georgia. The purpose of this non-profit organization is to preserve, protect, and expand the historic Kettle Creek Battlefield in Wilkes County, Georgia. The battlefield is located in a pristine farm land setting in Wilkes County, Georgia and had been undisturbed by development for over 230 years.

The Georgia Society Education Committee expanded the Traveling Trunk Program to eleven more Georgia Society chapters. This effort was recognized by other state societies that wanted to create their own such programs. The GASSAR Traveling Trunk has been a helpful hands-on teaching aid for compatriots giving colonial history presentations, and it has been enjoyed by thousands of students and adults.

The Georgia Society Color Guard again distinguished itself with its 61 members participating in 80 state and national events with 756 total participants. Past Georgia Color Guard Commander Paul Prescott was presented the prestigious National Color Guardsman of the Year Award by President General David Sympson during the 121st Annual National Congress. Paul was the Georgia Society Color Guard Commander in 2005-2010 and he participated in hundreds of historical events.

In 2011 -2012 Georgia Society was proud to have their members serve in positions in the National Society. Compatriot Charlie A. Newcomer, III was Vice President General for the South Atlantic District and Compatriot LTC Robert F. Towns served as Vice President General of the International District. Compatriot J. Michael Tomme, Sr. was National Commander for the NSSAR Color Guard. Compatriot George Thurmond served as Chairman of the NSSAR Historic Sites and Celebrations Committee. The Georgia Society ended 2011 with 1434 members and 31 local chapters.

2012

Dr. Ed Rigel Sr. began his term as President of the Georgia Society by challenging the society to increase membership and improve the retention rate of the present membership. He said, "I encourage chapters to get new members involved as a means of retaining their interest in the society." President Rigel stressed that the GASSAR effort to improve historical literacy among America's youth could only be achieved with strong support of the Educational Outreach Program at the chapter level. In 2012, we would celebrate the 225th anniversary of the signing of the United States Constitution, and he encouraged all chapters to recognize this significant anniversary.

Ed Rigel Sr. of the Georgia Society was presented with a Life Membership Award from the Kettle Creek Battlefield Association for his support. This was the first award of its kind presented by the KCBA.

The Kettle Creek Celebration Committee, as part of the Georgia Society Historic Sites and Celebrations Committee, conducted another successful three-day celebration of the Battle of Kettle Creek and its significance in the creation of our Republic. The activities began with a Friday evening reception at Wisteria Hall. The Saturday morning parade was led by NSSAR Secretary General Stephen A. Leishman and President Rigel, followed by the GASSAR award-winning Color Guard and over 100 other participants. This was the second year that the Georgia Society Color Guard presented a battlefield skirmish in Washington Park for the enjoyment of the crowds. The narration of the Battle of Kettle Creek skirmish, written and performed in 2011 by Jo An Chewning of the William Day Chapter NSDAR, again was used to narrate the skirmish in 2012. The town square was filled with living history characters for the enjoyment of the visitors. In the afternoon, the visitors assembled at War Hill for the Annual Kettle Creek Wreath Laying Ceremony. In the evening a dinner for the participants, sponsored by the ladies of the Washington-Wilkes Chapter NSDAR, was held at the Washington-Wilkes Women's Club.

The Georgia Society purchased a colonial-era tent and associated officers' furnishing including iron cookware, a camp desk, and a chair. With this purchase, the Georgia Society was able to expand the Traveling Trunk Program by loaning these items to any chapter presenting a colonial living history program.

In an effort to recognize the three Georgia Signers of the Declaration of independence, Historic Sites and Celebrations Committee Chairman N. Walker Chewning initiated a program to raise funds to place engraved markers in their honor in Battlefield Park. The park is the site of the October 9, 1779, Battle of Savannah which contains a field of granite markers representing the attacking columns of French and Patriot soldiers. The three-chapter presidents of the Button Gwinnett Chapter, Lyman Hall Chapter, and George Walton Chapter were present, and each unveiled the marker dedicated to his chapter namesake. A fourth marker was dedicated which described the important contributions these three Georgians made to America's War for Independence.

The Georgia Society was proud to assist in returning the Appling Sword to the State of Georgia. The elaborate ceremonial sword was purchased by the Georgia General Assembly in 1814, to be presented to

Daniel Appling, a hero of the War of 1812. Appling died before the sword could be presented, so the legislature voted to keep the sword and display it in the Governor's Office. The Sword later disappeared, but with the help of the Georgia Society, it was purchased from a reputable antiques dealer for \$100,000. On October 15th, the Appling Sword was presented to the State of Georgia in a ceremony attended by the State Color Guard. The sword is now displayed in the Hall of Valor in the Georgia State Capitol.

The year ended with the biannual Georgia Colonial Ball and Debutante Presentation at the Milledgeville Country Club, in Milledgeville, Georgia. Twelve lovely young ladies were presented to the society.

After four years of service, George Thurmond stepped down from the position Chairman of the Georgia Fellows Fund. He was able to grow the Georgia Fellows Fund by 40 new members and \$10,000. These funds are spent to benefit a number of new initiatives by the chapters in the society.

In 2012 - 2013 the Georgia Society was proud to have two compatriots serve in positions as the National Society General Officers. LTC Robert F. Towns served as Historian General and J. Michael Tomme, Sr. served as Registrar General. This was the first time that Georgia Society had made such a large contribution to the leadership at the national level. Compatriot Michael M. Tomme, Sr. also served as the National Commander of the National Society Color Guard, and George Thurmond served as Chairman of the NSSAR Historical Sites and Celebrations Committee. The Georgia Society ended this year with membership of 1480 members and 31 local Chapters.

2013

James E. Stallings, Sr. stepped into the position of President of the Georgia Society in January. During his acceptance speech at the Georgia Society Annual Meeting, he stressed the importance for all of the local chapters working toward participation in at least one of the many state programs that are available. He noted: "We all can do one or two and make a difference in promoting the SAR," and through our efforts "we honor the memory of our Patriot ancestor". He urged every chapter to examine the opportunities which are described in the GASSAR Source Book.

The purchase during the previous year of a tent and other items to enhance the Educational Outreach Program proved so successful that, in 2013, the Georgia Society purchased for the chapters in the southern part of the state a second set of colonial items: a colonial era tent and associated officer's furnishings such as iron cookware, a camp desk, and a camp chair. Again, the purchase was made possible by a contribution from the Georgia Fellows Fund. The traveling trunk items, colonial tent with cooking items, Kettle Creek artifacts, and colonial attire were viewed by thousands of individuals at a variety of events. Compatriot Bruce Maney and his co-presenter, Leslie Watkins of the William Day Chapter NSDAR, gave school presentation to the enjoyment of thousands of students around the state of Georgia. Their efforts, along with that of many other Georgia Society members, have made it possible for Georgians to enjoy and understand the importance of America's unique Revolutionary War heritage.

The Georgia Society continued to grow with the chartering of the Robert Forsyth Chapter in October 2013 in Cumming, Georgia. Through the dedicated work of a number of individuals, the chapter began with 55 charter members. The Chapter was named for Robert Forsyth who served in Captain of Light Dragoons in Henry "Light-Horse Harry" Lee's cavalry during the Revolutionary War. Forsyth had been appointed the first Marshal for the District of Georgia by President Washington in 1789. He was killed in the line of duty while serving a warrant. In 1981, the Marshals Service had created the "Robert Forsyth Act of Valor Award," given to Marshal Service employees showing unusual courage or who had endangered their lives in the act of saving another.

The Georgia Society was well represented at the 123rd NSSAR Congress in Kansas City, Missouri. President Stallings led a contingent of twelve compatriots from the Georgia Society. James E. Stallings, Sr. was honored to accept a number of awards for the Society which continued the history of the GASSAR as an award-winning society.

By 2013, for seventeen years, the Georgia Society had actively supported the Battle of Kettle Creek with an annual celebration at the fourteen-acre War Hill site honoring the patriots who fought in this important battle. In October 2013, the Georgia Society pledged \$40,000 for the purchase of additional acreage of the Kettle Creek Battlefield. This substantial contribution provided much needed support for the goals of preserving the pristine area as a viable public park and the preservation of an important historic American Revolutionary War Battlefield. With this contribution and the support from other organizations and individuals, the Kettle Creek Battlefield Association was able to acquire an additional sixty acre which secured one fourth of the core area of the battlefield for future generations.

The Georgia Society during 2013 -2014 was again honored when two National Society General Officers were reelected from Georgia. LTC Robert F. Towns served as Historian General and J. Michael Tomme, Sr. served as Registrar General. Compatriot Mike Tomme also served as the National Commander of the National Society Color Guard. The Georgia Society ended 2013 with membership of 1575 members and 32 local Chapters.

2014

Compatriot Roger W. Coursey began his term as GSSAR President by stressing that "We as a *team* can do many things to strengthen and build on our successes and reputation as a society". He further encouraged the Regional Vice Presidents to take the lead in helping the local chapters to increase membership, become involved in the many State and National contest opportunities, and to expand the Educational Outreach Program.

The 235th Celebration of the Battle of Kettle Creek, which had grown to a three-day event, was another great success. The Friday night banquet had an overflow crowd, the morning parade consisted of more than 140 participants with a crowd of over 400 visitors around the town square in Washington. The afternoon wreath laying was well attended. Excitement in the recent purchase of additional acreage for the expansion of the battlefield added another level of interest in this historical site. Additional excitement was created by the presentation of the "Georgia Sacred Soils" display which contained soil from Revolutionary War sites all around the state of Georgia.

This year was the 10th Anniversary of the Frederica Patriots Day Memorial Celebration on Saint Simons Island, Georgia. The celebration had originated in 2004 through the leadership of Bill Ramsaur of the Marshes of Glynn Chapter. It is a significant and well-attended event, and it has become an annual celebration of the Georgia Society.

The 124th Annual NSSAR Congress was held in July in Greenville, South Carolina. The Georgia Society received more than 70 awards, and the Georgia Society President was accompanied by a contingent of 23 State Society members.

The 2014-2015 term of National General Officers was a distinctive time for the Georgia Society. The Society was honored for the first time in this Society's history by having four of its compatriots serve in leadership in the National Society. Compatriot J. Michael Tomme, Sr. served in the position of Treasurer General, Compatriot Larry T. Guzy served as the Registrar General, Compatriot LTC Robert F. Towns served as Historian General, and Compatriot Edward P. Rigel, Sr. served as Surgeon General. The Georgia Society

ended this year with membership of 1560 compatriots and 32 local Chapters.

2015

President Thomas M. Owen began his term with three challenges to the Georgia Society membership: "Stress quality and traditional values, promote training for the core membership, and seek and retain members." In keeping with these goals, State President Owen urged the Society members to become involved with the youth organizations supported by the Georgia Society, and educate them on our national heritage by encouraging involvement in Society events like the Battle of Kettle Creek Celebration and the other events sponsored by the Georgia Society.

The Georgia Society Color Guard continued to promote historic recognition with attendance at Georgia events such as the February celebration of the Battle of Kettle Creek and Elijah Clarke ceremony, Frederica Naval Action and Patriot's Day in April, the October celebration of the Battle of Savannah, the November celebration of the Battle of Fort Morris, and the December Battle of Vann's Creek. With participation in these ceremonies, several grave marking events, and the other historical activities, the Georgia Society Color Guard succeeded in successfully promoting the State of Georgia and the historical significance of Georgia in the American Revolution.

DAR Liaison Committee Chairman Carl Bham developed the first Grace Martin DAR Chapter Referral Award and Rachel Martin DAR Chapter Referral Award to be presented to the DAR chapters that obtain the most SAR applications based on actual number or largest percentage in a single calendar year. The awards were created to recognize those DAR chapters that support the SAR in the recruitment of new members.

The Georgia Society received wide acclaim for its efforts to foster recognition and appreciation of the Revolutionary War battlefield sites in Georgia through the Georgia Revolutionary War Trail pamphlet program. The eight Battle Site pamphlets and one Georgia Battles map brochure need to be reprinted due to their highly successful distribution. The Georgia Society contributed \$2,000 toward the fund drive to reprint these important informational tools.

In July, the Georgia Society again stepped forward to support the Children of the American Revolution with a donation of funds for the State President's project to construct a rock entrance sign at the historic Fort Hawkins archaeological site in Macon, Georgia. The Georgia Society has long been a loyal supporter of the GSSCAR and is always proud to support such a worthy cause.

The Georgia Society had participated in the construction of the Revolutionary War Soldier monument at the Infantry Museum at Fort Benning, Georgia and in 2015 the Georgia Society made an additional donation to further the construction of improvements in the monument area. The additions will make the area more aesthetically pleasing for the visitors.

During 2015-2016, three members of the Georgia Society served as National Officers. Compatriot J. Michael Tomme, Sr. served as Secretary General, Compatriot Larry T. Guzy served as Treasurer General, and Compatriot Edward P. Rigel, Sr. as the Vice President General for the South Atlantic Region. Compatriot Bill Kable served as National Chairman of the NSSAR Veterans Committee. In 2015 the Georgia Society exceeded it's ten-year membership goal by attaining a statewide membership of 1863 members and 32 local chapters.

2016 History of the GASSAR

By David A. Ludley

State Historian

President William Allen Greenly began his term with several important goals for the Society. His first goal was to create a positive atmosphere to change those things that may be hindering our progress. One change was to establish an ethics committee. Another change was the way the Nominating Committee was appointed. The second goal was to design and create a new database for our website. The third goal was to restart the Brier Creek Commemoration. The fourth goal was to increase the membership growth rate. President Greenly's final goal was to put a strong focus on our youth education programs. By the end of the year, he was able to look back and say: "Together, with all your hard work, much was accomplished. Today, I stand before you and thank all of you from the bottom of my heart. Your support, your prayers, your guidance and your efforts have helped us grow."

