

# The Piedmont Piper



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

*Winner of the Carl F. Bessent Award for the Best Chapter Newsletter 2010*

Edition LXXXVI (96th Issue)

www.piedmontsar.com

November 2010

## From the President's Desk



*Carl Bham*

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## Planning Ahead

Election season is upon us. Our chapter's year continues to unfold as we enter the nominating season for the slate of new officers who will be installed in February. Our Vice President Alan Greenly is the chair of that committee. If you are asked to fill an office by Alan or another on that committee, please consider that request seriously. We are glad that some of our newer members will step up. That is a good sign.

I had the privilege of being part of the very meaningful grave marking ceremony for Patriot Seth Pierce on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. The day could not have been nicer, the attendance was significant, and the program was well planned. Many SAR, DAR and CAR wreaths were placed at the markers. But what made the event so cogent was the talk by Jerry Maddox, who is a direct descendant of Seth, about Seth and about those who made the preparation of the cemetery possible over the last 10 years or more. Jerry is one of our prospective members but has "jumped in" with this event which he made possible. The story is a long one of his interests and dedication to find the grave site and engage many helpful brethren of the Pierce Grove Baptist Church in Louisville, GA in the restoration and beautification of the overgrown wooded area. Jerry has made many 170+ mile trips to Louisville to achieve this goal. His burning interests were apparent as he told how so many had helped him from the local community. Louisville now has a beautiful country cemetery that otherwise would not have been seen as it languished in the underbrush and vines. Jerry, also has written two books and documented artifacts and photos from his heritage, which he displayed at the ceremony. Jerry we thank you sincerely.

It seems there is a lesson in this dedication which I would hope we can learn by proximity at least. Like Jerry, our personal involvement is essential to our SAR continuing community service and to our own growth. Plan ahead for this upcoming year and come see your compatriots who are also committing to their involvement.

Among the most unusual honors we have had, the Bronze Good Citizenship Award to J. C. French at a Milton City Council meeting tops all of them. See the article about this young man elsewhere in this issue to learn about his coolness in an emergency situation. Our own Bill Lusk, City Council Member, helped make this award ceremony happen. The French family is among his constituents in Milton.

It is a pleasure to represent the Piedmont chapter in such memorable events as these.



## Piedmont Chapter programs for September and October 2010



### Above, Vice President Allen Greenly on the left presents the Speaker's Certificate of Appreciation to Kline Pugh at the September Meeting.

Vice President Allen Greenly introduced the guest speaker, Kline Pugh, who gave a presentation on the use of DNA in genealogy.

As many Piedmont chapter members may know, Kline served as Secretary for the Georgia Society, Sons of the American Revolution, for twelve years and is a past President of the Joseph Habersham Chapter. Compatriot Pugh has been active in genealogical research for over 50 years and has recently been active in applying DNA analysis to his research. Kline spoke to the members on the application of DNA testing to genealogical research. As he noted, it can sometimes be used to rule out potential ancestors, particularly if there is some question as to the fatherhood of a particular lineal ancestor. After a detailed presentation and taking of questions from the membership, Kline concluded on a lighter note with a poem, Hillbilly Genealogy Poem which is shown on page 7 of this issue.

Kline also noted that he uses [familytreedna.com](http://familytreedna.com) for the collection and evaluation of DNA for those interested in starting a similar project.

### Above center, Vice President Allen Greenly presents the Speaker's Certificate of Appreciation to John Mortison who was the speaker at the October Meeting.

The Piedmont Chapter was privileged to hear a very interesting presentation and demonstration of the bagpipes by Compatriot John Mortison who has served tirelessly as the Piper for the Piedmont Chapter. John gave a brief history of the bagpipe as a musical instrument and as its use by military units. He noted that Roman Coins show the bagpipe being used and there are records which indicate use of the instrument in the British Isles as early as 1300-1400. The bagpipe was frequently used in the American Revolution by the British and by the Patriots. John explained in great detail the components of the bagpipes from the primitive models which were made from goat skin to the more sophisticated Great Highland Bagpipe. Most bagpipes have at least one drone. A drone is most commonly a cylindrical tube with a single reed, although drones with double reeds exist. John brought several types of bagpipes with him and he played a tune on each of the instruments. One of the instruments was a bagpipe which he had made from a kit.

