

The Piedmont Piper



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

Edition LXXX III (83d Issue)

www.piedmontsar.com

September 2008

From the President's Desk



James M. McIntire

Regretfully, I was unable to attend the SAR annual congress in Sacramento, California. However, Piedmont Past President George Thurmond did attend, and at my request, he has submitted his report, which follows:

President McIntire asked if I would pro-

vide information about the annual congress and the recent Georgia Society Board of Managers meeting since I attended both.

It has been my good fortune to attend congresses since 2000, held in Boston. Since then, I have been to Louisville, Nashville, Chicago, Pittsburg, Dallas, Williamsburg and most recently, Sacramento, California. All have been fun and each develops its own personality. Sacramento was no exception. In fact, I was most impressed with the hospitality by our California hosts. They had obviously done their homework and with excellent planning and coordination, everything went off well.

The original plan was to have our congress in San Francisco at a hotel where our organization got its start over a century ago. However, this plan was

quickly scrapped when the cost became prohibitive. Our own Larry Guzy is in charge of the National Society Congress Planning Committee and through his efforts, we were able to not only find affordable accommodations, but the location was superb – across the street from the California state capital. Governor Schwarzenegger stays at this hotel when he is in town on government business.

The highlight for the Georgia delegation (8 attending, led by the Piedmont Chapter) was taking a number of national awards. While we did well, we did not take home as many as in the past as national now has a one year sit down rule for winners. We scored heavily last year in Williamsburg and only brought home the President General's streamers award as a chapter this year. However, the door is open for us to compete for more awards next year in Atlanta. Piedmont did receive the Partners in Patriotism certificate for our participation with other organizations

RETURN TO OUR USUAL MEETING SITE AT HOLIDAY INN

Beginning in September we will return to our usual meeting site at the Holiday Inn, 900 Holcomb Bridge Rd, Roswell. For the previous two meetings it was necessary for us to meet next door at the Best Western Hotel due to scheduling problems.

Saturday, September 20, 2008
August Chapter Meeting
Holiday Inn
900 Holcomb Bridge Rd.
Roswell, GA
8:00 a.m. Breakfast
8:30 a.m. Meeting
Speaker:
Lt. Col. Don Gunn
"The Army in Atlanta"

Saturday, October 18, 2008
October Chapter Meeting
Holiday Inn
900 Holcomb Bridge Rd.
Roswell, GA
8:00 a.m. Breakfast
8:30 a.m. Meeting
Speaker:
Hon. Harris Hines
GA Supreme Court Justice



promoting patriotism.

It was my good fortune to be honored as one of six recipients of the coveted Minuteman award. This formal ceremony starts awards night. Each recipient is escorted to the front by a previous recipient of the award. I chose Larry Guzy, who, while serving as Vice President of the Piedmont Chapter, presented me with my membership certificate at our September meeting in 1997.

The Georgia Society did well, capturing a total of 24 awards with considerable support from the Piedmont Chapter. Our highly regarded Registrar, Bob Sapp, received another oak leaf cluster (OLC) for his Liberty medal for recruiting new members. I was recognized for my role while serving as Chairman of the Vice Presidents General Council. President General Wilcox honored me with a Meritorious Service Medal (3 OLC). This was indeed an unexpected honor.

The most important event that occurs at Congress is the election and installation of new officers for the next year. These included President General David N. Appleby; Secretary General Edward F. Butler; Treasurer General Charles F. Bragg; Chancellor General James K. Say; Genealogist General Joseph W. Dooley; Registrar General J. David Sympson; Librarian General, Richard D. Brockway; Historian General, Stephen A. Leishman; Chaplain General David A. Hockensmith; and Surgeon General Dr. Richard Treadway. Our good friend Lindsey Brock from Florida was installed as Vice President General for our District. We see Lindsey frequently at our various Historic Sites programs.

