

# The Piedmont Piper



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

Edition LXXIX (79th Issue)

www.piedmontsar.com

January 2008

## From the President's Desk



**Carl Tanner**

Another year has almost passed as we enter into the holiday season. Here's hoping that all of you had a very pleasant Thanksgiving with plenty to eat and a golden opportunity to renew acquaintances with friends and fam-

ily. Soon Christmas will be upon us. If you are traveling my hopes are that providence will provide you with safety for your return.

During our last meeting, a question was presented regarding the informing of the chapter of the progress of the nominating committee's work on nominating of members to be considered for chapter officers during the coming year. I thought I would spend some time presenting the requirements for this effort.

The rules for the Nominating Committee are contained in Section 3B of our Constitution and BYLAWS. They are included in our membership directory which is passed out to each member during our annual meeting in February. I encourage each member to review these rules for their edification.

A nominating Committee of five Regular Members in good standing shall be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the BOM.

*During the BOM meeting of September, a Nominating Committee was selected by the President and approved by the BOM.*

The Committee shall convene and elect its own chairman.

*Subsequent to the establishment of the committee, the committee met and selected a committee chairman.*

The committee has been soliciting chapter members for those interested in becoming officers of the chapter. The work of the committee is nearing completion. It should be noted that the Constitution and BYLAWS do not require progress reporting. The committee is also not required to update the President on their progress. What is

## Upcoming Events

Saturday, Jan. 19, 2007  
**January Chapter Meeting**  
Holiday Inn  
909 Holcomb Bridge Rd  
Roswell, GA  
8:00 a.m. Breakfast  
8:30 a.m. Meeting  
**Speaker:**  
**Congressman Tom Price**  
**6th District**

**Color Guard Highlights**  
**Jan. 19—Cowpens, Chesnee, S.C.,**  
**2:00 PM**  
**Feb. 9—Kettle Creek Parade,**  
**Washington, GA.**  
**10:00 AM**

Saturday, February 16, 2007  
**Annual Dinner Meeting**  
**Holiday Inn**  
**Roswell, GA**  
6:00 p.m. Social Hour  
7:00 p.m. Dinner  
**Speaker:**  
**Col. Ben Purcell**



required is that the committee announce the names of the interested candidates during the December chapter meeting. This announcement was made at our December Chapter meeting. Their names appear below.

\* \* \*

### Report of Nominating Committee For Officers for 2008-9

At our December meeting our Nominating Committee chaired by Past President Bob Sapp submitted its nominations for officers for the ensuing term. In accordance with our Constitution and ByLaws these nominations are announced on or before our December meeting to be voted upon at the January meeting. The nominations are as follows:

**President - James M. McIntire**

**Vice President - Bobby D. Shaw**

**Secretary - Carl D. Bham**

**Treasurer- Bobby D. Shaw**

**Chaplain- Allen R. Finley**

**Registrar- Robert A. Sapp**

**Chancellor- Eric E. Thorstenberg**

**Sergeant-at-Arms- Thomas R. Davis**

**Historian- Robert H. Allgood**

**Editor- Scott A. Ray**

Subsequent to the election in January, as provided by the Constitution and Bylaws, the officers will be installed at our annual meeting in February.



### Phyllis Johnson Tanner

Phyllis, a 6th generation Mississippian, was born in Jackson "early on one frosty morning". She attended the Jackson Public Schools and after graduation attended Hinds Junior College and Millsaps College, receiving a B. S. in Biology and Chemistry. After college she attended the School of Medical Technology at the University of Mississippi school of Medicine and received certification as a MT(ASCP) from the American Society of Clinical Pathology. Her professional life included in working in several hospital laboratories, serving as the Chief Med Tech for a group of internists, setting up and managing their private laboratory, and, possibly the most interesting position, was the Chief Med Tech for the Galveston County, Texas, Coroner.

Several years after college, Phyllis ran into an old friend, Carl Tanner, who was home on leave from the 82nd Airborne with orders to join the 1st Infantry Division in Vietnam. Phyllis had dated one of Carl's best friends throughout high school and college, but after graduation, all had gone their separate ways. Carl and Phyllis corresponded the year he was away and married when he returned. They have two daughters, both married and living in Florida, and four grandchildren, two boys and two girls.

