

The Piedmont Piper



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

Edition LXXVII I (78th Issue)

www.piedmontsar.com

November 2007

A Message from our Vice President



Jim McIntire

On October 30th of last year I sent out to all members an email quoting an article Compatriot Glynn Acree had faxed to me outlining the ways in which a fraternity could fail. At the conclusion of that email I stated "The

above quote could almost be a transcript of many of the responses I received in making my calls as Chairman of the Nominating Committee. How serious is our problem? A few facts will be helpful. At the end of 2003 we had 104 members. In the next two years we added 24 more. We obviously handle recruiting very well, don't we? After all, we ARE the Award Winning Piedmont Chapter. However we now have 90 members instead of the 128 suggested by the above mathematics. What happened to the 38 members we lost? I suspect they went the same way that the 42 members who still pay their dues but haven't attended a meeting this year. Out of 128 members available we have squandered to loss or inactivity 80 of them. We won't get any awards for throwing away 63% of our hard earned membership. We have 80 members who live close enough to attend our meetings but our average at-

tendance is only 12.5. It is time for us to quit boiling this particular frog. In the coming months you will be hearing details of our turnaround strategy, of our plans to re-energize the Chapter and to strengthen the fraternal bonds between us."

In addition to comments I made at our regular monthly meetings since that time, Scott Ray published in our May 2007 issue of the Piedmont Piper these additional comments from yours truly: "Both in the newspapers and in individual conversations I have heard the complaint that in the Atlanta area it is difficult to meet people, form friendships and develop a sense of community. We in the Piedmont Chapter are pledged this year to address that problem for our members and friends. The emphasis is going to be on Family, Place and Honor." In that article I went on to outline the strategy of the BOM for making that happen.

(continued on next page)

Upcoming Events

Saturday, Nov. 17, 2007
November Chapter Meeting
Holiday Inn
909 Holcomb Bridge Rd
Roswell, GA
8:00 a.m. Breakfast
8:30 a.m. Meeting
Speaker:
Hon. Lynn Riley
Fulton County Commission

Color Guard Highlights
Nov. 17—Ft. Morris Celebration
Liberty County, GA, 1100 AM
Dec. 8—Cherokee Ford/Vann's
Creek Marker Dedication,
Ruckersville, GA, 1100 AM

Saturday, December 15, 2007
December Chapter Meeting
Holiday Inn
909 Holcomb Bridge Rd..
Roswell, GA
8:00 a.m. Breakfast
8:30 a.m. Meeting
Speaker:
Hon. Johnny Isakson
U.S. Senator



We are now a bit over half way through the current Membership Year. During the course of this year we have moved to new quarters that enabled expansion of space (twice), provided a buffet breakfast, and invited our wives and the members of the Martha Stewart Bulloch Chapter, NSDAR, to attend our meetings. We have intensified our recruitment of new members. We have added to our distribution list for emails to visitors and guests. We have sought out speakers who have been enthusiastically received. In addition to the magnificent and customary activities of our Color Guard and Speakers' Bureau, we have, in conjunction with the DAR, participated in the Roswell Memorial Day Ceremony, the Roswell Magnolia Storytelling Festival, the Alpharetta Old Soldiers' Day Parade and the First Annual End-Of-Summer Picnic. We have captured a number of the events in which we have participated photographically and have sent those pictures out as slide shows to our members and friends. Our media outreach program, thanks to Compatriots Carl Bhame, Scott Ray, Paul Simpson and George Thurmond, has exploded. It is only fair to ask the question "Has any of this produced a result?"

At the last meeting of your BOM held on 24 September, it was my pleasure to report that the attendance of members was averaging 20 compared to 12.5 last year. Member attendance for our September meeting in 2006 was 14. Member attendance this year, at which Secretary of State Karen Handel was our speaker, was 21 (a 50% increase). Total attendance this year has ranged between 28 - 32. Registrar Bob Sapp reported that our membership has increased from 78 to 90 since our last annual report to National.

With President Carl Tanner's permission I borrowed an artillery phrase by saying "we have finished firing for range. We are now firing for effect". Back during the Fifties there was a regional comedian by the name of Brother Dave Gardner who recorded a record album entitled "Rejoice, Dear Hearts". He used a phrase that I deeply appreciated and have used ever since: "Don't tell me about your doubts - tell

me what you believe in!" I believe in the Piedmont Chapter, GASSAR. Let's keep a good thing going.

