

# The Minuteman

## ***Coweta Falls Chapter Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution***

The Minuteman

Columbus, GA

Autumn, 2019

### **President's Dispatch**

Compatriots,

I hope that this letter finds each of you healthy and in great spirits. We would like to recognize those members who passed away since the last newsletter. Augustus Baldwin Dudley, Jr. 8-13-19, former member Elisha Mullins Whisnant 10-12-19, James R. Webster 10-21-19, and Charles Albert Maupin, Jr. 10-21-19. Please keep their families in your prayers.



David Fox and Hugh Rodgers have been working diligently to register several new members and we have a few prospects. Searching through the records is tedious and I very much appreciate the work they are doing for our chapter. As I looked at the membership report for the state, our chapter is the second largest chapter only to follow the Atlanta chapter. Keep encouraging your friends to research their family history and hopefully they will submit an application to join us.

The GASSAR annual conference is on January 24-25, 2020 at the Sonesta Gwinnett Place in Duluth, Georgia. I encourage all to attend if possible. Dan McMichael has been nominated to receive the Patriot Medal. Dan has served this chapter well and his many accomplishments warrant the bestowing of this prestigious award. If all goes well, Dan will take his place among our other members who have received the award.

The holiday season is upon us and our Christmas dinner has been scheduled to take place on December 12 at the Green Island Country Club. This gathering replaces our December meeting. Thanks to Joe Tarpley for coordinating this event. Students from Northside High School called the Northside Holiday Magicals will entertain us with holiday music prior to our dinner. We look forward to an evening of fun, friendship, and good food. Please join us!

Bill Pruitt has done an excellent job with the newsletter and the last issue was out of sight! Keep up the great work and please send in any pictures or newsworthy events to Bill. I know you must get tired of seeing me and the Traveling Trunk!

Have a safe and enjoyable holiday season!

Sincerely,

*Danny N. Ginter*

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### ***"The Minuteman"***

is the newsletter of

### **Coweta Falls Chapter**

Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution

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All newsletter submissions should be sent to bill\_pruitt@hotmail.com. Please attach a brief synopsis of the picture, along with names and dates. Thank you.

**Our Chapter meets the 2nd Thursday of each month**

### **@ THE HILTON GARDEN INN**

1500 Bradley Lake Blvd, Columbus, Georgia in Brookstone Centre.

The \$16.00 buffet luncheon begins at 11:30 AM and includes salad, vegetables, two meats, bread, and dessert.

Our meeting begins at 12:15 PM and features a Guest Speaker.

Visitors are welcome! Please call (706) 223-0726 by the Sunday before the meeting day to reserve a spot. Calling guarantees you a meal. Non-callers are not guaranteed a meal.

(Note: If you do not plan on eating, do not call.)

**DATES FOR THE NEXT THREE MEETINGS ARE:**

**January 9th, February 13th, and March 12th**

### Meeting on Thursday, October 10th, 2019

The Coweta Falls Chapter met Thursday, October 10th, 2019. President Danny Ginter presided. The meeting opened with an invocation by Chaplain and Compatriot Bill Pruitt, followed by the Pledge to the Flag, and the Pledge to the SAR, lead by Compatriot Bill Hay. Twenty-six members and guests were present.

During lunch, a "Jeopardy" of American Revolution history, led by Wayne Cartledge was played.

The Traveling Trunk has been presented to 486 students this school year. Treasurer Cartledge announced dues statements will be going out shortly. Coweta Falls membership is currently 134, making it the second largest chapter in Georgia .

A Certificate of Appreciation was, from Chapter 7 of the Disabled Veterans of America , presented to the chapter. David Fox, a past president, received a Certificate of membership in the Military Veterans Service Corps . It was signed by the President General John T. Manning. Mansfield Bias, Junior, was presented his certificate of membership.

Mike Tomme, Sr. (Past National President General, 2016) will be a special guest at the Christmas Party.

The State Board of Mangers meeting is October 26th, 2019. The Chapter Board of Managers meeting is October 29th, 2019.