After leaving active duty, Carl pursued a career in engineering, causing them to have a peripatetic life, living in a number of southern states. During this time, Phyllis left the world of medicine and decided to become a teacher. She received a MEd. from McNeese State University in Lake Charles, Louisiana. She did post master's work at the University

of Southern Mississippi and Mississippi State University. Phyllis has taught biological, chemical, and physical sciences in high schools in Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Tennessee.

When they moved to Atlanta, Phyllis put away her school books and looked around for another interest. Her daughter, Kate, had started to check out many of the family stories told to her by Phyllis' mother, so Phyllis joined her daughter in the never ending pursuit—the addiction called genealogy. Phyllis is a member of Colonial Dames of the XVII Century, Daughters of the American Colonists, First Families of Georgia, Daughters of the American Revolution, United Daughters of 1812, United Daughters of the Confederacy, National Society Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims, Dames of the Court of Honor, Clan Johnston/e of America, Clan Macleod Society, USA, and the Saint Andrew's Society of Atlanta. She has served in numerous chairmanships and offices in these organizations, currently serving as the State Treasurer for the Georgia State Society, NSDAR and as a member of the NSDAR National Speaker's Staff.

While serving as the Regent of the Martha Stewart Bulloch Chapter, NSDAR, Phyllis and her chapter were quite active in cooperation with the Piedmont Chapter, SAR. Phyllis attended many grave-markings by the SAR and asked the SAR Color Guard to participate when her DAR chapter marked two Revolutionary patriots' graves. She has been the speaker at meetings of the Piedmont Chapter and has invited SAR members to attend special functions with the DAR, including participation in the annual Constitution Week Luncheon. Continuing a tradition started by Regent Carolyn Stone, the Martha Stewart Bulloch Chapter has continued to participate in the Old Soldiers' Day Parade with the SAR, which has grown from one convertible to two floats and a truck, and now includes the Martha Stewart Bulloch Society, Children of the American Revolution, in the festivities.

Phyllis's qualifying ancestor for DAR was Jacob Neely of Caswell County, North Carolina. Jacob served in the North Carolina troops, seeing action at King's Mountain, Guilford





Court House, and the Brick House. After the War, Jacob lived in Georgia and Alabama, finally settling in Mississippi, where he signed the petition for statehood. He is buried in the family cemetery in Rankin County, MS.

Phyllis interests include genealogy, needlework, reading, and, of course, the grandchildren.

### John Hancock Was Born January 12, 1737

When you sign your name, that's known as giving your John Hancock. Born on this day in 1737, John Hancock is most famous for his bold signature. On August 2, 1776, he was the first member of the Continental Congress to sign the Declaration of Independence, the document first demanding independence for the United States from the rule of Great Britain. (The Declaration was "adopted," or accepted, on July 4, 1776.) How do you sign your name?



Hancock wrote his name in big, bold letters that day, acting as president of the Second Continental Congress. Do you think he may have practiced writing his signature? John Hancock had more than just a pretty signature. He was a man who knew how to get things done. He commissioned our future first president, George Washington, as commander in chief of the Army of the United Colonies in 1775. After the Revolution, Hancock, as governor of Massachusetts, led his state toward ratification of the U.S. Constitution. He was also active in creating a navy for the new nation. He died in 1793 while serving his ninth term as Massachusetts' governor. So the next time someone asks you for your autograph, think of John Hancock.



From:

**ALLEN RAY FINLEY**  
Piedmont Chapter Chaplain



### WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A COMPATRIOT?

In our last Piper, the Piedmont chapter members started on a journey. This journey was to explore what it means to us (or maybe more importantly "for us" in 2007-2008) to be a Son of the American Revolution.

We started this walk by examining three words and/or concepts that really mean more than just a word on a piece of paper. Those words /or concepts required some very unique family members in our family lineage. What ever their names were (Finley, or Walton, or Smith, or Ray) our great (many time removed) grand parents did something that we should be asking our selves if we are capable of doing today. These first 3 steps of this journey entailed the following.

*\*We examined the concept of Ability.*

In today's vernacular, it is what we bring to the table and what it is that we excel in. or, put another way would be "What can we give?" as compared to what a lot of people today look at what they should receive.

*\*We examined the concept of Affirm.*

They had placed their lives on the line by an affirmation that there was a higher being. We see this being challenged every day.

*\*We discussed the concept of Believe.*

Let us continue this journey and explore three more issues.