The Georgia Society Color Guard continued its proud tradition of promoting historic recognition with their participation in such events as the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation "Spring Ramble," Athens Classic Symphony Orchestra event in April, Battle of Pensacola in Florida, Buford's Massacre Reenactment in South Carolina, Scout Day in Marietta, Battle of Waxhaws, Memorial Day and Independence Day ceremonies, the Dedication of the Brenau University Veterans Lounge, several Veterans Day ceremonies and activities, the Commemoration of the Battle of Brier Creek, Frederica Days, Revolutionary War Veteran Wall Memorial Dedication in Carrolton, the William Few Commemoration, Kings Mountain, the October celebration of the Battle of Savannah, the November celebration of the Battle of Fort Morris, and the Battle of Vann's Creek. As well, the Color Guard participated in several grave marking events, BOM meetings, and other historical activities, thus effectively promoting the State of Georgia and the historical significance of Georgia in the American Revolution.

One of the highlights of the year was the founding of two great new chapters: the Mount Vernon Chapter and the Brier Creek Chapter. Shep Hammock and others were instrumental in forming the Mount Vernon Chapter. Dess Smith, Wilder Smith, William Tankersley, Craig Wildi, and others were instrumental in forming the Brier Creek Chapter. In that regard, the new Brier Creek Chapter organized the first commemoration in nine years to celebrate the Battle of Brier Creek, in March, which, we may recall, was one of President Greenly's goals. The Brier Creek Chapter held its first official meeting on December 1, 2016.

It is noteworthy that the 2016 Youth Awards honored two outstanding winners. The 2016 JROTC Outstanding Cadet was Cadet Major Katelynn Bruce from the Air Force JROTC at Warner Robbins High School. Cadet Major Bruce was sponsored by the Ocmulgee Chapter. The winner of the 2016 Eagle Scout Scholarship Contest was Kevin John Yanoschik, who was sponsored by the Coweta Falls Chapter. Both will now be entered into the National Society competitions.

During 2016, several members of the Georgia Society served as National Officers. Compatriot J. Michael Tomme, Sr., started out the year as Secretary General, Compatriot Larry T. Guzy as Treasurer General, and Compatriot Edward P. Rigel, Sr., as the Vice President General for the South Atlantic Region. Compatriot Bill Kable served as National Chairman of the NSSAR Veterans Committee. After our Congress in July in Boston, Compatriot Tomme became President General, Compatriot Guzy became Secretary General, and Compatriot Rigel became Committee Chairman for both the Eagle Scouts Committee and the Historic Sites and Celebrations Committee. Also, in July, Compatriot Roger W. Coursey was appointed Vice President General of the International District.

2017 History of the GA SAR

By Dr. David A. Ludley

State Historian

Our new President, Wayne L. Brown, began his productive tenure in office, by visiting chapters all across Georgia, remarking that he was “awed by those who work tirelessly and give so much of their time and resources to fulfill the mission of our great organization.” President Brown sensed a “special bond” among us, “due to our Patriot ancestors who established the United States of America, the greatest nation on God’s green earth.” With dynamic leadership and inspiration like that, GASSAR’s mission in 2017 was well served!

One of President Brown’s goals was that all chapters were encouraged to seek out Revolutionary War Patriot Graves and conduct grave marking ceremonies. On Friday, February 10, the Atlanta and Col. William Few Chapters conducted just such a grave marking ceremony at the site of the grave of Col. Elijah Clarke in Elijah Clark State Park near Lincolnton, Ga. The ceremony was held as part of the weekend celebration for the Battle of Kettle Creek. On Saturday, March 25, the Altamaha Chapter conducted a grave marking ceremony for compatriot David B. Dukes, Sr., near Jesup, Georgia.

In regard to grave markings, Senior Vice President Don Burdick suggested early in the year that instead of bronze grave markers that are easy targets for thieves, due to salable value, we use granite grave markers instead. Compatriot Burdick gave full instructions on how this could be accomplished.

During the Second Quarter of 2017, Patriots Day on Saint Simons Island was very successfully observed, starting with the well-attended Patriotic Memorial Ceremony, during which our Color Guard gave an outstanding performance. Afterward, the Color Guard led the Parade of Patriots. This Frederica Patriot’s Day Celebration ended with a Colonial Worship Service on Sunday morning.

Wrapping up the month of April was our 2017 Board of Managers Meeting in Barnesville, which of course also featured our Color Guard. The next day, Sunday, featured two events, in Carrolton and Midway, starting out in Carrolton, there was a ceremony dedicating a Memorial Wall, in honor of Revolutionary War Veterans who settled in Carroll County. The event in Midway was a Grave Marking Ceremony in which the graves of five patriots were marked. President Brown commended both Color Guard Commander Bill Palmer and Historic Sites & Celebrations Chairman Scott Collins for a job well done in coordinating these events of April 29th and April 30th.

Of note, is the fact that Compatriot Steve Burke was presented with the Militiaman of the Year for 2016 Certificate at the Annual GASSAR Conference in Duluth, Georgia, on Saturday, January 28, 2017. Steve was also selected as the South Region Militia Adjutant for the Georgia Society. Compatriot Burke is a Charter Member of the Wiregrass Chapter.

May was a very active month, with chapters across Georgia presenting JROTC and ROTC Awards at their local high schools and colleges, under the leadership of LCDR David G. Jessel, USN Retired. May came to a close with Memorial Day Ceremonies across the state. The only cloud on our horizon was the hacking of our website and the corrupting of our document files. However, our new Information Technology Chairman, Richard Marsh, and his team repaired the problems and redesigned the website. As of the end of the year, however, it will still take additional time to complete the large task of reconstructing the documentation.

In the spring, other Grave Markings included an April 15th ceremony at the grave of Patriot Hiram Howard in Winterville, April 30th Grave Marking ceremonies at the graves of Patriots Samuel Jacob T. Axson, Nathaniel Baker, James Dunwoody, James Screven, and Daniel Stewart in Midway. In May, there were three Grave Marking ceremonies: the graves of Patriot John W. Colley in Wilkes County, Compatriot Carl Duane Bhome in Sandy Springs, and Compatriot LTC F.C. (Hap) Chandler, Jr., USAF, Retired.

During the Third Quarter, at the 127th Congress in Knoxville, the Georgia SAR and several of its chapters and members received thirty-one awards, and eleven members received the Liberty Medal or Oakleaf Cluster for their sponsorship of new members. Following Congress, the Board of Managers voted at the July 29th meeting to secure Directors and Officers Liability Insurance for the BOM. At the same meeting, the BOM

voted to secure the services of Bigman Geophysical to use Ground Penetrating Radar to discover burial remains on the Brier Creek Battlefield near Sylvania, Georgia. Our liaison on the project, Dr. David Noble, later reported that the activity was completed, and analysis of the data obtained, and the findings released.

The Third Quarter ended with the Fall Leadership Meeting in Louisville during the last weekend of September, where we received the good news that Georgia had been selected to host the 2022 Congress in the city of Savannah—a great honor and an equally great challenge, of course.

Grave Marking ceremonies conducted during the Third Quarter included those honoring Patriots Rev. Thomas Joel Maxwell and William Bibb Key in Elbert County, Georgia, on September 2nd. On September 18, the Col. Few Chapter conducted an SAR Revolutionary War Patriot Recognition Ceremony for the nineteen Patriots known to be interred in the Saint Paul's Churchyard in Augusta.

In regard to Public Relations, in furtherance of our goals, Compatriot John Trussell was instrumental in developing a power point program "The Revolutionary War in the South," to be used in public education and new member recruitment. This program includes 76 slides covering the Revolutionary War in the South, family genealogy, and a call to join the SAR and DAR. In regard to Public Relations, President Brown further encouraged the highlighting of more Georgia SAR chapters in the SAR Magazine.

The Fourth Quarter was outstanding for the Color Guard. A highlight was the participation of the Elijah Clarke Militia in a movie for the National Guard about Elijah Clarke and the Battle of Kettle Creek. They also had good participation at Kings Mountain and various Veterans Day events.

Other important Fourth Quarter GASSAR events included the Battle of Savannah on October 9th, Fort Morris on November 18th, and the Battle of Vann's Creek, held at Richard Russell State Park, on December 2nd.

The Eagle Scout Committee chaired by Bill Coffeen deserves special mention. During 2017, there were at least 263 Eagle Scout recognition certificates issued throughout Georgia. Piedmont Chapter issued the most certificates at 140. Cameron Macdonald, sponsored by the Piedmont Chapter, was chosen as the 2017 GASSAR Winner, and Samuel Parker, sponsored by the Marshes of the Glynn Chapter, was runner up. Cameron Macdonald was recognized with a \$600 scholarship check and trophy at the GASSAR Awards Luncheon on January 27. His application will be forwarded to the NSSAR competition. The runner-up received a scholarship check for \$400.

The ROTC/JROTC Program under LCDR David G. Jessel, USN Retired, was very busy this year. The GASSAR OC Packages were judged and awarded. C/Major James Chandler of Warner Robbins High School was recognized at the GASSAR Annual Awards Luncheon as winner with a cash award of \$600, while the runner up, C/CPO Beckum, of Brunswick High School, received a cash award of \$400.

Another very important honoree was this year's winner of the Knight Essay Contest, chaired by Compatriot Terry Gibbs. The winner was Miss Kayla Hutcherson, a student at Armuchee High School in Rome, Georgia. She was sponsored by the Rome Chapter. Her winning essay was entitled "Unity: a Progressive Element during the American Revolution." She received a \$600 cash prize and a certificate and is entered in the national competition. As President Wayne Brown predicted, 2017 was a most eventful and productive year.

2018 History of the GA SAR

By Dr. David A. Ludley
State Historian

One year ago, at the 2018 Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution Annual Conference, we had the great fortune of installing Major General Donald Burdick as President of the Georgia Society. Besides his remarkable career and his many offices within GASSAR, on both the state and local levels, he distinguished himself as well in the military, academic, and civic worlds. I refer to him as "General," because he was not only a Major General in the Army, but also the Commander of the 1/214 Field Artillery Battalion, and the 118th Field Artillery Brigade, as well as Director of the Army National Guard in the

Pentagon, with oversight of 450,000 Army personnel. Even more impressively, he led the mobilization of all the Army National Guard units required for Desert Shield/Desert Storm! And his titles don't stop there. Don would also be recognized as Dr. Burdick, with a Ph.D. in Biochemistry and much experience in the academic arena. Thus, I state that GASSAR is particularly fortunate to have gained his service as President this past year.

Although my primary membership is with the Marquis de Lafayette Chapter, I was especially pleased to attend the Captain John Collins Chapter Annual Banquet in Marietta this past December, where I hold an Associate Membership, since the main speaker for that event was President Burdick. The central theme of his address well reflected the nature of his GASSAR leadership over the past year. President Burdick believes that the "enemy within" in our country is "complacency," and that is our primary problem now-a-days. We are too complacent in preserving our freedom. Let us not be complacent about being the greatest country in the world. In our patriotic role, the SAR's reason for being is to educate, and, in educating, to instill a love of country. To facilitate these goals, President Burdick has worked hard this past year to strengthen our individual chapters, helping us to grow, through cooperation and support between chapters, among other strategies. This past year, he initiated "a Partnership Program whereby a Chapter needing assistance in programming events, conducting meetings, registrations, etc., is partnered with a nearby chapter to help. The objective is to mentor and assist, not take over."

Shortly after General Burdick's installation as President of the Georgia Society at the 2018 GASSAR Annual Conference, on Friday, February 9th, we celebrated the Elijah Clarke and Heroes of the Hornets' Nest Remembrance Day. Coordinated by Compatriot Charlie Newcomer, this event was held at Elijah Clark State Park, east of downtown Lincolnton, Georgia. Beginning in the morning with Living History at the restored cabin and Elijah Clark Museum, the Remembrance Day included a luncheon, followed in the afternoon by the Heroes of the Hornets' Nest Wreath Ceremony. This was sponsored by the Elijah Clarke State Park; Friends of the Elijah Clarke Park; Lincoln County Historical Society; Atlanta and William Few Chapters of the Sons of the American Revolution; the Elijah Clarke Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution; the Stephen Heard Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution; and the General Nathaniel Greene Chapter of the Sons of the Revolution.

The next day, on Saturday, we celebrated the 239th Anniversary of the Battle of Kettle Creek (February 14, 1779). Besides President Burdick and his wife Nancy, we were also honored by the presence of SAR Secretary General Warren Alter and his wife Nancy, at the Banquet Friday evening. Saturday morning, the Georgia Society Combined Color Guard with Militia Firing Unit (with participants from nearby South Atlanta District states) provided a wonderful performance, under the command of Compatriot Bill Palmer. Next came the parade around Washington Square, led by South Atlantic District Vice President General James Wood, Secretary General Alter, and GASSAR President Burdick. Following the parade, the skirmish took place at Washington Park, with the Patriots, of course, victorious! Due to inclement weather, the War Hill ceremony was transferred to the Pope Center in downtown Washington. Secretary General Warren Alter was the Keynote Speaker. On Sunday morning, a special Colonial Worship Service was conducted at Phillips Mill Baptist Church by SAR Chaplain, Rev. Alan Smith.

