



# The Collins Dispatch

December 2004

## Dates to Remember

December 21st  
**“Christmas 1776”**  
 will be held at Ryan’s on the 120 Loop near the Civic Center. The whole family is invited to attend.

January 18th  
**Annual Banquet**  
 6:30 p.m.  
 Reservations required. Look inside for registration form.

January 22nd GASSAR BOM

February 5th Warner Robins Museum of Aviation visit and GASSAR training session.

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## New and Old Year Celebration January 18, 2005

We inaugurated the Collins Chapter at a banquet in October 2000 at the **Cheatham Hill Community Center** and return there to recognize the past year’s accomplishments on January 18th.



*The Charter Banquet was held at the Community Center.*

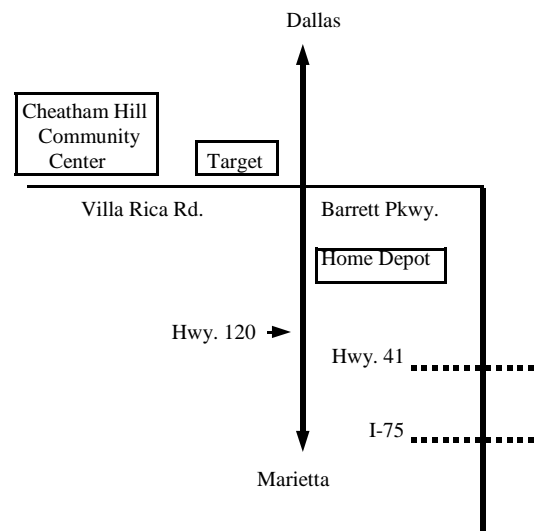
The Chapter was chartered with 84 members, probably a record. So many helped launch the chapter because the SAR offers programs that allow each of us an opportunity to meet our personal goals. This past year we have continued to fulfill our Charter goals and encourage everyone to help ring in your new term of leaders.

We will continue to get to know each other better, learn of our shared history, celebrate the past year, eat, and re-establish our dedication to fulfilling our Society’s goals.

**Complete the enclosed registration form and return it with your check as soon as possible.**

The facility is located 4 tenths of a mile south of Dallas Highway on the west side of Barrett Parkway extension currently called Villa Rica Rd.

The area now has a center median, so slow down as you approach either of the two entrances on your right.



If you get lost on the way, call the SAR phone, 770-952-1776, for directions.

## President's Message

My fellow Compatriots,

Well, we are through the campaign season (finally). I am reminded how incredible it is that we, as a people, can conduct so much in-fighting, but once the dust settles, we (hopefully) mend fences and move forward with our lives. Look at what's going on in Ukraine right now, and compare that to our experience four years ago. Reaching Democracy takes patience and dedication. A dedication that our patriot ancestors had and we continue to demonstrate today.

But perhaps I should say, Democracy is a journey, not a destination. Our forefathers understood this concept. Our government must not be, and is not, a static one. It is meant to be flexible, adapting with the will and culture of the people who make up its body.

We can see the evolution of democracy right now. Iraq is in the earliest possible stages, Ukraine is further along the line. The United States is the standard bearer, truly the shining example of what government of the people, by the people, and for the people is all about.

Gentlemen, serving as your President this past year, getting to know you better, has been a rewarding experience, and has reminded me just how much I love this

country, its people, its creatures, its environment, and certainly its history and tradition. I see the dedication among the membership and am honored to have served you.

It is amazing to think that we are less than a month away from 2005. It seems like just yesterday we gathered at the Holiday Inn for our 2004 annual dinner and officer installation. (More on the 2005 version later).

Now we get ready for the Christmas season, shorter days, longer nights, warm coffee and hot chocolate and a good book or two. I'd like to recommend a novel from one of my favorite authors, Nelson DeMille. Mr. DeMille is a Vietnam veteran and accomplished journalist, writing international favorites such as Cathedral, Word of Honor, The General's Daughter,

Plum Island, and Up Country. His latest is Night Fall. It centers around the explosion of TWA Flight 800 in July 1996, and investigation into its causes, 5 years later. Although a work of fiction, as always DeMille takes great strides to investigate his subjects thoroughly, basing his fictional premises on fact and theory, and his incorporation of the events leading up to 9-11 makes this an exciting and thought-provoking novel.

