

Newsletter of The Coweta Falls Chapter  
Georgia Society  
Sons of the American Revolution  
Winter 2025

# The Minuteman

## The President's Dispatch



Thomas Jefferson once said, "There is a fullness of time when men should go, and not occupy the ground to which others have a right to advance". Thus, it is time for me to step down as President of the Coweta Falls Chapter after serving a two-year term and to let others advance.

As I reflect on my term as President there are many highlights and chapter accomplishments. I won't name them all (so forgive me if I fail to mention something that was important to you). The following are the ones that readily come to my mind:

- We had two very successful Memorial Day Commemorations with Mayor Skip Henderson as our speaker both times. Thanks to Tommy Powell for orchestrating them. In addition, we supported Independence and Veterans' Day commemorations throughout our area as well as Wreaths Across America.
- We attended the Naturalization Ceremony both years handing out a copy of the US Constitution to our new citizens. We also attended the Constitution Week Proclamations at Columbus City Council.
- On December 4, 2023 we planted and dedicated a Liberty Tree in the Hamilton Town Square. It is growing and thriving!
- We revitalized our Eagle Scout Program, taking it from being on life support to an active and viable program thanks to the efforts of Ryan Meyer von Bremen. We awarded 13 Eagle Scout certificates in 2023 and 21 in 2024. We selected an Eagle Scout for our Chapter Eagle Scout Scholarship both years. Our selectee for 2023 went on to win the Georgia Society State Eagle Scout Scholarship.

- We dramatically increased the number of Flag Certificates presented. In 2023 we presented 79 and in 2024 we presented 25. The drop was due to the "Chief Flag Certificate Presenter" being in the hospital for several months, but I'm sure we'll get those numbers back up for 2025.
- We have an active Traveling Trunk Program thanks to Danny Ginter. His team gave 14 presentations in 2023 and 12 in 2024 to 4<sup>th</sup> graders throughout our area.
- In addition to the Traveling Trunk, Danny ran our poster contest. Our chapter poster contest winner for 2023 also won at the Georgia Society, SAR state level.
- We supported the Junior and Senior ROTC programs by presenting Bronze and Silver ROTC Medals to deserving Cadets.
- We participated in the Uptown Tree Trail, decorating a Christmas tree along Broadway in Columbus.
- Various organizations asked our members to give presentations on early American topics (think Dan McMichael as George Washington and Nathaneal Green!). I even got to give a presentation on Thomas Jefferson to a local school

Thank you to all who had the confidence in me to elect me as Chapter President, and who supported me during my term (especially during my five-month absence due to my serious illness). On February 13 the new leadership of the Chapter will be installed. I pledge my continued support to our new President, Robert Moore, and to all of the new officers. I hope that you will support them as you have supported me.

Roger Buterbaugh  
President  
Coweta Falls Chapter, SAR



**I was asked by our illustrious President to contribute “an article about Stark”**

### **Admiral Stark**

Admiral Raynsford Stark, (11/12/1880 – 8/20/1972), was a USNA graduate and veteran of WWI and WWII. He rose to the Chief of Naval Operations from August 1939 until March 1942. That same month in 1942 he became the Commander of US Naval Forces Europe. He left active duty in 1946.

### **USS Stark (FFG-31)**

The USS Stark was a guided missile frigate laid down in 1978 by Todd Pacific Shipyards in Seattle, WA, launched in 1980, commissioned in 1982, stricken in 1999, and scrapped in 2006.

While deployed to the middle east during the Iran-Iraq war the ship was hit on May 17, 1987, by 2 Exocet anti-ship missiles fired by an Iraqi Dassault F1. Although the ship was not destroyed, 37 of its crew were killed in the subsequent fire caused by the attack.

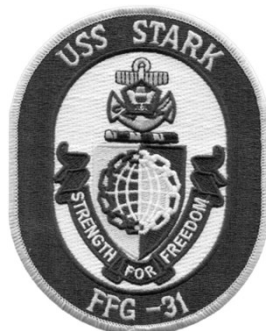
A ceremony is held at Mayport Naval Station May 17th each year to remember the 37 men who died in the incident.

### **SAR Stark Award**

The USS Stark Memorial Award, being authorized by NSSAR in 1988, is an incentive to provide honor to those who have served, living or dead, to preserve our nation and the principles on which it was founded. It is more than a tally of points. It is a helpful reminder that as much as we do, we can do more.

