

# The Piedmont Piper



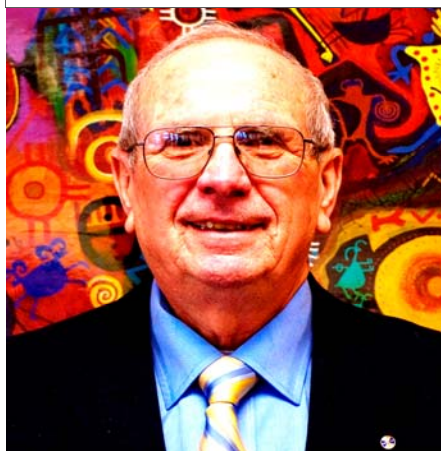
OUR INSPIRATION IS IN THE PAST  
OUR DUTY IS IN THE PRESENT  
OUR HOPE IS IN THE FUTURE

Edition LXXXVII (87th Issue)

www.piedmontsar.com

May 2009

## From the President's Desk



**Bob Shaw**

In this edition of the Piper you will see a list of Chapter and Individual member awards presented at the annual State Board of Managers' meeting in

Athens on April 3 and 4 where Past President Jim McIntire accepted the chapter awards. Recognition was also given to Gracelyn Thrash, the poster contest winner from our chapter. I want to extend congratulations to all for a job well done.

Also on behalf of the Piedmont Chapter, congratulations to Secretary LTC. Don Gunn on his marriage to Debbie Griffis at Ft. Benning on April 4, 2009.

*When was the last time you experienced lagniappe (lan-yap')? I was first exposed to this word and its meaning on a trip to New Orleans. I thought it was one of the strangest words I had encountered in the English language. I became aware of this idea from a column written for a daily newspaper. I found it to be interesting and wondered what it meant and where it originated.*

The word originated in Peru and means

a little something extra, or a gift, over and above what the recipient expected. Not only does it come from the Spanish but there is a French look to the spelling. Mark Twain discussed it in his 1883 *Life on the Mississippi*. It has evolved into the Creole dialect and culture to denote a small but unexpected gift.

What does this have to do with the Sons of the American Revolution? When we joined the society, we expected certain things from membership such as genealogy, promotion of liberty and remembrance of our forefathers and what and why they did what they did. *Lagniappe becomes relevant when we avail ourselves of opportunities within our society to serve.* When I attend meetings, grave markings and other events, I come away with a little something extra. Hearing an outstanding lecture on a facet of Revolutionary War History, finding common

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## Upcoming Events

Saturday May 16, 2009  
Chapter Meeting  
Holiday Inn 909 Holcomb  
Bridge Road Roswell, Georgia  
8:00 am Breakfast  
8:30 am Meeting

### Speaker

Dr. Steve Terry; History  
Teacher at Roswell High School

Saturday June 20, 2009  
Chapter Meeting  
Holiday Inn 909 Holcomb  
Bridge Road Roswell, Georgia  
8:00 am Breakfast  
8:30 am Meeting

### Speaker

Mr. Terry Manning; GASSAR  
President :The upcoming  
National Congress

July 4-8, 2009

The National Society of the Sons  
of The American Revolution  
will hold its 119th Annual Con-  
gress in Atlanta, Georgia



### Piedmont Chapter continues to have interesting speakers at the monthly meetings



#### Linda Bhamé, Registrar Cherokee Chapter DAR was our speaker on March 21

Above Vice President Carl Bhamé presents the Speaker's Certificate of Appreciation to his wife Mrs. Linda Bhamé who was our speaker at the March 21, 2009 meeting. Linda has been a Georgia state speaker for the DAR for several years, and she is active as Registrar for the Cherokee Chapter where she also has served as Regent. She is an avid researcher of George Washington, and she has prepared and delivered several presentations to SAR and DAR groups. Linda also dedicates a great deal of time researching her family genealogy and matters relating to the American Revolution. While researching one ancestor, she found that he had been a part of **George Washington's personal guard** during the Army's encampment at Valley Forge. In researching this special military organization she discovered that it was created specifically to guard Washington's person, his papers and equipment. The guard was alternately known as his **"Life Guard"** and the **"Commander-in-Chief's Guard."** Washington developed the idea for this unit from his early experiences with similar European personal guards or escort troops. The guard was active from 1776 until 1783 and varied from 50-250 members. Originally consisting of soldiers from every colony, it was restricted to Virginians only for a period of time after a June 1776 assassination plot against Washington involving one of the Guard's members. Baron Von Steuben used the Life Guards as demonstration and instructional troops at the Continental Army's winter camp at Valley Forge where they served as the professional cadre of the American Army. The unit's last function following the cessation of hostilities was to return Washington's personal papers to Mount Vernon.