The speaker was First Vice President Tommy Powell. Powell spoke on Fort King George, built in 1721. It was the first fort built by the British in Georgia and was named for King George I. From 1721 until 1736, Fort King George was the southern outpost of the British Empire in North America. A cypress blockhouse, barracks and palisaded earthen fort were constructed by scoutmen of Colonel John Barnwell. For the next seven years, His Majesty's Independent Company garrisoned the fort. They endured incredible hardships from disease, battles with the Spanish (to the South), French (to the West), and Indian attacks, along with the harsh, unfamiliar coastal environment. Great Britain, France, and Spain were competing to control the American Southeast, especially the Savannah-Altamaha River region.

Constructing the fort allowed British domination along the Altamaha River and its surrounding territory. It started a diplomatic feud with the Spanish, eventually leading to war between the two nations. It ended with the British success at the Battle of Bloody Marsh on St. Simons Island in 1742. Though the fort was considered a short-term failure, it greatly contributed to Georgia's establishment and early success.

After the fort was abandoned, General James Oglethorpe brought Scottish Highlanders to the site in 1736. The settlement, called Darien, eventually became a foremost export center of lumber until 1925.

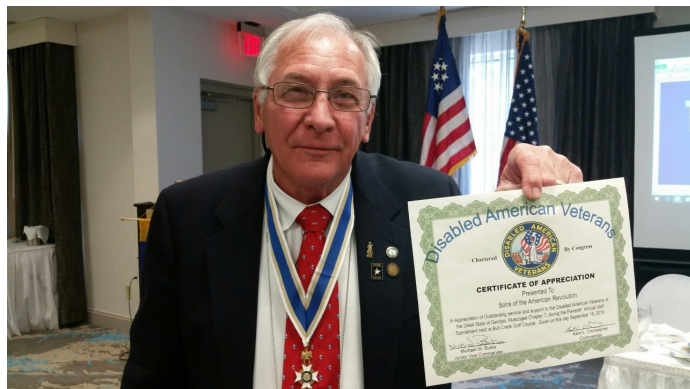
The program concluded with the SAR Recessional, lead by Compatriot David Fox.

Meeting on Thursday, October 10th, 2019

(Cont.)



President Danny Ginter presented compatriot and former president David Fox with the Military Veterans Service Corps Certificate



President Danny Ginter shared with the Society certificate of Appreciation presented by the Disabled American Veterans



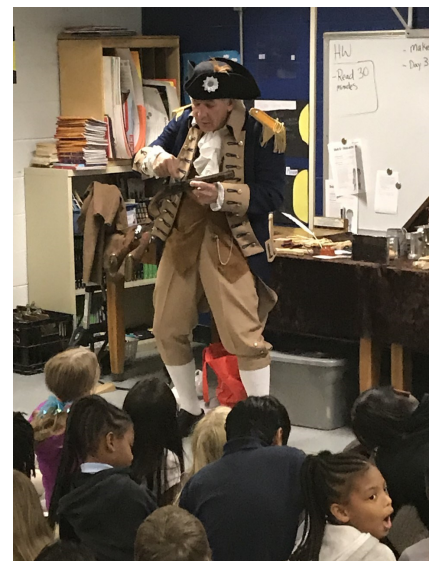
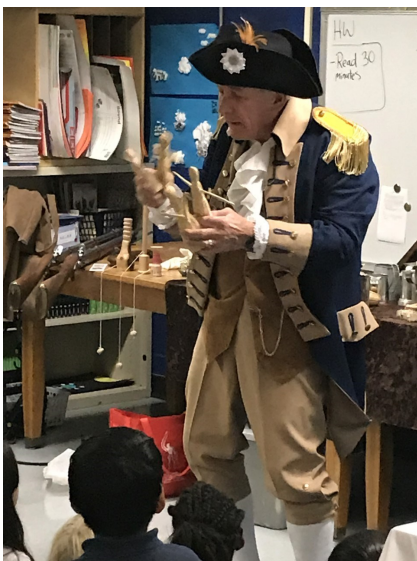
President Danny Ginter presented Mansfield Bias, Junior, with his Membership Certificate



First Vice President Tommy Powell. Powell spoke on Fort King George.