In 2024 our Coweta Falls Chapter accumulated 3503 points which could be viewed as an understatement of our efforts as many points go undocumented. Did you know that we accumulate points for not only laying wreaths for Wreaths across America but **also** for retrieving them? If you have any questions about whether your activity meets the criteria for points, please get in touch or just fill out the input form. Forms are available at each meeting, or by email request. Glenn Haskell – 706/577.4902, [dx4034@gmail.com](mailto:dx4034@gmail.com).

Glenn Haskell



**Congratulations to the Compatriots and Ladies who received awards at the Coweta Falls Christmas dinner on December 12, 2024. They are:**

Chapter Distinguished Service Medal

Danny N. Ginter

Chapter Meritorious Service Medal

David E. Fox  
Tommy H. Powell  
Joseph Daniel McMichael  
Ryan Meyer von Bremen

Bronze Roger Sherman Medal

Wayne Cartledge  
Mansfield Bias, Jr.

Chapter Henry Knox Achievement Medal

Glenn Haskell  
Charles E. Hall, Jr.  
Russell E. Ward

Lydia Darragh Medal

Donna W. Buterbaugh

SAR Medal of Appreciation

Nancy McMichael



## Committee Reports



### **Chaplain's report by Bill Pruitt**

The Chapter Chaplain is responsible for the invocation and benediction at all Chapter functions called by the Chapter President. In addition to monthly meetings, this includes the Board of Manager's meetings and other special functions such as the Memorial Day Commemoration and patriot grave markings. Obituary reporting is coordinated with the Chapter Secretary and Chapter Historian. A listing is maintained of members who have passed away during the membership year. Obituary reports are forwarded to the State Chaplain and State Secretary. The Chaplain is also responsible for performing other duties which may be assigned to him by the Chapter President.

Please contact me if you know of any members who may have need of my services. I can be reached at [bill\\_pruitt@hotmail.com](mailto:bill_pruitt@hotmail.com) or (404) 680-5540.

### **Eagle Scouts report by Ryan Meyer von Bremen**

The Eagle Scout Committee presented 23 Eagle Certificates to scouts in 2024 in Coweta Falls. We received two submissions for the King Eagle Scout Scholarship Contest. Thank you to Glenn Haskell, Wayne Cartledge and David Fox for sitting on our committee this year to choose Ian Harkness as our chapter's submission to the state contest. Ian received a check for \$150 and a certificate of recognition at our January SAR meeting with his parents in attendance. There were eight submissions from chapters across the state this year and Ian was not chosen as this year's state recipient.

Our chapter also took over as the Charter Organization Partner for Chattahoochee Council Troop and Pack 1. Ryan Meyer von Bremen is serving as the Charter Organization Representative to the scouting units with the responsibility of signing off on the unit recharter and all adult volunteers, as well as keeping the chapter abreast of the scouting unit's activities. Scoutmaster William Burgin made a presentation on the scouting units to the chapter at January's monthly luncheon. If any member is interested in getting involved with the units as merit badge counselors or speakers, please reach out to Ryan at [grm1315@gmail.com](mailto:grm1315@gmail.com).



### **Treasurer's Report – Wayne Cartledge**

The price of our monthly meetings will increase to \$18 vs \$16 in February 2025.

# Troop 1's Jake Morpeth's Eagle Scout Project

Jake and the boys refurbished four and built seven new raised gardens and a picnic table for the community garden at Fox Elementary.



**Traveling Trunk report by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Danny Ginter**

The Traveling Trunk presentations were slowed down over the holiday period. We are starting to get a couple of requests now. The MCSD 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies representative was contacted to send a reminder to 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers about our poster contest and to schedule the Traveling Trunk. The deadline for the contest is 4 March and posters can be submitted any time prior.

As of now, we have scheduled a presentation at the National Infantry Museum for Wynnton Elementary school on February 26 at 10:00 A.M. We are waiting on a date and time from Wynnbrook Christian school.

Our chapter was awarded the Education Outreach streamer and certificate from the GASSAR during the annual conference. Also, Dan Ginter was awarded the Youth Education Medal and the Oak Leaf Cluster.

