

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

<http://gasocietysar.org/>

Organized March 15, 1921

Incorporated July 24, 1998



The Georgia Society has 28 active chapters as of October 2005: **Altamaha, Athens, Atlanta, Blue Ridge Mountains, Button Gwinnett, Casimir Pulaski, Cherokee, Coweta Falls, Dalton, Edward Telfair, George Walton, Joel Early, John Collins, John Milledge, Joseph Habersham, LaGrange, Lyman Hall, Marquis de Lafayette, Marshes of Glynn, Mill Creek, Ocmulgee, Patrick Carr Rangers, Piedmont, Rome, Samuel Elbert, Valdosta, Washington-Wilkes, William Few, and Wiregrass.**

The Georgia Society has had two Compatriots who rose to the office of President General: James R. Westlake, 1989, and Col. Robert B. Vance, 1993. 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.

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. 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. Those members along with their National and State Numbers were:

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

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 Falkenburg 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 Falkenburg 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 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 long time 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 South 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 Horner'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 Ohoopsee 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 Bhamme 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 very 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 its 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 Georgia State Sons of the American Revolution

By Dr. David A. Ludley, GASSAR 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.