

# The Piedmont Piper



OUR INSPIRATION IS IN THE PAST  
OUR DUTY IS IN THE PRESENT  
OUR HOPE IS IN THE FUTURE

<http://home.earthlink.net/~piedmontsar/>

May 2006

## From the President's Desk



**Von Starkey**

**Out of Many, one...** That was the national motto proposed by

Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson in 1776. Both simple and elegant, it embodied the notion that all who had come to America's shores and all who would come must be united—must all form one front—in defense of freedom and liberty. For 200 years, we were, largely, one people united behind constitutional republicanism. But soon after the social turbulence of the '60s and the economic woes of the '70s, that unity began to crumble. This was the era in which multiculturalism emerged—the era in which ethnocentricity became chic.

Arthur Schlesinger, a former Harvard professor and senior advisor to JFK, published a retrospective on this era in 1991

called "The Disuniting of America." Schlesinger wrote primarily about the orthodoxy of self-interested hyphenated-American citizen groups—who, rather than unifying to become one, were diversifying to become many. He warned that the cult of ethnicity would result in "the fragmentation and tribalization of America," the natural consequence being that these special-interest groups would be co-opted by the political parties.

"Instead of a transformative nation with an identity all its own," Schlesinger wrote, "America increasingly sees itself in this new light as preservative of diverse alien identities—groups ineradicable in their ethnic character." He asserts, by way of inquiry, "Will the melting pot give way to the Tower of

## Saturday May 20, 2006 May Chapter Meeting

Integrity Bank Building  
8:00 a.m. Breakfast  
8:30 a.m. Meeting

### Speaker:

**Dr. Tom Scott**

**"Oglethorpe's Vision  
For Georgia"**

## *Upcoming Events*

### **Color Guard Highlights**

May 13—Cone Grave Marking,  
between Stillson & Guyton, GA 2:00  
PM

May 25 — Joint Rotary Luncheon,  
Roswell, GA. 12 noon

May 27 — Scout Flag Day, Marietta  
National Cemetery, Marietta, GA. 8  
PM

June 10 — Battle of Ramsour's Mill,  
Lincolnton, NC.

## July 15, 2006 July Chapter Meeting

Integrity Bank Building  
8:00 a.m. Breakfast  
8:30 a.m. Meeting

### Speaker:

**To be Announced**



Babel?" *The Patriot Post* - April 2006

As members of the Sons of the American Revolution, we have the unique opportunity to help all Americans, especially our youth, remember and appreciate their rich heritage given to us by our founding fathers. One way that we can do this is by supporting the many, varied, and unusual educational programs provided by our organization. With this in mind, I have named Past-President Robert Sapp to oversee all of the educational programs in our Piedmont chapter.

A new program that we will offer to all high schools in our "area of influence" is the Bronze Good Citizen Medal and Certificate Student Recognition Program. The Award Winning Piedmont Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, in conjunction with Joseph Wheeler High School and Norcross High School will award the Bronze Good Citizen Medal and Certificate to a junior or senior student that displays exceptional and noteworthy characteristics of citizenship as developed by the National SAR and agreed upon by the two local school administrators. The candidate should have or demonstrate the following characteristics:

- Academic excellence (consistent with the overall student's extra curricula involvement)
- Leadership in student activity such as student council, athletics, musical/ band, etc.
- Community service
- Awareness of American Heritage – Bill of Rights, Declaration of Independence, Constitution and the struggles of the Revolutionary era
- High degree of personal ethics
- Statesmanship – an ability to lead without offending and bringing about a consensus

The student is to be selected by the school administrators with the award given by a member of the Sons of the American Revolution at the school's annual awards event. A maximum of two candidates per year will be awarded. The award can or may be combined with the recognition for participating in the Knight Essay Program. As our members make us aware of other high schools that are interested in the program, they may be added to our current schools.

**Remember – E Pluribus Unum...  
Of many, one.**

**Congratulations** to all the members of the Piedmont Chapter that were recognized at our recent state conference. Your excellent performance, in support of the

**Piedmont Chapter  
Honors its Patrons**



The Alpharetta community is indeed fortunate to have the Integrity Bank as one of its prominent corporate citizens. The Bank reaches out to civic organizations such as The Piedmont Chapter, SAR with assistance and encouragement, as, for example, providing our Chapter with a meeting room and refreshments at no cost to us.