We are close to finalizing the infor-

*(Continued on page 4)*



## Officers and Committee Chairmen

President	Joe Vancura
Vice President	Curtis McWaters
Secretary	David Thompson
Treasurer	Jim Castle
Registrar	Charles (Chuck) Smith
Chancellor	Joe Vancura
Chaplain	John Jones
Sergeant-at-Arms	Rodney Pritchett
Historian	Bill Teasley
Editor	Larry Guzy
Americanism	Charles Switzer
Cemetery	Kendall Abbott
Dinner meetings	Curtis McWaters
Flags/Law/Fire	Ron McWaters
Eagle Scouts	Ed Brown
JROTC & Veterans	Jimmy Flanagan
Membership	Chuck Smith
Patriot Grave	Brad Jones
Publicity/phone	
Schools	Rodney Pritchett

*The Collins Dispatch is published every other month. **February 4th** will be the next deadline for articles. Send articles, photos, or your bio to Larry Guzy by email [guzy@mindspring.com](mailto:guzy@mindspring.com), or regular mail at 4531 Paper Mill Rd. Marietta, GA 30067-4025.*

*If you have new member leads, contact our Registrar, Chuck Smith at 770-953-3960 for assistance.*

## New Members & Membership



*David Williams holds his membership certificate.*

We welcomed two new members at our November meeting: Mark Bilby  
David Williams III

Some of the men who have been working to finalize their applications include: Ken Farris; Robert, Mark, and Michael Bowen; Jon Banks; Walter Fortner; and Jason Godwin.

Wear your SAR rosette to inspire questions and identify men who may be qualified to join. Help them document their heritage, or ask our registrar or another member to assist.

Go to [SAR.org](http://SAR.org) and join SARTalk, an email chat for members.



*Mark Bilby received his certificate from President Joe Vancura.*



*Phillip Martin toasts his future with new wife, Megan, at a post-wedding party in Marietta. The Martins took a cruise to St. Thomas for a wedding on the beach. They were married September 27th. Parents David and Anne Martin, as well as brother Allen were in attendance at the Caribbean wedding.*



*Doug Frey was caught demonstrating his turkey carving skills at home with his father-in-law supervising.*

## LONG CANE CREEK

When white settlers first arrived in the hardwood forests of western South Carolina, the huge trees stood far enough apart that the abundant deer and buffalo could be seen from great distances. There was no underbrush to obstruct the view. It wasn't uncommon for settlers to see a hundred buffaloes grazing on a single acre. Deer traveled in herds of 60 or more and bear were also numerous. In 1797, the last reported panther in the region was killed along Long Cane Creek.

The abundant wild game, fish and bird population along **Long Cane Creek** made this an appealing spot for a settlement. In 1756, the Calhoun clan settled here, including John C. Calhoun's grandmother, Catherine Calhoun and her four sons James, Ezekiel, William and Patrick. The family also included her widowed sister Mary Calhoun Noble and cousin Hugh Calhoun. The family left Ireland to escape the dual threats of famine and religious persecution. Within two years the Province of South Carolina had granted the Calhouns two huge tracts of land (between 300 to 750 acres in each) along a branch of the Little River.

This land grant, however, conflicted with a treaty South Carolina had made with the Cherokee Nation in 1740, which granted all land west and north of Long Cane Creek to the Cherokees. The land granted to the Calhouns was closed to white settlers. The Cherokees had friendly relations with settlers up until the onset of the French and Indian War in the 1750s, but they were becoming increasingly uneasy

about settlements encroaching on their land.

The Calhouns were part of that threat. Other settlers, fleeing the unprotected frontiers of Pennsylvania and Virginia, joined the Calhouns. By 1760, it is estimated there were between 150 to 250 settlers in the Long Cane area. The Cherokees became convinced that the English were going to continue expanding into their territory, a realization heightened by the construction of Fort Loudon, so they planned an attack on the Ninety-Six Fort.

The route to this fort lay through the Long Cane settlement. Somehow the settlers were alerted to the impending attack and attempted to flee to Augusta's Fort Moore, but the loaded wagons got bogged down along the soggy banks of Long Cane Creek. The Cherokees caught up with them on February 1, 1760 and attacked so swiftly and unexpectedly that the men were not able to reach the guns they had packed in the wagons. Some settlers escaped into the canes, others were captured and between 20 and 50 were killed. When the settlers returned after the attack they buried 23 victims, including Catherine Calhoun, in a mass grave a quarter mile from the massacre site (the gravesite, with a stone marker erected by Patrick Calhoun, and massacre site are indicated by a historical marker). Ann Calhoun, William's daughter, was taken prisoner and lived with the Cherokees for several years before being reunited with her family.

