



The

Hornet's Nest

April—June 2017

The President's Dispatch



Wayne L. Brown

Our second quarter has been very active and productive. Patriots' Day on Saint Simons Island was very successful starting with the Patriotic Memorial Ceremony which was well attended by a large enthusiastic audience and our Color Guard, as usual, gave an outstanding performance. The Memorial Ceremony was followed by the Parade of Patriots which was led by our award-winning Color Guard and included local school children and members of the local high school Band and JROTC unit as well as members of the DAR.

The Frederica Patriots' Day Celebration ended with a Colonial Worship Service on Sunday morning. While Patriots' Day is a National event and ceremonies are held around the State, the traditional Frederica Patriots' Day Celebration is certainly one of the largest attended and recognized events.

Wrapping up the month of April was our Board of Managers meeting Saturday morning with a Color Guard event Saturday afternoon. Sunday started out with two events, one in Carrollton and the other in Midway,

Georgia. The event in Carrollton was a ceremony dedicating a Memorial Wall to Revolutionary Veterans who settled in Carroll County and the event in Midway was a Grave Marking Ceremony where the graves of five Patriots were marked. I must take a moment to thank our Color Guard Commander Bill Palmer and Historic Sites & Celebrations Committee Chairman Scott Collins for a job well done in coordinating the events of April 29th and 30th.

May was also a very active month with chapters across the State presenting JROTC and ROTC Awards at their local high schools and colleges and ending with Memorial Day Ceremonies where our deceased Veterans who served this great Nation were honored.

The schedule and photographs of many events such as mentioned above can now be viewed on our website at: www.gasocietysar.org. Shortly after beginning this year as your President, our website was hacked and all documents were corrupted and after attempting to load the backup, all backup documents were also corrupted.

As you know, we were offline for a while and I must say that I began to think the website would be my Achilles' heel. However, our new Information Technology Chairman, Richard Marsh, and his team worked many hours to eliminate the problems one by one and bring the website online. After repairing the problems and redesigning the website, the team then had to undertake the task of reconstructing the documentation which is still in process.

While our website is looking great and much of the documentation/data have been recreated, several committee chairs and chapter presidents need to contact Chairman Marsh with information about your committee and/or chapter. If you have not previously contacted the IT Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to urge you to do so as soon as possible.

Secretary's Report Georgia Society, Sons of the American Revolution Summer 2017

Active Membership as of
01 Jan 2017.....1,672

Plus: New Members...122
Plus: Transfers In.... 0
Plus: Reinstatements ...34
Plus: Reinstatement-
Transfers...1

Total Additions..... 157

Less: Deceased.... 14
Less: Resignations..... 0
Less: Transfers Out.... 12

Total Losses... 26

Active Membership as of
01 Jul 2017....1,803

Plus: Dual Members -
(Out of State),26

Active Membership as of
01 Jul 2017....1,829

George H. Wheelless, Secretary

Board Of Managers Meetings

Saturday April 29, 2017
Saturday July 29, 2017
Saturday October 28, 2017
Saturday January 27, 2018

BOM location:

Garden Patch Restaurant
100 Southland Drive

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

Patriots Day- April 19th marks the beginning of the Revolutionary War at Lexington and Concord. Three years after the “shot heard ‘round the world,” the Georgia Continental Navy captured three British ships in the Frederica River near St. Simons Island on April 19, 1778. These two events were commemorated during the Thirteenth Annual Frederica Patriots Day Celebration held Saturday, April 22, on St. Simons Island, Georgia. The celebration started with the Presentation of Colors by the Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard with colorful Revolutionary War flags.



Wreaths from various hereditary organizations, including Georgia and Florida DAR and SAR Chapters, were presented in honor of the Massachusetts Minutemen and the Georgia Continental soldiers and sailors.



to reminded those assembled of the sounds during the four-hour Frederica Naval battle.

The celebration concluded with the Parade of Patriots which started at the St. Simons Lighthouse and marched through the Pier Village. Two hundred marchers were led by Wayne Brown, President of the Georgia Society SAR and Bill Palmer, commanding the Georgia and Florida Society SAR Color Guards carrying battle flags, muskets and drums.



The program featured historical performances by elementary school students dressed in Revolutionary-era attire and patriotic musical selections by a middle school chorus, including “My Shot” from the Broadway musical, *Hamilton*.



The Georgia Society SAR Elijah Clarke Militia conducted an impressive display of patriotic firepower on the green in Neptune Park in recognition of the fighting at Lexington.

Two six-pounder cannons were fired three times hourly



Featured groups included Boy and Girl Scouts carrying Revolutionary-era flags; three JROTC units representing the citizen-soldier Minutemen; a Color Guard from a local American Legion Post, and the Golden Isles Strummers riding in an antique fire truck playing “Yankee Doodle Dandy.”

(Continued on the next page)

Frederica Patriots Day Celebration

(Continued from previous page)

The highlight of the parade was the Patriots Day Cavalry led by Paul Revere, portrayed by Johnny Turrentine, Past President of the Marshes of Glynn Chapter GASSAR.

He was joined by eight other re-enactors on horseback who represented Elijah Clarke, Francis Marion, Nancy Hart, Sybil Ludington, and other heroes and heroines of the American Revolution.



On Sunday, April 23rd, a Colonial Worship Service was conducted in the historic chapel of Christ Church, Frederica. Many worshippers were dressed in Colonial attire, and the hymns and sermon by Reverend Whit Chapman, Chaplain of the Marshes of Glynn Chapter GASSAR, reflected the culture of America during the Revolutionary War.

The Thirteenth Annual Frederica Patriots Day Celebration was sponsored by the Georgia Society SAR Historic Sites & Commemoration Committee, Marshes of Glynn Chapter GASSAR, and the Brunswick and Fort Frederica Chapters NSDAR.

Frederica Naval Action

"I have the happiness to inform you that about 10 o'clock this forenoon, the Brigantine Hinchinbrooke, the Sloop Rebecca, and a Prize Brig, all struck the British Tyrant's colours, and surrendered to the American arms."

This was how Colonel Samuel Elbert, the commander of the Georgia Continental Army and Naval forces, described the naval battle off St. Simons Island on April 19, 1778, to his commanding officer, Major General Robert Howe.

In early April, Colonel Elbert learned that the HMS frigate *Galatea* and three other British vessels, who had captured numerous merchant vessels, were sighted in St. Simons Sound.