(Editor's Note—Our President, Carl Tanner, whose article usually appears in this space, was unable to submit an article for this edition due to illness. Look for his article to return in our next issue.)

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Scott Ray



OUR EDITOR BEGINS SIXTH YEAR AT HELM OF THE PIPER

Scott Ray first took office as Editor of **The Piper** in 2003 while still serving as Chapter President. The first issue was published in November of that year. Beginning with this issue, November 2007, Scott commences his sixth consecutive year as Editor.

There have been three other Editors. Herman Tovey served in 1995; Jack McCord served from 1996 through 1998, and Paul Simpson served from 2000 through 2002.

Scott attributes his length of service at least in part to the decision at the beginning of his term to publish the newsletter every other month. This gives the Editor and other contributors sufficient time in between publication dates to do the necessary work without being overly rushed. Prior to 2003 nine issues per year were being published.

Before becoming Editor Scott had

practically no experience with preparing a publication on his computer. It was only with the generous help and coaching from former Editors, Jack McCord and Paul Simpson, that this work was possible. Their assistance is gratefully acknowledged.

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**COLOR GUARD SCHEDULE
November and December 2007**

1 Nov.—Scottish Rite Masonic Center, Atlanta, GA 1815 hrs.

2 Nov.—INS, Atlanta, GA, 1100 hrs.

3 Nov.—Michael Gaar Grave Marking, Ruckersville, GA, 1100 hrs.

3 Nov.—Dozier Thornton Grave Marking, Ruckersville, GA, 1430 hrs.

6 Nov.—Fallen Heroes Monument Dedication, Montgomery, AL, 1100 hrs.

8 Nov.—Perimeter School Veterans Program, Duluth, GA

9 Nov.—First United Methodist Church Veterans Program, Lawrenceville, GA 1100 hrs.

10 Nov.—Roswell St. Baptist Church Veterans Program, Marietta, GA 1200 hrs.

17 Nov.—Ft. Morris Celebration, Liberty County, GA, 1100 hrs.

29 Nov.—Rotary Meeting, Roswell, GA, 1200? Hrs.

1 Dec.—Daniel Higdon Grave Marking, Columbus, GA, 1115 hrs.

2 Dec.—John Jenkins Grave Marking, Barnesville, GA, 1400 hrs.

7 Dec.—We the People, Atlanta, GA, 1800 hrs.

—Paul Prescott,
Commander, Color Guard



From:

ALLEN RAY FINLEY
Piedmont Chapter Chaplain



LET US TAKE A WALK: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A COMPATRIOT?

This will be an ongoing series of what it means to be a Son of the American Revolution.

As we walk down this road, I want us to look at some key words and /or phrases that will help us to understand what our ancestors went thru to leave the comfort of their home and friends, and to come to this land that we now call the United States of America. I would like for you to join me as we work our way though this and to come up with some words that you feel would mean something to you and your own heritage.

My great-great-great-great-great grand father was born in Ireland. For him to leave the "old country" in the early 1700 and come across the ocean took something that is hard for me to understand today. Having made several trips across the "pond" and to have gone around the world, it is hard for me to complain about the discomfort of today's travel even in business class. I find it hard to comprehend what it must have been like in an open "ship", if we can even call it that. It is even harder for me to think how women and children would have been able to travel, plus survive.

Let us first explore what this must have meant to him and his family. Where I would like to start the first few steps of this walk is by examining some words that start with the letters A and B.

A: ABILITY.

God gave each and everyone one of us an ability. Some of us find it early in life and some of us later in life. And some seem to never have found it. But the real issue is what we do with our ability. That is what will set us apart from others. If we take our ability and use it to serve only ourselves, what have we gained? And, I am sure that you see a lot of this in the media blitz that occurs in our every day lives today. However, if we take this ability and use it to serve others, we have followed some principals that were taught to me as I was growing up in rural Appalachia. I hope that my wife and I have passed those same traits on to our 3 children, and now to our 4 grandchildren.

The Rev. James Finley was born in the county of Armaugh. That is now what we call Northern Ireland. He was, of all things, a Presbyterian minister who served as a spy for General George Washington. He and his wife Hannah, who was 10 years older than he, raised their children in an era of "moving west". In the mountains of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Rev. James brought the word of God to all who would listen.

Today we have the same opportunity to



use our abilities (and that of our forefathers that have been passed down) to spread the word. What we do is not a job if we truly make this our life. People often ask me if I am ever going to retire. My answer to them is why would I want to even consider it. My reasoning is since I like helping others, it is not a job but a love. We all must be teachers to help the new generation understand what and where we have come from. It is only a job if we are doing it for ourselves. It is a career if we believe in what our forefathers did when they came here years ago.