At our April meeting our President, Von Starkey, recognized the contributions of Integrity Bank, its

President, Steve Skow, and officers Skip and Rita Gray, with the following pronouncement:

"In the course of developing relationships between organizations, the activities of the organizations become intertwined with goals and objectives and the service rendered by one to the other. This interchange of activities becomes a part of the milieu of the relationship. The gifts and graces are appreciated by each, but the appreciation is never fully expressed. The familial milieu results in an acceptance like those in a family relationship.

"The gifts and graces of the Integrity Bank, their staff, and in particular Rita Gray and Skip Gray have long been appreciated by the Piedmont Chapter, but, like in a family relationship, not definitely expressed.

"The Piedmont Chapter hereby recognizes the gifts and graces of these special friends:

"Integrity Bank with the Patriot Award-Partners in Patriotism;

Rita Gray with Daughters of Liberty Medal;

Skip Gray as Piedmont's Patriot

Steve Skow with Bronze Good Citizenship Medal."

In the picture at the left Rita Gray accepts the awards on behalf of all the recipients.

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From:

**Bill Walker**

Piedmont Chapter Chaplain



**The Choice of the Next Generation**

Recently, I had the privilege of attending a men's dinner at my church for food, fellowship, and an inspirational speaker. While the food was very good and the fellowship was great, the guest speaker alone would have made the evening incredible. Steve Bartkowski, former Atlanta Falcons quarterback and holder of several NFL and Falcons records, entertained and inspired us with his testimony. I was frankly surprised by how powerful his message was, and also by how strong a Christian a pro football player could be.

The part of his story that struck me the most, though, was the importance of his father in his life. He told of the ways in which his father *chose* to be a positive influence in his life. On days when his father came home exhausted from work, Steve often would beg him to go outside and play some catch, and he would do so without question or complaint. When Steve chose to make a college career, and eventually a pro career, in sports, his father supported and encouraged him without hesitation. Apart from Christ, his father was the single greatest influence in his life. His father was a model of how a man – and a father – should be, and Steve called upon all the men at the dinner to be the same.

Afterwards, I thought about how important this part of his message

really is to today's men. A man's influence in a child's life is so extremely vital to his – or even *her* – development. Unfortunately, too many men today are providing too little influence. Dr. James Dobson of *Focus on the Family* reported a study that found the average father in America spends 29 seconds of quality time per day with his child. **Twenty-nine seconds!** That does not make for successful involvement in a child's life. Yet the children are going to grow up, and they will grow up with whatever influence they're exposed to.

When I use the phrase, "The Choice of the Next Generation," it doesn't refer to a brand of soft drink preferred by the younger set or a *Star Trek* TV series. Rather, it means that the choice of what the next generation will be is up to us – the current generation. We can choose to have a generation raised with the positive influence of the men in their lives, or one raised without it. I prefer the former. So should we all.

Look around you. You have many opportunities to be a positive influence for children. If you're a father or grandfather (or even a great-grandfather), make sure to spend quality time with the kids in your family. Teach classes or special events at a school. Lead a Sunday School at church. Volunteer with kids' programs in music, theater, or sports. Even in the SAR, we have many ways with which to make a positive impact in the lives of many children of all ages. Be a successful influence for every child that you can.

Steve Bartkowski is by any definition successful. But he credits his success to his father's influence. In a way, that means his father was the real success. It is notable that the most popular of the *Successoies* products are the ones on Priorities, which read, "A hundred years from now, it will not matter what kind of car you drove, what kind of house you lived in, or how much money you had in the bank, but that the world might be different because you were important in the life of a child."