He embarked three hundred men on three heavily armed Georgia Navy row galleys at Darien. By mid-afternoon of April 18th, the flotilla entered the Frederica River and anchored one and a half miles above the ruins of Colonial Fort Frederica.

Immediately on landing, about one hundred Georgia Continental troops marched to Frederica where British prisoners were taken. The next morning, Colonel Elbert preempted the British and the Georgia Continental Navy galleys, *Lee*, *Washington* and *Bulloch* began a heavy cannonade, firing right on target for several hours.

The British limited range armament was no match with the galleys' heavier ordnance, and the three British vessels began dropping downriver. Their officers hoped they could find an advantage when suddenly the *Rebecca* grounded, and almost immediately *Hinchinbrook* and *Hatter* suffered the same fate.

Meanwhile the galleys, still firing, were closing fast. Out-gunned and out-maneuvered and facing imprisonment, the British crowded into their ships' boats and abandoned their ships leaving behind their valuable cargo. Six miles distant the twenty-gun HMS *Galatea* was awaiting them in St. Simons Sound, and all who escaped made it safely on board.

As Colonel Elbert summarized the battle, *"You must imagine what my feelings were, to see our three little men of war going on to the attack of these three vessels who have spread terror on our coast, and who were drawn up in order of battle; but the weight of our metal soon damped the courage of these heroes, who took to their boats; and, as many as could, abandoned the vessels with everything on board, of which we immediately took possession. What is extraordinary, we have not one man hurt."*

This remarkable victory boosted Patriot morale and delayed by more than eight months the British invasion of Georgia.

Bill Ramsaur, Past President and Historian, Marshes of Glynn Chapter GASSAR

State Officers & Committees

NEWS



Georgia Society Senior Vice President—Don Burdick

dnburdick@comcast.net

April 12th, participated in GA SAR ExCom meeting, Atlanta, Ga
 April 15th, attended Compatriot Billy Joe Guest grave marking, obtained grave marker, presented wreath, participated in musket salute
 April 15th, attended Patriot Hiram Howard grave marking, obtained grave marker, presented wreath, participated in musket salute
 April 29th, attended GA SAR BOM meeting Barnesville, GA
 Obtained 5 grave markers for Midway Cemetery grave markings, 30 April
 May 20th, Attended Patriot John Colley Grave marking, obtained grave marker, presented wreath, participated in musket salute
 May 21st, attended Compatriot Carl Bhamme Grave marking, represented President Brown, dedicated marker, presented wreath
 May 27th, participated in Snellville Memorial Day Ceremony, presented wreath, participated in musket salute
 May 30th, participated in Oconee County Memorial Day Ceremony, Veterans Park, Participated in musket salute



Georgia Society Registrar—Bob Sapp

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Status of applications received during the first quarter of 2017 is as follows:

Applications received for review were 140 of which all but two are reviewed. As of 3 July 2017, 130 applications were sent to NSSAR and 25 applications were pending by state registrar. One of which was returned to applicant. None of the 2017 supplemental applications have been reviewed by NSSAR. Only 36 applications have been approved to date.

The second quarter 2017 statistics are as follows:

98.6 % applications reviewed
 92.9 % applications sent to NSSAR
 27.7% approved by NSSAR
 18.1% applications pending by State Registrar

The Genealogist General has noted that the staff has been increased recently and should accelerate the processing time. Focus is on new applications and therefore supplementals will still lag behind.



Bylaws Committee—Dr Edward P Rigel, Sr

compatriotrigel@charter.net

The Georgia Society SAR Bylaws are accessible for viewing by all members from the Society *SourceBook Section 07 Georgia Society By-Laws*. The *By-Laws Proposed Amendment Form* is also available in Section 07.

Second Quarter Activity: A revision to the original proposed amendment to Article V, Section 4, Historic Sites & Celebrations has been distributed to the BOM members for consideration at the July BOM meeting..



Graves Committee—Sonny Pittman

sonnypittman@comcast.net

Saturday, April 15, the Athens Chapter conducted a SAR Revolutionary War Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony at the grave of Patriot Hiram Howard at his home place in Winterville, Clarke County, Georgia.

Sunday, April 30, the Athens, Ocmulgee, Blue Ridge Mountains, Piedmont, and Robert Forsyth Chapters conducted SAR Revolutionary War Patriot Grave Marking Ceremonies at the graves of Patriots Samuel Jacob T. Axson, Nathaniel Baker, James Dunwoody, James Screven and Daniel Stewart in the Midway Cemetery in Midway, Georgia. The Marshes of Glynn Chapter provided research assistance and continues to provide support in this long-term project which aims to locate and mark 18 known Patriot Graves in the Midway Cemetery.

Saturday, May 20, the Washington-Wilkes Chapter conducted a SAR Revolutionary War Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony at the grave of Patriot John W. Colley in the Colley-Fanning Cemetery in Wilkes County, Georgia.

Sunday, May 21, the Piedmont Chapter conducted a SAR Compatriot Grave Marking Ceremony for Carl Duane Bhamé at his grave in Arlington Memorial Park in Sandy Springs, Georgia.

Sunday, May 21, the Piedmont Chapter also installed a SAR Marker on the gravestone of Compatriot LTC F.C (Hap) Chandler, Jr., USAF Retired, a highly decorated WW II, Korean and Vietnam Veteran, at his grave in Arlington Memorial Park in Sandy Springs, Georgia.

Compatriots Roger W. Coursey, Edward Telfair Chapter; Jackson W. Guest, Athens Chapter; and, Don Ray Thomas, Sr., Col William Few Chapter have been approved by the National Society to receive the award of the new Patriot Grave Marking Medal for their significant contributions and participation in fifteen or more Patriot Grave Marking Ceremonies.

Patriot & Compatriot Grave Marking Information:

Please note that, after completing a grave dedication ceremony, Chapter Presidents are responsible for registering each grave dedicated by reporting it together with a headstone photo using the electronic form presented in Chapter 26, Section 26.07F or in Chapter 10 of the Source Book Web Edition. Note either Form 26.07F or Form 10.10F is for both Patriot and Compatriot Grave Registrations. Click on "Patriot" after "Registry Type" to get the drop down for the Compatriot Form. Note either Form 26.07F or Form 10.10F is for both Patriot and Compatriot Grave Registrations.