## Upcoming Events

Saturday November 20, 2010  
Chapter Meeting

Holiday Inn 909 Holcomb Bridge Road Roswell, Georgia  
8:00 am Breakfast  
8:30 am Meeting

### Speaker

**Dr. Joseph Kitchens of Reinhardt College Funk Heritage Center**  
"Creek Women in Two Worlds"

Saturday December 18, 2010  
Chapter Meeting

Holiday Inn 909 Holcomb Bridge Road Roswell, Georgia  
8:00 am Breakfast  
8:30 am Meeting

### Speaker

**To be announced**



## Milton Proclamation and SAR Bronze Good Citizenship Award presented to J.C. French



J.C. French has an amazing arm for a 6-year-old. He proved just how amazing when he recently saved a man's life. J.C. was on vacation with family and friends at Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort in Florida when he and his mom, Lisa, kayaked out to a sandbar in the gulf to hunt for sand dollars. They were about to head back to shore about 3 p.m. when J.C. said he could hear something.

Lisa was in the water and holding onto the kayak. She said the kayak blocked her view of a man struggling in the water nearby. She didn't hear anything, but J.C. did.

"I heard him saying help," J.C. said in a telephone interview from his home in Milton, Ga. "(The man was) a little like two feet away."

His mom said it actually was about 50 feet. Lisa told J.C. to throw the man her lifejacket, which she had left in the kayak. J.C. stood up in the kayak, aimed and threw the lifejacket right to him.

"It was like dead on. It was just crazy," Lisa said. "I would not have been able to throw that man a jacket, as far as he was ... there's no telling where it would have gone."

Lisa then pushed the kayak to the man. She said he was in deep water, far from the shallow area where she and J.C. were looking for shells. They reached the man clinging to the lifejacket and had him grab the side of the kayak.

"He grabbed on for dear life," she said.

They brought him to shore with the help of another kayaker.

"He kept saying, 'Thank you so much. A couple of more seconds and I wouldn't have made it,' " Lisa said.

Lisa and her husband knew J.C. had a good arm. He was an outfielder and catcher for his all-star baseball team.

In fact, the team's state championship win was part of the reason the French family, together with J.C.'s teammate Jake Peacock and his family, vacationed at Sandestin.

J.C. says football is his favorite sport. "I score lots of touchdowns and it's really fun," he said.

His accuracy and good arm earned J.C. the quarterback position. The weekend rescue confirmed he will be a natural.

He surprised his mom with the rescue. She expected him to be too afraid to listen to her instructions.

"It was just crazy that he just reacted, did exactly what he was told and was so cool, calm and collected about it," Lisa said. "And it wasn't until the very end when he said, 'I'm so scared.' "

J.C. and his mom found only two sand dollars Saturday. "I have one. I gave the other one to the man. I wanted to be nice," J.C. said. Lisa said J.C. and the man never exchanged names. J.C. delivered the sand dollar with one message.

"He told him to keep it for good luck," Lisa said.

In the photo above, J.C. French of Milton, Ga., right, is presented with a Proclamation by Milton City Council Member and Piedmont Compatriot Bill Lusk in recognition of J.C.'s heroic action when he threw a life jacket to a man struggling in the Gulf of Mexico. Subsequently, Piedmont Chapter President Carl Bhome presented J.C. with the SAR Bronze Good Citizenship Award.

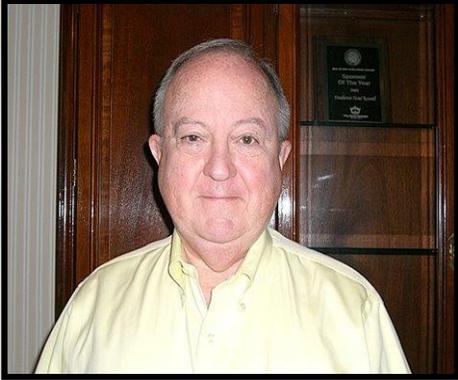
This article was reprinted from the Sandestin News.



From



**Allen Finley**  
Piedmont Chapter Chaplain



**THANKSGIVING 2010**

What is “Thanksgiving”?