"Raise up a child in the way he should go, and when he is grown he will not depart from it." -- Proverbs 22:6

**Piedmont Awards at State Society Meeting**

The award winning Piedmont Chapter continued its award winning ways at the Georgia State Society Meeting held March 31 and April 1. The list follows:

- Jack Ferguson—Patriot Medal
- Piedmont Chapter—President General's Award
- Piedmont Chapter— Americanism Award
- Piedmont Chapter—BG Robert L. Scott (Veterans Award)
- Piedmont Chapter—Poster Contest 2nd Place— Mt. Bethel Elementary School
- Piedmont Chapter—Chaplain Award
- Robert Sapp—Color Guard Rookie of the Year
- Glynn Acree—Color Guard Award for greater than 200 State and National Events
- George Thurmond—Color Guard Award for over 300 State and National Events
- Terry Manning (Dual Member)—Color Guard Bronze and Silver Medal
- Jenny Acree—Color Guard Camp Followers Certificate
- Lou Ferguson—Color Guard Camp Followers Certificate
- Sara "Marty" Thurmond—Color Guard Camp Followers Certificate
- Ginny Manning—Color Guard Camp Followers Certificate
- Billy Templeton (Dual Member)—Bronze Good Citizenship Medal
- Roger Lamb (Dual Member)—Silver Good Citizenship Medal
- Roger Lamb (Dual Member)—Chaplain Award

**If you see someone without a smile today, give him (or her) one of yours.**



### MEET TOM HOLCOMBE

Compatriot Tom Holcombe has been a member of the Piedmont Chapter since July 1994, just four months after the Chapter was chartered. Due to a conflict on Saturday mornings he has not been able to attend many of our monthly meetings, but he has nevertheless been very active with our Graves Committee. A former police officer with the City of East Point, Tom did ceramic tile work on the side. Drawing on his experience as a tile worker, Tom picked up the art of cleaning tombstones, making the stones bright and clean with due care not to damage the writing embedded in the stone. This talent has been very useful in refurbishing some long-neglected tombstones of our Revolutionary War patriots.

Tom lives on a 60 acre farm in the Birmingham Community just north of Alpharetta. This farm was purchased from his wife's family and was owned by members of her family since the early 1800's. He has three children: Rick, age 55, who is in the floor covering business; Dianne, age 53, who is a teacher and softball coach at Westminster School; and Robert, age 50, who is a welder.

Our compatriot was born in Kansas City Missouri in 1928. In 1939 he moved with his parents to a farm in Illinois. At age 15 he moved to Korea as a military dependent, where he soon afterwards joined the Navy. He served

aboard the power barge "Electra", which furnished electric power to towns in South Korea. In 1948 he received a discharge in order to finish school in the American Yokohama High School, graduating in 1950.

After finishing high school Tom joined the Army and served in Korea from July 1950 to December 1951. Returning at last to the U.S., he served for a while at Fort Benning. He was then placed on reserve status, at which time he joined the East Point Police Force, serving from 1953 to 1963, during which time he completed John Marshall Law School as an aid to his law enforcement duties. He then served as Fire and Safety Engineer at Ford Motor Company, taking retirement in 1985.

Tom is a descendant of Elijah Holcombe, who served at Valley Forge during the American Revolution. The Holcombe House overlooking the Delaware River near Lambertville, N.J., is the Holcombe family's ancestral home. This home served as General George Washington's headquarters from July 1777 until June 1778, just prior to the battles in

### QUAKER MEETING HOUSE BUILT BY TOM HOLCOMBE'S KIN, JOHN AND JACOB HOLCOMBE IN BUCKINGHAM, PA.

Tom's Primary Ancestor, Elijah Holcombe of Pennsylvania, was raised a Quaker but later became a Presbyterian. He worshiped for a time in the church shown



### National Museum of History Receives Prestigious Award

On March 31, 2006 Richard Downing, President General of NSSAR, presented the prestigious Leadership in Patriotism Award to the National Museum of Patriotism. Nick Snider, founder of the museum, accepted the award on behalf of the museum.

The museum is located at 1405 Spring Street in Midtown Atlanta. Piedmont member Jason Wetzel is a principal officer of the museum.

This award is relatively new, and this is only the second time it has been presented. The award recognizes an institution for outstanding contributions in promoting patriotism and education in American History.

The Charter of the Sons of the American Revolution provides that one of its goals is promoting patriotism. It is quite fitting that the SAR should honor the Museum in this manner.