On Monday afternoon, February 12th, President General Larry Guzy and First Lady Karin, along with President Burdick and his wife Nancy, all attended a ribbon-cutting dedication at war Hill. Our Georgia Color Guard with Militia again performed splendidly. This event celebrated the addition of 180 more acres of the battlefield. The Georgia Society had earlier voted, in 2013, to allocate \$40,000 to help secure the battlefield land. Compatriot N. Walker Chewing, President of KCBA, Jim Lighthizer, President of the Civil War Trust, and others, provided comments.

On Saturday, March 3rd, 2018, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, in conjunction with the Brier Creek, Wiregrass, and William Few Chapters, dedicated the Brier Creek Battlefield Memorial and celebrated the 239th Anniversary Memorial Ceremony of the Battle of Brier Creek. This event began at 11AM at the Brier Creek Battlefield Memorial Site, Screven County, Georgia.

From around March 14th -19th, many Georgians, including President Burdick, attended the Spring Leadership Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky. One learns much by attending the Leadership Conferences.

The traditional Georgia delegation dinner was held at a local restaurant with 32 present. All were honored by the presence of President General Larry Guzy and First Lady Karin. South Atlantic District Regional Vice President James Wood and Secretary Warren Alter and wife Nancy joined the Georgians, along with several Chapter Presidents and some first-time attendees.

In his efforts to build membership, President Burdick in 2018 asked that we “ensure that each new member has a mentor, that he is warmly welcomed, assigned to a committee, and asked to participate in each chapter event.” There should be a follow-up if said member starts missing meetings. In addition, as mentioned earlier, President Burdick worked hard to strengthen our individual chapters. To facilitate this, he asked Compatriot Scott Collins, Senior Vice President, to head an effort to help “chapters that are less active.” (Compatriot Collins is, of course, the new Georgia Society President for 2019.)

April was a busy month for the Georgia Society, starting off with the Lyman Hall Chapter’s Grave Marking for Compatriot Burt Hawk, and continuing, on April 14th, with Patriots Day on Saint Simons Island. Compatriots Bill Ramsaur and Jimmy Boatwright, of the Marshes of Glynn Chapter, did a great job of organizing and conducting the event. A large crowd attended, including President Burdick, who presented the Georgia Society wreath and brought greetings. Compatriot Boatwright organized (and rehearsed) a group of local schoolchildren who dressed as famous Revolutionary War patriots and (as such) discussed their contributions. They then paraded through St. Simons Village and received much applause, as did the Elijah Clarke Color Guard and Commander Bill Palmer.

May brought more grave-markings, including those of the Samuel Elbert Chapter, for Patriot soldiers John Calloway and Owen Fluker. Once again, President Burdick presented our Georgia Society wreath and dedicated both grave-markings. Other grave-markings that the President participated in included those conducted by the William Few, George Walton, Lyman Hall, and Button Gwinnett Chapters at the Signers Monument in Augusta.

On Memorial Day weekend, ceremonies were held across the state. President Burdick participated in the ceremonies in Snellville at the Veterans Memorial and in Watkinsville at Veterans Park. He also joined with the Militia in firing musket salutes at both events!

In June, the Altamaha Chapter held a Scholarship Program in Jesup. Seventeen high school students and their parents were recognized. Each scholarship winner was awarded a \$1,200 College Scholarship and was encouraged to talk about their college and career plans.

From July 14th through the 19th, 21 Georgia Society delegates attended the National Conference in Houston, Texas, including yours truly. Georgia’s delegate count was higher than that of any other state, except for the host state, Texas. Notably, compatriots Ed Rigel, Sr., and Bob Sapp were inducted as Minute Men, the most prestigious award of the National Society. Dr. Rigel was chosen “Color Guardsman of the Year.” This recognition is awarded the Color Guardsman who is determined to be the best representative of the Color Guards and the strongest example of the ideals of the Sons of the American Revolution through his service as a Color Guardsman. It is significant that Dr. Rigel was selected from all active Color Guardsmen!

As well, Dr. Ed Rigel, Sr., and P.G. Mike Tomme were elected to the National Planning Committee for the National Congress to be held in July of 2022, in Savannah. Both were already on the State Planning Committee for that Congress. Not only that, but new President General Alter also named both Compatriot Tomme and Compatriot Rigel, Sr., to the National Executive Committee! As PG Alter pointed out to me, it is “a very high honor for a Society to have a member on the Executive Committee, and Georgia has two!” In addition, P.G. Tomme also sits on the NSSAR Nominating Committee, Minuteman Committee, Congress Planning and Review Committee, Chairman of the Ethics Committee, and also the Project Manager of the Membership Data Base and IT Website Committee—to name a few at the national level.

Other Georgia luminaries included former State Society President Wayne Brown, who was elected as a National Trustee from Georgia. Wayne was also appointed Chairman of the Public Service and Heroism Committee. He is also Chair of the Centennial Medal/Congress Medal Committee, along with Dr. David Ludley, Dr. Ed Rigel, Sr., and Bill Palmer. As Compatriot Brown remarked at the BOM meeting, Dr. David Ludley did “yoeman’s work” in designing, drawing, and painting the 2022 Savannah Medal. Later, at the 2019 GASSAR Annual Convention BOM Meeting, former State Society President William Allen Greenly

also praised Ludley's contributions.

Further, at the National Conference in Houston, Former President Roger Coursey was elected to a four-year term on the George Washington Endowment Fund, Board of Directors. He joins George Thurmond, who also serves on the Board.

Of course, the top Georgia luminary in attendance both at the National Congress and throughout the past year was, without a doubt, President General Larry Guzy (2017-2018) and First Lady Karin. We thank them for their outstanding leadership and service at the national level this past year. P.G. Guzy, who is a member of the Captain John Collins Chapter, was an outstanding President General.

At the National Congress, Larry passed the presidential baton on to President General Warren Alter, Arizona Society. We look forward to great achievements from P.G. Alter as well! Noteworthy to the Georgia Society, new President General Alter is also a dual member of the Lyman Hall Chapter of GASSAR. President Alter wrote that he is proud of that fact. We should be, too.

Of course, at the National Congress, many medals and certificates were presented to Georgians. These most importantly included Liberty Medals to Thomas Chrisman, Jack Dugger, Lloyd Lewis, Jr., and Alton McCloud. As well, 16 compatriots received OLC for recruiting 10 new members, and NSSAR "Partners in Patriotism" Certificates were awarded to four Chapter Presidents for their chapters' work with veterans and participation in Wreaths across America. NSSAR Grave Marking Medals for participation in 15 grave markings were presented to Former State Society President Wayne Brown and Compatriot Emil Decker. OLC's also went to Former State Society President Allen Greenly and Compatriot Jay Guest. Among the many other recognitions, of note was Jamie Ruff, Jr., of the Piedmont Chapter, receiving the NSSAR Thomas J. Bond Memorial Photography Award, for the best photograph depicting the Spirit of Patriotism. We should acknowledge as well the great service of our Compatriot David G. Jessel, of the Marquis de Lafayette Chapter, for his long and productive service to the ROTC/JROTC on both the state and national levels.

September 6th was the birthday of the Marquis de LaFayette. In his honor, the LaGrange Chapter worked with the newly created LaFayette Alliance to sponsor a day of recognition, that included the Georgia Society Color Guard providing a 21 gun salute in ceremonies at the statue of LaFayette in LaGrange. Events also included a banquet the evening of the actual birthday. September 6th was, as well, declared an annual day of celebration in the State of Georgia by the legislature and Governor of Georgia.

From September 28-29, many of us, including President Burdick, and several past Georgia presidents, attended the Fall Leadership Conference in Louisville, Kentucky. As I stated earlier, much can be learned from these Leadership conferences. I know I learned much, along with other first-time attendees. As well, it was most informative to visit the NSSAR Headquarters, SAR Genealogical Research Library, museums, and other educational sites and meetings. And the Brown Hotel is an incredible location to meet and stay in. Thursday evening, the Georgia delegation gathered at a nearby restaurant.

At the Georgia Society's Fall Board of Manager's Meeting, on October 27, significant changes in the Bylaws were approved, including creating a second Registrar position. Following the January 2019 Annual Conference, there would be two Registrars, one for the southern area of Georgia, and one for the northern area of the state. Both Registrars will have full authority "to review, approve and transmit through our State Secretary membership applications from assigned chapters to National Headquarters." Steven Hinson, Registrar for the Marshes of the Glynn Chapter was unanimously appointed by the Executive Committee of the BOM to fill this additional position. Hinson was subsequently nominated and elected with other officers at the winter meeting of the BOM, January 26, 2019. He will serve in this position through 2019 and be available along with other state officers for nomination and election at the BOM meeting in January 2020.

Of significant note, also at the Fall BOM Meeting, the charter for the new Fall Line Chapter was approved unanimously by the BOM. The Fall Line Chapter currently has 56 members and will be located in Sandersville, Washington County, serving surrounding areas. President Burdick congratulated President Sandy Mercer (Fall Line Chapter); and President Wilder Smith and Registrar Dess Smith, both of the Wiregrass Chapter. Additional compatriots deserving congratulation include East Region VP/Chapter President Sonny Pittman and Registrar Bill Tankersley (Col. William Few Chapter) and President Lee Smith (Brier Creek Chapter)—all of whom worked diligently over several months to organize this new chapter and

to recruit new members. In addition, P.G. Mike Tomme, Vice President of the Membership Committee made the motion to approve the charter of the new Fall Line Chapter. State Registrar Bob Sapp and State Secretary George Wheelless also contributed much to bring about this new chapter.

Speaking of State Secretary Wheelless, this was his last year as State Secretary after several years of very successful service! He is to be congratulated for his many, excellent contributions to the State Society. Other state officers retiring after long and productive service are State Treasurer Bobby D. Shaw, State Registrar Bob Sapp, and *Hornet's Nest* Editor Carter J. Wood. We are deeply indebted to all of these fine gentlemen.

More growth! Registrar Bob Sapp and *Hornets' Nest* Editor Carter Wood (Lyman Hall Chapter) have met with Regent Ann Brown and Daughters of the Sunbury DAR Chapter in Winder to discuss plans for establishing a new SAR chapter in Winder, as well! Over 30 SAR members live within 10 miles of Winder and will be invited to join the new chapter. Also, a Genealogy Workshop was conducted in Winder on November 3rd, 2018, to help further the effort.

On Saturday, December 1st, 2018, a Registrar's Workshop was held at the New China Restaurant in Swainsboro, beginning at 10 AM. This workshop was organized by Sonny Pittman, East Region Vice President, together with State Registrar Bob Sapp. Chapter Presidents and Registrars in the East Region were invited but any interested compatriots were encouraged to attend.

Also of note during 2018, Compatriot Dr. David Noble did extensive research into the interment location of Colonel John Dooly. He discovered records indicating where his homesite "Egypt" was located and where the original gravesite was. Then, with the assistance of the Corps of Engineers, he located where the remains were reinterred prior to the original gravesite's inundation by the filling of Clark's Hill Lake. Noble also conducted Magnetometer surveys which ultimately located Dooly's Fort. Historian Robert S. Davis commented that Dooly's Fort is the only Revolutionary War Fort in the state of Georgia whose location is precisely known, an impressive achievement. I thank Compatriot Gary Edwards (Captain, U.S. Navy, retired) for providing me with these facts.

Under the leadership of General Burdick and his wife Nancy, Georgia Society chapters did a very good job of increasing membership this past year. We began 2018 with 1,754 members, and our January 1st, 2019, report to National showed 1,969 members. Many of our chapters reported 90% or more members retained!

We look forward to the challenge of hosting the National Congress in Savannah in 2022. Past Presidents Allen Greenly and Mike Tomme will surely do a fantastic job as Co-chairmen of the Georgia Society Planning Committee for this National Congress. Many more volunteers will of course be needed. Let us march forth together, increasing our membership, honoring our Patriot ancestors, and preserving and advancing the United States of America, this Republic for which we stand—one Nation, under God!

2019 History of the GA SAR

By Dr. David A. Ludley
State Historian

2019 was an eventful year for the Georgia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. President Scott Collins took over the helm at the annual state convention, held in Duluth, on the 24th and 25th of January. During President Collins' first BOM meeting on Saturday morning, the BOM approved three Special Committees.

Compatriot Allen Greenly chairs the first, the "Congress Planning Committee for 2022." Even though this planning committee had already been hard at work for several months, it was only at this point created in accordance with the Bylaws as a Special Committee. The second Special Committee created and officially approved was the "Patriot Research System Committee," to enter Georgia patriots into the Patriot Research System, including Revolutionary Grave Marker Dedication reporting and Revolutionary War Graves Medal applications. The Chair of this committee is Bob Sapp.

The last of the Special Committees approved that day was the "Compatriot Membership Genealogical Research Project," which is charged with "accounting for every Georgia Society SAR member that has ever

been a member of the Georgia Society from day one.” This database “will have the members National Number, Georgia Number, original chapter, original patriot, date of membership, date of death, place of burial including the cemetery name and town, among other items. The database will be searchable and it is also expected that it will be set up as an on-demand eBook or other distribution methods as approved by the BOM.”

President Collins stated that his desire was that chapters could utilize this database to find out the compatriots buried in their area by cemetery and then move forward with Compatriot grave marker dedication ceremonies. The President noted that Compatriot Mark Anthony had already entered over three thousand Compatriots into the system and that he would chair the Special Committee. According to President Collins, the time period to complete this project is expected to be before the Georgia Centennial in 2021.