To our ancestral grandparents, it was a time to “Give Thanks” to our Lord for a bountiful year, and to prepare themselves for another winter before they could replenish their “root cellars”

Growing up in rural Appalachia on a small farm, my family followed that same tradition. Hay was put into the barn during the summer; in late summer the corn went into the silo, and the items in the garden were canned, stored, or frozen. The excess went to the church and local grocery store. As I look back now, I never realized how poor we were. We were kids, and we had a great time growing up and the eating was great.

Since my Dad was the youngest of five children and there was money for only one to go to college, Dad’s oldest brother went and became a civil engineer. Because of his experience, my Dad insisted that his four children were all going to

college. My three sisters all went, and by the time I was ready to go, I realized how unique it was in our rural community for the girls to attend college. The four of us were fortunate to have a church affiliated liberal arts college in our home town that we were able to attend. As a “townie”, I had a car and worked my way through undergraduate school. As I was getting ready to go to graduate school out of state, an uncle asked me the following question: “Al, what are you going to do with all that learning? You don’t need that to run the farm.” That is what is unique about this great country—if you want something you can make it happen. To me learning opened the doors.

I never have forgotten where and how I grew up and would not trade it for the world. I knew that there was something else besides taking over the small family farm and am thankful to have had the opportunity to find it.

So what is Thanksgiving in 2010? For me it is that I met a wonderful lady in undergraduate school and waited for her to graduate. Now forty four- years later, we are the proud parents of three great children, and four great grandchildren. The week of Thanksgiving is time for the Finley Family Gathering. We are spread out from Washington DC to Ohio, to Georgia. I am thankful that my son is in SAR and my daughters are in DAR. The heritage continues. We all need to be thankful

*In Memoriam*

It is with deep sympathy that we report that Phyllis McPheeters, wife of Piedmont member Dr. Harold McPheeters passed away on Sunday, October 17, 2010. A memorial service was held Thursday, October 21, 2010 at St. James United Methodist Church in Atlanta, Georgia.



In November 1621, after the Pilgrims’ first corn harvest proved successful, Governor William Bradford organized a celebratory feast and invited a group of the fledgling colony’s Native American allies, including the Wampanoag chief Massasoit. Now remembered as American’s “first Thanksgiving”—although the Pilgrims themselves may not have used the term at the time—the festival lasted for three days. While no record exists of the historic banquet’s exact menu, the Pilgrim chronicler Edward Winslow wrote in his journal that Governor Bradford sent four men on a “fowling” mission in preparation for the event, and that the Wampanoag guests arrived bearing five deer. Source: History.com

that we were born and raised in a country where we are free, we can grow and become whatever we desire, and that we must pass on this tradition since there are people, both domestically and from foreign countries who want to destroy this opportunity that we inherited. Most importantly, we must be thankful to our Lord who allowed us to be who we are. God Bless America.



**Members of the John Milledge and Piedmont Chapters, Sons of the American Revolution gathered recently to honor a Revolutionary War Patriot whose voice has long since been silent.**



Patriot Seth Pierce, Revolutionary Soldier 1756-1844 was honored at the Patriot grave marking service conducted by the Sons of the American Revolution. The dedication service was held at the Pierce Family Cemetery near Louisville, Georgia. Participating in the service was the award winning Georgia Society, Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard who were dressed in period uniforms. The Color Guard included Paul Prescott, Commander, state President, Michael Tomme, Bob Sapp, Robert Cruthirds, Jack Ferguson, Ed Rigel, Sr., Bill Neely and George Thurmond

Special guests included descendant Jerry A. Maddox who arranged for the program and additional descendants. Carl Bham, Piedmont Chapter President, served as Master of Ceremonies. Bagpipes were played by Piedmont member John Mortison. A Proclamation from the City of Louisville proclaiming October 23, 2010 as Patriot Seth Pierce Day was presented by J. Larry Morgan, Mayor of Louisville, Georgia. Jerry A. Maddox gave the biography of his ancestor.

According to Georgia's Roster of the Revolution compiled by the Georgia Legislature in 1967 under the direction of Lucian Knight, State Historian and Director of the Department of Archives and History, Seth Pierce, formerly of Jones and Onslow Counties, North Carolina, was listed as a soldier in the American Revolution.