Another key item that provided considerable interest is that of a Capital Campaign to develop \$6 million for the completion of our Center for Advancing America's Heritage (CAAH). To this end, newly appointed Capital Campaign Chairman, Sam Powell, President of the North Carolina Society, donated \$75,000 toward this goal. Chapters and states were challenged to expand our membership support by establishing a goal of 20% of members giving and averaging \$250 per member. By the time Congress ended, a total of \$140,000 had been added to the bottom line by those attending.

The guest of honor was actor and SAR member, Cliff Robertson. While he has seen better health, his patriotic message was warmly received and his answers to questions from the audience were hilarious.

The Georgia Society 2009 Congress Committee is hard at work, planning the 119th Congress that will be held in nearby Marriott Waverly Hotel at Cumberland Mall. We will do well to provide as an enjoyable experience as that experienced in Sacramento. Make your plans to attend the July 4-8 Congress in Atlanta.

George Thurmond

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Larry Guzy for National Treasurer General

Larry T. Guzy, who served as President of the Piedmont Chapter for the 1998-1999 term, announced his candidacy for Treasurer General of NASSAR for 2009-1010. This announcement was greeted with enthusiasm as Larry is the first Georgian to run for a national office in 15 years. The Georgia Society voted to endorse his candidacy and pay for an ad in the *SAR Magazine*. The election will take place at the end of the 119th Congress held in Atlanta next year.

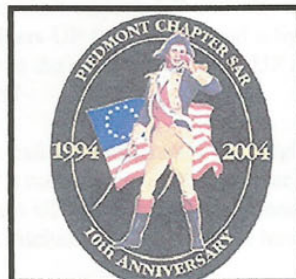
—George Thurmond

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You can't change the past, but you can ruin the present by worrying over the future.

All people smile in the same language.

It's important for parents to live the same things they teach.



GEORGIA SOCIETY COLOR GUARD SCHEDULE
20 Sep— 6 Dec

20 Sep — Constitution Week DAR Luncheon, Wyndham Peachtree Conf. Center, Peachtree City, GA, 1100 hours.

(Cost per Attendee is \$32).

25-27 Sep — Fall NSSAR Leadership & Trustees Meeting, Louisville, KY.

4 Oct — Board of Managers Meeting, Forsyth, GA, 1000 hrs.

4 Oct — Grave Marking (Ocmulgee Chapter), 1500 hrs.

5 Oct — 234th Anniversary of the Battle of Point Pleasant. Wreath Presentation, Pt. Pleasant, WVA.

7 Oct — Battle of Kings Mountain, SC.

9 Oct — Battle of Savannah, Battlefield Memorial Park, Savannah, GA, 1700 hours.

9 Oct — Pulaski Monument Wreath Presentation, Savannah, GA, 1030 hrs.

1 Nov — Patriot Isham McDonald Grave Marking, Cat Creek Cemetery, Valdosta, GA, 1100 hrs.

22 Nov — Austin Dabney Grave Marking (Coweta Falls), Columbus, GA

6 Dec — Vann's Creek, R. Russell State Park, Elberton, GA, 1100 hrs.

27 Dec — 1st Biennial Georgia SAR Debutante Ball, Country Club, Milledgeville, GA, Evening (Need 10 Guardsman in Continental Uniform)

Applications, Fees and Dues

Annual Chapter Dues are now due and payable. Early payment will be greatly appreciated. The final deadline is December 31. The total amount due is \$53.00 which includes National, State and Chapter. Payment may be mailed to Bobby Shaw at 2900 Barbara Lane, Marietta, GA 30062-1433 or delivered personally at a Chapter Meeting.



From:
ALLEN RAY FINLEY
Piedmont Chapter Chaplain



Our Journey continues

As we started these articles by looking at various issues from our first article which was about ABILITY (where we started this journey) all the way up to the our last article about GIVE, I have tried to have us think about what it must have been like for our forefathers in the early 1700's.