In his first Dispatch of 2019, in the “Hornet’s Nest,” the President also noted that the Georgia Centennial Medal to commemorate the Georgia Society Centennial in 2021 and the Georgia Congress Medal for the 2022 National Congress in Savannah have been approved by the appropriate committees. I myself was honored to have been the primary artist/designer of the Congress Medal, under the able supervision of former president Wayne Brown, among others. I chose the peach color, by the way, to signify Georgia, and the purple color both for how well it looks with the peach but, more importantly, because one of the military medals I have most admired is the “Purple Heart.”

In this first Dispatch, President Collins also named other programs and goals that we need to support:

1. Retention and involvement of current members along with adding active new members
2. Continued development of our Historic Sites and Celebrations programs
3. Continued emphasis on patriot grave markings and a new emphasis on compatriot grave markings
4. Developing a Council of Regional Vice Presidents to help strengthen chapters all over the state to be headed up by our Senior Vice President
5. Working to make sure that none of our youth programs and youth outreach programs are forgotten
6. The need to have a second trained person in each key position
7. Getting chapters to turn in their quarterly reports including the Americanism and Veterans reports
8. Putting the Endowment Trust Fund to work

At the 2019 GASSAR Annual Conference, multiple awards were given out to individuals and chapters. I have been asked to list these this year. They include the following:

Daughters of Liberty Medal (OLC) Nancy Burdick
SAR Medal of Appreciation Leslie Watkins—1st V. Pres. (OLC) Jane Durden—2nd V. Pres.(Medal)
Linda Reese—Secretary (Medal) Donna Loudermilk—Treas (Medal) Brenda Jessel—Chaplain (OLC) Joan Rigel—Hospitality (OLC) Cilla Tomme—Nominations (OLC)
SAR/CAR Silver Medal of Appreciation Audery Faith Frederick
Patriot Grave Marking Medals John Flikeid Bill Ramsaur Brent Taylor Eldon Evans PG Robert B. Vance, Sr. Membership Trophy Dess Smith with 32 New Members
Certificate of Distinguished Service Wayne Brown Bobby Shaw Scott Collins George Wheelless Ed Rigel. Sr. Allen Greenly Virgil Palmer
Silver Roger Sherman Medals Bo Hill Dr. David Ludley Shep Hammack David Noble
D. Alan Smith John Trussell Bill Palmer Michael Henderson Rick Reese
Silver Roger Sherman Medals OLC Roger Coursey Robert Moore Hugh Rodgers David Jessel
Silver Good Citizenship Medal Dory Brown Sid Turner
Meritorious Service Medal Steve Hinson
Distinguished Service Medal Wayne L. Brown
Lydia Darragh Medal Nancy Burdick
Patriot Medal Bill Palmer Dess Smith Donald Burdick Bill Tankersley
Youth Awards
Eagle Scout Award Cutler Shiver sponsored by the Athens Chapter. \$500 cash award and a trophy. He is

entered in the National Society's Eagle Scout competition

JROTC Award--Outstanding Cadet C/Maj Cassidy S. Sweet from the Warner Robins HS AFJROTC Unit. \$500 and a medal. She is entered in the National Society competition.

Knight Essay Contest Miss Sarah Sarzier. A student at Frederica Academy. \$500 cash prize and is entered in the National Society Knight Essay competition. The Runner-Up this year is Katlyn Yancey of Rutland High School in Macon, GA. \$400.

Georgia Society Chapter Participation Awards

Americanism Chapters of Excellence (5,000 points+)

Athens Chapter Atlanta Chapter Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter Button Gwinnett Chapter Casimir Pulaski Chapter Coweta Falls Chapter Lyman Hall Chapter Marshes of Glynn Chapter Piedmont Chapter Robert Forsyth Chapter Col. William Few Chapter

Americanism Chapters of Distinction:

Atlanta Chapter Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter Brier Creek Chapter Captain John Collins Lyman Hall Chapter Marquis de Lafayette Chapter Mount Vernon Chapter Ocmulgee Chapter Piedmont Chapter Robert Forsyth Chapter Col. William Few Chapter Wiregrass Chapter

President General Chapter of Excellence (4,000 + points)

Atlanta Chapter Button Gwinnett Chapter Lyman Hall Chapter Piedmont Chapter

President General Chapter of Distinction

Atlanta Chapter Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter Casimir Pulaski Chapter Joseph Habersham Chapter Lyman Hall Chapter Ocmulgee Chapter Piedmont Chapter Robert Forsyth Chapter

Education Outreach Streamer and Certificate

Casimir Pulaski Chapter—programs to 4600 students and adults. Marshes of Glynn Chapter— programs to 4518 students and adults. Lyman Hall Chapter—programs to 4113 students and adults Atlanta Chapter— programs to 3250 students and adults Joseph Habersham Chapter--- programs to 3269. Coweta Falls Chapter—programs to 2352 students and adults. Robert Forsyth Chapter—programs to 1876 students and adults. Piedmont Chapter---Programs to 1666 students and adults Col. William Few Chapter— 5 presentations to 1533 students and teachers These 9 chapters, combined, made presentations to 27,477 students and adults during 2018.

Best Education Outreach Program Award

Col. William Few Chapter. A check for \$200.

John Dooly Education Outreach Award

Steven Ford. \$200, a plaque, and a Certificate.

Nancy Hart Education Outreach Award

Leslie Kathryn Trackwell. a plaque and certificate along with a \$200

Flag Certificate Award

Atlanta Chapter (21certificates)

Distinguished Chapter Award

Athens Atlanta Blue Ridge Mountains Brier Creek Button Gwinnett Captain John Collins Casimir Pulaski Cherokee Col. William Few Coweta Falls Edward Telfair George Walton Joel Early Joseph Habersham Lyman Hall Marquis de Lafayette Marshes of Glynn Mount Vernon Ocmulgee Piedmont Robert Forsyth Rome Wiregrass

Georgia Society S.A.R/C.A.R. Awards

2018 Red C.A.R. Liaison Streamer Award

Coweta Falls Chapter Ocmulgee Chapter.

2018 Blue C.A.R. Liaison Streamer Award

Col. William Few Chapter.

2018 C.A.R. Distinguished Liaison Award

Col. William Few Chapter

Membership Committee Awards

Any chapter with more than 10 members must have a 90% renewal of its membership and submit its yearly

dues to the Society Secretary by the deadline.

Athens Chapter Atlanta Chapter Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter Brier Creek Chapter Button Gwinnett Chapter Casimir Pulaski Chapter Cherokee Chapter Edward Telfair Chapter Fall Line Chapter Four Rivers Patriots Chapter George Walton Chapter Joel Early Chapter Captain John Collins Chapter Joseph Habersham Chapter LaGrange Chapter Marshes of Glynn Chapter Mill Creek Chapter Patrick Carr Rangers Chapter Piedmont Chapter Samuel Elbert Chapter Washington-Wilkes Chapter Col. William Few Chapter Wiregrass Chapter

Revolutionary War Graves Awards

After a Chapter completes a ceremony and submits a GASSAR Registry form, a blue Revolutionary War Patriot Graves Marked flag streamer is awarded to the Chapter with a White Star attached to the streamer. A white star will be awarded for each Patriot grave ceremony conducted and reported. When a Chapter conducts 5 Patriot ceremonies a Gold Star is awarded.

We had 16 Chapters mark 22 Patriot graves in 2018.

Brier Creek: 1 Gold Star and 3 White Stars Wiregrass: 1 Gold Star and 2 White Stars Athens: 1 Gold Star and 1 White Star Samuel Elbert: 1 Gold Star Marshes of Glynn: 1 Gold Star Robert Forsyth: 1 Gold Star Captain John Collins: 1 Gold Star Atlanta: 4 White Stars Col. William Few: 4 White Stars Marquis de Lafayette: 3 White Stars Ocmulgee: 3 White Stars Button Gwinnett: 3 White Stars Lyman Hall: 3 White Stars George Walton: 3 White Stars Washington-Wilkes: 2 White Stars Blue Ridge Mountains: 1 White Star

Compatriot Graves

A red Compatriot Graves Marked flag streamer is awarded to a Chapter for marking a Compatriot grave. Chapters receive a White Star for each Compatriot grave ceremony.

In the Compatriot Graves Category, we had 7 Chapters mark 8 Compatriot graves in 2018. Athens: 2 White Stars. Lyman Hall: 1 White Star. Captain John Collins: 1 White Star. Button Gwinnett: 1 White Star. Piedmont: 1 White Star. Samuel Elbert: 1 White Star. Atlanta: 1 White Star.

BG Robert L. Scott, Jr. Veterans Awards

Winner of Chapters 25-49 Members:

Robert Forsyth Chapter

Winner of Chapters 50-99 Members

Athens Chapter

Winner of Chapters 100+

Atlanta Chapter

On Sunday afternoon, the day after the January BOM meeting, President Collins went to Midway, Georgia, to mark five patriot graves at Midway Church Cemetery. He and other compatriots attended a church service, dinner on the grounds, and the marker dedication ceremony. Patriot grave markings are of course a very important part of our service. Compatriot Sonny Pittman is the officer in charge of this responsibility. He reports the following events:

April

The Joel Early Chapter conducted a Grave Marker Dedication for Patriot Joseph Anderson held on Saturday, April 13, at 10:00 am in Friendship Church Cemetery in Metcalfe, Georgia.

The Athens, Wiregrass, Marshes of Glynn, Brier Creek, Robert Forsyth and Captain John Collins Chapters co-sponsored Grave Marker Dedications for five patriots on Sunday, April 28 in the Midway Church Cemetery in Midway, Georgia. These patriots were Private William Girardeau (RS), Private Robert Quarterman (RS), Private Thomas Quarterman (RS), Private John Stacy (RS), and Private Peter Winn (RS).

May

The Brier Creek, Col William Few and Wiregrass Chapters co-sponsored Grave Marker Dedications for Patriot Major James Carter and Patriot Major William Skinner III held on Saturday, May 11 at 11 am in the

Bugg Family cemetery located in Pendleton King Park in Augusta, Georgia.

June

The Col. William Few and Washington-Wilkes Chapters co-sponsored a Grave Marker Dedication for Patriot Private Thomas Ansley on Saturday, June 1 at 1:30 pm in the Ansley Cemetery in Thomson, Georgia. Following the dedication, a reception for guests was held in the historic Rock House, the oldest stone residence in Georgia, built by Patriot Ansley in 1785.

Third Quarter, 2019, Patriot Grave Markings Held: The Brier Creek, Col William Few, Fall Line, Four Rivers, Little River, Mill Creek, and Wiregrass Chapters jointly sponsored Patriot Grave Marker Dedications honoring the service and sacrifice of Captain John Bacon (RS), Private John Bedingfield (RS), Private Daniel Dill (RS), Colonel Ambrose Gordon (RS), and Private Alexander Lawson (RS) on Tuesday, September 17, 2019 at 11:00 am in Saint Paul's Episcopal Church Cemetery in Augusta, Georgia.

The Samuel Elbert Chapter honored the service and sacrifice of Private George Alexander (RS) with a Patriot Grave Marker Dedication held on Saturday, September 28, 2019 at 2:00 pm in the Alexander Family Cemetery in Elbert County, Georgia.

The Samuel Elbert Chapter honored the long and faithful SAR service of Compatriot Rev. Jack Bozeman with a Compatriot Grave Marker Dedication held on Saturday, September 28, 2019 at 11:00 am in Elmhurst Cemetery in Elberton, Georgia. Compatriot Bozeman was a charter member of the Samuel Elbert Chapter; past President of the Georgia Society, Sons of the American Revolution (1995-96); and one of the organizers of the annual Battle of Kettle Creek Celebration.

Fourth Quarter, 2019, Patriot Grave Markings Held:

The Athens Chapter honored the service and sacrifice of Revolutionary War Soldiers James Barrow, Rev. Hope Hull and Charles Strong with a Patriot Grave Marker Dedication held on Saturday, November 2, 2019 at 2:00 pm in the Oconee Hill Cemetery in Athens, Georgia.

GASSAR Color Guard

Among the most impressive elements of many Grave Marking ceremonies is the Color Guard, under the strong leadership of Compatriot Bill Palmer. Color Guard Staff: Bill Palmer (Commander). Allen Greenly (Deputy Commander – Northern Division), Jimmy Boatright (Deputy Commander – Southern Division), Sid Turner (Commander, Elijah Clarke Militia Northern Division), Steve Burke (Commander, Elijah Clarke Militia Southern Division), Ed Rigel, Jr. (Adjutant), Ed Rigel, Sr. (Immediate Past Commander and Advisor). The following are the quarterly reports of Compatriot Palmer, as featured in our venerable publication "The Hornet's Nest," whose Editor is Emil Decker:

January-March:

Membership: The Color Guard has added 3 members to the Color Guard/Militia, as first time participants to its roll in 2019.

Participation: The number of members participating continues to be very good. 14 National and State events were attended with 77 total Color Guard participants. We participated at: Hero of the Hornets Nest, Kettle Creek Demonstrations, Kettle Creek Banquet, Kettle Creek reenactment; Parade; War Hill Ceremony, Cowpens, Georgia State Conference, George Washington Birthday, Leadership, Battle of Brier Creek, Guilford Courthouse, DAR State Conference, and Thomas Creek.

Budget: No expenses this quarter.

Acquisitions: Militia Insurance

April-June:

Year to Date: 119 (5 Rookies) members participating in 31 National and State events. A total of 223 Color Guard participants so far. Membership: The Color Guard has added 5 members to the Color Guard/Militia, as first time participants to its roll in 2019.