### The Traveling Trunk

The Traveling Trunk, accompanied by President Danny Ginter, went to River Road Elementary School. River Road Elementary is on Heath Drive in Columbus. It has a very diverse student population, with the district's largest ESOL population. Coweta Falls was honored to assist these newer citizens to our nation learn more of our great history.



**Veterans Day Parade  
Manchester, Georgia  
November 2nd, 2019**



Veterans Day parade in Manchester, Georgia on November 2nd, 2019

Left to right are Dan McMichael and his grandson, Caleb Kinard (both members of the Coweta Falls Chapter), along with two potential SAR members, Dan Dykes and Chance Miller.

### Meeting on Thursday, November 14th, 2019

The Coweta Falls Chapter met Thursday, November 14th, 2019. First Vice-President Tommy Powell presided. President Dan Ginter was on vacation in Cuba. The meeting opened with an invocation by Chaplain and Compatriot Bill Pruitt, followed by the Pledge to the Flag, lead by Compatriot Bernie Talley, and the Pledge to the SAR, lead by Compatriot Joe Tarpley. Twenty-six members and guests were present.

Compatriot Charles Maupin, a World War Two veteran, survivor of Normandy, and Charter Member of Coweta Falls (who recently passed away)-was honored with a tribute given by Dr. Hugh Rogers. The tribute was followed with a moment of silence for recently deceased members.

Dr. Rogers also reported there are several applications, along with several supplemental applications, in process of being prepared. They will be sent to NSSAR shortly.

Members were encouraged to make plans for the Christmas Party at Green Island Country Club on December 12th. Ticket sales are currently running slow. Mike Tomme, Sr. (Past National President General, 2016) will be a special guest at the Christmas Party.

Wreaths across America is December 14th, 2019 Coweta Falls will be providing 15 wreaths for graves at the Fort Mitchell and at Fort Benning National Cemeteries.

Compatriot Dan McMichael reminded all to try and attend Frontier Days , held on November 16th and 17th at Franklin Delano Roosevelt State Park in Pine Mountain, Georgia. McMichael will also speak at the January, 2020, meeting on Fort Necessity.

The speaker was Representative Richard Smith, who is also a member of the Coweta Falls Chapter. Representative Smith represents the 134th District. He was first elected to the Georgia House of Representatives in 2004 and sworn in on January 10, 2005. He is currently serving his 8th term in the Georgia House of Representatives and represents portions of Muscogee and Harris counties. He serves as chairman on the Insurance Committee and the Special Committee on Access to Quality Healthcare, is secretary on the Rules Committee, and is a member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education, Natural Resources and Environment, and the Legislative & Congressional Reapportionment

Highlighting Representatives Smith's talk were issues facing Georgians in regard to healthcare. Several counties are lacking healthcare facilities and doctors. There are also no air ambulance in any of the healthcare networks in the state. Rural hospitals in Georgia are facing challenging times. Some are closing. Many Georgians are faced with issues of poor access to quality healthcare, inability to pay for medicine, and difficulties getting insurance to cover certain conditions

Representative Smith also spoke on legalized gambling in Georgia. He feels it is a very risky venture of the state. Currently under discussion are plans to legalized casino or horse racing gambling. Other states have had poor results when legalizing these items.

(cont'd)

**Meeting on Thursday, November 14th, 2019****(cont'd.)**

Representative Smith closed with a question and answer session.

First Vice President Powell closed the SAR Recessional.



Representative Richard Smith speaking at the November 14th meeting of the Coweta Falls SAR.

(Pictures courtesy of Wayne Cartledge)





## The Traveling Trunk

On November 20th, Danny Ginter presented the Traveling Trunk to 71 4th graders and 5 adults at Johnson Elementary School. Johnson enjoys a reputation in the community for providing a quality education. A climate is created where students are encouraged to give their personal best each day. They partner with the community to give our students opportunities to experience success now and establish a foundation for future advancement.