#### Gary Mauldin of the US Army Corps of Engineers was our speaker on April 18

Above Vice President Carl Bhamé presents the Speaker's Certificate of Appreciation to Gary Mauldin who was our speaker at the April 18, 2009 meeting. Mr. Mauldin is a Hydraulic Engineer in the Atlanta offices of the South Atlantic Division (SAD) of the Corps. His PowerPoint slides showed a wide knowledge and experience with the water management duties for the SAD, including the political and environmental issues with which the Corps deals. SAD has 14 hydropower projects (operating facilities), 33 navigation locks, 29 harbors and 14 flood control reservoirs.

The goals of the water management team are to maximize the benefits to the public ( across competing interests such as lake recreation versus downstream water flows) and to minimize damage and loss of life from flooding. Lake Lanier has been operating for several years in the Conservation Storage range of its capacity, well below full pool, and in which there is capacity for more than 1 million acre-feet (AF) of water. The depth of this Conservation Storage is from 1,035 feet to about 1,070 feet. Below 1,035 feet there still is about 869,000 AF of water to use. By the Corps projections, the lake is not likely to reach 1,070 feet (full) this year.

Most of the Atlanta area's population is located in the headwaters of three or more narrow river basins. Any one municipality may be using water from more than one basin. Population has grown to the point of needing either more reservoirs, better water conservation, additional sources, or all these choices at once, to provide for growth.



## Grave Marking of Patriot John Lewis



On May 2, 2009, the Cherokee Chapter partnered with Piedmont Chapter at Oothcalooga Baptist Church in Adairsville, Georgia to mark the grave of Major John Lewis, the highest ranking Patriot officer whose grave has been marked by the Georgia Society. This was the fourth grave marked by the Cherokee Chapter and the 40<sup>th</sup> marked by the Piedmont Chapter (in addition to twelve Compatriot graves marked).

Cherokee President Mark Webb served as Master of Ceremonies and was assisted by Billy Templeton, who is a dual member of the Cherokee Chapter and the Piedmont Chapter. More than fifty people attended the ceremony in which fourteen organizations presented wreaths. Boy Scout Troop 465 provided four scouts and added greatly to the ceremony. Mr. Templeton's grandsons, Grayson and Zachary each had a role. Grayson placed the flag at the grave side while twin brother, Zachary, played taps following a black powder gun salute by the Colonel Elijah Clarke Militia.

Piper John Mortison of the Piedmont Chapter added to the occasion by playing the bagpipe atop the hillside overlooking the cemetery. Other Piedmont members participating in the program included President Bob Shaw, Chaplain Al Finley, Secretary LTC. Don Gunn and Color Guard members Paul Prescott (Commanding), Bob Sapp, Jack Ferguson, Billy Templeton and George Thurmond. Also attending from Piedmont were Nancy Prescott, Joyce Sapp, Lou Ferguson, Barbara Templeton, Debbie Gunn and Marty Thurmond.



Above Mark Webb, President of the Cherokee Chapter, looks on as Bob Shaw, President of the Piedmont Chapter, salutes patriot Major John Lewis.





The Piedmont Chapter was privileged to recognize Austin Chatham, the grandson of Chapter President Bob Shaw, when Austin was presented the Eagle Scout Award at Roswell Street Baptist Church in Marietta, Georgia. Austin became a junior member of the Piedmont Chapter in 2004, and when he turned eighteen, he became a regular member. Bob Sapp, Registrar and Chairman of the Scouting Committee, and Bob Shaw are shown below presenting Austin with his SAR membership certificate at the ceremony. He will graduate from Hillgrove High School in Cobb County this year and plans to attend Southern Polytechnic University. The ceremony was attended by Austin's parents Dennis and Mika Chatham and Members of Troop 204. Representatives from the Piedmont chapter included the Color Guard :Paul Prescott, George Thurmond, Bob Sapp, and Jack Ferguson. Also attending were Chapter President Bob Shaw, Chapter Secretary, LTC. Don Gunn, and Compatriot Allen Greenly.