This Quarter's Participation: The number of members participating continues to be very good. During the 2nd quarter the Georgia Color Guard was very active. We participated at the following events: Lyman Hall Statue Dedication; Frederica Days; State BOM; 5 Patriot Grave Markings; and multiple Memorial Day Programs to name a few. Great quarter.

Membership: The Color Guard has added 3 members to the Color Guard/Militia, as first time participants to

its roll in 2019.

Participation: The number of members participating continues to be very good. 14 National and State events were attended with 77 total Color Guard participants. We participated at: Hero of the Hornets Nest, Kettle Creek Demonstrations, Kettle Creek Banquet, Kettle Creek reenactment; Parade; War Hill Ceremony, Cowpens, Georgia State Conference, George Washington Birthday, Leadership, Battle of Brier Creek, Guilford Courthouse, DAR State Conference, and Thomas Creek.

Budget: No expenses this quarter.

Acquisitions: Militia Insurance

July-September:

The Georgia Color Guard / Elijah Clarke Militia have been invited back to SunTrust Stadium for the July 4th Pregame festivities.

Color Guard Staff: Bill Palmer (Commander). Allen Greenly (Deputy Commander – Northern Division), Jimmy Boatright (Deputy Commander – Southern Division), Sid Turner (Commander, Elijah Clarke Militia Northern Division), Steve Burke (Commander, Elijah Clarke Militia Southern Division), Ed Rigel, Jr. (Adjutant), Ed Rigel, Sr. (Immediate Past Commander and Advisor)

Year to Date: 120 (5 Rookies) members participating in 46 National and State events. A total of 317 Color Guard participants so far. This Quarter's Participation: During the 3rd quarter the Georgia Color Guard was very active. We participated at the following events: July 4th Braves pregame show, Tomochichi DAR Chapter 110th Anniversary, Old Soldiers Day Parade, Marquis de Lafayette Birthday, State DAR Convention, Battle of Eutaw Springs, Vigil at Washington's Tomb, Constitution Day, Patriot Grave Markings, and Compatriot Grave Marking. Great quarter.

October-December:

Year to Date: 120 (5 Rookies) members participating in 61 National and State events. A total of 498 Color Guard participants so far. This Quarter's Participation: During the 4th quarter the Georgia Color Guard participated in a mural dedication, University of Phoenix Graduation, Little River Chapter Charter Banquet, Kings Mountain, Siege of Savannah, State BOM, Patriot Grave Markings, multiple Veterans Day Programs, Fort Morris, Vann's Creek, and multiple Wreaths Across America Programs.

President Collins reported that the Second Quarter was yet again another active quarter for the Georgia Society SAR. He noted a large number of Compatriots, DAR members, C.A.R. members and members of the public at the Frederica Patriot Days in April. Collins humorously said, "We definitely got the community's attention with the rifle volleys in conjunction with sequenced firing volleys of three different canons used this year." President Collins praised the efforts of our Compatriots. He said, "Georgia is blessed to have active SAR members spread out over a larger area of our state who are willing to give of their time and talents to accomplish the mission of the Sons of the American Revolution."

Among several other events, including the aforementioned grave markings, the President travelled to the American Village in Montevelle, Alabama, for a Flagpole dedication ceremony with President General Warren Alter. Georgia had three members in the Color Guard and several others in attendance.

During the Third Quarter, President Collins reported that "the ground shook. Literally!" On two different nights, at the 2019 National SAR Congress in California. The Georgia Society had a good-sized delegation at Congress and came away with fourteen plus award certificates and streamers, received awards for our work with the Children of the American Revolution and also with the Daughters of the American Revolution.

We had eleven members recognized with the Liberty Medal or Oakleaf cluster if they had already earned the Liberty Medal for membership recruitment. Fourteen of our members received Certificates of Appreciation for work done at the National Level, and two members received certificates for serving on the National SAR Executive Committee. With the help of our chapters, Georgia also participated in the Poster, Brochure, JROTC, Knight Essay, Eagle Scout, Rumbaugh Oration, American History Teacher (High School and Middle School). In regard to awards, the Public Service and Heroism Award was won by the Captain John Collins Chapter (streamer and check) and the Athens Chapter (streamer). The Education Outreach Streamer was won by Marshes of Glynn Chapter and the Robert Forsyth Chapter. The Marshes of Glynn Chapter also

received an Honorable Mention for the Americanism Award. The Piedmont Chapter had a great night winning the Liberty Bell Americanism Award, the President General's Activities Award, and the President General's Cup for chapters in their size range.

While President Collins was attending Congress, the Classic City Rotary club called and said the upcoming speaker cancelled and asked if he could do a program for them on the American Revolution that coming Monday. The Traveling Trunk got pulled out and he presented to fifty-four individuals, with several expressing interest in SAR or DAR. That club posted pictures on their Facebook site and he got a call from another Rotary club where he did a similar presentation to forty-nine individuals. Both clubs contacted him about doing an additional presentation.

The summer continued with the Old Soldiers Day Parade, Lafayette's birthday in LaGrange Georgia which was immediately followed by the Eutaw Springs Battle Commemoration in South Carolina. Then we arrived at September 17th – Constitution Day with one program that morning in Augusta, Georgia, and another that afternoon in Watkinsville, Georgia.

This year we had twenty-two Georgia SAR chapters represented in Augusta for Constitution Day and the five patriot grave marker dedications ceremony that followed. The Georgia Society Color Guard was well represented with flag bearers, militia rifleman, and the artillery unit.

President Collins reported that Georgia had great representation at the National Society SAR Fall Leadership in Louisville, Kentucky. He noted that “the Georgia SAR members are never shy about expressing an opinion or making comments” at the Trustees meeting. The quarter continued with a Compatriot grave marker dedication service and a Patriot grave marker dedication service in Elbert County. Both programs had a number of non-SAR/DAR participants with many favorable comments.

The Fourth Quarter of 2019 started off with the dedication of the Battle of Brier Creek mural in Sylvania, Georgia. There was a large crowd attending the dedication and the Georgia Society SAR Color Guard had an excellent turnout.

One of the most significant events of the Fourth Quarter was of course the addition of the Little River Chapter, based in Thomson, Georgia. As President Collins does a fine and informative job of describing this momentous event, I will repeat verbatim his announcement of the event in his final quarter's “The President's Dispatch”:

“It isn't every day that a new chapter is created in the SAR. It takes dedicated members, reaching out to, as yet, unregistered potential members in a geographic area. Sometimes a few members live in the area, and travel far to be members in a distant chapter. With the help of that chapter, those members start to recruit new members. When enough members are assembled in an area, with sufficient interest and desire to form a chapter, the group submits a request to the Board of Managers. Upon satisfactory evidence presented, the membership votes to authorize a new chapter. New chapters are a great way to grow the Georgia Society at large.”

The Little River Chapter held its Charter Banquet on October 6, 2019, at the Belle Meade Country Club. Society members from around the state, as well as National Compatriots, attended. There were about 70 people present. Bill Tankersley was sworn in as Founding President, as well as the other new officers of the chapter. They were presented with their charter, and a new chapter was officially established.

President Collins reports that all that got him thinking about the history of the Georgia Society: “How did we get started? Just what is our blood line?” Here is what President Collins found out from his research, which, again, I believe is a part of our history well-worth quoting verbatim, for inclusion in the 2019 History and the Atlanta History Center Archives:

“William LeRoy Doughtry stated that while he was stationed in Europe during World War I, he was in the company of some men from the New England area who were having a party which he was not allowed to attend. This was because it was restricted to members of the Sons of the Revolution or Sons of the American Revolution (not sure which.) Compatriot Doughtry knew that as a descendant of John Pope, a Captain in the North Carolina State Militia. He, by all consideration, was eligible and was determined to become a member as soon as he returned to Atlanta. It was under his influence that the Georgia Society was formed with sixteen charter members, and officially organized on March 15, 1921.

The date of the Atlanta Chapter Charter is not known, but it is considered to be the date of the Georgia Society Charter. It remained the only Chapter in the Georgia Society until the formation of the John Milledge Chapter in Milledgeville in the early 1930's. The Athens Chapter was organized on November 9, 1936.

At least two large, active chapters (now defunct) resided in Winder and was led by a retired Army officer, Compatriot Watson. He went to New York state, located William Few's previously unknown grave site, and got New York to transfer the remains to Augusta, GA, where they are now located. The other was called the Wiregrass Chapter and was located in Homerville in southern Georgia.

The Rome Chapter was organized in 1958, and not until 1976 was the Coweta Falls Chapter chartered. The William Few Chapter, Georgia Society, Sons of the American Revolution was organized in 1976 as well.

In 1985 the Dr. Lyman Hall Chapter arrived on the scene. 1986 saw the Marshes of Glynn Chapter and the George Walton Chapter chartered. The Abraham Baldwin Chapter was chartered in 1988.

In 1991, it was determined there was a sufficient number of members and candidates to approve the charter of the Altamaha Chapter, and the Ocmulgee Chapter. An earlier Bainbridge chapter, named after Col. John Dooly, became defunct in 1991-92

The Samuel Butts Chapter organized in 1992, but became inactive in 2009. The Piedmont Chapter was chartered in 1994, followed by the newly formed Elberton Chapter in 1995. In 1996 the Joseph Habersham Chapter was chartered. Button Gwinnett Chapter followed in 1999, as did the LaGrange Chapter and the Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter.

The first year of the new millennium saw the chartering of the Valdosta Chapter, the Rome Chapter, and the Captain John Collins Chapter. The Casimir Pulaski Chapter was established in 2001, with the Marquis de Lafayette Chapter and the Joel Early Chapter in 2002. The Cherokee Chapter was chartered in 2005.

The Executive Committee recommended that the charters be revoked for the Samuel Butts Chapter, the Abraham Baldwin Chapter, and the William Miller Chapter due to inactivity. The revocation of the charters was approved unanimously by the voting members in 2009. Not all the news in 2009 was bad. The Georgia Society chartered the Washington-Wilkes Chapter during this time.

In 2011, the Wiregrass Chapter, the Four Rivers Patriots Chapter, and the Patrick Carr Rangers Chapter were chartered. The Robert Forsyth Chapter joined the Society in 2013, with the Brier Creek Chapter and the Mount Vernon Chapter joining in 2016. 2018 saw its new addition, the Fall Line Chapter, which brings us up to the current new chapter, The Little River Chapter.

Officers are (L-R) Bill Tankersley President and Registrar; Alton McCloud Vice President; Lewis Smith Treasurer and Historian; David Donehoo Chaplain; and Don Thomas Editor.

On October 8th, President Collins also participated in a Color Guard for a grave marker dedication of a member of the NSDAR who had passed away earlier in 2019 and to whom he had been named executor and trustee of several trusts. At the marker dedication Collins was able to announce that the NSDAR member had left a bequest, in trust, to her local NSDAR chapter in excess of \$150,000.

That same evening our President attended the Charter Banquet of the Little River Chapter in Thomson, GA, along with President General Warren Alter (2018-2019). He reported that it was a great banquet for the 35th chapter in our state. The chapter was awarded their full size flags, table flags, SAR banner, and a framed copy of their charter. We should thank our Board of Managers for approving the budget to accomplish this and for the help that was received from the National Society SAR George Washington Endowment Fund.

On the next day, the South Atlantic District had their quarterly meeting in Spartanburg, SC. The Georgia Society SAR is part of the South Atlantic District along with North Carolina, South Carolina, and Florida. This year Georgia Society SAR Compatriot Allen Greenly is serving as the South Atlantic District Regional Vice-President General. All of the states were represented. The next morning was the Commemoration for the Battle of Kings Mountain. President Collins reported beautiful weather and a great turn out. This year, the National SAR Color Guard was commanded by the Senior Adjutant Brooks Lyles, and President Collins served in the position as his second in command as the Junior Adjutant of the National SAR Color Guard.

The next GASSAR event was held in Savannah, for the Battle of Savannah. The parade started at 7:00 AM just as the sun was coming up. The Georgia Society SAR Color Guard was the lead unit in the

parade/march commemoration. This year we had some members in Continental Uniform on horseback as officers leading their men up the hill from the River into Savannah.

As the end of October, we had the Fall BOM meeting. President Collins notes that his was one of the longer BOM meetings we held this year, as many items created a lot of discussion. He was proud of the fact that “our members, even though they might disagree on the issues and emotions sometimes would work to the surface, were able to conduct themselves in orderly and honorable fashion and the Georgia Society SAR Compatriots showed respect for the process.”

November began with a triple patriot grave marking at Oconee Hills Cemetery in Athens, Georgia. Then came Veterans Day. The Fort Morris “Come and Take It” Commemoration in Sunbury, Georgia, was the next event in Georgia. Unfortunately, it rained heavily and had to be moved inside the visitors center. The musket firing went off using the overhang around the visitors center. Another successful state event.

On December 7, 2019, the Commemoration of the Battle of Vann’s Creek was held. Although there was not as large a crowd as in some past years, we paid our respects to those patriots of the American Revolution and enjoyed a barbeque luncheon after the program. The last major event of the fourth quarter was the Wreaths Across American program. The state Color Guard participated at a program in Lawrenceville, Georgia, on a cold windy morning. As was noted during the ceremony, the Hopkinson Flag flew proudly, which was the first officially documented flag, and is used with the current US flag at many of our Georgia Society SAR events.