The next one is a letter C:

### COMMIT

Let us think about what this word means. My great --- grandfather came from Ireland and I have heard in our meetings that many of your family members came from Scotland, France, Germany, etc. It really does matter in some ways to know where you are from but in another way, it does not. Regardless of where we came from, all of our family members made a "Commitment" to leave what was known and comfortable for something that really was unknown: Friends; Family; Land; a certain Way of life; etc.

Would we be able or willing to give up what we currently have to move to the Moon (for all we currently know)? You have to ask why they would give up this to venture into something so completely different than what they were use to. I believe that this leads us to the next word.

The next concept or word is one that starts with D:

### DARE TO TAKE A RISK

Many of us are comfortable in our way of life, our home, our life style, and our neighbors. Just think what your spouse, or sons and daughters, or your brothers and sisters, or your aunts and uncles would say if you told them that you were leaving the Atlanta- Roswell- Marietta area and moving to some remote part of the world. Can you just imagine the type of questions that you would be asked? The first one would probably be "Are you crazy?"

Then would come things like: How are *you* going to live? and or, How are *you* going to support yourself or yourselves? and or Have you thought about what would happen to the children? and or Why are you leaving us? and or  
(Continued on Next Page)





What have we done? and or  
How will we ever contact you? and or  
Will your cell phone still work there?  
and or

The list goes on.

You are now committed to living and trying to survive in an environment that means what you have known is or could be no longer applicable.

This then leads us to our next concept which starts with the letter E:  
**EDUCATE**

You now will have to educate your self and your entire family to live without the things that you currently have or are use to having access to. So, that leads us to ask, what would you take with you?

Just think, you can not take and ship your "stuff" via Priority Mail, or UPS, or by FedEx. I am an avid reader so what books would I be able to take? What kind of medicines would we take so we can survive? What clothes would we take? What kind of monies could we use in this new country? And the list goes on. And on.

Just think about what had to be taking place in and around the "kitchen" table as our family members began this journey to a land and a country that many of our friends today take for granted.

My thought for this article is:

"It is in moments of decisions that our destiny is shaped"



**James M. McIntire**  
**A Word from our Vice President**

An examination of its newspapers can produce a fairly accurate picture of the way any society views itself and of the issues that seem to produce the greatest concerns. Of course, one must bear in mind that good news rarely boosts circulation.. As a result, both circulation and blood pressure tend to rise together. I will try to give you an example.

"Our culture is being swamped by an unprecedented surge in immigration from areas in the globe that, until now, have not darkened our shores. Religion as we have known it is being tragically threatened by the forces of science. Our culture is so polarized that serious realignment is developing in our existing political parties and third party movements are on the rise. Materialism has replaced integrity as a guide to behavior and a new cultural code has been developed that is being used to control our thoughts, speech and actions. We are concerned and somewhat fearful of the future".

Kind of depressing, isn't it? I am reminded of the old joke that goes "One day as I sat, sad and lonely, a voice came to me from out of the blue and said 'Cheer up. Things could get worse'. So I cheered up, and sure enough, things got worse". Oh - I forgot to mention that the headlines I have quoted are not contemporary. They were the ones in circulation around the turn of the Twentieth Century. Over the coming years those same newspapers reported The War to End All Wars, The Great Depression, The Dust Bowl and World War II. BUT OUR GRANDPARENTS AND OUR PARENTS

**PREVAILED AND PROSPERED!**

I remember riding with my parents on the Silver Comet to get back to my hometown in Wilmington, North Carolina during WWII. What I remember most was the warmth and sense of togetherness I felt at home, at school and at church during those early years and the decade or so that followed. There was a civility in our dealings with each other. Being from North Carolina, my Aunt Virginia drilled into my head the stories of Sir Walter Raleigh and his deeds of chivalry. When I forgot those lessons, she drilled them into a different part of my body. Sometimes at school, after we had said the Pledge of Allegiance and had had a Scripture Reading, I forgot those lessons again. My homeroom teacher, Miss Vera McInnis, went right to the same part of my body that my Aunt Virginia did. I don't think they knew each other, but I realize that they were both school teachers. A number of years later I ran into Miss Mac quite unexpectedly. I thanked her for her gentle reminders of "How a gentleman should behave". Many years have passed since those times, and, I am afraid, so has - or will - the culture that those years represented unless we preserve it for our children and their children.

