



# Captain John Collins Chapter Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution

## The Collins Dispatch

<http://www.geocities.com/captainjohncollins>

February 2006

### Dates to Remember

**Chapter Meeting Ryan's:**  
**Tuesday, Feb 21 6:15-7:00PM dinner 7PM mtg.**  
Author Andy Farmer, "The Way To Georgia"

**Spring Leadership Meeting in Louisville Feb 23-26**

**GASSAR Training Conference March 4th 10AM-2PM**  
Forsyth, GA Holiday Inn Exit #186

**Sat., March 11th Grave Dedication** sponsored by Collins Chapter

**Sat., March 18th Battle of Guilford Courthouse,**  
Greensboro, NC

**March 21st Chapter Mtg.**  
GASSAR President George Thurmond will speak.

**Mar 31-Apr 1 GASSAR Annual Meeting,** Century Center Marriott

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### Change of Command at Annual Banquet

State President George Thurmond installed the 2006 officers at the Annual Awards Banquet that was held on January 17th at the Cheatham Community Center.

Jim Castle took the reins from former President Curtis McWaters. Former Secretary David Thompson stepped up to Vice President. Larry Guzy will be Secretary and Paul Griggs will take over as Treasurer.

Many other members retained their positions with the Chapter. The New Officer Listing is on Page 2.

Presidents McWaters and Castle made presentations to many members.

Certificates of Appreciation were earned by:  
**Chuck Smith**, for continued service to our Chapter as Registrar.  
**Bill Teasley**, as keeper of our History.  
**John Jones**, for a song and a prayer as our Chaplain.  
**Rodney Pritchett** for bearing our Colors as Sergeant-At-Arms again.

In a departure from prior years, and in recognition of our 5<sup>th</sup> year as a chapter, we presented several medals that we previously awarded sparingly.

#### Bronze Good Citizenship Medal:

**Curtis McWaters**, who single handedly forced us to recognize over 43 individuals, businesses and locations where the flag is properly displayed.  
**Rodney Pritchett**, who provided us with our flags for three years as Sergeant-At-Arms.

#### SAR Medal of Appreciation:

**Cindy Abbott**, for many activities related to



the chapter, assistance in cemetery work, applications, and Patriotism Week

#### Meritorious Service Medal:

**David Thompson**, for long and dedicated service as Secretary and cemetery clean-up since the beginning of our care.  
**Jim Castle**, for long and dedicated service as Treasurer and Vice President at the same time.  
**Kendall Abbott** for long service in cemetery work, and Patriotism Week, an Oak Leaf Cluster.  
**Chuck Smith** for 5 years as Registrar.

#### Martha Washington Medal:

**Karin Guzy**, for assistance in design and publication of 28 issues of The Collins Dispatch, applications, table decorations, and as interim webmaster.

**Curtis McWaters** was awarded the Past President Certificate, pin, neck ribbon, and member medal:

Curtis also presented **Jack Gibson** and **Larry Guzy** with personal mementoes of a framed history of the SAR emblem, for service during his term of office.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## President's Message

Compatriots,

Please join me in thanking our past president Curtis McWaters for doing a great job of leading us in 2005! Curtis showed us what goal setting and a little encouragement (and sometimes prodding) could do, particularly regarding the presentation of flag certificates. As we begin the year, let me share my vision for the year at hand.

Some take great pride in being the descendent of Patriots. While we all swell with pride when we contemplate our ancestors, what credit can we claim by simply being their offspring? What they accomplished reflects on their character, not necessarily ours. While we can't take credit for what they did, we can take credit for maintaining and improving what they produced and handed down to us. Freedom requires a lot of maintenance. Lady Liberty is a high maintenance lady!

Forces are at work seeking to destroy or trivialize the values and institutions which are the fruit of many generations. One of our missions as SAR should be to inform and encourage love of country and the values which have made our nation great. I believe this is especially important in the public schools, where America is often portrayed as a villain, instead of a land which offers hope as well as religious and economic freedom. Our forays into the high, middle, and elementary schools with patriotic assemblies, poster and essay contests, ROTC, and Eagle Scout programs are much needed. Please seriously consider taking two or three hours of comp time from work if necessary and getting involved in one or more of these outreach efforts.