Patriot and Compatriot Grave Markings and appropriate documents are to be submitted to the Webmaster and Graves Committee Chairman. Chapters are reminded to include in their grave marking program a Grave Dedication Statement presented by the Georgia Society President, Chapter President or Senior Compatriot attending. All Georgia SAR Chapters should have received copies of the two volume set, Georgia Revolutionary Soldiers & Sailors, Patriots & Pioneers by Ross Arnold and Hank Burnham, which will help in locating Patriot Graves.

President Brown's Goal:

All chapters are encouraged to seek out Revolutionary War Patriot Graves and Conduct Grave Marking Ceremonies.

President Brown's goal is to have each Chapter conduct at least one Revolutionary War Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony in 2017.



Graves Committee Membership:

Sonny Pittman, Chairman. 2202 Holly Haven Court, Augusta, GA 30907. (706) 860-1050. sonnypittman@comcast.net. Committee members include Jerry Brigham, Donald Burdick, Roger Coursey, Bruce Maney, Bill Tankersley and George Thurmond.

If any Compatriot would like to serve on the Georgia Society Graves Committee, please contact President Brown or Graves Committee Chairman Sonny Pittman.

Our goal is to have at least one committee member in each region of the state.



ROTC/JROTC & Service Academies Liaison CommitteeLCDR David G. Jessel USN Retptljessel@charter.net

All chapters sponsoring JROTC Units should encourage their Units to participate in the Enhance JROTC (Outstanding Cadet Essay Contest) Program for 2017-2018. The time to contact the JROTC Unit's SMI is right after school starts in late August or early September. Every SMI in your AO should know the name of the JROTC POC within your chapter. You may want to walk the SMI through the OC Nomination process. Chapter OC Packages need to be sent to me by the 1st weekend in December 2017. If I can assist you in this regard, please contact me. In Aug/Sep, I will again disseminate guidance and directions on submitting a strong OC Nomination Package. Please consider the Outstanding Cadet Enhanced Program and the Bronze ROTC Medal Program to be totally separate programs.

Fourteen Silver ROTC Medal Packages were presented to ROTC cadets at eleven Georgia Universities. Chapter Presidents or their representative from ten GASSAR Chapters present these Medals on behalf of the Georgia Society SAR. Recipients are selected by the ROTC Staff at the University. There is no reason for any chapter to expend funds on a Silver ROTC Medal, as this is a function of the GASSAR ROTC/JROTC Committee. Medal Packages are mailed directly to the University POC (Point Of Contact). If a college contacts a chapter about a medal, please refer them to me. All ROTC Programs do not rate a medal because they are considered a cross-town Unit that falls under a Host Unit (University). Chapters presenting Silver ROTC Medals should report this activity on Form 10.06.0F Chapter Report to BOM and PG/Americanism Report.

Chapters presented Bronze ROTC Medals to JROTC Units within the chapters' AO (Area of Operations). Recipients are selected for this medal by the Senior Military Instructor (SMI). Award Criteria: +Awarded to cadet currently enrolled in the JROTC Program, +A junior (in their 3rd year of a 4 year program or 2nd year of a 3 year program), +Top 10% of the JROTC class, +Top 25% of their class. Chapters should report these presentations on Form 10.06.0F Report to BOM & PG/Americanism Rpt. Sea Cadet Units may nominate a cadet for the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal & there is a Sea Cadet Ribbon (ordered separately) to go along with this medal. If you have a question about award criteria or the Sea Cadet Program, please contact me.

The Georgia Society SAR supports three DOD (overseas) JROTC Units (Kadena HS Okinawa, Shape HS Belgium, and Vicenza HS Italy). SAR Bronze ROTC Medal Packages were mailed under cover letter to these Units in March 2017.

Veterans Committee—Bill Kabelflytier44@comcast.net

The Georgia Society has prided itself for years for being regarded as one of the preeminent societies nationally for serving veterans and supporting veteran causes. In fact, it has been customary for the society to be ranked in the top 5 of all state societies each year. However, the luster of that reputation is now in danger of being tarnished because some chapters simply are not submitting Stark reports that reflect the effectiveness of their veterans programs.

Now that 2016 is past us and 2017 Stark Reports have been submitted for 2016 results, the following information is presented for review.

- (1) In 2017 there were **TWO FEWER** Georgia chapters that submitted reports (11) than the 13 that submitted Stark Reports in 2016 for 2015 results. This compares negatively to the 14 chapters that submitted reports in 2015 for 2014 results.
- (2) The Total Points submitted by the 11 reporting chapters in 2017 was 38,871, which was **42,479 FEWER** than what was submitted by the same chapters in 2016.
- (3) Of the 11 chapters that reported in 2017, their Average Points Per Member was just 55.69, which was **37% LESS** than the 91.51 Average Points Per Member that was reported in 2016 by the same chapters. Of the 11 chapters that reported in 2017, **only one showed an increase** in its Average Points Per Member from the previous year. *The other 10 had fewer points per member.*

ANALYSIS and CONCLUSIONS

The Georgia Society is losing prominence nationally, principally due to fewer chapters not bothering to submit Stark Reports. In 2016, the Georgia Society placed third highest of all state societies (losing second place by only a few points; and in 2017, it did not even place in the top ten. The number of chapters that report, and their Total Points are crucial to GASSAR continuing its reputation as one of the premier societies that supports veterans and veteran causes since performance nationally is judged by Average Points Per Society Member, regardless of the number of chapters reporting. Obviously, the more chapters that report the more points there are to compare against the total number of society members to determine the society's average.

It is alarming that even among those 11 Georgia chapters submitting Stark Reports the overall effectiveness of their Veterans programs seems to be diminishing, as determined by fewer points being accumulated per member. The Stark report that is submitted to National for the State is a compilation of those chapters that report. So for every chapter that does not submit a report the state society loses out by not being able to count all the points that are actually earned.

PLANNED ACTION

Proposals are being drafted to promote and encourage chapters to enhance their veterans programs, and to submit Stark reports, and recognize those that do. These proposals will be presented to the BOM at a quarterly meeting so that they can be enacted this year.



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

rwmkm@hotmail.com

This chairman has had a busy quarter. He traveled with the National First Vice President of the Children of the American Revolution to the following State Conferences: New Hampshire, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Georgia. This chairman enjoyed meeting new and old C.A.R. friends.