We all have our reasons for having joined the Piedmont Chapter, GAS-SAR. I did it originally to honor my Grandfather and the family heritage he taught me. Since joining, however, my interest has evolved into something else. We in the SAR have a very effective program of community outreach, particularly to the young. As our average ages reach further and further beyond the average age of our citizens, we become a sort of memory bank for future generations. Of course we will pass on to our descendants our Membership Certificates, our medals and our awards. In my opinion, however, the most important thing we can pass on is our values. As our numbers swell, so will our influence. It is my hope for next year that each of us will - to the best of our ability - give of our time, talents and treasure to ensure that our roots will continue to bear fruit well into the future. HAPPY NEW YEAR!



**CAMELIA SIMS**  
**Home for Christmas**  
**A General's Story**  
 (Reprinted from "History Tidbits," Nov/Dec 07)

Throughout the centuries a soldier's return home is a happy occasion, and even more so at Christmas time. Whether they are today's soldiers in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other places around the world, or the soldiers fighting in the Continental Army over 200 years ago, Christmas is a time when the longing to be home is especially strong. At this time of war with many American soldiers far away from home, we can better understand George Washington's longing to make it home for Christmas.

At the end of eight and a half years long Revolutionary War, the fifty-two year old General Washington longed to be home with his family at his Mount Vernon estate. During the long war years he had been home only once, for three days in the fall of 1781.

Starting in 1775, George Washington spent all eight of his wartime Christmases with his troops. The best known are the 1776 Christmas when he crossed the Delaware with his troops on their march to Trenton, and the cold 1777 Christmas spent at Valley Forge.

Once the peace treaty ending the war between Britain and the United States was finally agreed upon in September 1783, Washington planned his return to Virginia. His journey home began in early December and took him from his New York headquarters to Philadel-

phia, and then to Annapolis, where the Continental Congress was in session. It was a festive journey with local celebrations in his honor at each stop along the way. But no celebration could reduce his longing to get home.

Inside the Maryland State House, at noon on December 23, 1783, General Washington resigned his commission as commander in chief of the army. The President of Congress had a short reply, after which Washington bowed to Congress and left, thus ending a most unusual ceremony. Next morning on December 24th, Washington arrived at Mount Vernon to a joyous homecoming.

Was Martha looking out the window every few minutes to see if there was any sign of him high on his horse? Were her two grandchildren jumping from their chairs at any noise outside and running to the door to greet him? The anticipation must have been high, and without phones back then there was no way to keep tabs on his progress. He did not disappoint them, arriving just in the nick of time, home on Christmas Eve.

There are no records of his or Martha's feelings on that day, nor of how they celebrated his first Christmas back home. Yet one can imagine their joy and relief that he arrived safe, and the special family celebration that followed. All the dangers, the deprivations, and the worries of the long war were finally behind him.

As Christmas 2007 drew near we could only wonder whose longing was stronger, that of the soldier or that of his or her family. Soldiers away from home this Christmas have phones and emails to keep in touch with their loved ones, yet their longing for home must be as strong as that of George Washington and the soldiers of the first American army long ago.

Camelia Sims is a speaker and the co-author of *George Washington: A Timeless Hero*.  
 Zanabooks@excite.com  
 www.zanaworld.com

## **COLOR GUARD SCHEDULE**

### **1 January –1 March 08**

19 Jan—Daniel Morgan Statue, Spartanburg, SC, 1030 hrs.

19 Jan—Cowpens, Chesnee, SC, 1400 hrs.

26 Jan—Board of Managers, Forsyth, GA, 1400 hrs.

9 Feb—Kettle Creek Parade, Washington, GA, 1000 hrs.

9 Feb—Elijah Clark State Park Ceremony, Lincolnton, GA, 1100 hrs.

10 Feb—Colonial Church Service, Washington, GA, 0900 hrs.

10 Feb—Elijah Clark State Park Ceremony, 1100 hrs.

23 Feb—Medal of Honor Ceremony, Cornelia, GA.

1 Mar—Leadership Training, Forsyth, GA, 1000 hrs (SAR golf shirts serve as uniform).

Paul Prescott,  
 Commander, Color Guard

A Sunday school teacher was reading a Bible story to her class. "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and turned to salt.

A little boy softly asked, "What happened to the flea?"