Unfortunately, only a Revolutionary War pay voucher, number 1056, dated March 23, 1782, from North Carolina State Archives certifies that Seth Pierce received pay from the Newbern District for his services. Records from North Carolina Archives do not show his rank, unit that he served in, battles that he fought in, or officers that he served under.

However, a Georgia tax list revealed that in 1802 he received land as prize for his service in the Revolution. Census records indicate that he married Millie Ann Askew of Jones County, North Carolina, sometime between 1793 and 1800 and that they were living in Washington County Georgia in the early 1800s. About this time, Seth was awarded land in Jefferson County, Georgia, in the land lotteries of 1805, and 1806. Later Seth received more land in Jefferson County in the land lottery of 1821. Finally, in 1843 tax records show that Seth owned forty acres in Cherokee County, Georgia, which he probably acquired in the Cherokee land lottery of 1832 or after the Cherokees left in 1838 on the Trail of Tears.

Seth and Millie Ann Pierce had two children, Obediah Pierce (1805-1884) and Clarisa Pierce (1785 -1870). Obediah married first, Lurena Stevens, and they had eight children, and second, Mary Futral, and they had one child. Clarisa married William Bargainnier and they had twelve children. A monument to the Pierce family was donated by sixth generation descendant Jerry A. Maddox in 2001 which is located in the Revolutionary Cemetery on Highway 24 near Louisville.

The Master of Ceremonies concluded with "We are assembled today to honor this family man, farmer and patriot. May we never forget his service to our country and our family." Wreaths were presented by several organizations, including the Pierce family descendants.

Following the playing of Amazing Grace by Bagpiper John Mortison, a black powder gun salute was fired by the Elijah Clarke Militia, followed by "Taps" played by Kevin Kotrick, a Cadet Bugler at Georgia Military College Prep School. Upon retiring the colors, Mourn Muskets, a solemn tribute to a fallen Patriot was performed by the Militia.

Linton McKnight, President of the John Milledge Chapter began the service with an inspiring invocation and closed the service with a solemn benediction.

Submitted by: George Thurmond, Chairman of the Piedmont Chapter Graves Committee

## Update on DNA Tests in McPheeters Family History Research

A few years ago I gave a presentation at the Piedmont Chapter's monthly meeting on "Using Y-Genes DNA Tests in Genealogical Research." At that time I gave a few examples of the kinds of family history research questions that can be answered by the use of Y-Genes DNA tests based on the fact that the Y-Genes pass nearly completely intact from father to son to grandsons, etc. At that time I gave a few examples from early findings from my McPheeters Surname Y-Genes DNA Project with Family Tree DNA of Houston. For some years I have been researching all lines of the McPheeters Family in America from the earliest immigrants from Northern Ireland to the American Colonies in the 1720s, including variant spellings of our name such as McPeters, McFeeters, McFeaters, and McPheters.

In late 2004 I set up my Y-Genes McPheeters Surname Project. Here is an update on some of my findings as a result of testing Y-Genes DNA samples taken from male descendants of various McPheeters family lines:

1) The DNA tests have determined that all lines of the family, including those who use variant spellings and whether they settled in Pennsylvania, Carolina, or on the coast of what is now the State of Maine, are descended from the same common ancestor at some time not very far back in time.

2) The DNA tests have proven that two lines of African-American McPheeters/McPeters are also direct descendants of white McPheeters/McPeters and their female slaves.

3) DNA tests show that one son of a McPeters family that migrated from Pennsylvania to Virginia, then North Carolina and East Tennessee and then West to Missouri and Texas was not a blood son of the family in which he was raised. Perhaps he was an infant orphan assigned by the Court to the McPeters Family. Court records of such placements were lost during the Civil War.

4) Comparisons of our DNA test patterns with those of a Dr. Ian Hume of Scotland, who administers a Y-Genes Hume Surname Project, shows that the McPheeters family is not descended from a "Peter Hume of the Highlands" as proposed in an old legend regarding the origin of our surname.

5) While it is not clear how much the Scottish clan members are supposed to be genealogically related through their paternal lines, our McPheeters DNA test pattern shows that the McPheeters family is not paternally descended from either the Clan MacGregor nor the Clan McLellan as sometimes claimed.