**PATRIOTS DAY COMMEMORATION  
IN NORCROSS**



**The Piedmont Chapter promoted and participated in the official commemoration of Patriots Day by the City Governments in Cumming, Sandy Springs, Alpharetta and Norcross. Pictured above in front of the City Hall in Norcross are Ruth Strickland, a Rotarian, Compatriot Jim McIntyre, Susan Brooks, City Clerk, Compatriot Scott Ray, Lillian Webb, Mayor, and Dave Hill, a prospective member of Piedmont. Also present were Chapter President Von Starkey and Compatriot Russ Deutschman. Mayor Webb has just read a proclamation officially recognizing April 19 as Patriots Day and encouraging all Georgians to become more knowledgeable in the role the Revolution played in the history of our great nation.**

**April 19, 1775**

**The Shot Heard 'Round the World**

Warned by Paul Revere, William Dawes and Samuel Prescott, the Massachusetts militia mobilized to block a larger, better trained British force coming to seize militia weapons at Concord.

At Lexington, Major John Pitcairn , leading a detachment of Royal Marines told the Colonists there: "Disperse, you rebels! Damn you, throw down your arms and disperse!"

Nobody knows who fired the first shot at Lexington Green, but the colonial militia refused confiscation of their guns, and the British drove them back

in the initial encounter.

After regrouping, the colonial militia did better, turning back the British at Concord Bridge and forcing a disorderly British flight back to Boston . The road back became a deadly gauntlet as farmers from "every Middlesex village and farm" sniped from behind stone walls, trees, barns, houses, all the way back to Charlestown peninsula. By nightfall, the British survivors were safe under the protection of the Royal Navy and British Army at Boston, having lost 273 men that day, while the Americans lost 95.

**Reprinted from "Patriots Day April 19", a Brochure provided by GASSAR and Hospitality Safety and**

**CHRISTIAN ONE-LINERS**

Don't let your worries get the best of you; remember, Moses started out as a basket case.

Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited until you try to sit in their pew.

Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisors.

It is easier to preach ten sermons than it is to live one.

The Good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but mosquitoes come close.

When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives there.

People are funny; they want the front of the bus, the middle of the road, and the back of the church.

Opportunity may knock only once, but temptation bangs on your door forever.

Quit griping about your church; if it was perfect, you couldn't belong.

If the church wants a better pastor, it only has to pray for the one it has.

God Himself does not propose to judge a man until he is dead, so why should you?

Some minds are like concrete; thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.

Peace starts with a smile.

I don't know why some people change churches; what difference does it make which one you stay home from?

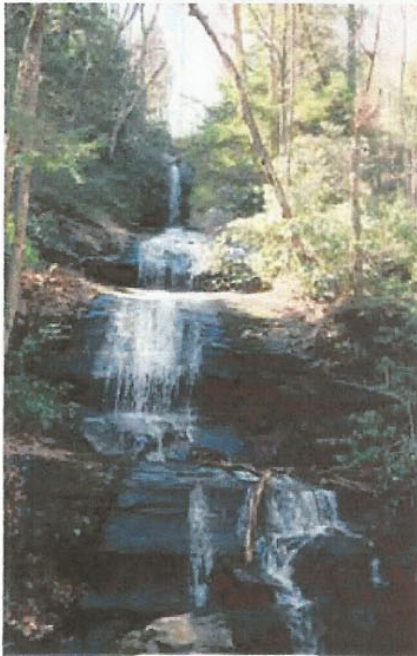
A lot of church members who sing "Standing on the Promises" are just sitting on the premises.

God loves everyone, but probably prefers "fruits of the spirit" over "religious nuts."

We don't change the message, the message changes us.



### SAMPLING HISTORY Searching for Gold in North Georgia



**DeSoto Falls**, in the mountainous region of North Georgia, actually consists of three separate waterfalls, one of which is pictured above. All three are tributaries of Frogtown Creek and are located in an area maintained by the

National Park Service in northern Lumpkin County just off Georgia Highway 11. The famed Appalachian Trail, which extends from Georgia to Maine, crosses the highway just north of the Falls.

A sign at the entrance to the area explains that the name of the Falls comes from the discovery nearby of an armor breastplate during the 1880's. At first scholars mocked the idea of finding a piece of armor intact after some 300 years. The idea became more palatable, however, after an intact sword from the DeSoto exhibition was later found near Rome, GA. It is now an accepted fact that DeSoto did venture through this area on his way further north.

