



The Piedmont Piper

Edition CXVII (117th Issue)

May 2014

Message From Chapter President Bill Lusk

Spring: A Rebirth

Spring is my favorite time of year, although, Summer, Fall and Winter run a very close second. April 19 is a very special day for me since it is the anniversary of the battles of Concord and Lexington on that date in 1775. It was the *“shot heard round the world”* that rings of Freedom, Liberty and Patriotism for me. It was an event that marked the conception of a new nation. We would likely not be an organization of the Sons of the American Revolution were it not for those determined Patriots of 239 years ago. One can only marvel at the intestinal fortitude of that Rabble

(Continued on page 2)



In Memory of Tom Holcombe

The award winning Piedmont Chapter has many talented members, and this has enabled us to reach the highest standards in the national society. Among those were Tom Holcombe, a man with extraordinary skills, who left this earth on June 17, 2013.

Compatriot Holcombe was a member of the Piedmont Chapter since July 1994, just four months after the Chapter was chartered. Due to a conflict on Saturday mornings, he was not able to attend many of our monthly meetings, but he has nevertheless been very active with our Graves Committee. A former police officer with the City of East Point, Tom did ceramic tile work on the side. Drawing on his experience as a tile worker, Tom picked up the part of cleaning tombstones, making the stones bright and clean with due care not to damage the writing embedded in the stone. This talent has been very useful in refurbishing some long-neglected tombstones of our Revolutionary War patriots.

Tom lived on a 60 acre farm in the Birmingham Community just north of Alpharetta, Georgia. This farm was purchased from his wife's family and was owned by members of her family since the early 1800's. He had three children: Rick, who is in the floor covering business; Dianne, who is a teacher and softball coach at Westminster School; and Robert, who is a welder.

(Continued on page 9)

In This Issue

President's Message

Upcoming Events

Chapter Meeting Highlights and New Members

INS Ceremony

NSSAR Congress

Chaplain's Column

Traveling Trunk

Patriot Grave Markings

Color Guard Schedule

Message From the Chapter President Bill Lusk



(Continued from page 1)

in Arms against formidable odds. One of the purposes of your organization is to promote Patriotism and

further the education about our country's founding. The Color Guard is the most visible of our programs, that furthers the memory and image of our nation's birth. Each year, for the past seven, our Color Guard has appeared at the Milton City Council Meeting, to receive a Proclamation in remembrance of and tribute to that historic date. Many of those present do not understand the purpose of the special presentation. Few students and probably fewer adults could guess what significance that date holds. It reminds me of the "man on the street" interviews that David Letterman used to conduct. Many of those who appeared on camera could not even recall the Vice President's or their own Governor's names. We have lost the importance of our heritage in this Country. We, as an historic heritage organization, are charged with the duty to promote our history and the Patriotism that it deserves. Let us each step up as **"...descendants of the heroes of the American Revolution, who by their sacrifices established the United States of America, reaffirm our faith in the principles of liberty and our Constitutional Republic and solemnly swear to defend them against every foe."**

Let us not become that uninformed "Man on the Street."

Bill

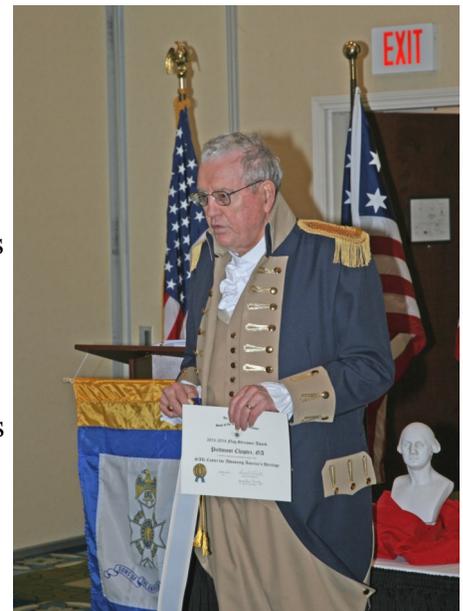
March Chapter Meeting Highlights



Mrs. Linda Bhame, Past Regent and long standing Registrar for the Cherokee Chapter, Daughters of The American Revolution, was the guest speaker at the March Chapter meeting. Mrs. Bhame is a retired school teacher with a special interest in American History. She has researched the life of President George Washington, and she gave a very informative presentation concerning his last will and testament. She distributed copies of the first page of his handwritten, lengthy will from the original now kept in the National Archives. After the end of the Revolutionary War, he retired to his Mount Vernon Estate to update and repair the facilities and, at that time, he decided to write his final will. His will gave all of his estate to his wife, Martha, and upon Martha's death, the remainder would be distributed to his relatives but all of his slaves would be freed and not sold. During the civil war, his will was removed to Richmond, Virginia for safekeeping. Linda is the wife of Piedmont Past President Carl Bhame.