As we continue to think about what it must have been like to leave the known to come to this unknown land or from the comfortable to the uncomfortable or from a support system of family, friends, schools, merchants and cultures to what?

So as we arrive at the letter H, what I think would have been the most important word or concept must have been HOPE.

HOPE with a sense of Humor. You hear people talk about coming here for a better life. When you really think about that statement, a better life knowing that you were going where nothing existed. Our forefathers would have been sustained by the HOPE of a life which was an image in their mind. HOPE for the freedom to worship their religion, the hope to be free from paying taxes, and the freedom to live their lives without a king or ruler telling them what they could or could not do.

Life was not easy for them. Just think of how to survive the winters and exist in the wilderness, where their next meal was coming from, where were they going to sleep, how would they take care of their wife and children, and the list goes on. These things that we sort of take for granted today, must have played heavily on their minds.

As we think about these issues today, we must ask "Was their cup half full or was it half empty?" This hope to have things better for them and their children had to be seasoned with a lot of humor.

In today's world, I sometime feel that we take ourselves too seriously. We know the Lord gives us what we can handle: it is one who wrestles with difficulties that will strengthen his nerves and sharpens his skills. It is also said, that the character of a man is what you do if you knew that you would never be found out.

Their dreams and hope of a better life had to have been a preview of life's coming attractions. With God's help and presence, that is still true today. Remember that people will doubt what you might say but they will believe what you do.

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An English Lesson

There is a two-letter word that has more meaning than any other two-letter word, and that is "UP."

It's easy to understand UP, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we waken in the morning, why do we wake UP?

At a meeting, why does a topic come UP?

Why do we speak UP and why are the officers UP for election and why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report?

We call UP our friends, we brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver, we warm UP the leftovers and clean UP the kitchen. We lock UP the house and

some guys fix UP the old car.

At other times the little word has really special meaning.

People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP and appetite, and think UP excuses.

To be dressed is one thing, but to be dressed UP is special.

And this is confusing:

A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP. We open UP a store in the morning but we close it UP at night.

We seem to be pretty mixed UP about UP.

To be knowledgeable of the proper uses of UP, look UP the word in the dictionary. In a desk size dictionary, UP takes UP about 1/4 the page and definitions add UP to about thirty.

If you are UP to it, you might try building UP a list of the many ways UP is used. It will take UP a lot of your time, but if you don't give UP, you may wind UP with a hundred or more.

When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP. When the sun come out we say it is clearing UP. When it rains it wets UP the earth. When it doesn't rain for a while, things dry UP. One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it UP, for now my time is UP, so I'll shut UP...

__Submitted by Billie Widmar

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A SMILE DOESN'T COST A CENT, BUT IT PAYS BIG DIVIDENDS.

Gossip cheapens the one who gossips more than the one gossiped about.

We crucify ourselves between two thieves: regret for yesterday and fear of what tomorrow may bring.

A healthy self-image is seeing yourself as God sees you—no more and no less.



Mr. Frank Buckles
(Corporal, U.S.D. Army 1917-1920)



**Our Last Surviving Veteran
Of WWI**

This past weekend I had one of the greatest experiences of my life. I was privileged to sit down and spend 90 minutes meeting privately with our last surviving veteran of the First World War. Mr. Frank Buckles (Corporal, U.S. Army 1917-1920) lives on his farm near Charles Town, WV. I made some discreet inquiries and got in touch with his care giver. I was invited to show up at the farm at 2 pm last Saturday.

I was quite impressed with Mr Buckles' sharp memory and attention to detail. His life has been nothing short of remarkable. He enlisted in August of 1917 at age 16. He had to visit 5 different recruiting centers before he found a sergeant who didn't demand a birth certificate. He did basic training at Ft Logan, CO, then field

ambulance training and trench rescue training at Ft Riley, KS. He sailed to England on the SS Carpathia, which was the ship that had rescued the RMS Titanic survivors. He had the opportunity to speak with some of the very ship's crewmen who had participated in those rescue efforts. After being landed in the UK, he underwent more training before getting to France. On the front lines, he recovered the wounded and transported them to aid stations. When I asked him about his memories of the dead and wounded, all he would say was that "It was all horrible."