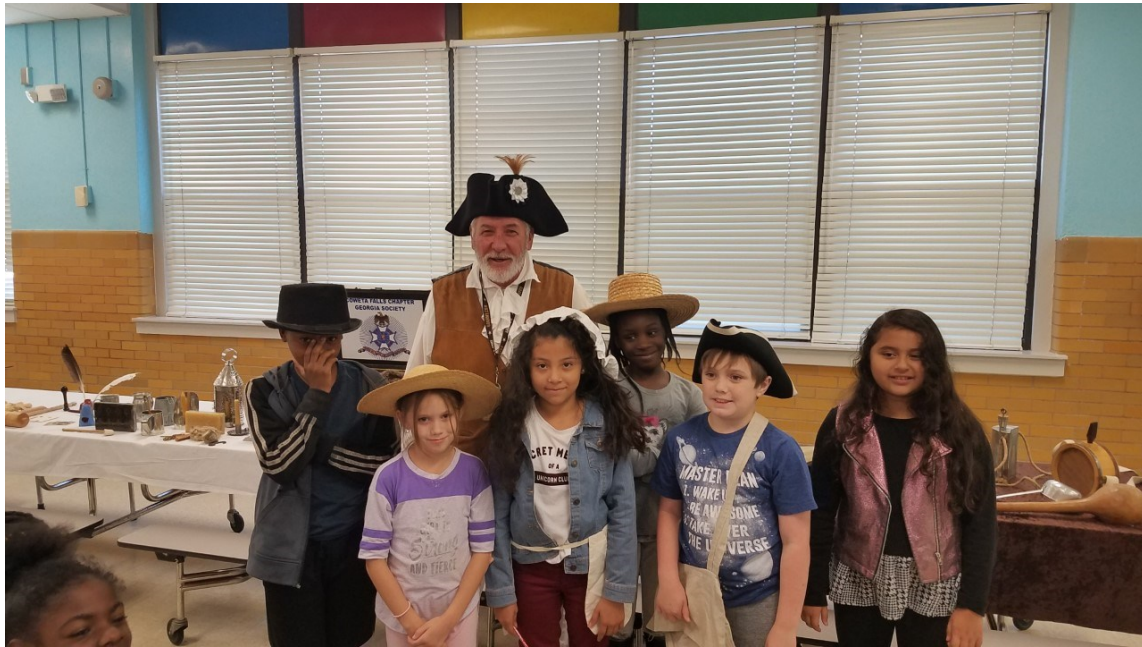
Coweta Falls is proud to be a part of this great school and help foster growth and educational opportunities for this school.

It is important for students to study history. A knowledge of our past allows us to understand our present. The study of history provides insight into the founding of our nation.

Way to go, Danny!



### The Traveling Trunk



Some more pictures of Danny, the Traveling Trunk, and the students at Johnson Elementary School on November 20th!



## Veterans Day Ceremonies

Pine Mountain, Georgia

November 9th, 2019

The Coweta Falls Chapter of the SAR, along the First Hamilton Legion, participated in the Veterans Day Ceremonies in Pine Mountain, Georgia. Representing Coweta Falls were, along with participating in firing the swivel gun were Dan McMichael, Caleb Kinard, Roy Collier, Bernie Talley, and Harry Floyd, (SAR application submitted). Representing the First Hamilton Legion were Dan Dykes and Chance Miller.

Thank you, gentlemen, for your participation in honoring our veterans.



**Veterans Day Ceremonies  
Pine Mountain, Georgia (Cont'd.)**



## American Frontier Days

### Pine Mountain, Georgia

The Coweta Falls Chapter of the SAR participated in the American Frontier Days Fall Encampment on November 16th and 17th at FDR State Park in Pine Mountain, Georgia. Representing Coweta Falls were Dan McMichael, Roy Collier, Bernie Talley, Harry Floyd, and Taylor Hay .