Compatriot George Thurmond presented President Lusk with a certificate and streamer, awarded at the National Society's spring meeting, for the Piedmont Chapter's support of the Center for Advancing America's Heritage. Our contribution was in accordance with President General Dooley's initiative for this activity. Piedmont was the only Chapter from Georgia recognized with the Center for Advancing America's Heritage streamer at the recent Leadership Meeting in Louisville.

Fredrick William Reese III and Warren Randal Pollard were welcomed as new members with Compatriot Rick Reese representing his son. See page 4 for additional details about our new members.





April Chapter Meeting Highlights



At the April Chapter meeting, Vice President Kabel introduced Mr. Brad Quinlin, a noted historian and researcher in military history of the Revolutionary and Civil War. He gave a very informative review of his involvement in historical work in movies, television and books since 1984.

Mr. Quinlin has worked on the movie sets of "Glory," "Gettysburg," "Perfect Tribute," "Gods and Generals," "Andersonville," "Ironclads," and the NBC TV show, "Who Do You Think You Are," where he discussed with Matthew Broderick the last three days of his great grandfather's life in the Atlanta Campaign. He worked on the National Geographic show, "Diggers," which recently aired, and he is in the final stages of filming his own show on the Marietta National Cemetery, which will air this Memorial Day weekend. He assisted the National Park Service in creating a new Kennesaw Mountain Battlefield film, where he served as the lead Historical Researcher and Advisor.

Mr. Quinlin recounted the history of the Marietta National Cemetery and some of the individuals interred there. Through his research, he has been able to identify a number of unknown soldiers buried in the Marietta National Cemetery including two Revolutionary War veterans. He answered several questions from the membership during this interesting and informative presentation.



Shown in the photo on the left is Mrs. Corrine Bass, widow of deceased Piedmont member Si Bass. Mrs. Bass

and her son Steve Bass and daughter-in-law Melinda were special guests at the April Chapter meeting and were recognized for the many years of service which Si Bass gave to the SAR. Secretary Bob Shaw was asked to read a tribute prepared by Compatriot Bob Sapp in memory of Compatriot Bass. A medallion in Si's memory was presented to his family by Piedmont President Bill Lusk. Vice President Kabel presented a U. S. flag to Corrine Bass in honor of Si's patriotic involvement.



At the April Chapter meeting, Scouting Committee Chairman Mike Smith announced that twenty-seven scouting awards have been made this year. One of these awards was given to Eagle Scout Duncan Hensley. Mike introduced Duncan along with his mother and brother, as he presented him with the scouting certificate. Duncan also participated in the posting and retiring of colors.

ing awards have been made this year. One of these awards was given to Eagle Scout Duncan Hensley. Mike introduced Duncan along with his mother and brother, as he presented him with the scouting certificate. Duncan also participated in the posting and retiring of colors.

Upcoming Events

Chapter meeting Saturday May 17, 2014
Holiday Inn 909 Holcomb Bridge Road Roswell, Georgia
8:00 am Breakfast
8:30 am Meeting
Speaker: Mr. Bruce Maney, Charter Vice President Button Gwinnett Chapter, GASSAR Region Vice President and State Historian. His topic will be: "Lost Fort McCluskey"

Chapter meeting Saturday June 21, 2014
Holiday Inn 909 Holcomb Bridge Road Roswell, Georgia
8:00 am Breakfast
8:30 am Meeting
Past President and NSSAR Flag Committee Chairman Paul Prescott will speak about: **US Flag Etiquette and Protocol**

Two New Members Welcomed at March Meeting



Frederic (Rick) Miller Reese, III and Warren Randal Pollard were welcomed as new members. Rick Reese, is the son of Piedmont Sergeant at Arms Rick Reese who received the Membership Certificate on behalf of his son.

Frederic (Rick) Miller Reese, III was born in Baltimore, MD and he currently resides in Knoxville, TN. He is a very talented musician, having graduated from the Berklee College of Music in Boston. He is the bass player for the band Home-made Wine, travelling extensively and playing different venues in the eastern

half of the US. His band has a loyal following by the Parrot Heads (Jimmy Buffett fans), and as a result, the band spends about one week a month in Key West, FL. In addition to his musical talent, Rick is a very good website developer. Rick's patriot, William Ebenezer Brockett, was born 26 June 1748 in Wallingford, CT. He married Martha "Patsey" Ives in 1771 in New Bern, NC. William Brockett served during the Revolutionary War from 1774 to 1782. He entered as a private. His first service was in the Snow Campaign in SC. At various times, he served with Captain's Robert Patton and John Walker and as a lieutenant in Captain George Neely's command. In 1782, he served with Col. Lacey. A part of the time, he served as a Captain in General Sumter's command. He was in the battles of Rocky Mount, Hanging Rock, Fishing Creek, Rugeley's Mills, and in a skirmish at Bacon's Bridge.