A: AFFIRM

To make this work, the second word that comes to me is AFFIRM. To have the ability to leave the known and seek the unknown would require the belief that there is some higher power which has us in his grace. Knowing that Rev. James was from Ireland, and his love for the English was probably not very strong, it must have been natural for him to affirm his belief in a country that said all men were equal with equal rights. This must have appealed to him to risk his wife and family during these times. James and Hannah lived a long life together till they passed in 1795. They must have not only affirmed their belief in this new country, but also in one another as husband and wife.

B: BELIEVE

The last word for this article is believe. Having grown up in the Methodist Church, I have often asked my older family members why did we not end up as Presbyterians. While I never found out the answer, my answer is a different road was taken. We still arrived at the same belief and that is the power and grace of GOD. Facing the obstacles that James and Hannah must have faced in new land, it is impossible for me to think either rationally or emotionally that their belief in the Almighty was not extremely strong. For me as a kid growing up, the walk was as important as the talk.

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I ASK OF YOU THE FOLLOWING:

What I ask you is to think about what word or concept that starts with these letters helps you to think about what your great...grandparents did to leave their home and friends to come to this Great place we call home.

I will end these articles with a thought of the month.

Never tell someone that something cannot be done. God may have been waiting for centuries for somebody ignorant enough of the impossibility to do that thing.

. . . .

Bloopers

A woman approached the minister after a church service, quite embarrassed. "I hope you didn't take it personally, Reverend, when my husband walked out during your sermon." "I did find it a bit disconcerting," the preacher replied. "It's not a reflection on you," insisted the churchgoer. "Ralph has been walking in his sleep ever since he was a child."

. . . .

Pastor Hammond was congratulated for his role in getting the church plastered.

. . . .

Margaret Slater and Jeffrey Wilson will be joined in holy acrimony this Saturday at 3PM. in the north sanctuary. All are invited to attend.



"I've had the pleasure sometimes of talking to young people on campuses or in high schools, and questions come up about the Constitution and so forth. And I've read the copy of the Soviet constitution and it contains a great many terms that are in ours.

They talk about a lot of things that don't happen there, like freedom of speech and the right to assemble and so forth. But then I always delight in pointing out to them: Everybody has a constitution, but what makes ours different? And I just mentioned it in that last sentence.

What makes ours really different is all those other constitutions tell the people what government will do for them and let them do, and ours is a constitution that says we, the people, will allow the government to do the following things, and anything we don't allow government to do, government can't do."

Ronald Reagan
Remarks on February 10, 1982

(Excerpted from "History Tidbits"
September/October 2008)



PIEDMONT'S NEW MEETING PLACE

The Holiday Inn at 909 Holcomb Bridge Road, pictured above, is the new location for our meetings. It is located just down the road to the west from our previous meeting place at the Double Tree Hotel. Our first meeting at the new location was on October 20. We will continue to meet on the third Saturday of each month with breakfast to be served at 8:00 a.m. with the meetings to begin at 8:30.

**CAMELIA SIMS****Fort Necessity****The beginning of George Washington's military career**
(Reprinted from "History Tidbits")

Before becoming the famous leader of the Continental Army, George Washington acquired his military experience in the backwoods of Virginia and Pennsylvania. The first, and rather traumatic, major action of his military career occurred at Fort Necessity in 1754

In the mid-1700s France and England had competing claims on the North American territory along the Ohio River. Both the French and the English had built forts in the Ohio territory in a bid to secure it for their respective countries. Washington's military career started during the beginning of this conflict between two superpowers of the eighteenth century.

In the spring of 1754 the newly promoted Lieutenant Colonel Washington found himself in a place called Great Meadows, second in command of the Virginia Regiment led by Colonel Fry. After arriving there with part of the regiment Washington chose that place for their encampment. They were sent to that area by Virginia's Governor Dinwiddie to build a road leading to a British fort on the Ohio.

A few days after their arrival a group of French soldiers were spotted several miles away, and Washington sent a group of his men to search for them. With the help of warriors and scouts from a tribe of friendly Indians, on May 28, 1754, they reached the French

Camp hidden in a ravine. In the skirmish that ensued several of the surprised French were killed including Lieutenant Jumonville, the commander of the small French force. The surviving French soldiers alleged they were on a diplomatic mission carrying a message from the French government, thus claiming the death of Jumonville was murder.