He later got to meet personally with General Pershing. Pershing was addressing a formation, and later happened to ask Corporal Buckles where he was from. It turns out that he and Pershing were born on farms in the same county of Missouri, about 20 miles apart. Pershing had his sergeant invite Buckles to a private meeting, where they discussed the Show Me State.

After being discharged in 1920, Frank joined the Merchant Marine as a civilian sailor. He sailed mostly to South America and learned both Spanish and Portuguese. Then from 1931-1938 he sailed from the East Coast to Hamburg, Germany, on ships carrying mail and general cargo. On his port leaves, he traveled over most of northern Europe, but especially Germany. Thus he was an eyewitness to the rise of the Nazi movement. He said that he purchased one of the first English versions of Mein Kampf. I asked him his impressions of Nazi Germany. He got very quiet and simply stated that "Hitler was no damn good" and that "We should do everything in our power to make sure that America never becomes a dictatorship."

His next change of employers had unintended consequences for him. He went to work for American President Lines at their office in Manila. He was interned by the Japanese for over three years. Needless to say, the conditions were deplorable. On his shelf he had the tin cup in which he ate his meager rations for over three years. In February 1945 he was in a camp known as Los

Banos. Word came from Filipino operatives that on February 25th, the Japanese were going to kill all the prisoners. Word was also passed to the American field commander. On the morning of February 25th at first light, American airborne troops descended from the sky and routed the Japanese garrison. Needless to say, Mr Buckles remembers that day clearly and gave me great details about his liberation from the camp. I asked him how he could keep going under such adverse conditions. His answer was simple: "I never gave up hope."

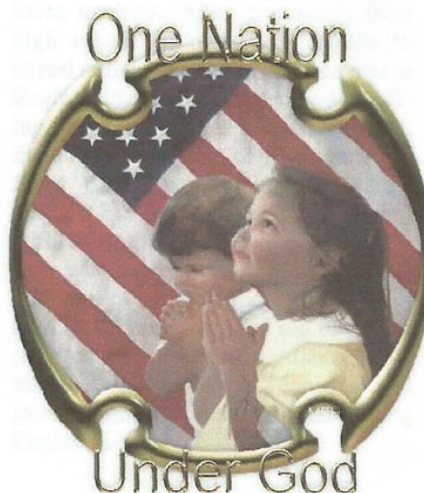
He was returned to San Francisco where the president of the shipping company met him at the dock and drove him to a hospital for recuperation. He had a large amount of pay coming, which the company had placed in an interest-bearing account on his behalf. That formed the capital that he used to purchase a 330-acre cattle farm in West Virginia, where he still resides today. He relates that he personally worked the farm until he was 102 years of age, at which time he decided it was time to relax a little bit.

He reads quite a bit, and in fact we chatted in his small library. He loves biographies and books about military history. Prominently displayed on his coffee table was a copy of "We Jump at Dawn--The Story of the Los Banos Raid." I can't wait to find a copy so that I can read up on all the details. He also admits that he enjoys a glass of red wine every evening.

In parting, I told him how honored I was to have had this visit with him. I thanked him for his honorable military service in the First World War and for the hardship he endured during World War Two. He thanked me for taking the time to come and visit him. He also mentioned that he was rather humbled to have outlived the 4,700,000 other servicemen who had served in the War to End All Wars.