On February 11, 2017, Several C.A.R. Societies participated in the 238th Anniversary of Battle of Kettle Creek by involved in the parade and leading the 13th colony salute. Later in February members of Eagles of Liberty Society joined the Lyman Hall Chapter SAR in celebrating the 285th anniversary of George Washington's birthday by joining in a wreath laying at the Washington statue in Gainesville.

I would like to thank General Don Burdick for attending the Georgia State Society State Conference and bringing greetings on behalf of the SAR. I would like to thank other State SAR members that attended, Walker Chewning, Charles E. Hall, Arthur Hall, James Hall, Chuck Garnett, and Steve Burke as well as those patrons who helped sponsor our conference. The SAR Patrons were Georgia State Sons of the American Revolution, Dr. Hugh Rodgers, Don Burdick, Piedmont Chapter SAR, Larry White, Walker Chewning, Dr. Ed Rigel, Cherokee Chapter GA SAR, and Coweta Falls SAR.

In closing I would like to remind all SAR members and Chapters to please keep me in the loop of all C.A.R. activities that are done with your chapters. I know there is a great deal of joint activities and I would love to report on them!



Americanism Committee—Roger W Coursey

Capnrog2000@yahoo.net

Hopefully all chapters are filling in their score sheet as the years goes on, this makes it much easier come the end of the year when the report is due.

If you have any questions on the Americanism Scoresheet, make sure you contact me and I will be happy to assist you in whether something can or cannot be used, and making sure you place it in the correct section. We will know how our chapters and the state did at National for last year by the time of our BOM in July.

Let's make this year an even better year for our chapters and the state. Let's have all chapters submit your reports, no matter how great or how insignificant you think your chapters happenings and points may be.



Public Service & Heroism Committee—Bill Tankersley Ed.D.

wjtank@comcast.net

Here is the GA SAR 2017 list of Public Service & Heroism Medals & Certificates presented to date.

Please let me know of any additions or corrections that need to be

made. Also, please remember to let me know when you present one of the four Public Service & Heroism medals so that I can record it.

GASSAR Public Service & Heroism Medal Presentations 2017				
Chapter	Law Enforcement	Fire Safety Commendation	Emergency Medical Services	Heroism
				
Athens	1		1	1
Blue Ridge Mountains				1
Captain John Collins		1		
Ocmulgee	1			



Source Book Committee—Edward P Rigel, Sr

compatriotrigel@charter.net

Website Information: The Georgia Society SAR SourceBook is accessible for viewing by all members from the Society: http://www.georgiasocietysar.org/index.php?option=com_wrapper&view=wrapper&Itemid=70

Second Quarter Activity: Access to the SourceBook was limited during the interval that the GA SAR website was closed. As the Chairman had backup copies of the SourceBook files, the Society was encouraged to contact him should a particular section be required. Several member took advantage of the offer.

A concerted effort will be back to links in the SourceBook that still reference the old website url as well as certain sections that existed on the old NSSAR website.

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



Flag Respect—Paul Prescott

prescotp@bellsouth.net

The Flag Respect Committee has not yet received Second Quarter reports from all of the chapters. Only eleven chapters have reported that they have presented Flag Certificates in 2017. This will not qualify GASSAR for the Adm. Furlong Award for 2017.

Fortunately, there is still almost half a year left in which chapters can present Flag Certificates and qualify GASSAR for the Adm. Furlong Award.

Regional Vice-Presidents should please emphasize the presentation of Flag Certificates during your meetings with the chapters in your region and assist them if needed. Also, I will have Flag Certificates at the next BOM meeting.

There are two types of Flag Certificates. One is the standard Flag Certificate that you have used before. This certificate sells for \$4.00. The other is the same certificate printed in all black – no color on the flags. This certificate is free.

Chapter	Certificates
Marquis de Lafayette	7
Blue Ridge Mountains	5
Atlanta	3
Button Gwinnett	3
Lyman Hall	3
Marshes of Glynn	3
Athens	2
Mount Vernon	2
Washington-Wilkes	2
Robert Forsyth	1
Wiregrass	1



State Historian—Dr. David A. Ludley

DavidLudley@clayton.edu

Objectives for 2017:

- Create a catalog of the items contributed in 2017, belonging to the GASSAR, and carried to the Atlanta History Center
- Update the Georgia Society Website section "History of Georgia" for the year 2017.

Activities of the past quarter:

- During the 2nd Quarter of 2017, more items were added to the Digital Catalog and placed in storage at the Atlanta History Center, Kenan Research Center.
- The flash drive catalog has been updated. A broad index of Items archived at the Kenan Center is included in this Digital Catalog.



Endowment Trust Fund—Allen Greenly

wagreenly@gmail.com

The ETF is comprised of gifts and contributions from which earned income such as interest and dividends might be generated for distribution by the trustees for the purpose of aiding in patriotic, historical, educational, and charitable uses and purposes.

Income of the trust may not be distributed, directly or indirectly, to the Georgia Society or any of its officers, members, chapters, or committees for their programs. The income is intended for donations to non-GASSAR organizations with similar goals as ours such as the Children of the American Revolution, Daughters of the American Revolution, Boy Scouts, National Society SAR, and similar non-profit groups.



Friends of the Library —Hugh Rodgers

h_slrogers@knology.net

The Georgia Society remains the leader among state societies in the NSSAR as we are 11 memberships ahead of our nearest challenger, KYSSAR. Thanks to compatriots, wives and DAR members who support the FOL and are helping to make the SAR Genealogical Library one of the best in the nation.

Chapter Presidents and/or Secretaries should check dates for your chapter's membership renewal. Membership is available for \$25.00 annually for chapters and individuals. Membership forms will be available at the Board of Managers meeting or can be found on line at the NSSAR web page.



Georgia Fellows Board Chair—Edward P. Rigel, Jr

erigel@dogwood.net

New Georgia Fellow - William Tankersley – Compatriot Tankersley resides in Appling, GA, and is a member of the Col. William Few Chapter SAR.

Second Quarter: At the Spring Board of Managers meeting, **George Thurmond**, on behalf of **Paul Prescott**, presented the Georgia Fellows Fund with a check for \$336.60, representing the discount he received for ordering merchandise from National. President Wayne Brown was approved for \$150.00 to obtain, enlarge, and frame a copy of the Georgia Society SAR Charter.