Dan Ginter

**Americanism report by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Robert Moore**

This quarter has been a busy time for your Second Vice President. He attended the State BOM with Tommy Powell in October. On October 12<sup>th</sup> he "Helped the Hooch" with the George Walton Chapter GSSNSDAR pick up trash along Lindsay Creek. He attended the grave markings of Patriots Enoch Benson and Issac Horton at the Historic Sugar Hill Cemetery, Sugar Hill, GA on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024. He participated with the Coweta Falls SAR Color Guard in the Veterans Day Program at Pine Mountain Methodist Church, Pine Mountain, GA on November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Attended the Frontier Days on November 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 as a spectator in Pine Mountain, GA. He traveled to Contentment Bluff for 4 grave marking of patriot soldiers in Townsend, GA on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, followed by the Fort Morris "Come and Take It" event on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. 2024. He went in the evening of December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024, to help decorate the Columbus SAR, DAR, & C.A.R. Christmas tree in Uptown Columbus. He attended the Coweta Falls Chapter Christmas Party on December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024. He took part with the Coweta Falls Chapter Color Guard at Wreaths Across America on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024. On December 15<sup>th</sup> he was involved in the grave marking of Patriot John Tate in Tate, GA. On January 11<sup>th</sup> he helped clean the wreaths at Fort Mitchell, AL as part of the wreath retirement. He traveled to the GSSAR state conference representing the chapter president on January 31<sup>st</sup> thru Friday February 1<sup>st</sup>.

As Americanism Chairman he worked on the contest thru out the quarter.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Moore  
Coweta Falls Second Vice President  
Chapter Americanism Chairman  
GSSAR State Sergeant of Arms  
GSSAR State SAR – C.A.R. Liaison

# Tribute to Dr. Hugh Rodgers

There was a tremendous void at our Christmas Party in December. Hugh Rodgers was missing. He was a warm and delightful attendee of all events, always ready with a story and a smile. Hugh had a greeting for everyone.

Hugh, who had chaired the Department of History at Columbus State University, died November 6th, 2024, at age 90. He was born July 17th, 1934, in Brewton, Alabama, graduated from the University of Alabama, served in the US Army 3rd Armored Division in Germany, and earned a Ph.D. degree in European history at the University of Texas (Austin). He was married to the former Sandra Lester.

He had an academic career of thirty-five years teaching modern European history and was faculty advisor to the history honor society. He helped organize the Columbus State Faculty Senate and served as marshal for graduation ceremonies. Professional work included books, articles and reviews in historical journals. He served a term as president of the Georgia Association of Historians. In 1998, CSU Alumni Association elected him Honorary Member.

Hugh was a Kiwanian and chaired the T. Hiram Stanley Committee. He filled a term on their Board of Managers. He enjoyed membership in the SAR, was twice president, and served on the Board of Managers; he held office in the Georgia Society and was a great supporter of the SAR Genealogical Library.

A former president of our chapter says, "Hugh was my mentor as I held the president's position and was always there to provide advice when asked." Said another former president, "Whatever I did, whether Memorial Day or my Presidency, Hugh never failed to complement me and tell me, 'You did a good job'! Such an encourager. I will miss him and his wise council!"

Hugh's applications were complete and thorough. If Hugh said a line could not be proven... he was correct. There was never a question of correctness and accuracy in his work. Hugh could find hard and tangible proof of lines when all others failed! "Hugh met me and my son and at the Main library to help process our application that got us into SAR. He will never know how much this meant especially to my son. I will always value his friendship and his positive encouragement in my journey in SAR!", said another member of our chapter.

I was asked, recently, to assist a genealogist on a trying application. He mentioned it stumped Hugh. I walked away. If it were beyond his skills, my meager attempts would be of no assistance! I could not surpass "the old master."



Another chapter member says, "Hugh helped me find the records of and complete family history from Western Virginia showing my relative fought with William Campbell and John Sevier at Kings Mountain, info long concealed." If he could not find it, it was unfindable! Every SAR chapter should have a Hugh Rodgers.

He was a president of the Muscogee Genealogical Society and briefly editor of its journal "Muscogiana". He also strongly upheld traditional Anglican worship.

In retirement, Hugh pursued his hobby of genealogy and compiled extensive records of his family. In the Genealogy Room of the Columbus Public Library, he assisted many.

He loved the Braves, SEC football, and "binge-watched" British dramas and comedies. Hugh loved music, particularly Baroque and classical, often attending the Columbus Symphony. He continued his study of history in retirement, along with a strong interest in current political and diplomatic events. Retirement allowed travel to California, Aspen and Canada. There were New England trips and a cruise to Quebec and Montreal. Most memorable were travels to Germany, Austria, Italy, France, and England (to celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary).

The lives of Sandra, Barton, and their family will be less without his love, warmth, and gentlemanly presence. Without him, our lives will be a bit less. Our chapter meetings are a bit less without Hugh. The Board of Managers' will miss his calm, logical, meticulous approach to all issues. Hugh may be no longer with us. But he is not, and never will be, forgotten.

