

The Minuteman

Coweta Falls Chapter Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution

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Columbus, GA

Summer 2017

President's Dispatch

Greetings, Compatriots:

This summer has been a busy time for Coweta Falls. We have welcomed several new members into the Chapter and have several more in the processes of being approved.

Farewell

We have also had to say good by to fellow Compatriot Bob Galer with his passing on June 22, 2017. Bob had requested a Militia Musket Salute and we were able to bring in several other Compatriots from the Georgia Society Color Guard to assist in his Ceremony. I'm sure Bob would have approved !



Dan McMichael

Traveling Trunk

Coweta Falls has also started the 2017/2018 school year with our traveling Trunk Program and I'm sure things will be getting busier as the school year progresses.

Constitution Week

In recognition and celebration of our Constitution members of our local DAR Chapters Oglethorpe, George Walton & Oliver Morton and Coweta Falls Chapter help sponsor the Naturalization Ceremony on Sept. 5th 2017. It was my sincere pleasure to personally welcome each of the 40 new Citizens with a hand shake and to hand them their own personnel copy of the Constitution. Our very own fellow Compatriot Judge Clay D. Land presided over the Ceremony.

Along with Naturalization ceremony members of our local DAR Chapters along with Danny Ginter & myself visited several schools in the area to participate in Celebrating the 230th year of our Constitution.

Grave Visitation

It was my pleasure to personally lead three generations of descendants of the Smith Cotton family thru the woods and down to the cemetery to see their Patriots final resting place. The Potesta family had traveled from as far away as California and Miami, FL to see his grave. Katie Potesta had made contact with me through our new Facebook page requesting information on Smith Cotton's grave. We kept in touch until their travel plans were confirmed After arriving at grave, Coweta Falls supplied U.S. Flags for all three generations to post.

I remind everyone that we have a new website www.Cowetafallssar.org and also a Facebook page "Coweta Falls SAR" where you can send your friends to see more photos and activities of the Chapter. Please feel free to contact me with any articles or photo's that you would like posted on our Coweta Falls Website or Facebook.

Regards

Dan

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Our Chapter meets the 2nd Thursday of each month

@ THE HILTON GARDEN INN

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

The \$15.00 buffet luncheon begins at 11:30AM and includes salad, vegetables, two meats, bread, dessert, tax and gratuity.

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

Visitors are welcome!

DATES FOR THE NEXT THREE MEETINGS ARE:

October 12, November 9, December 14

Meeting on July 13, 2017

Leo Goodsell, Executive Director of Historic Westville, provided a timely update on the move of the Westville buildings and operation from the Lumpkin, GA, area to South Lumpkin Road in Columbus. The first house was awaiting clearance to move on the roadways through the city and county. When completed, the site will contain the original Westville town, a Native American village, and a 19th century farm. The mission of Westville is to provide a living history experience about life in 19th century Georgia for people of all ages to enjoy. Once completed, the site will be a wonderful addition to the facilities already on South Lumpkin Road such as the National Infantry Museum and Oxbow Meadows.

Don Williams and James Dickenson received new member certificates.



Leo Goodsell and Chapter President Dan McMichael



Leo Goodsell



Don Williams and Chapter President Dan McMichael



James Dickenson and Chapter President Dan McMichael

Meeting on August 10, 2017

The speaker was Mr. Jeff Seymour, the curator at the Civil War Naval Museum in Columbus. Mr. Seymour provided an interesting presentation on the many people important to the Confederate civil war navy and the construction efforts to produce ironclad ships. The hull the CSS Jackson resides in the museum after recovery from the Chattahoochee River.

Bill Scrantom and Joel Lee received membership certificates from President Dan McMichael.



of

Jeff Seymour



Bill Scrantom and Chapter President Dan McMichael



Joel Lee and Chapter President Dan McMichael



The Georgia SAR Color Guard presented the colors and led the Old Soldiers Day Parade on August 5, 2017. Marching color guard members included NSSAR President General Larry Guzy, Mount Vernon Chapter President Shep Hammack and chapter member David Wiley, Coweta Falls President Dan McMichael along with his grandson Caleb Kinard. An Historical event is celebrated on the first Saturday of August in Alpharetta, Georgia, known as Old Soldiers Day. This is sponsored by The American Legion, Department of Georgia, Post #201, Alpharetta. Present day veterans are privileged to participate in and carry on the heritage established by old soldiers after the Civil War.

Meeting on September 14, 2017

The speaker was Dr. Sarah Bowman, an assistant professor of history from Columbus State. Dr. Bowman’s research has focused on southern regional identity after the Civil War. Her presentation was on the Constitution and how people in the early days of the nation celebrated the nation and the ratification of the Constitution. Dr. Bowman is from Boston and earned her PhD at Yale.

Roy Collier received a certificate for participating in the Kettle Creek battlefield reenactment.



Dr. Sarah Bowman



President Dan McMichael and Roy Collier

Robert Fulton Galer

July 19, 1918 - June 22, 2017

Obituary

Columbus, GA- Robert F. Galer, 98, passed away peacefully on June 22, 2017. Known for his passion, intelligence, and kindness, he spent his entire life dedicated to his country, his family, and advocating for those less fortunate.

Funeral Services were held 1:00 PM, Tuesday, June 27, 2017 at the Lummus Chapel at Linwood Cemetery in Columbus, GA with Rev. Joel L. Alvis, Jr. officiating. An honor guard of militia clad members of the SAR were present. The family received friends Monday evening from 5:00-7:00 PM at McMullen Funeral Home and Crematory, 3874 Gentian Blvd. Columbus, GA 31907.