Until further notice, there is presently a standing approval for \$100 stipends towards the purchase of a Continental Line uniform or Militia outfit. The stipend is given to members joining the State Color Guard upon proof of purchase of such an outfit and confirmation by the State Color Guard Commander that such uniform has been obtained and worn at a State or National Color Guard event. Compatriot Emil Decker of the Robert Forsyth Chapter has received the stipend in 2017. With new Continental Line uniforms available from GG Godwin, any Compatriot who orders a new uniform is eligible to receive the \$100 stipend, even if they are previous recipients for old uniforms or Militia outfits. Compatriots interested in the new uniforms should contact Color Guard Commander Bill Palmer at bpalmer867@gmail.com.



Education Outreach Committee—Rick Reese

Rickreese68@att.net

Poster Contest for 2017-2018 School Year:

The theme for the poster contest will be based on Revolutionary War Events.

Students will have a choice between the topics of:

Lexington and Concord

OR

Valley Forge

Brochure Contest:

Judging for the GASSAR Middle School Brochure contest occurred during the First Quarter Board of Managers Meeting on April 29, 2017. Winner noted below will have her brochure judged and the winner an-

nounced at NSSAR Congress in Knoxville.

First Place:

Student name – Sami G. Rickheim

Grade – 8th

Chapter – Piedmont

Award – \$150 and certificate

Judging for the NSSAR Brochure Contest occurred at Congress in Knoxville. The GASSAR winner was awarded third place, resulting in a \$100 award for Sami G. Rickheim.

Brochure Contest for 2017-2018 School Year:

The SAR Brochure Contest theme is the same every year – it does not change from year to year. Choose from any of the five (5) Foundational Documents of the United States as the theme for your brochure:

Articles of Confederation

Declaration of Independence

U.S. Constitution

Bill of Rights

Federalist Papers



DAR Liaison—Shep Hammack

Shep7j@aol.com

As of June 9th, Georgia has submitted 47 DAR Referral Forms with new members. While this number is slightly ahead of last year, we are currently 2nd behind Texas with 51. Last year Georgia had 104 with Texas in second with 62, so you can see that Texas is making a push to catch Georgia. Please be sure to submit a DAR Referral Form if you are assisted by a DAR member in the recruitment of new SAR members.

On a National basis, we are on track to exceed last years DAR Referral totals by over 30%.

The National DAR Liaison committee continues to promote the expansion of the Georgia DAR Referral Award program to other states.

The Georgia DAR Society SAR/SR Liaison Committee chairperson, Leslie Watkins, and I are exchanging notices of activities of our respective societies to keep our members mutually informed of SAR and DAR events in Georgia.

Committee member Charlie Newcomer participated in the tenth Anniversary of the Rev. John Andrews Chapter NSDAR of Oconee, Co.. Committee member Shep Hammack attended the Martha Stewart Bulloch NSDAR Chapter meeting on April 10th.

PLANS FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

- Continue to promote the use of the DAR Finders Form and the SAR competition for the awards to the DAR members and chapters. Let's set another record next year. Continue to promote the SAR/DAR joint activities.
- Stress at the July BOM the importance of submitting a DAR Finder Form with the applications, when appropriate.
- Assist the GASSAR Registrar with any awards that should be given to DAR members who have assisted with SAR membership applications.
- Provide assistance to the GASSAR officers and Committees as may be requested. This chairman is open to any suggestions for the work of this committee to better support the GASSAR goals and objectives.



Public Relations Committee - John Trussell

jtrusswr@cox.net

Thanks to our new webmaster, Richard Marsh, of the Atlanta SAR Chapter, the power point is available on our website- gasocietysar.org. On the menu bar, look for "Resources" and at the bottom , you'll see GASSAR power point.

The power point is available for all visitors to the website for viewing. The link below will take you to a new Microsoft online power point presentation for you to use locally for public education and new member recruitment. It is 76 slides covering the Revolutionary War in the South, family genealogy and joining the SAR and DAR. It is meant to be both educational and entertaining so that other civic groups, which are a rich ground for new members, will actually want to see it.

You can add it to your laptop or download it onto a thumb memory drive so it can be inserted into a smart TV, which is available at many hotels and meeting centers. It can be edited by your local chapter to add in slides from your local activities or used in the present state. The slides are self explanatory, all you have to do is read the caption and quickly move through the program. If you pace the presentation to only 10-15 seconds, or less, per slide, you can cover it in less than 15 minutes. I highly recommend that you save all questions and discussion until you are finished, or the program could become too long. If you have any questions or comments , please let me know.

In other Publicity news, this writer submitted a story to the National SAR Magazine on " Georgia's Yazoo Land Fraud and the Building of America" and it appeared in the Spring 2017 issue on page 19. You can also view it online at <http://sar.epubxp.com/i/831657-spring-2017>, then go the page 19. Copy and paste the web address into your computer browser and you can quickly pull up the story.

If you have important local chapter news , please share it with me and the Hornets Nest newsletter. I am attempting to run more Georgia news in the national SAR Magazine, so please let me know how I can help you!



Education Outreach Committee—Rick Reese

Rickreese68@att.net

The results of the Middle School Brochure contest judging:

- First Place:**
- Student name – Sami G. Rickheim
- Grade – 8th
- Chapter – Piedmont
- Award – \$150 and certificate

Winning brochures are displayed at National Society Headquarters in Louisville for the next year.





Membership Committee—Gordon L. Woodard

Attended April 2017 Georgia State BOM. Met President Bill Dobbs of George Walton Chapter. Spoke with other Chapter Presidents and State Vice-Presidents about status of Chapters in their Region.

Reached out to President Bill Dobbs of George Walton Chapter. Reached out to him with a proposal to assist from other interested SAR members from other Chapters. Discussed some of the roadblocks faced by the George Walton Chapter and some ideas to reach new prospective Members. Bill will discuss these ideas with his active members and we plan to meet soon in person. A trip to California (Bill) and Family events (Gordon) have hindered an earlier face to face meeting.

Other Chapters are also in need of assistance and I plan to reach out to discuss their roadblocks and formulate a map for retention and reaching Potential Members.