Thus, as is true of so many of our Georgia Society SAR events, we not only honor our Veterans, but also educate the public! And, as I noted at the beginning of this 2019 GASSAR History, our year was indeed eventful—ending not with a whimper, but with the patriotic bang of muskets and cannons!

2020 HISTORY OF THE GEORGIA SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION Dr. David A. Ludley, GASSAR State Historian

Last January, 2020, in his Inaugural address, Georgia Society President Dobbs mused, “I never expected to be a part of the State Leadership, but here I am.” I am sure that President Dobbs could not have imagined either that he would have to rally all his considerable resources to the fore to lead the Georgia Society “unto the breach, dear friends,” as we and indeed the entire world would be forced to face one of the most difficult challenges of the modern world—the Coronavirus Pandemic! In Shakespeare’s play, *Henry V*, from which “unto the breach, dear friends” is taken, from the King’s rousing speech to his troops, Henry relied on innovation and inspiration for his success at the Battle of Agincourt, including his use of longbows and a superior strategy. One could say that Dobbs succeeded in providing strong leadership this past daunting year of 2020, through innovation, strategy, and inspiration, even though the innovation was in part through our industrious use of something called “Zoom Meetings,” rather than longbows—a term Henry V would find strange. But good leadership means using what is at hand, and using it well, innovatively, as President Dobbs certainly has.

Nonetheless, we have been distinctly limited by the Coronavirus Pandemic this past year, as has the world in general. In the halcyon days before the Pandemic occurred, we held our January 2020 GASSAR Annual Conference. One of the most significant events at this annual conference is the awarding of individual medals, based on achievements of the previous year, 2019. At the suggestion last year of Past State President and Awards Chairman Wayne Brown, I include these awards in the History, as follows:

Martha Washington Medal: Melodye G. Brown, State Regent, NSDAR
Daughters of Liberty Medal: Elizabeth “Beth” J. Collins

Color Guard Commander Bill Palmer recognized three members for their extensive service to the Georgia Color Guard. George Thurmond, Bob Sapp, and Paul Prescott received certificates for attending 686, 391, and 562 events, respectively.

Eldon Evans was recognized as the Color Guardsman of the year. He received a certificate and a black feather cockade.

SAR Medal of Appreciation: The GA Society Ladies Auxiliary: Malone Moore—President Nancy Burdick—1st Vice

President (OLC) (Absent) Montez Hammack—2nd Vice President (OLC) Linda Reese—Secretary (Medal) (OLC) Donna Loudermilk—Treasurer (Medal) (OLC) (Absent) Linda Reed—Chaplain (OLC) Joan Rigel—Hospitality (OLC) Leslie Watkins—Parliamentarian (OLC) (Absent)

Patriot Grave Marking Medals: Scott Collins -- Medal & 3 OLC, Eldon Evans – OLC, Billy Galt – Medal, Jay Guest – OLC, Sonny Pittman – Medal, Don Thomas ___ OLC (Absent), PG Robert B. Vance, Sr.

Membership Trophy: Dess Smith with 37 New Members Wiregrass Chapter (Accepting for Dess Smith (absent), Sonny Pittman and Steve Burke)

Silver Roger Sherman Medals: Ronald L. Beale (Absent), William B. Dobbs II, Jack P. Dugger, Richard P. Marsh (Absent), Virgil Wirick Palmer (Absent), Cleonard George Otis “Sonny” Pittman, Jr (Absent), Justin M. Reese, III, Ed Rigel, Jr, William J. Tankersley (Absent).

Silver Roger Sherman Medals: OLC William R. Coffeen (Absent), Robert A. Vinyard (Absent).

Silver Good Citizenship Medal: Dorothy “Dee” Camerio, Hugh I. Rodgers, Wayne C. Cartledge.

Meritorious Service Medal: Homer S. “Chip” Durden.

Distinguished Service Medal: William “Bill” Harrison Palmer.

Patriot Medal: The Patriot Medal is the highest award presented to a Compatriot by a State Society and recognizes long, faithful, outstanding, and distinguished service at the state and/or chapter level. The Patriot Medal is awarded only by a State Society to an individual. Service at the national level is not considered in making the award. State societies with over 1000 members may present one medal for each 500 members each calendar year. Georgia awarded four Patriot Medals. Georgia Society custom is for all former winners to line up, and new recipients of the Medal walk the line to receive congratulations from their peers.

Patriot Medals: Steven Earl Burke, Wiregrass Chapter; Joseph Daniel McMichael, Coweta Falls Chapter; Cleonard George Otis “Sonny” Pittman, Jr., Colonel William Few Chapter; and Edward Paul Rigel, Jr., Robert Forsyth Chapter. General Douglas McArthur’s image is on the Patriot Medal.

YOUTH AWARDS:

SAR Silver Medal of Appreciation: David Jimenez, President of the Georgia Society C.A.R. and Catherine Collingwood Jimenez, State Senior Leader, Georgia Society C.A.R.

Eagle Scout Award: Cutler Shiver.

The winner of the 2019 Eagle Scout Scholarship Contest receives a \$550 cash award and a trophy. The winner is also entered in the National Society’s Eagle Scout competition.

JROTC Award--Outstanding Cadet: Hannah Ireland Dodd.

The winner will receive a check for \$550 and a medal. In addition, the winner is entered in the National Society competition.

Knight Essay Contest: Stephanie Pierson.

The winner will receive a \$550 cash prize and a certificate. In addition, the winner is entered in the National Society Knight Essay competition.

CHAPTER AWARDS:

Americanism Committee Awards:

The chapter with the most Americanism points: Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter - 17,632 points The chapter with the most President General points: Athens Chapter - 12,562 points Americanism Chapters of Excellence (5,000 points+): Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter, Button Gwinnett Chapter, Casimir Pulaski Chapter, Lyman Hall Chapter, Marshes of Glynn Chapter, Piedmont Chapter, Robert Forsyth Chapter, Wiregrass Chapter.

Americanism Chapters of Distinction:

Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter, George Walton Chapter, Joel Early Chapter, Joseph Habersham Chapter, Lyman Hall Chapter, Marshes of Glynn Chapter, Ocmulgee Chapter, Piedmont Chapter, Robert Forsyth Chapter, Wiregrass Chapter.

President General Chapter of Excellence (4,000 + points): Athens Chapter, Atlanta Chapter, Button Gwinnett Chapter, Lyman Hall Chapter, Piedmont Chapter.

President General Chapter of Distinction: Athens Chapter, Blue Ridge Mtns. Chapter, Edward Telfair Chapter, Fall Line Chapter, Capt. John Collins Chapter, Lyman Hall Chapter, Marshes of Glynn Chapter, Ocmulgee Chapter.

Education Outreach Streamer and Certificate: Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter – Programs to 2195 students and teachers; Button Gwinnett Chapter – Programs to 2170 students and teachers Casimir; Pulaski Chapter – Programs to

4108 students and adults; Marshes of Glynn Chapter – Programs to 5013 students, teachers, and other adults; Lyman Hall Chapter – Programs to 6554 students, teachers, and other adults; Coweta Falls Chapter – Programs to 1040 students and teachers; Robert Forsyth Chapter – Programs to 1121 students and teachers; Col William Few Chapter – Programs to 1002 students and teachers.

These eight chapters, combined, made presentations to 23,203 students and adults during 2019.

Best Education Outreach Program Award: Marshes of Glynn Chapter. This award goes to the chapter with the best overall youth and adult education out-reach program in the calendar year. They will receive a Certificate and a check for \$200.

Most Improved Chapter Education Outreach Award: Lyman Hall Chapter. This award goes to the chapter that has shown the most improvement in their GASSAR Education Outreach program during the current year from the previous year. A certificate and a \$200 cash prize is awarded.

John Dooly Education Outreach Award: Eldon Evans. The John Dooly Education Outreach Award was initiated to recognize an SAR member that has made significant contributions to education outreach as it relates to the American Revolution in conjunction with the goals and objectives of the SAR. This year's winner is a member of our Button Gwinnett Chapter, which nominated him for this award. He will receive a check for \$200, a plaque, and a Certificate.

Flag Certificate Award: Joseph Habersham Chapter. They presented 70 Flag Certificates and set a new Georgia SAR record!

American History Teacher Award Candidates Selected for submission to NSSAR:

1. High School Teacher: Michael Thomas Miller of Statesboro High School – Submitted by the Mill Creek Chapter
2. Middle School Teacher: Joan Ergle of Fellowship Christian School – Submitted by the Piedmont Chapter

Awards: The award winners at the High School or Middle School level will receive a professional educational opportunity at a national seminar and bring back to their classroom and students a heightened level of creativity and enthusiasm for the American Revolutionary era.

Distinguished Chapter:

This award is presented to chapters who respond affirmatively in at least nine of the ten programs in the contest year. The award is presented to a chapter for meeting the goals and objectives of the Georgia Society in such programs as membership recruitment and retention, chapter reporting, Flag respect, BOM attendance, scheduling regular meetings, community involvement, and youth program activity. This year's winners are:

Athens, Marshes of Glynn, Atlanta, Ocmulgee, Blue Ridge Mountains, Piedmont, Brier Creek, Robert Forsyth, Button Gwinnett, Wiregrass, Captain John Collins, Casimir Pulaski, Cherokee, Col William Few, Edward Telfair, Fall Line, George Walton, Joseph Habersham, Lyman Hall, and Marquis de Lafayette.

Red C.A.R. Liaison Streamer Award: Ocmulgee Chapter, Button Gwinnett Chapter, Coweta Falls Chapter.

C.A.R. Distinguished Liaison Award: Ocmulgee Chapter.

They receive a certificate and a check for \$100.

Membership Committee Awards:

Any chapter with more than ten members must have a 90% renewal of its membership and submit its yearly dues to the Society Secretary by the deadline. Qualifying chapters will be recognized with a Membership Award Streamer:

Altamaha, Athens, Atlanta, Blue Ridge Mountains, Button Gwinnett, Casimir Pulaski, Cherokee, Coweta Falls, Dalton, Edward Telfair, Four River Patriots, George Walton, Joel Early, John Collins, John Milledge, Jos. Habersham, LaGrange, Little River, Lyman Hall, Marquis de Lafayette, Mill Creek, Mount Vernon, Ocmulgee, Patrick Carr Rangers, Piedmont, Robert Forsyth, Samuel Elbert, Washington-Wilkes, William Few, and Wiregrass.

Revolutionary War Patriot Graves Committee Awards:

14 Georgia Society chapters honored 18 Revolutionary War Patriots buried in Georgia with SAR Patriot Grave Marking Dedications. Each Chapter who sponsored or co-sponsored a Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony will be awarded a Certificate along with a Gold Star for five Patriot graves marked and a White Star for one Patriot grave marked:

Athens Chapter is awarded 1 Gold Star and 3 White Stars. Brier Creek Chapter is awarded 2 Gold Stars. Captain John Collins Chapter is awarded 1 Gold Star. Col William Few Chapter is awarded 1 Gold Star and 3 White Stars. Fall Line Chapter is awarded 1 Gold Star. Four Rivers Patriots Chapter is awarded 1 Gold Star. Joel Early Chapter is awarded 1 White Star. Little River Chapter is awarded 1 Gold Star. Marshes of Glynn Chapter is awarded 1 Gold Star. Mill Creek Chapter is awarded 1 Gold Star. Robert Forsyth Chapter is awarded 1 Gold Star. Samuel Elbert Chapter is awarded 1 White Star. Washington Wilkes Chapter is awarded 1 White Star. Wiregrass Chapter is awarded 2 Gold Stars and 2 White Stars. One Chapter honored 1 Georgia Society Compatriot for his long and dedicated SAR service with a Compatriot Grave Marking Dedication. Samuel Elbert Chapter is awarded 1 White Star.

James R. Westlake Communications Awards Newsletter: Piedmont Chapter Newsletter: The Piedmont Piper Editor: Frederic M. Reese, III Website: Piedmont Chapter Website: piedmontchapter.org Webmaster: Frederic M. Reese, II. Veterans Awards:

Winner of Chapters 1-24 Members: Little River.

Winner of Chapters 25-49 Members: Casimir Pulaski.

Winner of Chapters 50-99 Members: Marshes of Glynn.

Winner of Chapters 100+ Members: Coweta Falls.

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THE GASSAR 2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS AS ANNOUNCED IN JANUARY OF 2020:

Heroes of the Hornets Nest Elijah Clark State Park Feb. 7, 2020 State

Kettle Creek Washington, GA Feb. 8-9, 2020 National

Brier Creek Sylvania, GA Mar. 7, 2020 State

Andrew Jackson Bench Dedication Nashville, TN Mar. 15, 2020 National

Thomas Creek Jacksonville, FL Mar. 28, 2020 State

Grave Dedication Marietta, GA Apr. 4, 2020 State

Patriots Day St. Simons Island, GA Apr. 18, 2020 State

State BOM Barnesville, GA Apr. 25, 2020 State

Grave Marking Midway, GA Apr. 26, 2020 State

Grave Markings (2 Locations) N. Augusta, SC Washington, GA May 2, 2020 State

Grave Marking Dawsonville, GA May 16, 2020 State

Memorial Day Various Locations May 25, 2020 National

July 4th Various Locations Jul. 4, 2020 National

National Congress Richmond, VA Jul. 6 - 16, 2020 National
State BOM Barnesville, GA Jul. 25, 2020 State
Constitution Day Augusta, GA Sep. 17, 2020 State
State BOM Barnesville, GA Oct. 24, 2020 State

As we know, “the Best-laid Plans of Mice and Men...” When the 2020 Coronavirus Pandemic struck and was announced in February, 2020, our plans had to be altered and, in some cases, cancelled. Our strategies had to be changed dramatically in most cases. And OUR “longbow,” more often than not became “Zoom” meetings and events, with the vital assistance of such compatriots as Rick Reece, Jr., and other Tech Experts.