One of my goals is to get even more of us involved to some degree in outreach activities, especially those who are new. Once you give yourself to doing something of this nature, it becomes an enjoyment rather than a duty. An interesting fact about the flag certifications presented last year is that nobody did just one (just like no one can eat just one of popular brand of potato chip!). Once you find out how enjoyable it is, you will look for more opportunities. In addition, I was surprised to discover how much fun working at the cemetery can be. Although I had my doubts initially, once I pitched in it became much more rewarding than I had thought it would be.

Finally, I would like to see us doing more things for our troops and for our veterans. If you have any ideas of new ways to serve these groups, please let us know.

I am looking forward to an exciting year serving you, and with your help the John Collins Chapter can continue to complete its mission with excellence.

- Jim Castle

## Officers and Committee Chairmen

President	Jim Castle
Vice President	David Thompson
Secretary	Larry Guzy
Treasurer	Paul Griggs
Registrar	Charles (Chuck) Smith
Chancellor	Joe Vancura
Chaplain	John Jones
Sergeant-at-Arms	Rodney Pritchett
Historian	Pat Curtis
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. April 4th will be the next deadline for articles. Send articles, photos, or your bio to Larry Guzy by email 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.*

## Collins Member News



President McWaters with new member Richard "Dick" Huber.

### New members:

Richard 'Dick' Huber, National 166114, GA 4337

Anthony 'Tony' Toth, National 166204, GA 4354

Raleigh Abbott (Youth)

Pending applications, or working: Skip Keaton, Jason Godwin, Ray Ruggles, and Ken Farris

The following men are submitting their applications for membership:

Marc Ratliff, and James Allen Waide



Tony Toth

(Continued from page 1)  
Annual Banquet

A surprise award was made to **Kendall Abbott** for his continued devotion to the Old Allatoona Cemetery. A bright green wheelbarrow with the chapter insignia on it was presented during the awards portion of the banquet.



### Collins Board of Managers

President Jim Castle held his first Board of Managers meeting on Tuesday 7 Feb. at the Main Library in Marietta at 6:30PM and solicited ideas on how the chapter might further serve veterans. This was one of the goals stated in his inaugural speech at the January Banquet. Chapter member ideas are welcomed.

- Other items discussed included:
- Treasurer Report comparison 04-05
- Need for more committee members
- Associate designation
- GASSAR Leadership training 3/4/06
- Essay Contest participation
- Teasley Elementary Flag folding
- Completion of War Service Medals
- Upcoming Patriot grave dedication
- JROTC Awards
- Article for SAR Magazine for Chapter activities.

Members in attendance were: Pres. Castle, VP Thompson, Treas. Griggs, Past Pres. McWaters, Registrar Smith, Comm. Chair Switzer, and Sec. Guzy



The speaker for the evening was Army Captain Tony Lovett, who spoke about Patriotism and also showed some World War II battle gear that drew sounds of recognition from many in the audience.

Two new members were installed at the banquet—Richard "Dick" Huber and Anthony "Tony" Toth. Tony has volunteered to take over the chapter web-site.

## GRAVE DEDICATION for PATRIOT PETER GROOVER Saturday March 11, 2006

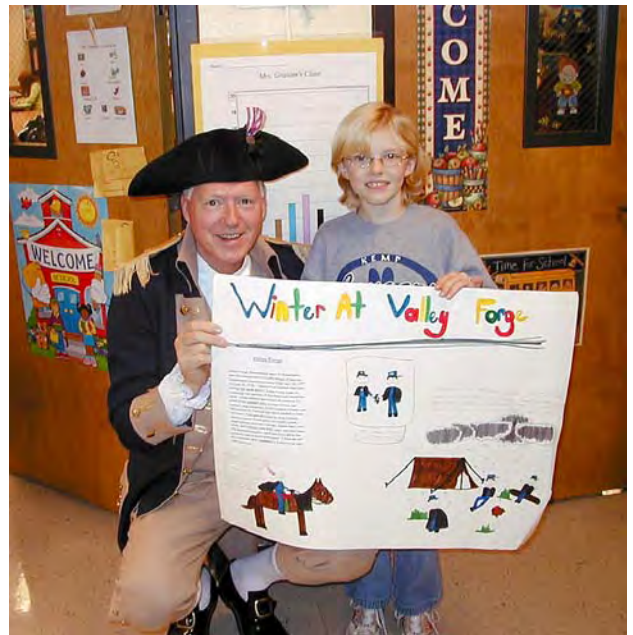
The Collins Chapter will join with the Cherokee Chapter at 11AM to dedicate a plaque to Revolutionary War Veteran Peter Groover.