Eagle Scout Committee - Bill Coffeen

billcoffeen@gmail.com

Our committee has received 43 requests for letters of commendation year-to-date which is about 27% behind last year at this time although quite consistent with the 5 year average. The chair passes on these requests to chapters who have active Eagle Scout programs or the chair fulfills the request himself if no chapter support presently exists. If your chapter is unfamiliar with how to set up a recognition program please contact me at billcoffeen@gmail.com or call me at 770-419-2549.

The Georgia Society can approve up to four compatriot applicants annually for the Robert E. Burt Boy Scout Volunteer award issued by NSSAR. Only one application has been processed year to date. Therefore, I encourage all chapters to submit an application to me for those members who are involved in Scouting and deserve such recognition. You may download the application from the National website and forward it along with a check to NSSAR for \$20 to my attention at 3799 Westwick Ct., Kennesaw, GA 30152

Our committee continues to encourage all chapters to participate in our local, State and National Eagle Scout recognition and scholarship programs and we'll provide support and direction to help you grow your program. To my knowledge the following chapters (24% of all State chapters) do not presently have a chairman for Eagle Scout Recognition:

Blue Ridge Mountains	La Grange
Patrick Carr Rangers	Brier Creek
Rome	George Walton
Washington-Wilkes	John Milledge

As a reminder, the GASSAR college scholarship deadline for chapter participants is December 31, 2017. All chapter winning entries should be forwarded to me at 3799 Westwick Ct., Kennesaw, GA 30152 or preferably by email at billcoffeen@gmail.com. It is essential that all 2017 applicants use the application documents attached to this email. Revisions to the applications on our National website are under review and will cause confusion until revised.



Knight Essay Contest Committee— Terry A. Gibbs

tgibbs@bellsouth.net

The 2017-2018 Knight Essay Contest commences this calendar year with the beginning of school in August of 2017. Contestants enter the contest through the nearest SAR Chapter. The deadline for entries at the Chapter Level is December 1, 2017. A reminder to that effect will be sent to BOM email distribution system at that time. In the meantime, the summer is an excellent time for prospective contestants to begin their research for their essays.

In the 2016-2017 Knight Essay 334 essays were submitted nationwide at the chapter level. There were 27 state society winning essays. California had the record with 47 chapter level submissions, Georgia was second with 34, Illinois was third with 28, Florida was fourth with 24 and Massachusetts was fifth with 23. The Georgia Society had an excellent showing at the National Level.

The contest is open to any United States citizen enrolled in the 9th thru 12th grades during the contest period. Students attending public schools and private schools are eligible as well as home-schooled students. Inquiries regarding rules and eligibility may be directed to tgibbs@bellsouth.net

In Memoriam

By Hugh Rogers

Robert Fulton Galer: Distinguished Citizen and SAR Compatriot

Robert (Bob) Galer, the “Grand Old Man” of the Coweta Falls Chapter, would have reached his 99th birthday this summer but sadly passed away on June 22, 2017 at his home in Columbus. Bob started his life’s journey far from Columbus, Georgia, on July 19, 1918, at Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. He spent his formative years in Montana and went further west for college; Bob received his Bachelor’s degree at the University of Washington and as a graduate of the ROTC program earned a commission in the Army. He entered active duty in 1940 and served in North Africa and Europe during World War II and subsequently in the Korean War. Bob earned several significant awards: the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. Bob completed his military career at Fort Benning as post Inspector General. He retired with the rank of Lt. Col. Bob married Mary Jane Perkins in 1951; they raised a family of two daughters and one son and have been blessed with grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Bob’s national service did not quite end in 1970. He was offered appointment in the Civil Service as an Equal Opportunity Employment Officer at Fort Benning. He retired from that duty in July 1988. Bob strongly supported Mary Jane in her legislative career in the Georgia Assembly and the two were charter members of the Historic Linwood Foundation and supported other historical and preservation efforts.

In retirement Bob could pursue an interest shared with Mary Jane in genealogy. He found two Revolutionary War Patriots: PVT John Armington, Massachusetts Militia, who as a good minuteman responded to alarms in 1775 and 1776, and SGT Stephen England, who served in the Massachusetts Continental Line at Valley Forge. Another significant bit of research led to Bob’s membership in the Society of Mayflower Descendants.

On May 7, 1987, Coweta Falls’ alert recruiter of new members, James Leon Holman, brought Bob Galer into active membership in SAR. Bob soon held the Chapter office of Secretary and began to make contacts across the Georgia Society SAR. Recognition of his leadership qualities followed quickly as the Georgia Society elected Bob State President for 1993-94. As president of the Georgia Society Bob advocated the formation of a state Color Guard and developed his own distinctive “over the mountain” uniform. A fellow Georgian, SAR President General James Westlake, supported this initiative. Bob also got the award for outstanding JROTC cadet established as a major recognition program of the Georgia society.



After his term as state president, Bob served as a National Trustee and began serious SAR work on the national level. He was elected Vice President General for the South Atlantic District 1995-1996. He also served as the appointed Vice President General for International societies 1998-1999 and served on the Executive Committees of three NSSAR presidents general. This required attending national congresses each year and quarterly meetings at national headquarters where Bob enjoyed the fellowship and respect of SAR men across the country.

One of Bob’s key achievements was the revival of the Historic Sites and Celebrations Committee. He served as chairman and the NSSAR began discussions with the National Park Service to have the SAR recognized as a participant in commemorations around the country. Bob began to ask, Why not have a Georgia site to equal those of neighboring states?

In the 1990s, Bob spearheaded the drive to make the Battle of Kettle Creek in Wilkes County the premier Georgia Society project. This isolated battle site had been graced with a fine monument in 1929 but except for occasional DAR wreath ceremonies had fallen into neglect. Bob and Coweta Falls compatriot Herman Tovey produced the first Kettle Creek Battle brochure. This led to the annual observance of the Patriot victory in 1779 in Wilkes County and to its recognition as an official NSSAR event. In 2004 Bob was chairman for the planning of the 225th Anniversary Ceremonies of “Revolutionary War Days” with a Color Guard parade, re-enactment, and memorial wreath presentations at the battle site monument. These actions inspired the formation of the Kettle Creek Battlefield Association as a permanent agency to protect and develop the battle site.

Continued on page 10

Robert Fulton Galer



The success of the Kettle Creek event encouraged the Georgia Society to develop the Georgia Revolutionary War Trail project. A committee of Georgia compatriots met at Bob's home to hammer out the details. This group produced several battle site brochures and a booklet on Georgia counties named for Georgia patriots. The brochures were placed in the various tourist and welcome centers around the state and are kept in print.