However, earlier in the year, there were several events which were successfully executed, before the full scope of the Pandemic was known:

As noted in *The Hornet's Nest*, “On January 17, 2020, members of the Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution traveled to Spartanburg, SC, to present Carnations at the General Daniel Morgan monument in downtown Spartanburg, SC. General Morgan was an American pioneer, soldier, and politician from Virginia. He was one of the most gifted battlefield tacticians of the American Revolutionary War. During the Battle of Cowpens, General Morgan's forces conducted a "double envelopment" of Col. Banastre Tarleton's force, which was almost completely eliminated, suffering almost 30% casualties and 55% of his force captured or missing. Tarleton himself, with about 200 British Troops escaped. Among other activities, there was a Cowpens Wreath Laying Ceremony at the National Park Monument.

Next, the Heroes of the Hornets' Nest Commemoration was held at Elijah Clark State Park in Lincoln County Georgia on Feb. 7, 2020. There were living history demonstrations, a wonderful free chili luncheon presented by the Friends of the Park, a presentation by Dr. David Noble on archeological research into the location of Dooly's Fort, and finally the wreath-laying ceremony at Elijah Clarke's grave, all sponsored by multiple chapters of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and the Sons of the Revolution, as well as the Friends of Elijah Clark State Park, and the Lincoln County Historical Society. There was also an impressive turnout of senior leadership of the various organizations, including representatives of US Senators David Perdue, Kelly Loeffler and US Congressman Jody Hice. Also attending were Lincoln County Commission Chairman Walker Norman, Lincolnton Mayor Henry Brown, National Society SAR (NSSAR) Secretary General Davis Wright, Georgia Society SAR President William Dobbs, III, Southern District NSSAR Vice President General Bobby Joe Seales, and Georgia State Society DAR First Vice Regent O.B. McCorkle. The Colonial Elijah Clarke Militia, Brier Creek Artillery and the Georgia Society SAR Combined Color Guard under Compatriot Bill Palmer brought pomp and circumstance to the ceremony with canon and musket salutes and appropriate honors to the national colors. The 84 wreaths presented was a historic high for this event.

Next was the celebration of Kettle Creek On the Square. While not as windy as the day before at the Heroes event, the gathering on the Washington Square was also quite a sight. This was probably the largest contingent of muskets assembled by the Elijah Clarke Militia. The Betsy Ross flag was raised to a tremendous salute. Then there was another reforming of the muster to salute the contributions of Black Americans to the cause of freedom. The parade around the square saw many new faces marching to the drummer's beat. Cold weather clothing was worn by many, and proved to be a good option as towards the end of the day, a light rain began to fall... But not until after the reenactment behind the courthouse. At the Reenactment, a few muskets began to have problems with the dampness of the powder, a situation often found on the battlefield. Luckily, the patriots again won the day as the Detested Colonel James Boyd (portrayed by past president Scott Collins) was slain, and the loyalist were driven from the field. Because of the increasingly poor weather conditions (snow in the northern Georgia regions), the Commemoration Ceremony was held indoors. As always, the Georgia Society stepped up and adapted to the change with little difficulty.

Other very important events occurred at the Spring Leadership conference in Louisville, KY. GA SAR Compatriot Roger Coursey, Edward Telfair Chapter, was honored at Spring Leadership for having earned the NSSAR Minuteman Award, the highest award the NSSAR can present to a Compatriot. The award is presented for long and outstanding service to the NSSAR. Compatriot Coursey surely meets those qualifications. This Medal was supposed to have been later presented to Roger at this year's Congress, the Pandemic, as we know, caused the National Congress to be cancelled. Also, at the Spring Leadership Conference, Bob Sapp was named the Color Guardsman of the Year. A long time member of the Georgia Color Guard, Bob has attended over 200 National events. The Gold Medal was also to have been presented to Bob at this past year's Congress. As usual at Spring Leadership, at the banquet, the Color

Guard presented the colors, marching into the chamber to the beat of the drum. President General Jack Manning addressed the assembled at Spring Leadership.

For the Battle at Brier Creek Observance, 200 Students from Screven County 8th grade arrived at the Brier Creek Main Battlefield to be a part of a Historic Education Event. Four groups held round robin visits to stations introducing the Battle at Brier Creek on this very site 241 years ago. Compatriots Don and Pat Thomas presented a Traveling Truck exhibition, and an encampment with black iron cookware and different weapons of the era were presented by Compatriots Allen Mincey, Ruskin Powell and Tommy Christopher, followed by a 4 table display of different animal skins, weapons, and hats that were hand made, by Compatriot Steve Burke, assisted by Alton Reynolds and Don Bazemore. The Brier Creek Militia fired flintlock rifles and the Brier Creek Artillery fired our 6 - pounder Naval Cannon in a demonstration with 2 volleys." Students and adults from the "Community Christian School" later attended the same program. The Brier Creek Revolutionary War Battlefield Association, Inc., held its 1st Annual Banquet on Friday night, March 6, 2020, with 68 people in attendance. Dr. John K. Derden spoke on "The Battle of Brier Creek: Past and Future". Nothing could be quite as haunting as "Amazing Grace" played by Bagpipe. The piper is Dave Crampton. Brier Creek Militia and members of the Georgia Society Elijah Clarke militia, 29 members strong, led by Compatriot Scott Collins, fired their salute. A large crowd attended the program, including a good showing by the Georgia Society. Georgia Senator Jesse Stone, and Representative Jon G. Burns were in attendance as well as the many SAR and DAR members.

The Oconee County Memorial Foundation held its annual Memorial Day Observance without the usual crowds due to the pandemic restrictions imposed. Instead of canceling, like so many other events, they chose to limit participation, and do a virtual program instead. The Georgia Society Color Guard was represented by a smaller contingent, but they provided appropriate honors, representing us all. In attendance were Commander Bill Palmer, Scott Collins, Jay Guest, Bill Fuqua, and Eldon Evans, as well as Compatriots Jay Guest, Bill Palmer, SGM (Ret) Mark Saxon, Scott Collins, Bill Fuqua and Eldon Evans, and others. Organizations brought wreaths to the Veterans Memorial to be displayed by the color guard. Spectators arrived at Parkhill cemetery and followed instructions to line up in a convoy fashion. They convoyed through the cemetery to the Veterans Memorial. Vehicles were parked facing the Memorial side-by-side. Occupants had to remain in their vehicle or could stand by it, socially distanced, of course. Opening remarks were made by President Dobbs followed by a prayer by the SAR Chaplain. Then, ladies sang three Patriotic songs, with spectators encouraged to sing along from their vehicles. Then, the Color Guard fired a salute. Taps were played and the vehicle convoy exited. Memorial Day is a very special day for those who have served in the military and lost fellow soldiers, airmen, sailors, Marines, or Coast Guard.

With the virus raging across the world, and concern for our aging membership at a high level, the BOM was postponed, and then held virtually. This was a first for Georgia, and for many other Societies as alternatives were sought to get around limited physical meetings. The first digital BOM delivered via ZOOM would not have been possible without the diligent work of Rick Reese, Bill Dobbs, and many others involved in making it happen. A hearty thanks to all involved, but especially these gentlemen. 100 members were in attendance,

Every Year, the Piedmont and Robert Forsyth Chapters hold a joint event to retire flags they collected throughout the year. Annually thousands of flags are collected from bins at local Home Depot stores, and taken to Ingram Funeral Home in Cumming, Ga. for proper and respectful disposal. The event is held around Flag Day, but with modifications to accommodate the funeral home's business. This year, after dutiful consideration, the event was scheduled, with proper safety factors of masks, distancing, and the ability to attend via Zoom. Georgia Color Guard gathered, prepared, and gave honor to the flags to be retired. Members of the Georgia Society from as far as Augusta came north to participate in the ceremony. Among others, Regional VP, East Fall Line, Sonny Pittman attended the meeting with his grandson Zander, a junior Compatriot in the Col William Few Chapter. Bill Fuqua from the Ocmulgee Chapter also attended in uniform. After the flag retirement, Elizabeth Mitchell, Ingram Funeral Home Representative unveiled the Commemorative Stone that will be placed near the Flag Pole, which was then dedicated to the honor of those who have served. Color Guard Commander Bill Palmer saluted as the Colors were presented. Sergeant - at - Arms Tom Slaughter from Robert Forsyth Chapter invited the members of the DAR present to assist in an inspection of the flags assembled for retirement. A few flags were presented to represent the large number of flags collected. Georgia State Society President Bill Dobbs participated in the program.

During the July 25th BOM Zoom meeting, we discussed the need for reprinting eight very popular trifold brochures that the Georgia Society has distributed over the years. In fact, some 450,000 of these educational Georgia Revolutionary War Trail brochures have been handed out since their first printing. Multiple Chapters and anonymous benefactors have since come forward to contribute funds towards that reprinting. The GASSAR Summer Board of

Managers Zoom meeting was held on Saturday July 25, 2020, with 91 participants attending. As mentioned earlier, the ability of the Georgia Society to conduct business virtually is due in large part to the work of Rick Reese, GASSAR Electronic Communications Chair.

Members of the Georgia Society attended an August DAR sponsored event, which honored Mary Jarrett White, the first woman to vote in the state of Georgia. The event, sponsored by the Toccoa Chapter, NSDAR, was held at Traveler's Rest. The stagecoach inn and plantation home was built around 1815, and strategically located along the newly constructed Unicoi Turnpike, a busy highway over the Appalachian Mountains. Devereaux Jarrett, the "richest man in the Tugaloo Valley" subsequently purchased the inn. Three generations of Jarretts inhabited the site until Mary, Devereaux's grand-daughter and last owner, sold it to the state of Georgia in 1955. Color Guard participants included Sid Turner, Scott Collins, Larry Whitefield, David Wiley, Jared Ogden, Jay Guest, Stephen Weaver, and Paul Danner. Sporadic rain did not dampen the spirits of everyone who enjoyed the opportunity to get outside and honor past heroines. The 19th Amendment gave women the right to vote nationally on August 18, 1920, 100 years ago. Attendees placed white carnations on Mary's grave.

In September, we celebrated the 240th Commemoration of the First Siege of Augusta. The William Few Chapter and the East Fall Line Region refused to surrender to the virus attack and even took the extra step of creating the first state virtual commemoration streamer for the event. Greetings were given from SAR, DAR, and C.A.R. representatives. Steven Rauch, the guest speaker, discussed the first battle in four different locations in Augusta via pre-recorded video. Steven put a lot of research into studying the first and second sieges over the years. We look forward to when he publishes his book. As D. Alan Smith moderated the presentation ceremony, he announced each person from the list. There were a few expected audio hiccups, but it went surprisingly well. Members from around the state, the South Atlantic District, and National participated. There was a Color Guard video for presenting the Colors, and the Musket Salute was from previous events. As noted in the *Hornet's Nest*, "The notorious Loyalist, Thomas "Burntfoot" Brown commanded at Augusta. Brown proceeded to remove five victims from the jail, and hanged them. The hangings caused Elijah Clarke to return to Georgia with a plan to raise 500 men. Clarke only managed about 350. Clarke struck Augusta on the 14th of September. They took Brown completely by surprise and gained possession of the town and its two forts with little to no resistance. Unfortunately, Brown succeeded in securing himself in M'Kay's trading post just outside Augusta above the river. Unfortunately for Clarke, his only man with a familiarity of firing the cannon was killed soon after the pieces were brought to bear. With no useful artillery available, Clarke abandoned attempts to overrun the trading post and settled in for a siege. Clarke sent Brown a demand for surrender, which was refused. Brown, however, had been shot through both thighs early in the battle and was suffering greatly. A British relief column from Fort Ninety-Six in South Carolina was discovered approaching, and Clarke was forced to leave 29 wounded men in Augusta at the mercy of the Loyalists. Brown had 12 men hung immediately on the porch of the trading post before turning the rest over to the Indians to fulfil their vengeance for the losses they had sustained. Some were scalped before they were killed, while others were thrown into fires and burned to death. Brown did everything he could to root out rebellion in the state. He burned and laid waste about 100 plantations. The British also grabbed hostages from the families of known patriots. They held these civilians for months under harsh conditions that ended in the deaths of several older men."

The first grave marking ceremony of 2020 came late in the year, as the pandemic forced so many cancelations. Robert Forsyth, Lyman Hall, and Blue Ridge Mountains Chapters held an outdoor, socially distanced event in honor of the patriots Edmund Singleton and Solomon Palmour. The event was held in an open-air pavilion in the middle of the Lumpkin Campground facility. As the *Hornet's Nest* noted, "The campground dates back to 1830, when the Second Great Awakening swept the South. The open-air pavilion or "brush arbor", so named because the first gathering would have been held under a simple shelter of saplings, is still in use, with its carved timbers and hard packed red clay floor. Electricity is the only 21st century concession in the arbor. Church members built a collection of rustic cabins called "tents" around the arbor. Regular camp-meetings are still held today." The Georgia Society Color Guard and Elijah Clarke Militia turned out in numbers for this event. The militia had members from across the state. Both of our Patriots had relatives attend the program. Mike Watkins and John Flikeid stood as honor guards for the families. Militia Commander Sid Turner commanded the firing line. The Brier Creek Artillery and Skunk Brigade traveled far from home to attend this event. Ed Rigel Jr. read the list of wreath presentations. The seating was large enough to accommodate social distancing and the weather was just right. President Bill Dobbs dedicated the marking stones. The photography and video capture of this event was completed by the father and son team of Rick Reese, Jr., and Rick Reese III. The Scouts participated in the event as well, playing Taps and rendering honors.