### Compatriot Bobby Shaw Honored In Newspaper Article

Piedmont's nominee of Vice President in 2008, Bobby Shaw was presented the 2007 East Cobb Citizen of the Year Award at the 2007 East Cobb Area breakfast meeting in November. The event was commemorated in the "East Cobber" December issue including a photo of Bobby receiving a plaque from Cobb County School Board member Johnny Johnson. The article can be viewed at [www.eastcobber.com](http://www.eastcobber.com).

As noted in the article, Bobby served on the Cobb County School Board for 10 years. He also served on the Walton High School Vocational Advisory Committee and was facilitator for the Pope and Lassiter High Schools Character Education Program. His service in the Lions Club and SAR was also noted.

"East Cobb has been extremely lucky to have a person the caliber of Bob Shaw serving our community. He has the leadership talent and gives his time over and beyond what one might expect." stated Mr. Johnson as he presented the award.

Bobby has served as Treasurer for the Piedmont Chapter during the 2007 term and was named by our nominating Committee to serve as both Treasurer and Vice President in 2008.

. . . .

A Sunday school teacher asked her class, "What did Jesus say about people getting married?"

Little Johnny quickly answered, "Jesus said, Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."



### SEARCH FOR NEW SAR NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS BUILDING

A recent memo from our President General, Bruce Wilcox, provides an update on the search for our proposed new national headquarters and museum to be located in Louisville, Ky. Previously we had been focusing on the Kentucky Opera Building, a five story building located downtown at 8th and Main Streets.

Leo Post, our independent construction consultant, was asked to study the potential of using another building as an alternative to the Kentucky Opera Building. The new location is a two story building with basement on Main Street across from the Slugger Museum known as the Fulton Conway Building. Mr. Post has completed his study and submitted a report, and our search team is highly impressed with the results. This building is basically a shell with a cast iron façade that will require a significant build out. However, Compatriot Wilcox reports that the low price of the building frees up extra funds for the build out budget, and the components of the build out would all be new. Space allocations fit our requirements nicely with high ceilings and a natural place for a library. Proposed floor plans and a model have been provided by Mr. Post.

This proposal has been approved by the foundation which is now negotiating price and terms. The final decision is subject to approval by our Trustees.

Blank due to change in location of our  
February meeting.

### Holiday Inn

#### New Site of Piedmont Chapter's Annual Banquet

Our Annual Banquet is to be held in Roswell on Saturday, February 16. Our ladies are especially invited. The meeting will open with a social time beginning at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. with our February Business Meeting to follow to include installation of our new officers for the new term.

There is ample parking. It is the site where we have been holding our regular Chapter meetings.





## VANN'S CREEK MEMORIAL CEREMONY

### Dedication of Vann's Creek Historical Marker

On Saturday December 8 the first monument to the 1779 battle between Patriots and Loyalists was dedicated at the Richard B. Russell State Park near Elberton, GA. The actual site, located near Vann's Creek and the Savannah River, is now under the waters of Richard B. Russell Lake, a man-made lake formed by the Richard Russell dam.

The six foot tall granite monument is the result of three years of effort by the Samuel Elbert Chapter, SAR. SAR members and others from across the State, including a number of Piedmont members, were on hand. The Monument describes the almost forgotten event in early Georgia history. The principal speaker at the event was Steven Rauch, command historian at Fort Gordon near Augusta.

In the early stages of the Revolutionary War the fighting took place primarily in the northern colonies. As the British became bogged down in the North, they looked southward, where they believed much of the population favored the British cause. The Vann's Creek engagement involved mostly American colonists on both sides, primarily Southerner against Southerner. A Tory group of 600 to 900 troops led by a Colonel Boyd was en route to Augusta when it was ambushed by a Patriot force of only about 120. Visibility was poor due to the terrain covered with canebrakes.

The Patriots retreated after suffering 16 men killed or wounded and 18 captured. The Loyalists lost about 100 men killed, wounded or missing.

The Vann's Creek engagement presaged the Battle of Kettle Creek a few days later between Boyd's Loyalists and a much larger Patriot force. The Loyalists made it to Augusta but with fewer than half of the men Boyd had recruited.

The war in the South continued, finally terminating with the Patriot victory at Yorktown, Virginia.



**Col. Elijah Clarke Militia Fires a Musket Salute**



**Georgia Society Color Guard**



**Compatriot George Thurmond introduces John Wallace of the George Washington Endowment Fund**



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 and Paul Prescott, 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.

### **Officers of the Piedmont Chapter**

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