Bill Pruitt







## November Meeting November 2024



## **Upcoming Speakers by Bill Pruitt**

The Coweta Falls Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution has several great speakers scheduled for the next few months.

On Thursday, March 13, 2025, Lewis O. Powell, IV, Research Archivist at the Troup County Archives, will be speaking on the Mulberry Street Cemetery in LaGrange. Dating to the 1860s, the Mulberry Street Cemetery is a part of the cultural fabric of LaGrange. This slice of history serves as the solemn resting place for Civil War veterans, hundreds in unmarked graves and Horace King, covered bridge builder. The \$2.7 million dollar cemetery restoration project is a major initiative aimed at revitalizing and preserving the cemetery and highlighting its historical significance while honoring those laid to rest here. The project will incorporate education elements, showcase regional and local history and create a public space for shared community engagement.

For Thursday, April 10, 2025, Christopher A. Goodrow, Arms Curator & Museum Specialist, will be speaking on "Birth of an American Army: Year 1775 of the American Revolution." Since its establishment on June 14, 1775 (over a year before the Declaration of Independence) the U.S. Army has played a vital role in the growth and development of the American nation. Drawing on long-standing militia traditions and recently introduced professional standards, it won the new republic's independence in an eight-year struggle against Great Britain. At times, the Army provided the lone symbol of nationhood around which patriots rallied.

Our meeting on Thursday, May 8, 2025, will be presented by Elizabeth Walden, the Executive Director of Historic Columbus. She will be presenting the industrial history of Columbus. The industrial and engineering heritage that created the Columbus Historic Riverfront Industrial District (five non-contiguous mill sites along the river) which was declared a National Historic Landmark District (NHLD) in 1978. The preservation of many of these structures helped create a manufacturing which, during the inter-bellum period, was second only to Richmond (VA). The Georgia legislature established Columbus in 1828 specifically as a "trading town" at the head of navigation of the Chattahoochee River. Elizabeth will explore the economic growth and industrial archeology of Columbus through Muscogee Mills, the Eagle & Phenix, Clegg's Mill, Georgia Manufacturing, Empire Mills, Swift Manufacturing, Paragon/Hamburger/Bradley, and others to take us through the turn of the century.

Thursday, June 12, 2025's program will be presented by our genealogist, Stephen Johnson. His topic will be the Salzburger immigrants who settled in Georgia. They were a group of German-speaking Protestant refugees from the Catholic Archbishopric of Salzburg (present-day Austria) who immigrated to the Georgia Colony to escape religious persecution. They were expelled from their homeland by Count Leopold Anton von Firmian (1679–1744), Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg. On October 31, 1731, he issued an Edict of Expulsion demanding the Salzburg Protestants to recant their faith. Pastor Samuel Urlsperger, the leader of the Society for Promotion of Christian Knowledge, called upon George II of Great Britain for help. The King offered them refuge in the Georgia colony. Their settlement would later become the town of Ebenezer.

If you have any suggestions for a speaker or topic, please reach out to Bill Pruitt at [bill\\_pruitt@hotmail.com](mailto:bill_pruitt@hotmail.com).

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Wayne C. Cartledge (Treasurer)  
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Mike A. Kelso (2nd VP)  
  
Scott M. Lavelle (member at large)

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VOLUNTEER CONTACT US

# 137TH ANNUAL CONGRESS - 2027

## New Orleans, Louisiana

### July 9 - 15, 2027

2027 Annual Congress Starts in  
2 years 8 months 29 days 14 hours 46 minutes 3 seconds

**THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT IS HOSTING THE 2027  
CONGRESS!**



The Southern District states of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee will host the 2027 Congress at the "New Orleans Marriott" located at 555 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA 70130

**CHECK BACK AS WE GET CLOSER TO 2027!** We will be adding a merchandise link, a list of places to eat, a list of places to visit while you are in New Orleans, a list of scheduled Tours, a link to volunteer to work at the convention, and other information in the near future.