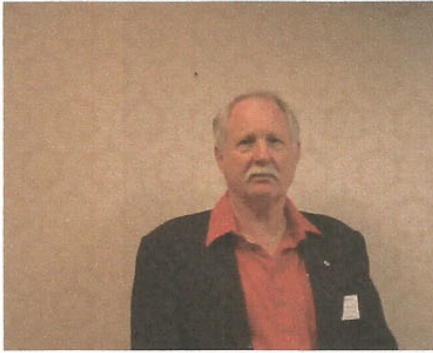
It was a very good day for me.

—Submitted by Paul Simpson,
and based on a letter from a friend of
a friend.





Meet Our Members



THOMAS RAY DAVIS
Sergeant at Arms

Thomas Ray Davis, currently serving as Sergeant-at-Arms, was born January 24, 1944 in Ringgold GA. Tom is married to Elaine and they have four children and six grandchildren. and reside in Cumming, Georgia. Their back porch swing is like a vacation when they can just sit and talk. Tom's hobbies include barbershop chorus, softball, golf, fishing, and of course genealogy.

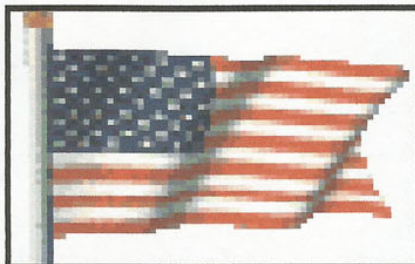
Tommy Ray, as called by his family and friends, attended Ringgold Elementary and graduated from Ringgold High School. Tom still has close friendships with his high school buddies. He lived in the North Georgia Mountains most of his life except the two years that he and his family lived in Germany while his dad served in the US Army. He remembers that basketball, track, baseball, girls, recess, and lunch got in the way of his studies, but there was one mechanical drawing class that must have made an impression on him; he loves to draw. After graduating from high school he moved to Atlanta to attend college where he got a degree in Engineering and Architectural Drafting. His first job was a draftsman with the engineering firm of Newcomb and Boyd Consulting Engineers. There's nothing like sitting at a drafting board with a T-square and pencil, unlike today where everything is done with computers. Burning the midnight oil; boy, those were the good old days. After a couple of years in Atlanta, Tom moved to Chattanooga, Tennessee and joined Campbell and Jones Consulting Engineers.

In 1964 he joined the Tennessee Air National Guard where he served for nine years. Tom's tenure allowed him to visit numerous states and several foreign countries. After active duty service he moved back to Atlanta and went to work with W. Hugh Bache Consulting Engineers. Hugh was not only Tom's boss, he was a good friend and mentor. They regularly had discussions about history and genealogy. Hugh Bache had been told all his life that he was kin to a famous person but no one could tell him who. After he and his wife had searched for many years, including a few trips to England, Hugh was introduced to his sixth great-grandfather—Benjamin Franklin. Hugh was a member of the Atlanta SAR. With all this said Tom became very interested in his own genealogy and the search began.

Again opportunity arose and Elaine and Tom moved to Montgomery, Alabama as Senior Engineer with Jay R. Smith Mfg Co. for twelve years and then to Birmingham with Jonespec Manufacturing for three years as Director of Sales Engineering. In 1993, they had the opportunity to move back home to Atlanta where he is currently employed with Bradford Sales Company. Tom is a charter member of the Atlanta Chapter of the American Society of Plumbing Engineers. For forty years Tom has been an active member and is currently serving on the board of directors.

Tom's interest in genealogy started about 40 years ago but he didn't pursue it until about 10 years ago. His home office is cluttered with many, many thick notebooks with history, dates, stories, and pictures. He also discovered a couple of books written about an ancestor Jonathan Davis and his son William Davis, both of whom served in the Revolution. Excerpts from one of the books:

At sixteen years of age though much



against the will of his friends, Mr. [William] Davis, volunteered as a soldier of the Revolution, and was for some time under the command of General Lafayette. He was wounded in the head, suffered greatly from fatigue and hunger. While the Army of Lafayette was on a forced march to join Washington in the capture of Cornwallis, young Davis was without a morsel of food two whole days. This having come to the ears of the General, he was sent to his tent, and with his own hands he furnished the youthful soldier with food. This kindness, on the part of Lafayette, was remembered with gratitude all his life. He was present at the surrender of Cornwallis, and after the war returned to his family, in VA where he enjoyed the friendship and confidence of the Madison's, Barbour's and other distinguished men of the State.

