



# BRIER CREEK PATRIOT

BRIER CREEK CHAPTER  
SCREVEN COUNTY, GEORGIA

---

Vol. 6

May 20, 2021 - Copies - 60

Issue 5

---

Editor – Dess D. Smith III, 214 N Racetrack Street, Swainsboro, GA 30401

---

Compatriots,

Our fifth meeting of 2021 was held on Thursday night, May 6, 2021 at 7:00 at the American Legion. **The program for the evening was presented by Calvin Cole, who is the Chatham Artillery Historian in Savannah.** Our six meeting of 2021 will be held on Thursday night, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at the American Legion, 115 S. Community Drive, Sylvania at 7:00.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> QUARTER, 2021 SAR EVENTS:**

**May 20, 2021: Little River Chapter meeting, Thomson, GA @ 5:00.**

**June 3, 2021: Brier Creek Chapter meeting, American Legion @ 7:00, eat at Wall's Dinner @5:30**

**June 8, 2021: Fall Line Chapter meeting, Farm Bureau, Sandersville, @ 7:00**

**June 10, 2021: Wiregrass 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet, reservations required, contact Dess**

**June 12, 2021: 2<sup>nd</sup> Siege of Augusta, information to be announced**

**June 17, 2021: Little River Chapter meeting, Lincolnton Historical Society, @ 7:00**

**July 3-4, 2021: The American Village event, Montevallo, AL EFLR Continentals to participate**

## **BRIER CREEK MEMBERS MAKE THE VETERANS CORPS**

<b>Scotty Scott</b>	<b>Military Service Veterans Corps</b>
<b>Allen Mincey</b>	<b>Southwest Asia Veterans Corps</b>
<b>Bernard Martin</b>	<b>Southwest Asia Veterans Corps</b>
<b>Bernard Martin</b>	<b>Special Operations Veterans Corps</b>

## "Brier Creek Hears Chatham Artillery Program."

"The Brier Creek Chapter, Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution held its monthly meeting, Thursday night, May 6, 2021 at the "American Legion" at 7:00. Those that wanted to eat before the meeting, met at Wall's Diner at 5:30 for a great meal. With President Wayne Howard presiding, we had 17 members and guests in attendance. Dual member, Dess Smith III was asked by President Wayne Howard to give a report on past events that have taken place since our last meeting. Dess also talked about the up coming Annual Pine Tree Festival Parade that will be held in Swainsboro on Saturday morning at 10:30 on May 8, 2021. President Wayne asked Compatriots Grady Jenkins and Byran Hogsette to come forward to be inducted into the Brier Creek Chapter. Grady joined as a descendant of Patriot Anthony Bonnell and Byron joined as a descendant of Patriot James Scott. President Wayne then introduced our program presenter Calvin Cole, who is the Historian for the Chatham Artillery in Savannah, GA. Calvin told us a lot about the Chatham Artillery and the leading role that they have played in the history of the state of Georgia since the American Revolution. Thomas Lee organized a provincial company of artillery in 1776 to defend Savannah. This was the first such unit in Georgia. Their service included defending the right flank of American Forces when the British attacked Savannah. They also saw service in the Oconee wars, The Embargo Wars, and the War of 1812. They were part of the force that occupied Fort Pulaski that opened the American Civil War and served in and around Savannah and Charleston. Later, in 1872, they mustered out to the border with Mexico to stop Pancho Villa's raids in the US. They served with the Dixie Division in France during WWI and landed on Normandy Beach on D-Day plus 4 in WWII. In 2005 they were mobilized again into federal service from the Georgia Army National Guard, as an element of the 48th Brigade Combat team serving in Iraq, part of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Today they remain in service, as a modular artillery brigade of the Georgia Army National Guard, the 118th Field Artillery."



# "Brier Creek and Wiregrass Start Scramble"

"Three members of the Brier Creek and Wiregrass Chapter, Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution, traveled to Screven County on Saturday, May 1, 2021 to Start the Second Annual Cpl. G. Alex Mincey Memorial Golf Scramble. Scotty Scott, also a member of the Brier Creek Chapter and chairman of the Scramble, asked Commander Steve Burke to start this years Scramble using his 6-pounder Naval Cannon from the Brier Creek Artillery. Steve asked Compatriots Wilder and Dess Smith III from the Wiregrass Chapter in Swainsboro, also dual members of the Brier Creek Chapter to assist him. At 9:30, Scotty gave the order to fire. Immediately after the cannon fire, Commander Burke, Wilder Smith, Jr. and Dess Smith III, fired their Brown Bess 75 Cal. Muskets as part of the starting of the Scramble."