Two distinguished members of The Piedmont Chapter were honored at Georgia Society's Annual Meeting in Athens. Below Bob Sapp, Registrar, is shown receiving the President General Robert B. Vance Membership Trophy from Society President Bobby Towns. The trophy is presented annually to the Georgia Society member in good standing, who has the greatest number of first line sponsorships of new members of the previous calendar year as determined by the Registrar's office of the National Society. Also, Paul Prescott is presented with a Silver Good Citizenship Medal by Georgia Society President Bobby Towns. Prescott received the award for his outstanding participation in programs of the Sons of the American Revolution through his noteworthy service to his community, state, and nation.

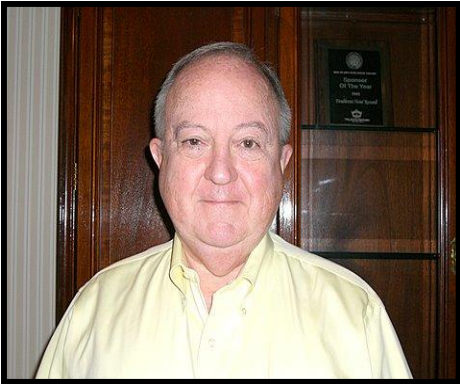




From



**Allen Finley**  
Piedmont Chapter Chaplain



### Our Journey Continues

As our journey continues, we have now reached the letter 'M'. As SAR members, we must wonder what word best describes why our ancestral forefathers decided to come to this land. The only word that really comes to mind is Motivation. Now, over 300 years later, the motivation of immigrants (and citizens alike) remains to make our lives better—and our children's future better. As we think about motivation, some of the things could be opportunity, freedom, challenge, adventure, money, or to just start over.

For whatever the reason to come to our shores, it is interesting for me to look at where people settle once they are here. For my family, who came from Ireland, it was in the hills of Appalachia. For my wife, whose ancestors came some 200 years later from Germany, it was in the industrial area of the Great Lakes. To leave what you know and to arrive some place that is unknown, there must be some instinct to look for people and / or areas similar to what you have left behind. We still see that many immigrants settle in areas where there are others from their original homeland: Scandinavians in the colder areas of the upper Mid West and pockets throughout the country; Cambodians and Vietnamese in the Gulf area where many continue their fishing heritage, and also here in Atlanta; and Hispanics throughout the West and

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### In Memoriam

George Thurmond reported the death of his good friend Willie Walker of McKinney, Texas. Willie was a dual member of the Piedmont Chapter and his local chapter in Texas.

Willie and George were classmates at North Georgia College and roomed in the same dormitory for two years. They kept in touch over the years even while Willie settled in Texas, being employed by Texas Instruments. They learned of their mutual membership in the SAR when George's photo was in The SAR Magazine and Willie contacted George and asked "is that you on page 21?"

Willie, a native of Atlanta, traveled most years back to the Dahlonega campus and they would arrange to meet and talk about the SAR. Willie was very involved in the Texas Society, serving as a District Vice President for a number of years. The Texas Color Guard is exploring an award to be named after him. Willie was anxious to attend Congress in Atlanta and meeting members of the award winning Piedmont Chapter!

Chaplain Al Finley sent a card to Marilyn, Willie's widow, and a crematoria marker will also be presented to her on behalf of the Piedmont Chapter. Willie died 11 days short of their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

### Flag Day Sunday 14 June

Flag Day, more formally called National Flag Day, is celebrated on June 14. It commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States of America which happened that day by Resolution of the Second Continental Congress in 1777.

### Piedmont Chapter Receives Awards at Georgia Society's Annual Meeting

The awards listed below reflect the outstanding committee leadership and participation by Piedmont Chapter members in 2008.

- **President General's Award-2008 Winner Membership Group 111**
- **Billy Thompson Americanism Award- 2008 Winner Membership Group 111**
- **Revolutionary War Grave Stars- 3 stars**
- **Education Outreach Certificate and Streamer**

### Piedmont Chapter Members' Awards

- **Paul Prescott – Silver Good Citizenship**
- **Bob Sapp – Robert B. Vance, Sr. – Membership**

### Youth Award

- **Gracelyn Thrash, Mt. Bethel Elementary School, First Place Poster Contest.** Gracelyn received a \$75.00 check and ribbon which are a part of her award. Gracelyn's poster is shown below.