Frontier Days is a chance for lovers of history to meet a trapper, talk to a soldier and throw a tomahawk. Everyday living skills were displayed from local historians. Walk through time from the mid 1700's to the late 1800's. The was held at the baseball field across from Liberty Bell Pool. If you missed this great event... well, there is another this Spring. Make plans to attend!



x

x

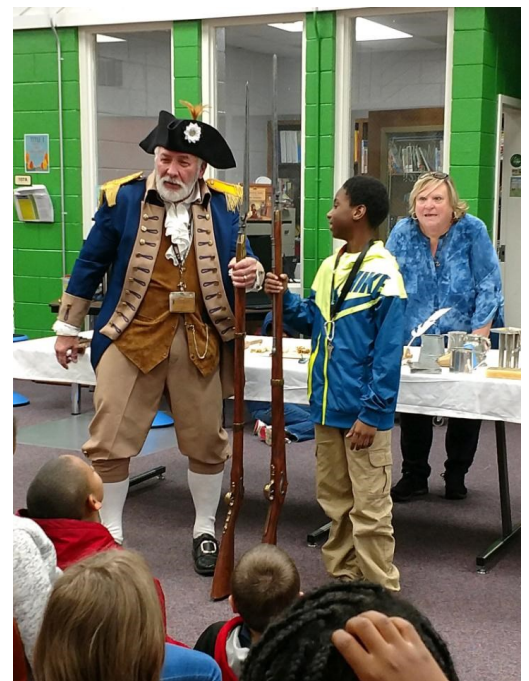
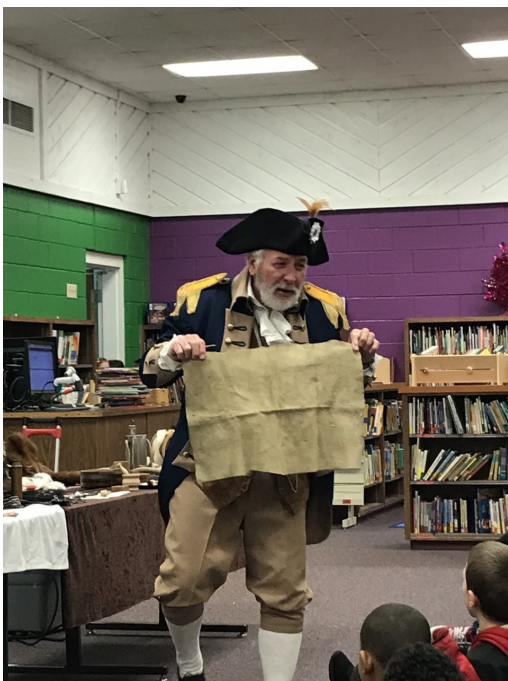
### American Frontier Days

(Cont'd.)



### The Traveling Trunk

Danny and The Traveling Trunk are still on the road! On Thursday, December 5th, they went to Gentian Elementary School in Columbus. Fourth Graders learned about the items used by Revolutionary War soldiers.



### Flag Appreciation Certificates

The Coweta Falls Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution is proud to present flag certificates for organizations and individuals correctly flying the United States Flags. Recently, Flag Certificates have been presented to Assistant Police Chief Gil Slouchick (Columbus Police Department) and Burger King Assistant Operations Manager Donna Evans.

Thank you for proudly displaying Old Glory!

Right: Danny Ginter and Burger King Operations Manager Donna Vans



Left: Danny Ginter and Assistant Police Chief Gil Slouchick



## The Christmas Party

**December 12th, 2019**

Coweta Falls Sons of the American Revolution had their meeting of all meetings for the year on December 12th, 2019 at Green Island Country Club. Pre-dinner entertainment was provided by the Northside High School Holiday Musicals.

The meeting was opened with an Invocation by Compatriot and Chaplain Bill Pruitt followed by the Pledge to Flag by Compatriot Chuck Hall. The guest of honor was Mike Tomme, who was introduced by President Danny Ginter. Mike is a past President General of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (2019). Mike joined the SAR in 2003 and is a Charter Member of the Marquis de Lafayette SAR Chapter in Fayetteville, GA. He has served the SAR at the local, state, and national levels. In July 2016, at the 126th SAR Congress in Boston, MA, Mike was sworn in as the 113th President General of the National Society Sons of the American Revolution. He is the third President General from Georgia.