# "SAR Members attend Banquet"

Photo from L to R: Dess Smith, Wilder Smith, Jr., Steve Burke, Renee Burke

"Members of the Brier Creek and Wiregrass Chapter's, Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution attended the Annual Screven County Chamber of Commerce Banquet on Friday night, March 19, 2021. The banquet was held in a very nice outside meeting house on a cool night. There were gas heaters providing heat throughout the room. Many awards were given to local businesses and individuals throughout the night as we dined on some very good "taco's" and desserts. Those in attendance from the Brier Creek Chapter were Past President Lee Smith, President Wayne Howard and his wife Laura. Those in attendance from the Wiregrass Chapter were President Wilder Smith, Jr., Vice President Steve Burke and his wife Renee, Registrar Dess Smith III and John Tapley."



# "SAR Chapters Ride in Livestock Parade"

They are from L to R: Dess Smith III, Woody Woodard, Allen Mincey, Wilder Smith, Steve Burke, Alton Reynolds, Alton McCloud and not pictured was Wayne Howard.

"Members of the Brier Creek (Screven Co), Little River (Thomson) and Wiregrass (Swainsboro) Chapters, Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution traveled to Sylvania on Saturday morning, April 3, 2021 to participate in the Annual Livestock Parade Festival. They arrived at the Screven County High School around 9:00 a.m. to ride the trailer that held their 6-pounder Naval Cannon. Commander Steve Burke walked along side the float starting at 11:00 and gave the commands to halt, make ready, aim and fire as 3 militiamen fired to the front and 3 militiamen fired to the rear making sure that the parade vehicles were at least 100 feet away in front and to the rear. The demonstration occurred approximately every 100 feet or so which gave us the opportunity to each fire at least 11 to 12 times. After the parade, we set up 4 tables in front of City Hall to hold Compatriot Steve Burkes artifacts for the public to see."



# "Wiregrass, Brier Creek & Little River Chapters Attend event"

Photo #1: Alton McCloud, Little River Chapter: Ruskin Powell, Wilder Smith, Jr., & Dess Smith III, Wiregrass Chapter.

Photo #2: Georgia Society Award Winning Color Guard.

Photo #3: Following the event, enjoying a great meal at the Mullet Bay Restaurant, St. Simons Island, GA.

"On Saturday morning, April 10, 2021, Members of the Wiregrass, Brier Creek and Little River Chapters of the East Fall Line Region, Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution, traveled to Fort Frederica on St. Simons Island Georgia to participate in the Video for the April 17th Zoom of the Annual Patriot's Day Celebration. This event included the Award Winning Georgia Society Color Guard, Continental and Militia firing of their flintlocks and the firing of Steve Burke's 6-pounder Naval Cannon and Bernard Martin's 6-pounder Mortar. This event might have been the first time cannon's have been fired at Fort Frederica since the American Revolution. Those attending were: Wiregrass members Ruskin Powell, Wilder Smith, Jr., Steve Burke, Dess Smith, and Alton Reynolds; Brier Creek members Bernard Martin, Cameron Quick, Walker Quick; Little River member Alton McCloud."





## "SAR holds Education Day at Brier Creek Battlefield"

"The Brier Creek Chapter and the Wiregrass Chapter, Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution traveled to the Brier Creek Battlefield in Screven County, GA and set up four battlefield education stations for presentations to the general public on March 5, 2021. There were two education times, 10:00 am and 1:00 pm, for the presentations to take place. Station #1 was presented by SAR Dr. John Derden. His presentation was on what happened before, during and after the Battle at Brier Creek. Station #2 was presented by SAR member Don Thomas and DAR member Pat Thomas. Their presentation was a SAR traveling trunk, Revolutionary War items of interest. Station #3 was presented by Compatriot Allen Mincey. He presented the flintlock rifle. He told everything about this weapon of war, how it was used, how it was maintained and how it was made. Station #4 was presented by Artillery Commander Steve Burke. He had four tables of skins, artifacts and weapons that he held his presentation. At the end of each session, Commander Steve Burke fired his 6-pounder Naval Cannon. This is the second annual presentation that our Chapters have held at the Battlefield and next years 3rd Annual Education Day will be held at the battlefield on March 4, 2022 at 10:00 am and 1:00 pm.

They are from L to R: Alton McCloud (Little River Chapter, Thomson), Woody Woodard (Brier Creek Chapter, Screven County) and Dess Smith III, Wiregrass Chapter, Swainsboro.



## "BCRWBA, Inc. Holds 2nd Annual Banquet"

"The Brier Creek Revolutionary War Battlefield Association, Inc held its 2nd Annual Banquet at the Cadillac Ranch in Screven County on Friday night, March 5, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. With President Stephen Hammond presiding, we had 51 in attendance. The banquet opened up with President Stephen Hammond's "Call to Order". President Stephen then called for the Presentation of Colors, presented by the Brier Creek Chapter Color Guard. Chairman of the Board of Directors, Compatriot Tommy Christopher led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. After the welcome from President Stephen, Joseph Vancura, Jr., Senior Vice President of the Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution, brought Greetings. The Invocation and Blessing was presented by the Brier Creek Chapter President Wayne Howard. An outstanding meal was then served by our caterer, "Happy's Restaurant" from Swainsboro. Our speaker for the evening was Dr. John K. Derden, who presented his program on "The American Revolution: Legacies and Challenges". Dr. Derden is a retired history professor from East Georgia State College, a member of the BCRWBA, Inc. and a member of the Wiregrass Chapter in Swainsboro. The benediction was presented by Compatriot Wayne Howard."