Bob was born on July 19, 1918 in Coeur d' Alene, Idaho, son of Robert Armington Galer and Mabel Robson Galer. He was raised in Montana and attended the University of Washington, was a ROTC graduate and later obtained a masters at Florida State. He entered active duty in 1940 and served in World War II and Korea, earning the Combat Infantryman Badge, Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. Bob served as Inspector General at Fort Benning before retiring with the rank of Lt.Col.

In 1966, Bob was appointed to establish the first Equal Opportunity Employment Office at Ft. Benning, which he headed until his retirement in 1988. In retirement, he supported his wife, Mary Jane Galer in her legislative career in the Georgia Assembly. They both shared an interest in genealogy and historical preservation. These passions led Bob to the Sons of the American Revolution, where he served as Georgia State President in 1994, then served on Executive Committees at the national level and as Vice President General of the South Atlantic District. At SAR, he was honored with many awards, including the Minuteman Award, its highest honor.

In the 1990's, you could find Bob poring through local town hall records and trudging through fields as he led the effort to identify and mark graves of Revolutionary War soldiers, 17 in Georgia alone, and preserve historic battle sites. His final project was spearheading and designing the Revolutionary War Infantryman Monument that now sits at the head of the Avenue of Honor at the National Infantry Museum.

Bob had a love for the outdoors, excelling at tennis and golf, even skiing into his 80's.

Bob was survived by his wife of 66 years, Mary Jane Galer of Columbus, GA; son, Frank Fulton Galer of Roanoke, VA; daughters, Barbara Jean Neufeld (Greg) of Didsbury, Alberta, Canada and Robin Robson Galer of San Francisco, CA; granddaughters: Katrina May (Tyson) Benner of Nebraska, Jennifer Galer Neufeld of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada and one great-grandson, Easton Benner.

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Eagle Scout Awards

Dan Ginter made an Eagle Scout presentation of a certificate, patch, and scholarship information to Sean M. Nunn at Pierce Chapel UMC on July 29, 2017



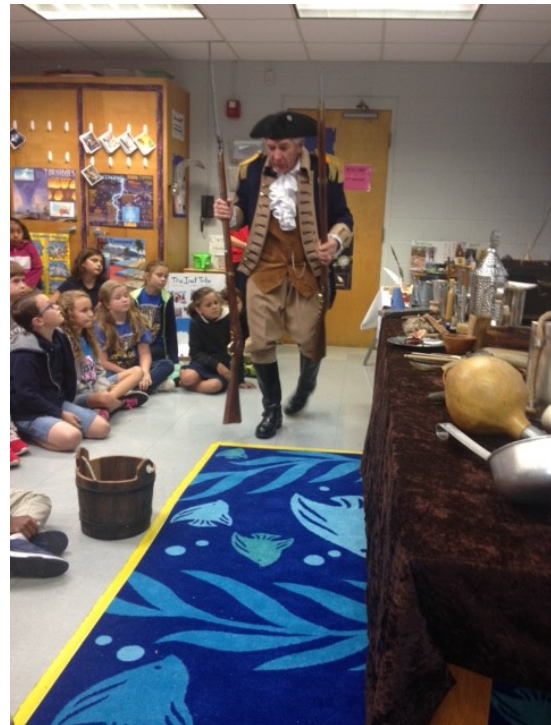
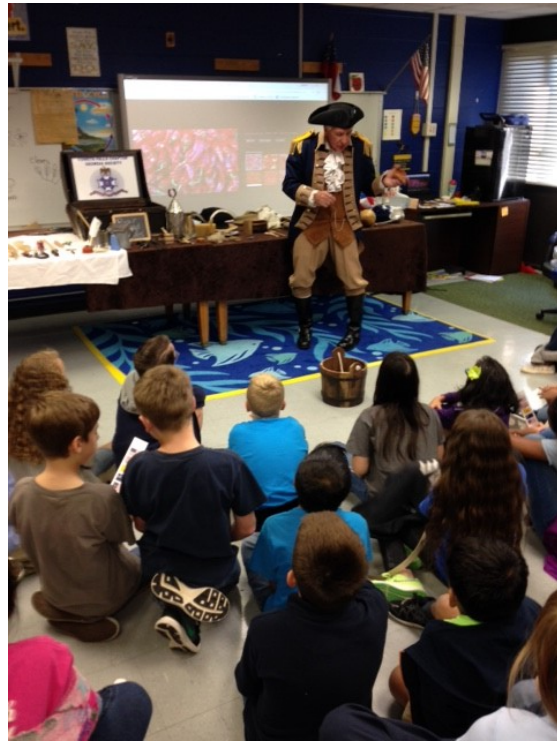
American Village 4 July 2017

Coweta Falls Chapter members attended the 4 July celebration at American Village. Local attendees included Chapter President Dan McMichael, Dan's grandson Caleb Kinard, Dan's granddaughter Madison Kinard, Bernie Talley, Roy Collier and three members of the Hamilton Legion.



Traveling Trunk

Compatriot Dan Ginter is beginning the Traveling Trunk season because school has just begun after the summer break. The Ledger-Enquirer featured him in a photograph. Dan celebrated Constitution Day at J.D. Davis Elementary School with students Aye Rivers and Jamie Dawson, both 9. The students rang the replica Liberty Bell in honor of the 230th anniversary of the ratification of the U.S. Constitution. Compatriot Ginter also presented the Traveling Trunk to River Road Elementary (Photos are from the River Road Elementary).



Visit to Smith Cotton's Grave on 21 September 2017



The Podesta family: Genius Ansley (Bartley) - Mother; Katie Potesta - Daughter; Justin Potesta - Son/Grandson

Eagle Scout Recognition

Dan Ginter presented an Eagle Scout Recognition Certificate to James Carter Bonnell on September 23, 2017, at the National Infantry Museum's World War II Street Chapel.