Harold McPheeters



### Constitution Week Ceremony at Cumming

In the photo on the left, the Piedmont Color Guard is shown at a Constitution Week Ceremony in Cumming, Georgia. In the photo l-r : Paul Prescott, Color Guard Commander, Bob Sapp, Jack Ferguson, Monte Johnson, Chestatee River chapter GSDAR and Piedmont Chapter President Carl Bham. H. Ford Gravitt, Mayor of the City of Cumming declared that Constitution Week, beginning September 17, 2010, marks the 224th anniversary of the drafting of the US Constitution. In his declaration Mayor Gravitt "urges all citizens to study the Constitution and to express gratitude for the privilege of American citizenship in our Republic, functioning under the superb body of laws – the Constitution of the United States of America." The ceremony occurred on August 18, 2010 at a meeting of the Cumming City Council who approved the declaration.



**HILLBILLY GENEALOGY**

Suzie Lee fell in love,  
She planned to marry Joe.  
She was so happy about it all,  
She told her Pappy so.

Pappy told her, “Suzie Gal,  
You’ll have to find another.  
I’d just as soon yore Maw don’t  
know,  
But Joe is yo half-brother”.

So Suzie forgot about her Joe  
And planned to marry Will.  
But after telling Pappy this,  
He said, “There’s trouble still”.

“You can’t marry Will, my gal,  
And please don’t tell yo mother,  
‘Cause Will and Joe, and several  
mo  
I know is yo half-brothers”.

But Mamma knew, and said,  
“Honey Chile,  
Do what makes you happy.  
You can marry Will or marry Joe,  
‘Cause you ain’t no kin to Pappy”!

--Author’s Parents Unknown

In the photo above, Milton City Council Member and Piedmont Compatriot Bill Lusk on the left is shown holding the Constitution Week Proclamation presented by Piedmont Color Guard Commander Paul Prescott. Other Color Guard members in the photo are l-r Jack Ferguson, Bob Sapp, and George Thurmond.

**2010 PIEDMONT COLOR GUARD SCHEDULE**

- 5 Nov – INS: George Thurmond, Jack Ferguson, Bob Sapp, Paul Prescott
- 10 Nov – Roswell Ramblers, Roswell, GA, 1200 hrs: Paul Prescott, Bob Sapp, Jack Ferguson
- 11 Nov – Dawsonville Parade: Jack Ferguson
- 11 Nov – Perimeter Church
- 13 Nov – Joel Early Chapter, 1100 hrs: Paul Prescott, Jack Ferguson, George Thurmond
- 20 Nov – Chapter Meeting
- 20 Nov – Battle of Ft. Morris, Midway, GA, 1100 hrs: Paul Prescott, George Thurmond, Jack Ferguson, Bob Sapp
- 4 Dec – Vann’s Creek, Elberton, GA, 1100 hrs: Paul Prescott, George Thurmond, Jack Ferguson
- 8 Dec – Roswell Ramblers, Roswell, GA, 1200 hrs: Paul Prescott, Bob Sapp, Jack Ferguson
- 10 Dec – “We the People” (tentative): Jack Ferguson, George Thurmond (tentative)
- 11 Dec – Wreaths Across America, 1200 hrs: Jack Ferguson
- 18 Dec – Chapter Meeting: George Thurmond, Paul Prescott, Jack Ferguson, Bob Sapp
- 28 Dec – SAR Debutante Ball, Milledgeville, GA: Bob Sapp
- 8 Jan – Color Guard Awards Luncheon, Lawrenceville, GA: Paul Prescott, George Thurmond, Jack Ferguson, Bob Sapp

**Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution Annual Conference**

February 4-5, 2011

Marriott Atlanta Gwinnett Place  
1775 Pleasant Hill Road, Duluth, Georgia 30096

Reservation Phone (770) 923-1775  
or 1-866-339-3132

Reference: Sons of the American Revolution



## The Piedmont Piper

Carl Bhamé , Publisher  
 Gerald B. Breed, 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, Tom Chrisman** 404.310.3338 or any other chapter officer.

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

The deadline for material for the next issue is December 31, 2010. 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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