Sworn in as a new member was Compatriot Homer Floyd Willis. He is a descendant of Joel Willis, on whom he briefly spoke. The swearing in was conducted by Past President General Tomme.

Compatriot Joe Tarpley was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for his many years of hard work in organizing the Christmas Party. Joe, we know it is not easy getting everything together... and making certain a loud party is not going on in the next room!

Second Vice President Robert Moore was presented a Certificate of Distinguished Service by President Ginter for his dedicated service. Dan McMichael presented the slate of officers for 2020.

Past President General Mike Tomme spoke. The Spring of 2020 is the predicted completion date for new information systems and dashboards for National. All information will be on one platform. The new website will include access on mobile devices. He also spoke on educational outreach conducted by the Tampa Bay (Florida) Chapter. This includes students in high school having to complete an exam similar to the US Citizenship Test. Georgia is also working to add more history classes into secondary curriculum. The goal is to bring history back into the classroom, stop "teaching to the test", and teach what is important.

Following Tomme's remarks, there were drawings for door prizes. All members of the Hall family won prizes. They swear a full Hall House was coincidental.

The meeting closed with President Ginter leading the SAR Recessional.

Thank you to Wayne Cartledge, Bill Pruitt, Dan McMichael, and Tommy Powell for the pictures.

### Christmas Party Pictures

December 12th, 2019



Joe Tarpley and Danny Ginter with significant others and guests.

Below: Dan McMichael.



Above: Bill Pruitt, Hugh Rodgers, Wayne Cartledge, and Tommy Powell.

Below: Dan McMichael and Mike Tomme.



Christmas Party Pictures

(Cont'd.)



### Christmas Party Pictures

(Cont'd.)



More pictures of a fun evening. Left is Mike Tomme directing remarks to the Coweta Falls SAR. Above are the singers from Columbus State University who provided pre-dinner entertainment.

## Christmas Party Pictures

(Cont'd.)

Mike Tomme and Dan Ginter welcomed our newest member, Homer Willis. With them is Mrs. Willis



Joe Tarpley was recognized for his work in organizing the Christmas Party



Robert Moore was presented a Certificate of Distinguished Service



## The Must-Have Christmas Gift of 1776

By

Rob Crotty



In 1864, Savannah, Georgia, was offered to Abraham Lincoln as a Christmas present. But in 1776, George Washington delivered one of the greatest gifts in American history: the United States. Winter was a bad season for Washington. His Continental Army had been driven out of New York, and then it was driven out of New Jersey, leaving just a few thousand men shivering on the far side of the Delaware River in Pennsylvania, while the British made camp in New Jersey.

The Continental Army was desperate for a victory. Many men had left the military after finishing their enlistments. Others were low on morale after the series of bitter defeats. Santa, it appeared, was siding with the British forces.

On December 25th, George Washington ordered the few thousand men at his disposal to cross the Delaware River. Ice flowed down its waters—further downstream a unit that was supposed to join him couldn't cross because of the ice flow—but Washington forced his men across, and was one of the first to land on the shores of British-occupied New Jersey.

Through the cold night air and sleet and snow, his men marched another nine miles, and then in a few quick maneuvers, launched a surprise attack against the Hessian forces encamped at Trenton. He took a thousand soldiers prisoner. He killed over 20 and injured almost a hundred. Only two of Washington's soldiers were killed (another man, future President James Monroe, was also injured in the attack).

The men moved back across the Delaware, lugging their artillery and plunder, and settled back in Pennsylvania as victors. It was December 26th.

Trenton was not a strategic win, but it was a psychological one. Recruitment increased. So did morale. For the first time in months it appeared that America would win its independence.

Rob Crotty was a staff writer at the National Archives Office of Strategy and Communications. This was originally posted December 23, 2010 at [www.prologue.blogs.archives.gov/2010/12/23/the-must-have-christmas-gift-of-1776/](http://www.prologue.blogs.archives.gov/2010/12/23/the-must-have-christmas-gift-of-1776/)