When the settlers returned they exercised greater care, living within stockades for protection. Calhoun's Fort,

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## Marietta 2009

That seems a long way off, but the National SAR Congress will be held here, in Cobb County, in 2009. The Waverly Hotel, at Galleria, has been chosen as the location for this big event.

Our chapter will be central to the efforts of the Georgia Society to host compatriots from throughout the country and the world. The SAR is coming to us! We need to understand what goes on and how to do it up right.

Make plans to attend at least one Congress before 2009. Next year, in July 2005, the National Congress will be in Louisville, KY, our National Headquarters. At a 7-hour drive, it is the closest Congress will be to us before we host it in 2009. Because we can drive to Louisville, transportation costs are minimized for us to attend.

## Speakers Enliven Fall Meetings



Vice President Curtis McWaters presented Park Ranger John Cissell with a Certificate of Appreciation for speaking to the group about King's Mountain, where he served with the National Park Service.



Sandra Beckley, our November speaker, is the Director of the Georgia National Cemetery that is under construction in Cherokee County. She delivered a great deal of information about the 575 acre site provided by Scott Hudgen. The initial section of 110 acres is scheduled to accept the first veteran in November 2005 in the in-ground, columbarium, or scatter area. It is located off I75 exit 290 or 1575 exit 16.

### In memoriam...



Charter member James Wynn passed away on May 9, this year, unbeknownst to the membership. Our condolences to his family.

(Continued from page 2)  
President's Message

mation for the Annual Meeting. Look in this issue of the Dispatch for a registration form, with specifics on pricing and a menu. This much is certain. We have reserved the Cheatham Hill Community Club on Villa Rica Road, ½ mile from Dallas Highway. We should have a choice of roast beef or chicken, plus salad, sides, desert and beverage. Our guest speaker will be Marietta Daily Journal Columnist Joe Kirby. Wives and guests are invited. Kickoff is 6:30 pm!

As always, I thank you for your membership, your continued commitment to the John Collins Chapter, and the honor of being allowed to serve as your president.

God Bless the United States of America.  
- Joe Vancura

## Membership Renewal



### Are you one of the last 12?

Dues are \$53 payable to the John Collins Chapter, and can be sent to our Treasurer, Jim Castle at 3291 Owens Meadow Lane, Kennesaw, GA 30152. He will credit your renewal.

## Genealogy

Tips, Tricks and Traps

**THE LIBRARY VISIT** – Gosh what an experience – could be good and could be a waste of time. Hopefully we're going to make it a little easier for you. Walk around the genealogy section of a library, get a quick overview of what they have. Much history is contained in these books and it's your job to find those missing pieces in your heritage. Get familiar with the sections of the library including the computers which are online.

**Tips:** Be prepared. Have a list of some of the stuff you would like to research. Without this, it would be like going into battle without a battle plan. Don't just have a couple of names to look up. Bring notes or prepared pedigree charts of related folks. Talk to the librarian and ask for suggestions. Allow plenty of time. Go prepared with pencil and paper. Any copies – make sure to include resource title, page and publisher. On all photocopies, make sure the page number is on the copies.

**Tricks:** Look for documentaries like town histories, city histories, local cemetery listings. If it has author information, write that down – if they are alive they usually are great contacts since they love talking about their own work. Sometimes some leads on original documentation, etc. Also might give you additional leads.

**Traps:** Not going prepared. DAR manuals are not complete – no complete set. Different years have different patriots. If something sounds good, take notes with references listed, what library you're in, page numbers, etc. Make sure any computer searching you do that the computer is hooked up to a printer. Not enough time – be sure to make notes to know where to pick up the next time you visit.

Hopefully it will be an informative tidbit of information that will be useful to you find that missing great grand whatever. Any contributions, comments or suggestions, please pass along to Kendall Abbott (kabbot@bellsouth.net).

# The Story Tellers

(Author unknown)

In each family there is one who seems called to find the ancestors. To put flesh on their bones and make them alive again, to tell the family story and to feel that somehow they know and approve. To me, doing genealogy is not a cold gathering of facts, but instead, breathing life into all who have gone before. We are the Story Tellers of the tribe. All tribes have one. We have been called as it were by our genes. Those who have gone before cry out to us: Tell our story. So we do.

In finding them, we somehow find ourselves. How many graves have I stood before now, and cried? I have lost count. How many times have I told the ancestors they have a wonderful family and they would be proud of us? How many times have I walked up to a grave and felt somehow there was love there for me? I cannot say.