Colonel Fry died in a horseback accident at the end of May 1754, leaving the 22 year old Washington in command of the Virginia Regiment. Considering the French danger Washington had his men build a small fort at Great Meadows. He named it Fort Necessity and made it their base camp.

George Washington was still young and inexperienced as a military leader—having joined the military only two years earlier—which explains the way he built Fort Necessity. Up to that point he had probably seen few forts and did not know how to design one. Forts were usually built on high ground to make them easy to defend, but choosing a low-lying area for Fort Necessity made it difficult to defend.

The fort was really just a stockade, almost like a rough fence made from the trunks of nearby trees. First the soldiers dug a round trench, then the trees were cut, split in half, carried to the trench, and placed there vertically. Inside that stockade they built a small storehouse for the gunpowder and food. Outside the stockade, Washington had them dig another trench that men could stand in and fire at the enemy.

In June Washington and his troops were marching toward Fort Duquesne built by the French on the disputed land at the forks of the Ohio, where Pittsburgh is now located. Hearing that the French were advancing toward them Washington's troops retreated to Fort Necessity. Although all were tired and some ill from the hard work of building the road, they worked through a steady rain to strengthen the fort.

Both the French and English had their Indian allies who fought alongside them. But on this occasion Washington

found that his Indian allies had deserted him. Apparently they were not impressed by the little fort and decided the larger French force would win. The British forces that were to join Washington's had not arrived and neither had the food supplies.

On the morning of July 3, 1754, the trenches outside the stockade were half-filled with rainwater, and the men had difficulty keeping their gunpowder dry through the continuing rain. The fight with the French started before noon when shots rang out from the woods located on ground higher than the fort. From their concealment the French could fire with more accuracy than the Virginians who could not see them. During the battle, Washington's second in command ordered his troops to retreat inside the stockade to fight from there. But it did not help their situation.

By evening almost half of Washington's 300 men had been either killed or wounded and the rest were in no shape to continue fighting. Without their Indian allies or dry ammunition, and with little food left in the fort, Washington had to face the grim reality of his situation. That evening following more than nine hours of fighting a truce was agreed upon in order to discuss the terms of surrender.

Washington sent Jacob van Braam, an officer who spoke some French, to receive the terms. Unfortunately van Braam's French was more limited than Washington thought. Additionally, the rain had made everything wet including the paper on which the articles of capitulation were written, making it difficult to read. The commander of the French force had a score to settle, for he was the brother of Jumonville, who had been killed in the earlier skirmish.

In the introduction the French had written that their attack was not an act of war, it was only intended to avenge the assassination of Jumonville. But van Braam translated it as the death of Jumonville, which was acceptable to Washington—the assassination would

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not have been acceptable. Washington was instead concerned with a condition of capitulation that stipulated they leave their weapons and ammunition behind. As they had to walk at least fifty miles through forests full of the Indian allies of the French, thus hostile to Washington's men, he realized the danger of a blood bath. He refused to sign the document until the French officer drew a line over that condition. Thus around midnight George Washington unsuspectingly signed the French document stating that he and his men had assassinated Jumonville.

The next morning, on July 4, 1754, the defeated Washington and his men left Fort Necessity with all the honors of war so important in the 18th century—drums beating and colors flying. It was a big loss for the young George Washington, one that he did not forget. It was the only time he ever surrendered to an enemy.

Camelia Sims is a speaker and the co-author of *George Washington: A Timeless Hero*.
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A human being is a creature who can't get its toes in its mouth after babyhood, but can put its foot in its mouth anytime.

Middle age is that difficult period between childhood and senior citizenship when you have to take care of yourself.

My mind works like lightning. . . one brilliant flash and then it's gone again.



Biographical History of Chaplain Allen R. Finley

I was born and raised in Southeastern Ohio in a rural Appalachian family. This section of Ohio, unlike the rest of the state, is remote and hillier than North Georgia. I was the youngest child with 3 older sisters, who have convinced my wife, that I was spoiled since I was the only son.

We had a small integrated dairy farm with black and white cows. It was a great place to grow up, and I was involved in all of those wonderful farm activities. From milking the cows, driving the John Deere, building fences and cleaning out the barn, I quickly realized that this "wonderful life" was not one that I really desired.