1st Photo is: Dr. John Derden, Wiregrass Member, Swainsboro

2nd Photo is: Brier Creek Chapter Color Guard, L to R: Commander Steve Burke, Dess Smith III, Wilder Smith, Jr. all dual members of the Brier Creek Chapter and Master of Ceremonies, BCRWBA, Inc. President Stephen Hammond





## "GASSAR Holds 242nd Anniversary Event"

"Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution Brier Creek and Wiregrass Chapters along with the Governor David Emanuel - Adam Brinson Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolutions held the 242nd Anniversary Celebration of the Battle at Brier Creek on the battlefield, Saturday, March 6, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. The Master of Ceremonies for this event was Compatriot Tommy Christopher. This was Compatriot Tommy's 6th year as the MC. The invocation was given by Brier Creek President Wayne Howard followed by the playing of "Amazing Grace" and "Flowers of the Forest" by bag piper Dave Crampton of the Edward Telfair Chapter of the GASSAR. Compatriot Scotty Scott then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by Compatriot Wilder Smith, Jr. leading us in the National Anthem. MC Tommy Christopher then introduced several special guest who brought greetings from their respective organizations. Compatriot Ruskin Powell of the Wiregrass Chapter introduced this years speaker, Artillery Commander Steve Burke of the Wiregrass Chapter. Compatriot Steve's presentation was titled, "The American Soldier". Steve presented an outstanding program that included soldiers that fought at The Battle at Brier Creek and mentioned some descendants of these soldiers that still live today in Screven and surrounding counties. After Steve finished his presentation, MC Tommy Christopher called on each wreath presenter to present their wreath as he called their names. Their were a total of 56 wreath presenters. Next, MC Tommy asked that the Georgia Society Combined Award Winning Color Guard to

Retrieve the Colors. Then Commander Scott Collins of the Flintlock and Cannon detail ordered a 3-round volley alternating Flintlocks and then Cannon firing. Flintlocks used were the 50 Cal. Pennsylvania/Kentucky Rifles and the Brown Bess 75 cal. Muskets. Cannons used were the 6-pounder Mortar and the 6-pounder Naval Cannon. After the volley, the bugler, CW4 Larry Hyatt played "Last Post" and then "Taps". Last Post is a 17th Century bugle call played as a final farewell, symbolizing the fact that the duty of the dead soldier(s) is over and they can rest in peace. Last post was used until Taps was introduced in 1862. During this celebration, and while Last Post was played a militia soldier, Compatriot Allen Mincey, from the Brier Creek Chapter slowly walked away from the celebration into the woods. After Taps were played Color Guard Commander Bill Palmer gave the command to "Retire the Colors". At this time President Wayne Howard said the benediction after which MC Tommy gave the closing remarks and reminded everyone that next years 243rd Celebration's would be on March 4 and 5, 2022."

Photo #1: Brier Creek Artillery Commander Steve Burke presenting his program, "The American Soldier".

Photo #2: The Georgia Society Continentals and Militia firing a 3-round volley to honor those 200 Patriots that were killed and murdered on the Battlefield on March 3, 1779.

Photo #3: Georgia State Senator Max Burns bringing greetings from the Georgia Senate.

Photo #4: Georgia House of Representative Jon Burns bringing greetings from the Georgia House







**ADAM BAZEMORE'S TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Compatriot Adam reports that we are doing great with our bank balance. Thanks to Secretary Dennis Wiggins and Treasurer Adam Bazemore for their hard Work

**SCOTTY SCOTTS REGISTRAR'S REPORT:**

Grady Jenkins has been **approved** as a Brier Creek Chapter Member

Bernard Martin has been **approved** as a Brier Creek Chapter Member

Blakke Marchant has been **approved** as a Brier Creek Chapter Member

Brooks Marchant has been **approved** as a Brier Creek Chapter Member

Norman Waters has been **approved** as a Brier Creek Chapter Member

Scott Waters has been **approved** as a Brier Creek Chapter Member

Ross Waters has been **approved** as a Brier Creek Chapter Member

Rowland Neil Dickey **re-instated** into the Brier Creek Chapter

Gary Hills has been **approved** as a Brier Creek Chapter Member

Alexander Stephen Hogsette has been **approved** as a Brier Creek Chapter Member

Forrest Boyer Hogsette has been **approved** as a Brier Creek Chapter Member

Samuel Hutcheson Bazemore's **application** is at the State Society

### **OUR TOTAL MEMBERSHIP IS NOW 39**

If you have anyone that would like to become a member of our Chapter, please contact me at 478-299-1039 or e-mail me at [saussure@bellsouth.net](mailto:saussure@bellsouth.net)

In SAR Friendship & Service,

*Dess*