On the national as well as state level Bob Galer was indefatigable in support of identifying, locating, and marking Revolutionary War soldiers' and veterans' graves. He encouraged the expanded edition of the NSSAR multivolume work on these graves. At his initiative, Coweta Falls Chapter alone or in association with the Georgia Society, the DAR, and other historical groups, marked 17 graves of Revolutionary War patriots. These include the five Hammett patriots in Wilkes County; the grave of African-American patriot Austin Dabney in Pike County (in 2010); and 11 others in Muscogee and surrounding counties. Most of the marking ceremonies were attended by elements of the Georgia Color Guard. Coweta Falls' first, and rather extensive effort (led by Compatriot Hershel Hardin), was the restoration and marking in 1989 of the grave of Samuel Cooper located in Columbus at the intersection of Miller and Warm Springs Roads. In a related project, Bob got the Coweta Falls Chapter involved with the "Wreaths Across America" project to decorate graves in the nearby Fort Mitchell National Cemetery.

Bob Galer's penultimate successful project was the Revolutionary War Infantryman Monument at the National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center near Fort Benning, Georgia. Bob was the heart and soul of this project from initial discussions in 2006 to completion in 2009. Chapter members, community leaders, and compatriots from the Georgia Society worked many hours to design, commission the building and installation, and raise the funds. The George Washington Endowment Fund of the NSSAR, the Georgia Society, other state societies and chapters as well as local compatriots, contributed over \$20,000 for this effort. An important local grant was secured with the help of chapter charter member Edward W. Neal. With the support of Museum authorities Bob got the impressive Georgia granite monument positioned at the head of the Avenue of Honor—a prime spot. Appropriately, the figure on the monument facing the parade field features an infantryman in "Over the Mountain" garb and looks remarkably like Bob Galer. The formal dedication on March 13, 2009, attracted the state SAR officers and Color Guard as well as Fort Benning and local officials. Chapter Compatriot Colonel (Ret) Ralph Puckett gave the dedicatory address before about 225 in attendance.

This period of 30 years of service has brought Bob deserved recognitions from his chapter, from the Georgia Society and from the National Society of the SAR. These include the Georgia Society and the NSSAR Distinguished Service Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal, the Silver Good Citizenship Medal (Wisconsin Society), the Georgia Society Veterans Service Award, the NSSAR Liberty Medal, the Georgia Society Patriot Medal, and the NSSAR's highest honor, the Minuteman Award.

Robert F. Galer's outstanding record of service to his country in two wars and his service to the Sons of the American Revolution at chapter, state, and national levels, is one that challenges his compatriots. Compatriots of the Georgia Society will remember and honor Bob on his extraordinary service and achievements.



Chapter NEWS

Athens

The Athens Chapter Sons of the American Revolution inducted five members of one family at their May 2017 meeting. In memory, this is the first time that five members of the same family were inducted into the Athens Chapter at the same time.



The Guthrie Family includes father Larry, son Larry JR and three grandsons - Bennett, Hayden and Andrew.

Blue Ridge Mountains



Memorial Day Parade
“Best in Parade” Award

Poster Contest Winner



Brier Creek

Members of the Wiregrass (Swainsboro) and Brier Creek (Screven County) Chapters of the Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution traveled to St. Simons Island, GA on Saturday, April 22, 2017 to participate in the Annual Patriots Day Memorial Ceremony. Compatriot Steve Burke brought his 6-Pounder Naval Cannon along to also participate in the Musket and Cannon Salute.

During the ceremony, Wiregrass President Wilder Smith, Jr. and Brier Creek Chaplain Lee Smith presented their chapters wreaths to honor those Patriots who fought in the Frederica Naval Action on April 19, 1778. In all, there were 49 different organizations that presented wreaths. After the ceremony, all the Compatriots lined up to march in the Annual Parade in downtown St. Simons.

Those marching were, members of the GASSAR Color Guard, JROTC units, Daughters of the American Revolution, American Legion Post #9, nine horseback riders representing Revolutionary Patriots and many other organizations. Sponsors were GA SAR, Brunswick and Fort Frederica Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution and the Marshes of Glynn Chapter SAR. Those members attending were: Compatriots Steve Burke, Ruskin Powell, Wilder Smith, Lee Smith, and Dess Smith III.



Brier Creek Chapter held its monthly meeting on Thursday night, May 4, 2017. Chaplain Lee Smith gave a report on his participation at the Patriot's Day Memorial Ceremony at St. Simons Island, GA on Saturday, April 22, 2017.

Chaplain Smith traveled to the Frederica Days Celebration to present the Brier Creek Chapter wreath to honor those brave Patriot's that served during the American Revolution. Chaplain Smith also participated in the Annual Parade in downtown St. Simons Island and also was part of the GASSAR Color Guard in firing a three round salute with his Pennsylvania/Kentucky Flintlock Rifle.

Chaplain Smith was pleased to bring back the Patriot Day Streamer for the Brier Creek Chapters participation in that event. This streamer will hang from the B/C Chapter's flag along with other earned streamers of this newly formed Chapter.

Marshes of Glynn

Flag Day Celebration - Wednesday, June 14, 2017

"... the flag of the thirteen United States shall be made of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; and the union shall be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation." Resolution of Second Continental Congress on June 14, 1777.

Marshes of Glynn SAR Chapter, the Veterans Council of the Golden Isles, and the Brunswick Elks Lodge jointly sponsored Second Annual Glynn County Flag Day Celebration on the grounds of the Historic Glynn County Courthouse.

The highlight of the celebration was the Presentation of Colors with thirty flags carried by Honor Guards representing the City of Brunswick and Glynn County Fire, Police & Sheriff's departments, Brunswick High School JROTC, and ten Veterans Council organizations including the Marshes of Glynn SAR Chapter

Since June Fourteenth also is the date when the Continental Army was established, the celebration included a presentation by an Army historian and performance of the Army song, "The Army Goes Rolling Along."

Marshes of Glynn SAR Past President, Brent Taylor served as the Master of Ceremony which included remarks about our American Flag from Glynn County Commissioner Mike Browning (who is also a member of our Chapter), Brunswick Mayor Cornell Harvey, and Glynn County Magistrate Alex Atwood.