By the time that I was in the seventh grade, I had started working at the local grocery store. A year later, I was allowed to take your "call-in" order, pull the order, drive to your house, put the stuff in your kitchen and refrigerator (if you were not home), and at the end of the month would send you your monthly bill. Webvan had nothing new on that.

Knowing that I did not want to continue the wonderful life on the farm, I knew that I needed to go to college. The only way that I was going to be able to go was to work my way thru. By the ninth grade, I was working as a painter both in the summer time plus 20 to 30 hours during the school year. I continued this painting for the next 10 years or so through both undergraduate and graduate schools. Along the way, I realized that I wanted to teach; however, I had met a wonderful young lady from the Cleveland area and after 4 years, we got married (41 years ago). When the family started, I knew that I needed a real job.

I ended up at the world headquarters of Ford Motor Company. Then General Motors asked me to teach anyone, who sold or serviced a GM product worldwide, on how to run their business using their financial statements. As I was doing this, I also had the opportunity to

be an Adjunct Instructor for the University of Michigan.

We have been in Atlanta for about 30 years, where our 3 children went to Cobb County schools. From there, they attended and graduated from Emory, Berry, and Furman. My wife went back to teaching gifted math in elementary school plus got her masters from Kennesaw University. Five years ago, she was forced to take a medical retirement and is on disability, but we are still able to travel and see our 4 grandchildren (and 2 of our 3 children, since our youngest daughter is still here in Atlanta). However, we never see them enough.

For the last 20 years, I have been running my own consulting and training company. I have been fortunate to have been able to travel several times to Europe, Canada, the Middle East, and Australia. There is only one state in which I have not been. While I really enjoy what I do and probably will never completely retire, it was a real bummer when I heard that Scotty had passed away because I had always hoped that someday he would be able to "beam" me from place to place without having to put up with all the hassle in traveling in today's world.

I have been blessed. With my best friend being the mother of our 3 children, the reason that there is this special grandmother is because God cannot be everywhere. In addition to my family, if you would have told me that I would be doing what I do 40 years earlier, it would have been unbelievable to me.

It is my oldest sister who did the labor of love and traced our heritage back to Ireland in the early 1100s. It was in the early 1720s when we arrived on these shores. My son is a SAR member plus my 2 daughters are both in DAR. It is hard for them to be active with their active lives but the stay tuned in through their father.



**DEDICATION CEREMONY
BATTLEFIELD MEMORIAL
PARK
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA**

On October 9, 2007, members of the Piedmont Chapter participated with numerous other organizations and officials in the dedication of Battlefield Memorial Park commemorating the Siege of Savannah during the Revolutionary War.

At the onset of the Revolution, British troops, well supplied by their superior fleet, controlled the City of Savannah. In 1779, after the Americans formed an alliance with France, some 3,500 French and 1,000 Americans with the aid of French naval vessels laid siege to the City. The American troops were led by General Lincoln. The French were led by General d'Estaing.

During the ensuing Battle of Savannah the Americans and French suffered heavy losses and were forced to retreat. Eventually, in July 1782, the British withdrew, leaving Savannah in possession of the American authorities.

During the Dedication Ceremony the participants gathered at the History Museum/Visitors Center and from there marched to the battlefield. At the battlefield appropriate remarks were made by Mayor Otis Johnson, County Commission Chairman Pete Liakatis, the Consul of the United Kingdom, the Vice Consul of France, a representative of the Embassy of Poland and a representative of Haiti. To the accompaniment of a drumroll, about 25 persons placed wreaths at the foot of a 1911 monument.

Next followed a ribbon cutting at the base of a flagpole accompanied by a drumroll. As the ribbon was cut an historic cannon was fired followed by a 21 gun salute by the 3rd ID Salute Battery and the one minute of silence. Following some announcements, participants were invited to see the field guns up close and then go to breakfast.

Three photos of the event appear opposite.



March from History Center to Battlefield Park led by SAR Color Guard



Cutting the Ribbon for the Dedication of Battlefield Park



United Kingdom Consul and Others Laying Wreaths



The Piedmont Piper
2154 Greensward Drive
Atlanta, GA 30345

First Class Mail

The Piedmont Piper

Carl Tanner, Publisher
Scott A. Ray, Editor

Skip Gray , Von Starkey , Paul Prescott, Robin McIntire 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 Double Tree Hotel, 1075 Holcomb Bridge Road, Roswell, Georgia. Most members choose to arrive by 8:00 a.m. to enjoy breakfast together. The cost is \$15.00 each.

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, Robert A. Sapp at 770-971-0189** 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 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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