It goes beyond just documenting facts. It goes to who am I, and why do I do the things I do? It goes to seeing a cemetery about to be lost forever to weeds and indifference and saying I can't let this happen.

The bones here are the bones of my bone, and flesh of my flesh. It goes to doing something about it. It goes to pride in what our ancestors were able to accomplish. How they contributed to what we are today. It goes to respecting their hardships and losses, their never giving in or giving up, their resoluteness to go on and build a life for their family.

It goes to deep pride that they fought to make and keep us a Nation. It goes to a deep and immense understanding that they were doing it for us, that we might be born who we are, that we might remember them. So we do.

With love and caring and scribing each fact of their existence, because we are them and they are us. So, as a scribe called, I tell the story of my family. It is up to that one called in the next generation to answer the call and take their place in the long line of family Story Tellers.

That is why I do my family genealogy, and that is what calls those young and old to step up and put flesh on the bones.



The brothers McWaters, Curtis (left) and Ron (right) flank Nicholas D. Snider, founder of the Patriotism Museum, who accepted a flag certificate presented on behalf of the chapter.



## Amendment Proposed

The following amendment was submitted to the By-Laws committee for immediate consideration. Per the by-laws, it will be submitted to the BOM in December and formally introduced to the membership at the December meeting for ratification in January.

Proposed, that Article V, Section 3, Part G be amended as follows:

"Wives or significant others may attend Regular Meetings on special occasions, or during other special events voted upon by the membership."

Shall be amended by striking certain language and adding certain language as follows,

"Wives or significant others *are encouraged to* attend Regular Meetings *on special occasions, or during other special events voted upon by the membership.*"

So that the new Article V, Section 3, Part G shall now read:

"Wives or significant others are encouraged to attend Regular Meetings."

Joe Vancura  
President, Captain John Collins Chapter

**CAPTAIN JOHN COLLINS CHAPTER  
GEORGIA SOCIETY SONS OF THE  
AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

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Don't forget, if you go to an historical celebratory event, make a donation of money, items, or self to a veteran's charity, or even solicit a potential new member, please send a note to an officer or let us know at the next meeting.  
**Those Americanism points can add up fast!**

*(Continued from page 3)  
Battle of Long Cane*

also called Fort Long Cane or Fort Boone, was reportedly controlled by Patrick Calhoun and sheltered approximately 140 settlers. The threat of attack did not end until 1785 when a treaty was signed between the Cherokees and the United States.

There was yet another fight in this area, and the **Battle of Long Cane** was between the British and the Patriots. The Patriot force, led by Scottish immigrant Lt. Col. James McCall, along with Col. Elijah Clarke and his men, were joined by Col. Benjamin Few with refugees from Georgia. The growing Patriot presence at the Long Cane settlement was unsettling to the British who decided to drive them out before they grew stronger. Col. John Harris Cruger, commander of the British at Ninety-Six Fort, sent 450 troops to eliminate the patriots. Three miles from the Long Cane camp the two forces met on December 11, 1780. The patriot force, num-



*Col. Elijah Clarke*

bering only 100, was not able to withstand the British attack. After 21 casualties, the Patriots retreated. McCall and the Long Cane Militia headed north and on January 17, 1781 they fought with Daniel Morgan in the Battle of Cowpens (see selection), a British defeat that was one of the major turning points of the Revolutionary War.

Each October on the weekend before Halloween there is a reenactment of the Battle of Long Cane with living history camps, bayonet and tomahawk contests and a musket firing competition. At other times, visitors need their imagination to fill the countryside with combatants. There are no exhibits, no visitors center, no guided walking paths--just a marker to indicate what transpired on this ground. The site is on Route 117, a dirt road just outside of **Troy**.

For a pictorial map of Troy covering the historical and cultural points of interest stop at the Southernwood Greenhouses on Old Charleston Road in Troy next to the Troy Baptist Church. The self-guiding map lists a number of the local churches, the two-cell brick jail built before 1910, a 19th-century log cabin and the ruins of Bradley's Mill, a late 1700s grain mill on Long Cane Creek and the ruins of Bradley's covered bridge.

**Directions:**

From I-20 take Exit 18 and head north on Route 25. Make a left on Route 378 to McCormick, then take Route 221 north. Turn left again on Old Charleston Road, which will become East Main Street in Troy. The Southernwood Greenhouses are on the right.