In May 1539 the Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto arrived in the Tampa Bay area of Florida at the head of an army of 600 men in nine ships together with 220 horses, a herd of

pigs, a pack of vicious war dogs, Cannon, muskets, armor, tools and rations. Their purpose was to carry out the orders of the Spanish King Charles V to conquer, populate and pacify the land.

This expedition turned into a four year four thousand mile odyssey, DeSoto and his troops eagerly sought gold and treasure, but to no avail. It is ironic that these troops probably passed through what is now the Dahlonega area just to the south of where the breastplate was found, but with no sighting of gold. Some 300 years later American settlers were swarming through this area mining and panning gold., which could be converted to cash at a U.S. mint established in the area.

General DeSoto's failure to find gold on his expedition left what is now the United States open for future colonization by the British and eventual nationhood by what was to become the United States.

For further information reference can be made to the National Park Services' website at [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).

**57 Georgia Counties Named  
For Patriots of the American  
Revolution**

Of Georgia's 159 counties, a total of 57 were named after Revolutionary War Patriots. Most, but not all of these, actually served in Georgia.

We heartily recommend for your reading pleasure and enlightenment "**The History of Georgia Counties**" recently published by the Georgia Society, SAR, which was distributed at our April meeting, designed by Ed Fluker of the Ocmulgee Chapter.

A few of the counties located nearby are DeKalb County, named for General Johan DeKalb; Gwinnett County, named for Button Gwinnett; Henry County, named for Patrick Henry; Fayette County, named for the Marquis de Lafayette; and Carroll County, which honors Charles Carroll of Maryland.

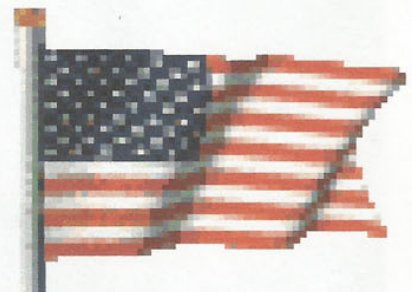
### 225th Anniversary of the Battle of Augusta (Siege of Fort Cornwallis)

The Augusta Richmond County Historical Society plans a commemoration of the 225th anniversary of the Battle of Augusta on Friday and Saturday June 2 and 3, 2006. Three major events, a seminar, a dinner and a battle re-enactment, are planned to commemorate the siege of Fort Cornwallis, which took place from May 22 through June 5, 1781, during the American Revolution. In May 1781 Patriot forces under General Andrew Pickens,

Colonel Elijah Clark, and Lieutenant Colonel "Light Horse Harry" Lee undertook the siege of two British forts at Augusta and recaptured the town from its occupiers on June 5, 1781. Augusta then became the capital of Georgia and functioned as such for much of the next fifteen years.

This commemorative event has the official sanction of the City of Augusta and is being sponsored by the Augusta Richmond County Historical Society and the Center for the Study of Georgia History, Augusta State University. Additional Historical organizations associated with the planning and conducting of this event include the Augusta Museum of History, Historic Augusta, Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, Colonial Times (North Augusta, S.C.) and the US Army Signal Center Historian Office. The GASSAR Color Guard under the command of Charlie Newcomer will also be participating.