Groover's marker had been in place at the Holly Springs Cemetery in East Cobb many years. Deceased Charter Member Arch McClesky's father and other relatives are also buried in this cemetery. Charter Member Charles Switzer, nephew of Arch, is one of the current Trustees of the cemetery. See the invitation for directions

## First Poster Contest Entry!

On December 9, 2005, President McWaters, Jim Castle, and Larry Guzy went to Kemp Elementary School in West Cobb to recognize Emily Waters for her poster depicting the Winter at Valley Forge. Through the efforts of a sister of Kendall Abbott, we were able to take a first step in the National Poster Contest. This is the only school participating this year. Emily was awarded first place for the chapter.

While at the school, we took the opportunity to make presentations to three fifth grade classes on the Revolutionary War. Since it was December, we presented the Battle of Trenton. It is always hard to tell if anyone recalls what is said, but we later heard that one child went home all excited that she had met George Washington!



### Speakers



**The February 21st meeting will feature author Andy Farmer, author of, "The Way To Georgia".**

Farmer is a police officer in Canton. He will be discussing James Oglethorpe and the colonization of Georgia.

## COMMUNICATIONS

The chapter will experiment with a phone calling reminder system for meetings and events. There is a way to record one of our voices making an announcement and having this announcement played in a phone message. It is not a solicitation, and will be pre-recorded, so if you get the call the day before a meeting, don't take offense, it is just a way to remind you of the event.

## SAR DIRECTORY

You will be receiving, or have already received, an email or mailing from Harris Publishers. The National Society produces a National Directory once every five years, and uses this company to gather all current information. It is a great way to preserve your place in time since it is a reference easily found by your descendants. It is also a great way to find fellow compatriots across the country. The following is a letter from National concerning this Directory:

Compatriots,

We are very pleased with the enthusiastic response and interest in the upcoming 2006 SAR member directory. We recognize some members may have yet to receive any correspondence. Letters and electronic messages are being sent daily. Please continue to expect this correspondence over the next several days.

The Membership Directory is a very valuable tool in helping our membership connect to other members.

One of the most valuable tools is the member listing by City of Residence. This has been a great help in pointing pro-

spective members to others in their area to help in the membership process. I am sure that there are many uses for a tool of this caliber.

We have also had several emails expressing a desire to enter information outside the scope of the questionnaire. The questionnaire was designed to meet the needs of the NSSAR to update our membership database as well as to allow for the publishing of the Directory. As this information will be transferred electronically from the form into a database, it is very important to stay within the guidelines of the spaces provided on the forms.

As a space consideration, it was decided to limit the allowable Patriots to be listed to 13. If you have more Patriots on file at National, please be assured that your information is on file here at the headquarters. While speaking about Patriots on file, it is very important to follow the directions and list ONLY those Patriots for which you have an approved application on file with the NSSAR. We receive many requests for Record Copies based on the names of Patriots submitted to the Directory. Many times, we will find that the member does not have an application on file for a listed ancestor. As a case in point, past directories have had members listing George Washington and George Rogers Clark as ancestors, when neither man had children of their own.

Again, thank you for your interest. Questionnaires are forthcoming, and this edition of the SAR directory will be one of our best ever produced because of your involvement.

Jessie Hagan  
NSSAR

## Cowpens Commemoration January 2006



*Prospective member Lanny Morgan joined Larry Guzy. Lanny captured the pageantry in photos.*



*Guzy presented a wreath on behalf of the chapter.*



*The predictably cold and windy day did not prevent a huge turnout including many*



*color guard units and a pipe and drum corps as well as spectators and an encampment.*

## Member News ...

**Raleigh Abbott**, youth member and son of **Kendall Abbott**, took top honors in class 5AAAAA wrestling in 130 pound class in Cobb County. He took second in

the State Championships held in Gwinnett County. Raleigh is a Junior and is already looking toward 2007! Congratulations Raleigh.