Tom is currently working on additional ancestor supplements that include a female spy in South Carolina. Tom says when he retires, if he retires, his genealogy search will certainly find that his roots reach far beyond his boyhood North Georgia Mountains.

. . . .

Youth is not a time of life; it is a state of mind, a quality of the imagination.

In youth the absence of pleasure is pain; in old age the absence of pain is pleasure.

Happiness is like a butterfly, which when pursued is always just beyond your grasp, but which, if you will sit down quietly, may light upon you.

Help me to bridle my tongue, so that on judgment day I will not be found guilty of assault with a deadly weapon.

Be on the lookout for symptoms of inner peace. Some signs are: an ability to enjoy each moment. A loss of interest in judging other people. A loss of the ability to worry. Frequent attacks of smiling. An increase in desire to give and receive love.



Above: Piedmont Color Guard makes flag certificate presentation to the Georgian Bank in Alpharetta . Bank President Peggy Stracke is receiving the certificate on behalf of the bank. Pictured left to right are Jack Ferguson, George Thurmond, Ms. Stracke, Bob Sapp, Connie Woltz, Paul Prescott and Skip Gray.

Below: Piedmont Compatriot and U. S. Congressman Tom Price was the guest speaker at a recent Immigration Naturalization Service Program. Over 200 immigrants received their citizenship papers in the 11th Federal District Courtroom. The Piedmont Color Guard also participated. Shown below, left to right, are Compatriots Jack Ferguson, Billy Templeton, George Thurmond, Congressman Price and Paul Prescott.





Georgia Society Board of Managers Meeting July 19, 2008

The July BOM meeting each year is filled with excitement as awards received at the national congress are announced and presented to recipients. This year was no exception. Recognized for individual awards were:

George Thurmond, Minuteman and Meritorious Service Medal (3dOLC).

Ted Smith (Joseph Habersham), Col. Stewart Boone McCarty Award for excellence in furthering the preservation of U.S. history in schools. This is the fifth year in a row that Georgia Compatriots have received this award.

Gordon Smith (Edward Telfair), Stephen Taylor Award for research and writing on the American Revolution. Gordon is only the third Georgian to receive this distinguished award.

Larry Guzy (Captain John Collins), the Gold Samuel Adams Congress Appreciation Medal for Congress planning. If Sacramento is an example of what we can expect next year, we are all in for a real treat in Atlanta.

Bob Sapp, Larry Wilson, Bob Turbyfill, Christopher Stokes, Milton Johnson, Greg Hollis and Larry Guzy all received the Liberty Medal or oak leaf clusters for recruiting new members.

Noteworthy was the Georgia Website being selected for the third year in a row as the National Society's best website under the superior direction of **Mark Webb**, Cherokee Chapter.

Marty Thurmond was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from the National Society for her donation to the Center for Advancing America's Heritage.

Georgia placed second nationally in competition for the largest numerical increase of new members! Alabama bested us by 188 to 120 new members.

—George Thurmond



Compatriots George Thurmond and Larry Guzy at the SAR Annual Congress in Sacramento, CA.

The Georgia Society did well at the congress, capturing 24 Awards with considerable support from the Piedmont Chapter. A total of eight members from the Georgia Society. Piedmont's George Thurmond is shown here being escorted by Larry Guzy as one of six recipients of the coveted Minuteman award.





The Piedmont Piper
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First Class Mail

The Piedmont Piper

James M. McIntire, Publisher
Scott A. Ray, Editor

Robin McIntire 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 Holiday Inn, 909 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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