**Lonnie Jackson  
Elementary  
Traveling Trunk  
November 2024**



# North Columbus Elementary Traveling Trunk November 2024





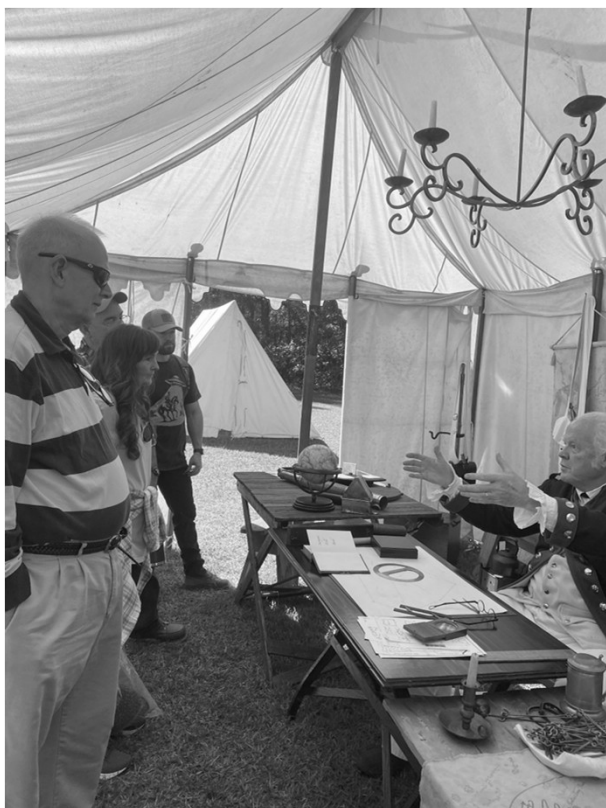
## Sugar Hill November 2024



## Cantentment Bluff November 2024



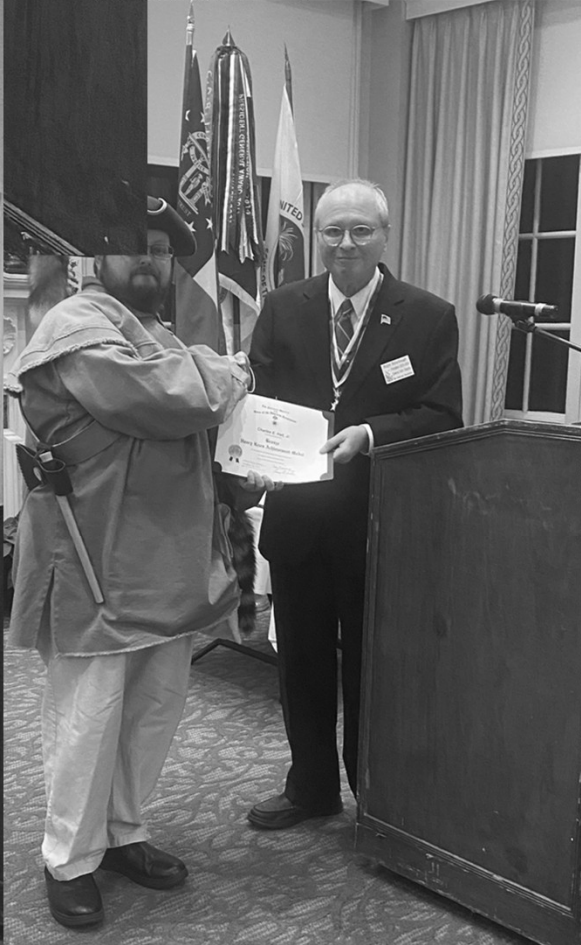
## Frontier Days November 2024



## GWDAR November 2024



## Christmas Party December 2024





# Christmas Trees in Downtown Columbus

## December 2024





## Wreaths Across America December 2024



**Wreath Retirement**





## State Conference January 2025





## Coweta Falls New Members

### Since Monday, January 1, 2024

Join Date	New Member	Patriot
02.16.24	Pete Barclay	Hugh Barclay
04.05.24	John Senn	Joel Perkson
08.23.24	Lawson Ragan	Jessee Webb
10.18.24	Ned Linch	Nathaniel Howell, Sr.
11.08.24	Stephen Russell Hesler	Daniel McMichael

#### Applications Submitted to National:

Brandon Striplin Bias  
Benjamin Freeman Bias

Joshua David Marsh  
Hugh Holman Stuckey

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

@St. Luke Ministries Center located at the northeast corner of 3rd Avenue  
and 11th Street in Columbus

The \$18.00 buffet luncheon begins at 11:30 AM and includes salad, meats, vegetables, bread, and  
dessert.

Our meeting begins at 12:15 PM and features a Guest Speaker.  
Visitors are welcome! For reservations call Wayne Cartledge (706) 464-7070 or  
Tommy Powell (706) 405-9251 after you receive the meeting notice email.

#### ***“The Minuteman”***

is the newsletter of

**Coweta Falls Chapter**

Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution

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of the picture, along with names and dates. Thank you.