Robert Forsyth

The Robert Forsyth Chapter recently presented the SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Medal to Lt. Donnie Daves of the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office. Lt. Daves commands the Operations Division of the Forsyth County Sheriff's office where he oversees the daily operations of the School Resource Unit, Ordinance/Permits, Community Relations, Pro-Active Community Enforcement, and Internal and External communications.

He was nominated for this prestigious recognition for exhibiting 20+ years of exemplary and progressive service to our community. His actions, mentoring, training and team building skills have been instrumental in shaping the careers of many of our current deputies who serve the citizens of Forsyth County.



Lt. Donnie Daves, center, with (L-R) Compatriots Chris Russo, Emil Decker, Ed Rigel, Jr, and John Flikeid

Allen Greenly, Ed. Rigel Jr., & Chris Russo present Citizenship Awards to South Forsyth Middle School Students.



Washington—Wilkes

On Saturday, May 20th, 2017, the Washington-Wilkes Sons of the American Revolution (WWSAR) and the Kettle Creek Daughters of the American Revolution (KCDAR) held a ceremony to mark the grave of the Revolutionary Patriot John Colley. The grave is located approximately two miles off the Tignall Road, GA Highway 17 in Wilkes County.

Over 100 persons gathered at the Colley grave for the dedication of the grave marker. Dozens of descendants from North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Louisiana, Texas and all across Georgia: from Tiger in the north, to Homerville in the south, Carrollton in the west and Augusta to the east came to honor their forefather. Many families in Wilkes County can trace their roots to John Colley. They include the Fanning, Johnson, Brown, Jason, Orr, Duggan, Chafin and McClearen families.



Thad Broome, secretary of the WWSAR, and Ginny Broome, treasurer of the KCDAR, co-hosted the celebration as Masters of Ceremonies. KCDAR Regent Amanda Aycock welcomed the visitors and stressed why we honor our Patriot fore parents. Major General Don Burdick, (Ret), first Vice-President of the GA Society SAR dedicated the marker.

The Award Winning GSSAR Color Guard presented the Colors and fired Salutes with their black powder muskets. Marshall Styles, the leading authority on John Colley, spoke on Patriot Colley's background and his legacy spread through his twenty-one children.

Nathan Perkins, a member of the WWCHS band drummed the Color Guard in and played Taps before the Benediction given by WWSAR Chaplain David Chesnut. Shay Harris, Minister of Music at the FUMC led the audience in the singing of God Bless America.

Planning for this event was a combined effort of Colley descendants Kate Orr Messer and David McClearen. Many WW SAR and KCDAR members were involved in the cleaning of the grave site, making the area ready for the ceremony and welcoming visitors. Among them were Garvin Aycock, Linda Chesnut, Mickey and Nancy Sisson and John Sisson.

WWSAR member Jim Granade and his wife Janet hosted a BBQ luncheon catered by Frank Bentley at their farm in Rayle afterward.

As a special treat, Jim Granade III opened his recently restored 18th century cabin for tours for visitors to enjoy.



William Few



Throughout the month of April, our chapter was busy supporting our 14 local JROTC units and the ROTC unit at Augusta University with the NSSAR Medal and Certificate presentations.

Pictured here, Compatriot Bill Colbert presents the SAR JROTC Bronze medal and certificate to Cadet Petty Officer Jamal Mc

Coy at the Westside High School NJROTC awards ceremony in Augusta. Our thanks to CDR Earl Richardson, unit commander, for having us and for the photo.



On Memorial Day, we participated in the Augusta – Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) Memorial Day Observance at the All Wars Monument at Fourth and Broad Streets in Augusta.

Pictured right are compatriots Bill Tankersley, Bill Colbert, Albert Beveridge, and David Titus.



New Compatriot Bill Lee (center) accepts his membership certificate and tells what his SAR membership means to him while his wife, Carolyn (left) looks on.

Our second quarter chapter meeting was held on Monday, June 26, at the Snelling Center in Augusta. Twenty-one chapter members and eleven guests were in attendance. Compatriot Bill Lee received his membership certificate and was inducted as a new SAR member by his descent from his patriot ancestor Richard Henry Lee of Virginia, the mover and a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Compatriot Bill Colbert received a Kettle Creek Battle Reenactor Certificate of Appreciation from the GA Society SAR. Following a brief chapter Board of Managers report and updates from chapter committee chairmen, Compatriot 2nd VP James Brady came forward to inform the chapter of the Augusta Vietnam War Memorial Initiative.

Compatriot Russell Brown gave a very interesting and informative program titled "The Patriotic Family of President Theodore Roosevelt."



Wiregrass

Four members of the Wiregrass Chapter of Swainsboro, Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution, traveled to Screven County, GA to present a program to the Brier Creek Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution for their April meeting.

The meeting was held at B/C DAR member Dianne Fitzner's home on Tuesday afternoon, April 12, 2017 at 3:30. Compatriot Steve Burke presented his program with the help of Emory, Chip and Dess, on "Life during the American Revolution" and the "Brier Creek Battle on March 3, 1779".

Compatriot Burke also brought with him many of the items that he has fabricated over the years out of "road kill", including his "Armadillo Hat".



First US Navy Ship "The Liberty".

Brier Creek Chapter, Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution held its monthly meeting, Thursday night, May 4, 2017 at R & D's Restaurant in Sylvania, GA.

With President Craig Wildi presiding, they had 12 in attendance. The Brier Creek Chapter Secretary Tommy Christopher presented the program for this months meeting. His topic was on what may have been the first ship in the U.S. Navy, "The Liberty".



Members of the Wiregrass Chapter Sons of the American Revolution traveled to downtown Swainsboro on Saturday, May 6, 2017.

The 72nd Annual Pine Tree Festival Parade was held that morning at 10:30 with Compatriot Steve Burke's 6-pounder Naval Cannon firing one shot on the corner of South Main Street and Moring Street to Officially start the parade.

Four members of the Wiregrass Chapter, Steve Burke, Ruskin Powell, Lee Smith and Wilder Smith, Jr., marched in the parade followed by Steve's truck that pulled his 6-pounder Naval cannon on a trailer. Driving the truck was Compatriot Jim Daughtry and riding shotgun was Compatriot Chip Durden.

About every 30 yards our Compatriots would stop, prime, load and fire their Pennsylvania/Kentucky Flintlock Rifles in the air.