The Georgia Society SAR held our Fall Board of Managers Zoom meeting and Candidates Forum on Saturday October 24, 2020, with 78 members and guests attending. On Nov. 21, "Come and Take It! Ceremonies" were held for Fort Morris. The virtual presentation included real time wreath presentations accompanied by video recorded Color Guard,

Militia, and even a tour of the fort by the ranger services. Tommy Christopher, from the Brier Creek Chapter was the M.C. for the onsite team. Emory Fennell of the Wiregrass Chapter gave the invocation. Members of the award winning Georgia Color Guard arrived at Fort Morris a week earlier to stage the defending of the fortification. GASSAR President Bill Dobbs was on hand for the filming portions of the event. Compatriot Bill Ramsaur was the M.C. for the virtual portion of the service and kept everything rolling smoothly. Additionally, the C.A.R. presented “Thirteen Revolutionary Flags” at the site. The Brier Creek Artillery unit was allowed to participate and fired their cannon. The rangers informed us that this was the first time in 200 years that a cannon had been fired from the fort. Jason Baker, Ranger, Fort Morris Historic Site gave the presentation “War Comes to Liberty County.” Col. Lewis Valentine Fuser, Jason Baker, Lt. Col. John McIntosh, and Steven Ford, Marshes of Glynn Chapter, portrayed the meeting between the two officers at the battle. The Elijah Clarke Militia and Brier Creek Artillery groups presented arms as the ceremony closed.

On December 19th, the National Wreaths Across America ceremony at East Shadowlawn Memorial Gardens in Lawrenceville was held. The ceremony’s keynote speaker was Major Jim Freeman, U.S. Army (retired) from Lilburn, and a member of the Button Gwinnett Chapter SAR. Major Freeman served 2 Wreaths across America tours of duty in Vietnam, flying over 200 combat missions. Sukey Hart C.A.R. also participated at the wreath laying event. 375 fresh balsam wreaths were laid on Veteran’s graves during the ceremony. The Philadelphia Winn Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), hosted this Wreaths Across America event to remember and honor the service and sacrifice of our military Veterans. Numerous patriotic organizations participated including the award-winning Georgia Society, Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) Color Guard; the Button Gwinnett Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution (SAR); the Elisha Winn Society, Children of the American Revolution (C.A.R.); Boy Scout Troop 846 from Duluth, and Cadets from the North Gwinnett High School Air Force JROTC program.

On December 19, thirteen Compatriots and family members gathered for the Wreaths Across America event at Bellevue Memorial Gardens in Grovetown. Included among the participants were Woody Woodard, Dwain & Patricia Moss, Alton McCloud, Alison & Gary Smith, Lewis & JoAnn Smith & grandson Benjamin Smith, Kim & Bill Tankersley, as well as Pat & Bill Colbert. Ceremonies were also hosted by the Kennesaw Mountain Chapter, NSDAR with the City of Kennesaw and Kennesaw City Cemetery Preservation Commission. Dan King and KM Chapter 2nd Vice Regent Brenda King DAR/SAR Liaison Committee Chair, Gary Hoyt, GASSAR Veteran’s Committee Chair, and Dan King all participated in the wreath laying at Kennesaw City Cemetery. The Marshes of Glynn SAR Chapter participated in three unique Wreaths Across America activities in Glynn County on December 19 and 20. Saturday morning, eight SAR Marshes of Glynn chapter members participated in the 1st Annual Oak Grove Cemetery Wreath Laying Ceremony in Brunswick. The Glynn Academy Marine Corps Junior ROTC provided a Color Guard, Saber Detail, and additional cadets to escort those who laid the 150 wreaths in the cemetery. Three SAR Compatriots helped clean the headstones of veterans in the cemetery prior to the ceremony.

Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter VP Sid Turner and Secretary Stephen Weaver had the honor to participate in the Wreaths Across America (WAA) celebration on Dec 19th. A brief celebratory service was held at VFW headquarters in Blairsville, GA, at 11AM honoring veterans before all parties participating departed to local cemeteries to place wreaths on veteran grave sites. Sid and Steve placed seven wreaths on local Revolutionary War Soldier grave sites, including one in Gilmer, two in Fannin, and two in Union Counties, GA, one in Clay Co., NC, and one in Cherokee Co., NC. The last one, Samuel Reed, was completed at sunset at Bear Paw, NC. Additionally, Sid participated in the ceremony as part of North GA VFW Color Guard at the Headquarters in Blairsville, GA.

Sunday afternoon, wreaths were placed at the graves of five Revolutionary War Soldiers in the Christ Church Frederica Cemetery. Chapter President Steven Ford read a summary of the Patriots service, and grandchildren of a member assisted in the presentations. Our activities were limited since it started raining while we proceeded to the graves in the cemetery. This was a joint effort of the local American Legion Post 9 and the Marshes of Glynn SAR Chapter.

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn’t emphasize the great work of both GASSAR Sr. VP David Jessel and his wonderful wife Brenda in their travels throughout America in service to both Flags Across American and Wreaths Across America throughout 2020, and, continuing now, into 2021!

As impressive as the history of our achievements and activities from this past year is, I believe it is also edifying to note how busy our President Dobbs himself has been this past year, despite the Pandemic, as shown in his Annual Report, so I am including it in this 2020 History:

President’s Full Year Report
Georgia Society
Sons of the American Revolution
January 26, 2021
William B. Dobbs II

First Quarter 2020

Jan 02 Inducted 5 new members and installed the 2020 officers for the Brier Creek Chapter In Sylvania, GA
Jan 07 Attended George Walton Chapter meeting in Monroe
Jan 08 Attended the ExCom meeting in Athens
Jan 09 Installed the 2020 officers for the Wiregrass Chapter in Swainsboro, GA
Jan 14 Installed Fall Line Chapter officers in Sandersville
Jan 17 Presented Carnation at base of the General Daniel Morgan Statue Ceremony held At Morgan Square in Spartanburg
Jan 18 Participated at wreath laying ceremony at the US Monument at the Cowpens National Battlefield in Chesnee, SC and marched to the Washington Light Infantry Monument with National SAR Wreath Laying
Jan 24-25 Attended Georgia Society BOM and Annual Meeting
Feb 04 Installed New Officers for the George Walton Chapter in Monroe
Feb 07 Attended Heroes of the Hornet's Nest at Elijah Clarke State Park
Feb 07 Attended Kettle Creek Battlefield Association Dinner in Washington, GA
Feb 08 Attended the Revolutionary War Days functions and Parade in downtown Washington on Saturday morning followed by the indoor celebration of the Kettle Creek Battle due to inclement weather. After the celebration, I too Secretary General Davis Wright out to War Hill so that he could see the actual venue.
Feb 09 Attended the Revolutionary Era Church Service and reception at the Episcopal Church in Washington, GA
Feb 15 Installed Officers at the Ocmulgee Chapter Annual Dinner in Macon, GA
Feb 16 Sunday evening conference call with 2022 Congress Committee
Feb 17 Installed Officers and Inducted new members at the Athens Chapter Annual Meeting held at 9 Oaks in Monroe, GA
Feb 20 Installed Officers for the Piedmont Chapter in Roswell, GA
Feb 22 Installed Officers for the Atlanta Chapter Lunch meeting at the Capital City Club
Feb 22 Installed Officers for the Mt Vernon Chapter at their annual meeting dinner
Feb 27 Attended the Georgia Dinner in Louisville, KY the evening prior to the Spring SAR Workshop
Feb 28 Attended Spring SAR Workshop
Feb 29 Attended Spring SAR Workshop
Mar 01 Attended Workshop Prayer Service before departing Louisville, KY
Mar 03 Attended George Walton Chapter meeting in Monroe. Installed Chapter Sergeant-at-Arms and provided program on "George Washington the Farmer"
Mar 06 Attended the Brier Creek Battlefield Association Dinner in Sylvania
Mar 07 Attended the Brier Creek Battlefield Celebration and Wreath Laying at the Battlefield in Screven County
Mar 22 Sunday evening conference call with 2022 Congress Committee
Mar 29 South Atlantic District President's Conference Call with VPG SA District Allen Greenly

Second Quarter

April 19 2022 Annual Congress Committee Call
May 06 ExCom Meeting
May 12 Joined Mt Vernon Chapter Zoom Meeting
May 14 Joined Coweta Falls Chapter Zoom Meeting
April 19 Joined Piedmont Chapter Zoom Meeting
April 24 South Atlantic District President's Conference Call
April 25 BOM postponed to May 30th
May Functions cancelled: Grave Markings in North Augusta & Wilkes County, Galvez Day and South Atlantic President's Meeting in Pensacola, Blue Ridge Chapter Meeting, Grave Marking in Dawsonville
May 24 South Atlantic District President's conference call
May 30 Participated in the State's First Electronic Board of Managers Meeting
June 09 Attended Mt Vernon Chapter meeting in Dunwoody and performed Inductions
June 13 Attended the South Atlantic District Meeting in Orlando, FL
June 20 Joined Piedmont Chapter Zoom meeting, Mark Anthony presentation
June 27 Attended Joint Flag Retirement Ceremony in Cumming (Robert Forsyth and Piedmont Chapters)

Third Quarter 2020 begins

July 07 Attended George Walton Chapter meeting in Monroe

July 08 ExCom Meeting in Athens

July 19 2022 Annual Congress Conference Call

July 25 BOM Zoom Meeting

July 28 Attended Blue Ridge Chapter Law Enforcement Appreciation presentation to Union Co. Sheriff's office

Aug 03 Attended Blue Ridge Chapter Law Enforcement Appreciation to Gilmer Co Sheriff's office

Aug 10 Attended Blue Ridge Chapter presentations to the Hiawasse Police Department and in the afternoon attended the presentation to the Blue Ridge Police Department

Aug 18 Attended Blue Ridge Chapter Law Enforcement presentation to the Ellijay Police Department

Aug 19 Attended called meeting of the Executive Committee

Aug 22 Attended the CAR's workshop and CAR BOM by Zoom

Aug 25 Breakfast meeting in Augusta with East Fall Line RVP, Sonny Pittman

Aug 27 Attended the Lyman Hall Chapter Zoom meeting

Sep 01 Attended funeral of George Walton Compatriot, Loyd Puckett

Sep 01 Attended George Walton Chapter meeting in Monroe

Sep 09 Attended the Called BOM meeting to discuss the January Annual Meeting

Sep 05 Represented the Georgia Society at the Battle of Eutaw Springs (SC) Celebration

SEP 06 Participated in New Member Induction for the Mount Vernon Chapter in Dunwoody

Sep 08 Attended the Mount Vernon Chapter Hero Awards presented to two Dunwoody Police Officers

Sep 10 Attended George Walton Chapter Flag Presentation at the Liberty Bank in Monroe

Sep 12 Attended the Siege of Augusta Event held by the East Fall Line Chapters on Zoom

Sep 17 Attended the Washington Wilkes Chapter Dinner and participation, with Former State President Tom Owen with two new member inductions

Sep 19 Drove down to Iron City, GA to assist the Joel Early Chapter with a presentation to 35 Home Schooled children and their parents.

Sep 21 Attended the funeral service for Compatriot Chip Durden in Swainsboro

Fourth Quarter 2020 Begins

Oct 03 Participated in the dual grave marker dedications in Dawsonville

Oct 06 Attended the Executive Committee Meeting

Oct 07 Represented the Georgia Society at the Kings Mountain Zoom celebration

Oct 10 Attended the South Atlantic District meeting on "Go to meeting"

Oct 14 Meeting with Wayne Brown concerning distribution of National Medals

Oct 15 Little River SAR Officer Installation (Lincolnton, GA)

Oct 22 Lyman Hall Zoom meeting

Oct 24 Fall BOM Zoom Meeting

Nov 03 Attended George Walton Chapter meeting in Monroe

Nov 10 Mount Vernon Meeting in Dunwoody

Nov 12 Attended Marshes of Glynn Zoom Meeting

Nov 14 Participated in the filming of the "Come and Take It" celebration at Fort Morris

Nov 15 Congress Zoom meeting

Nov 19 Attended Piedmont Chapter zoom meeting for Congratulations to Nat't 1st Place Poster winner

Nov 21 9:00 am Piedmont Chapter Zoom Meeting

Nov 21 1:00 pm Fort Morris Celebration on Zoom

Nov 22 South Atlantic District presidents call

Dec 03 Washington Wilkes Chapter Zoom meeting

Dec 10 Conducted Button Gwinnett Officer Installation on Zoom

Dec 20 Congress Zoom meeting

Dec 27 South Atlantic District presidents call

Very impressive, President Dobbs!

Finally, I wish to thank *Hornet's Nest* Editor Emil Decker, for the vital role his newsletter had in the construction of this 2020 History of the Georgia Society, Sons of the American Revolution. Without his help, this task would have

been far more difficult than it already was. Thank you, Compatriot Decker. And a final congratulations to President William Dobbs II, Compatriot Rick Reece, Jr., and the entire Georgia Society for a job well done, under the very difficult circumstances presented throughout the year 2020. To quote the title of President Dobbs' final Dispatch: "Pandemics, Politics, & Presidents: What could be more Perturbing?" Amen to that!