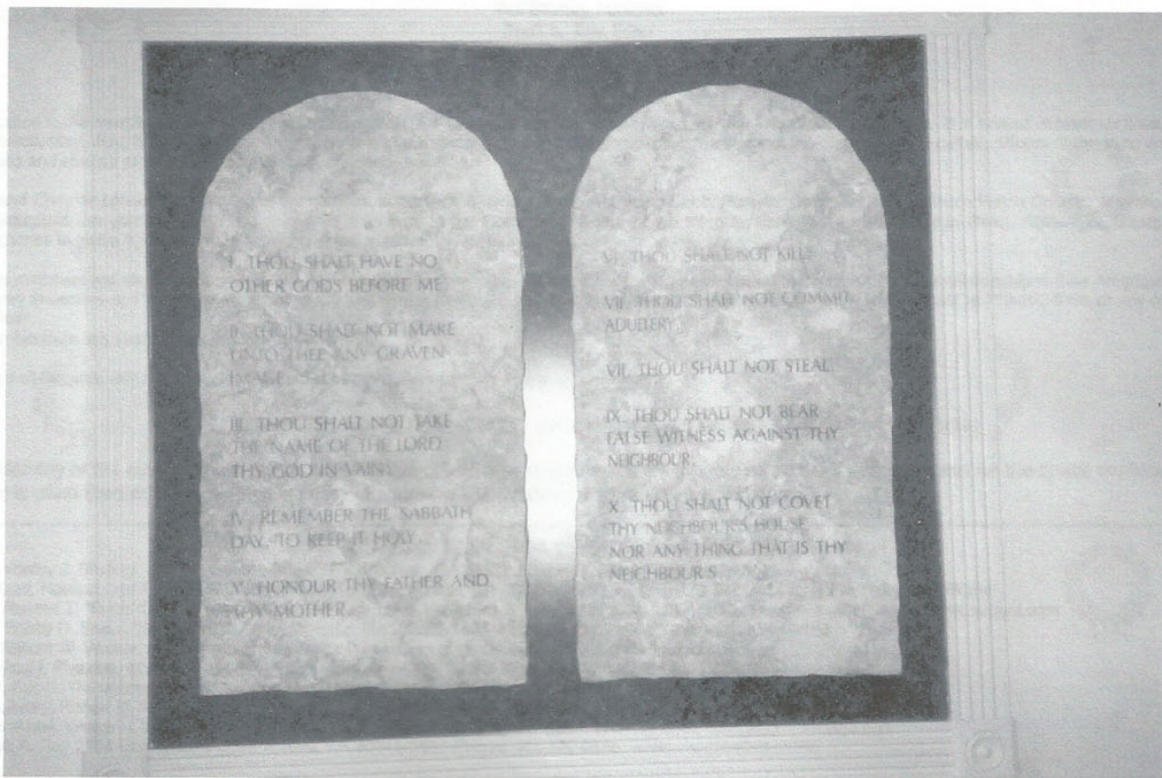
For directions and other information you may contact Robert Turbyfill at [bobturbyfill@knology.net](mailto:bobturbyfill@knology.net) or (706) 736-9602.





**Above:** The State Color Guard marches in formation at the Peter Groover Grave Marking in Marietta at the Holly Spring Cemetery held on March 11. Five members of the Piedmont Color Guard were present: Cmdr. Paul Prescott, George Thurmond, Bob Sapp, Jack Ferguson and Billy Templeton.

**Below:** Our host, The Integrity Bank, recently added a depiction of the **Ten Commandments** to the wall of the first floor entryway opposite the elevator.





The Piedmont Piper  
2154 Greensward Drive  
Atlanta, GA 30345

First Class Mail

**The Piedmont Piper**

Von Starkey, Publisher  
Scott A. Ray, Editor

Skip Gray and Von Starkey Photographers

This publication is the newsletter for the **Piedmont Chapter of the Georgia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution**. It is printed at least six times per year, January, March, May, July, September and November, and is distributed to current and prospective members of the chapter and to certain officers of the state and national organizations and officials of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The Piedmont Chapter serves communities of the northern suburbs of Atlanta, Georgia including Cobb, Forsyth, Cherokee and Northern Fulton County. Meetings are held monthly throughout the year on the third Saturday at 8:30 a.m. in the Community Room of the Integrity Bank, 11140 State Bridge Road, Alpharetta, Georgia. Most members choose to arrive by 8:00 a.m. to enjoy breakfast together.

Prospective members are always welcome at monthly membership meetings. Men and boys who are interested in documenting their relationship to their American Revolutionary ancestors and in joining an active group with similar interests are urged to contact the **Chapter Registrar, Paul Prescott at 770-360-6766** or any other chapter officer.

(Youth Memberships are available for applicants under 18).

Please send all inquires and suggestions to the editor at the address shown below.

**DEADLINE FOR MATERIAL TO BE INCLUDED IN THE NEXT MONTH EDITION:**

The last Monday of the month preceding the date of issue. Please send all articles and photos as early as possible because the space available in the newsletter is often filled prior to the deadline date. Pictures will be scanned and returned to the sender.

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