### *The True Story of Paul Revere* by Gracelyn Thrash





(OUR JOURNEY Continued from page 5)

South. And then, those who share my Irish heritage are found everywhere (especially on March 17<sup>th</sup>).

Yet, all desire to break free and start fresh. Once here, they want to become part of this country because everyone else (regardless of where they come from) is just like them—people motivated to succeed. *The uniqueness of our country has made most immigrants realize that America provides no guarantees, but offers unlimited opportunities.* And those opportunities are a function of the limits that each of us place upon ourselves (whether it was in 1720 when my ancestral grandfather landed, or for those who have just arrived in 2009).

We all know individuals—regardless of background and culture—who have risen through education and hard work to greater heights than even their parents dreamed of. This is the American way of life our forefathers established back in the 1770s-- and it has succeeded in even greater ways than they could have envisioned. As I stated in my first article, what we do with our God-given ability is up to us. Each of us has different strengths and weaknesses, we have different backgrounds and experiences--we are diverse and yet we are all Americans. *It is our challenge as SAR members, to celebrate America's patchwork of differences, and not forget what our forefathers set out to accomplish— a nation based on the principles of liberty and a nation that never loses our motivation to better achieve the ideals enshrined within our Constitution.*

### The National Society of the Sons of The American Revolution will hold its 119th Annual Congress in Atlanta, Georgia July 4-8, 2009

Georgia is privileged to host the National Congress for the first time in twenty-six years, and this gives each of us the opportunity to participate in this important event. The main venue is the Renaissance Waverly Hotel 2450 Galleria Parkway Atlanta, Georgia 30339 near Cumberland Mall.

Volunteers are needed and all Chapter Compatriots are encouraged to support this important event.

Please see George Thurmond or visit the National Society of the Sons of The American Revolution website for additional details.



### Piedmont Chapter SAR and Atlanta Chapter SAR jointly present Historical Documents to the Sandy Springs Police Department

On 21 April 2009 members of the Piedmont and Atlanta Chapters presented framed copies of the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights to the Sandy Springs Police Department. The ceremony was held at the Police Department Headquarters. Lt. David Roskind received the award on behalf of the department. The Piedmont Color Guard, represented by Paul Prescott, George Thurmond, Jack Ferguson, and Bob Sapp participated in the ceremony.

Shown above from left to right: Revis Butler of Atlanta Chapter SAR holding Declaration of Independence; George Thurmond on left and Paul Prescott on right holding Constitution; Lt. David Roskind of Sandy Springs Police Department looking on, and Bill Hays, President of Atlanta Chapter SAR, at the speaker's stand.



**Patriots Day at St. Simons Island was a big success this year. Above GASSAR President Terry Manning delivers the opening address.**



**The Georgia Society Color Guard ready to present the Colors at Patriots Day St. Simons Island, Georgia**



**The Georgia Society Color Guard presented the Colors at Patriots Day St. Simons**



**The General James Oglethorpe CAR Society led the Pledge of Allegiance Patriots Day St. Simons**



### Georgia Society Color Guard Schedule

The following schedule is subject to change. Please check with Color Guard Commander, Paul Prescott, for latest updates.

2 May – Patriot Lewis and Gaines Grave Marking, Piedmont/Cherokee Chapters, Bartow Co.

8 May – Blue Star Proclamation, Alabama State Capitol, Montgomery, AL, 1500 hrs: Paul Prescott and George Thurmond

9 May – The Battle of Pensacola, Pensacola, FL, 0815 hrs

9 May – Revolutionary Monument Dedication, Baldwin Co, AL, 1600 hrs

16 May – Piedmont Chapter Meeting: Paul Prescott and George Thurmond

16 May – Patriot Jonathan Ogden Grave Marking, Sponsored by the George Rogers Clark Chapter of the West Virginia SAR Society, near Enterprise, WV, 1400 hrs: Bob Sapp

23 May – Scout Day, Marietta National Cemetery, Marietta, GA, 0900 hrs: Terry Manning, George Thurmond, Bo Hill, Paul Prescott, Jack Ferguson, Bob Sapp, James Lynch, Larry Guzy, Charlie Newcomer and Bob Faith

23 May – 229<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Buford’s Massacre, Lancaster, SC, 1030 hrs.

6 Jun – Georgia Society Picnic 1100 hrs: Terry Manning, George Thurmond, Charlie Newcomer, Jack Ferguson, Robert Cruthirds and Billy Templeton

13 Jun – Battle of Ramsour’s Mill, Lincolnton, NC, 1000 hrs:

20 Jun – Piedmont Chapter Meeting: Jack Ferguson, George Thurmond

20 Jun – Patriot Patrick McGriff Grave Marking, Sponsored by the Button Gwinnett Chapter, Norristown, GA, 1100 hrs: Paul Prescott and Billy Templeton

4-8 Jul – 119<sup>th</sup> National Congress, Atlanta, GA.