**Doug and Rachel Frey** were recipients of the Cobb Landmarks “Excellence in Restoration” Award for their five-year work on their home The Trammell House on Trammell St. in Marietta (still not complete—sounds like your contractor?!). Congratulations to both. Perhaps Doug will share his story with us in a future article.



**Charlie Rhodum Pritchett**

Chapter member Charlie Pritchett, age 96, died January 19th at Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga. His body was donated to the Emory University School of Medicine.

Charlie was born January 12, 1910 in East Juliette, GA. After high school, he attended Corn Electrical School in Chicago while working at Marshall Field’s department store. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps during World War II and served as an aircraft mechanic.

As a civilian, Charlie earned a Bachelor’s degree in Music Composition from Wesleyan Conservatory in Macon and a master’s degree in Music Theory and Composition from Georgia Peabody College in Nashville, TN.

His family moved to Marietta in 1963. He was a Registered Piano Technician and a charter member of the Piano Technician’s Guild, holding every office in the Atlanta Chapter at one time or another. With music as his love and vocation, he also taught piano.

Charlie was a member of the Roswell Street Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Lina Pritchett; two sons, Rodney and Ted; and six grandchildren.

The family requests any donations be made to a non-profit medical organization or school of music of your choice.

## War Service Medals

The following members are remembered by the Chapter for their service to our country in time of war. Thank you for your service from your grateful compatriots. If you do not see your name and qualify, please let us know.

John Jones	WWII	Presented	July 19
Howard Morrow	WWII Korea	Presented	July 19
Tye Sanders	WWII Korea	Presented	Aug 16
Charles Smith	Korea	Presented	July 19
Ron McWaters	Vietnam	Presented	Aug 16
R.Richard Guzy	Vietnam	Presented	Aug 16
Paul Eugene Grigg II	Vietnam	Presented	Sept. 20
Dick “Richard” Dolsen	WWII	Ready to present	
James Holmes Jr.	WWII	Ready to present	
George Canup	WWII	Ready to present	
Larry Gothard	WWII	To be presented	
Dr. Joe Cornish	WWII	To be presented	
Dare Whit	WWII	To be presented	
Charlie Pritchett	WWII	To be presented	
James “Allen” Henson Jr.	Vietnam	To be presented	
Phillip M Mike Vaughn	Vietnam	To be presented	
Dewey J Smith	Vietnam	To be presented	
Robert Hite	Middle East	To be presented	

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

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Don't forget, if you go to a historical celebratory event, make a donation of money, items, or self to a veteran's charity, or even solicit a potential new member, please keep track on the form Charles Switzer provided.  
**Those Americanism points can add up fast!**

## James Armistead Lafayette

He witnessed the British siege of Richmond, Virginia in 1781. Afterwards, he asked his master, William Armistead if he could serve the American cause under General Lafayette. William Armistead agreed and Lafayette accepted his services. Lafayette sent Armistead to the British camp where British General Benedict Arnold was located. Armistead posed as an escaped slave looking for work. Arnold accepted Armistead in his service in the camp. This placed him near other British Generals including Lord Cornwallis, the British commander-in-chief.

Armistead was able to gather vital information about troops and movements that he sent directly to Lafayette! Cornwallis came to so trust Armistead that he asked him to



*This portrait hangs inside the front door to the Headquarters of the National Society of the Sons of The American Revolution. James Armistead Lafayette was a black slave.*

become a British spy, which he did, thus becoming a double agent, sending inaccurate information about the Americans to the British and accurate information about the British to the Americans!

Armistead learned the British fleet was moving Cornwallis and all his troops to Yorktown. He relayed this information immediately to Generals Lafayette and Washington who were able to use the information so well that the Battle of Yorktown was effectively the end of the Revolutionary War!

Following the War, Armistead returned to slavery at the Armistead plantation. In 1784 when the Marquis de Lafayette returned to America for a visit, he met with his friend, the slave James Armistead! Lafayette's letter to the Virginia leaders praising Armistead's contributions eventually resulted in his freedom in 1787. As a tribute to his friend, James Armistead changed his last name to Lafayette. He later received a pension from Virginia for his services and remained a farmer in Virginia till he died in 1832.

-Larry Guzy