18 Jul – Piedmont Chapter Meeting: Jack Ferguson and George Thurmond

25 Jul – Patriot Lt. William Addington, re-dedication, Sponsored by the Samuel Elbert and Joseph Habersham Chapters, Georgia Society SAR, First United Methodist Church Cemetery, 66 Harrison Ave., Franklin, NC, 1000 hrs

(Continued from page 1)

ancestors with members in other chapters, and making friendships with other compatriots benefit me personally and enhance my service through the Piedmont Chapter.

*We are provided opportunities to serve, and our participation can be considered a gift for joining. When we actually become involved in committees and offices, then we can experience lagniappe. An outcome might be considered small and perhaps insignificant, but you will have lagniappe. As an old commercial once claimed: “Try it, you’ll like it!”*



### Piedmont Chapter Veteran's Committee update

Charles Moran, Chairman of the Veterans Committee, recently reported on the work of that committee. He asked the membership to be conscientious about recording their activities in support of veterans on the appropriate activity report. We want to serve our veterans and help the chapter receive proper credit for its participation in activities at VA hospitals, veteran funerals and the provision of supplies and sundry items.

**Memorial Day  
Monday 25 May 2009**  
Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service.

*We cherish too, the Poppy red  
That grows on fields where valor led,  
It seems to signal to the skies  
That blood of heroes never dies.  
Moina Michael*

Let's be sure to remember this important day.



### The Piedmont Piper

Bob Shaw, Publisher  
Gerald B. Breed, Acting Editor  
Allen Greenly, Photographer

This publication is the newsletter for the **Piedmont Chapter of the Georgia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution**. It is printed six times per year, January, March, May, July, September and November. It is distributed to current and prospective members of the chapter and to certain officers of the state and national organizations and to certain 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. at the Holiday Inn 909 Holcomb Bridge Road Roswell, 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, eighteen years of age and older, 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, Bob Sapp, at 770-971-0189** or any other chapter officer.

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

The deadline for material for the next issue is 29 June 2009. In addition to the material, please include a copy of any photos to be included. Please direct all inquires or suggestions regarding the Piedmont Piper to the editor at the following address: 3344 Thomashire Court Marietta, Georgia 30066 Phone: 770-579.1869 jcbreed77@hotmail.com

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### ***2009 Officers of the Piedmont Chapter***

President, **Bob Shaw** 2900 Barbara Lane Marietta, GA. 30062 Phone: 770.971.3416 bdseds@bellsouth.net  
Vice President, **Carl D. Bham** 7240 Wynhill Drive Atlanta, GA. 30328 Phone 770.394.1282 cbhame@bellsouth.net  
Secretary, **LTC. Donald H. Gunn, Jr.** 1484 James Trace East Point, GA. 30344 Phone 678.595.0692 donald.gunn@us.army.mil  
Treasurer, **Bob Shaw** 2900 Barbara Lane Marietta, GA. 30062 Phone: 770.971.3416 bdseds@bellsouth.net  
Chaplain, **Allen R. Finley** 4303 Revere Circle Marietta, GA. 30062 Phone 770.992.9395 arfinley@aol.com  
Registrar, **Robert A. "Bob" Sapp** 2649 Club Valley Drive Marietta, GA 30068 Phone: 770-971-0189 2rasapp@bellsouth.net  
Chancellor, **Eric E. Thorstenberg** 220 Enclave Court Roswell, GA 30076 Phone: 770-740-9321 eet@bellsouth.net  
Historian/ Library, **Robert H. Allgood** 545 Laurel Oaks Lane Alpharetta, GA. 30004 Phone 678.393.8854 boballgood@bellsouth.net  
Sergeant-at-Arms, **Thomas R. Davis** 7215 Wyngate Way Cumming, GA. 30040 Phone 770.442.8147 davtomln@comcast.net

**The Piedmont Piper  
3344 Thomashire Court  
Marietta, Georgia 30066**

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