Warren (Randy) Pollard is a native of Atlanta, born in 1947. He attended E. Rivers Elementary, Northside High School and then slipped out of state to attend Auburn Univ. where he earned a degree in Aviation Management. He was also member of Kappa Alpha Order while in school there. After 2 years of military service in the US Army (Infantry E-5) from 1969 to 1971 he returned to Auburn to complete his pilot training.

He returned to Atlanta in 1972 to start work at Delta Air Lines in the fueling operations department. He retired from Delta 30 years later, having spent most of his career as a Sr. Systems Analyst in the IT Dept. While working at Delta he served on the Civic association boards of the North Buckhead Civic Assoc. and the High Point Civic assoc. in Sandy Springs. He is currently a board member of the Big Trees Forest Preserve, also in Sandy Springs, and is in his 20th year with that organization. He is one of the founders of Aerobat Aviation Inc. which develops unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) here in Ga. and Santa Barbara CA.

His Patriotic Ancestor is Captain Aaron Smith (1720c-1776) who served in both the North and South Carolina Militia from the 1750's to 1776. He was killed on July 1, 1776 in a Torre/Indian attack on his farm land near the Little River in District 96, SC. Many of his family were also killed in this attack. Two of his older sons escaped by swimming the river which the Indians would not cross. Both went on to serve as officers in the SC Continental Line until the end of the Revolutionary War. Capt. Smith is honored at the ARP Church Cemetery in Due West, SC with a DAR marker. Randy has visited this historic site and photographed the marker and land tract where the Indian attack took place.

Shown in the photo above from left to right: Sergeant-at-Arms Rick Reese (who took the oath and received the membership certificate for his son), Randy Pollard, Compatriot Tom Chrisman and Piedmont President Bill Lusk.



Color Guard Participates in INS Ceremony

The Piedmont Chapter Color Guard participated in the ceremony by presenting the colors and welcoming the new citizens at the naturalization ceremony held on April 11, 2014 at the Richard Russell Federal building in Atlanta. The ceremony involved 159 new American citizens from fifty different countries. A feature of the ceremony was the display of framed copies of the U.S. Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. These framed copies had previously been donated by the Piedmont Chapter to INS, and they are used during each naturalization ceremony at this location.



Annual Chapter Picnic

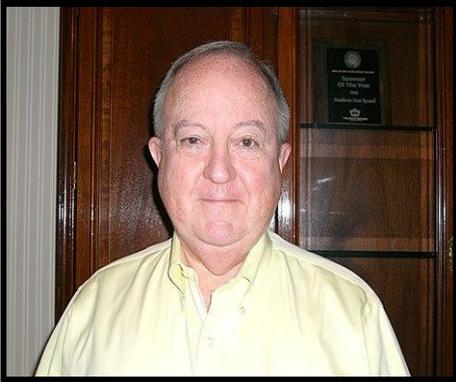
The Piedmont Chapter of the GASSAR will be holding its Annual Summer Picnic on July 19 at Shelter No 1 at the Roswell Area Park which is located at 10495 Woodstock Road in Roswell. The food is again being catered by the Rib Ranch and is being delivered between 10:15 and 11:00 AM. Our meal will include barbecued pork and chicken, cheese potatoes, coleslaw, pickles, chocolate chip cookies, sweet and unsweet tea.

We will begin to eat at 11:00 and must be through by 2:00. Cost will be \$10 per person. The ladies from the Martha Stewart Bulloch Chapter of the DAR are again invited. As SAR/DAR liaison, Walt Woliver is coordinating their attendance with them. Please notify Carl Bhame if you will be attending and tell him how many diners will be in your party. Deadline for notification is Wednesday, July 16. We always enjoy the food and fellowship at these events and hope we will again have a good turnout.



From

Allen Finley
Piedmont Chapter Chaplain



Pull Back or Lead?

There is mounting evidence that our fellow citizens are now wanting our country to “pull back” and take a less active role in world affairs (WSJ Wednesday April 30, 2014-page 1). As an American, business owner and the Chaplain of the Piedmont Chapter of the SAR, I find that understandable but concerning. As SAR members, should we stand by with apathy at this important time in our country’s history?

Our ancestral grandparents did not pull back but in fact risked everything to stand up to the greatest power in the world at the time. As a result of their courage, the United States of America was founded. Because of these individuals and their courage and perseverance, we have a country founded upon principles of freedom and a democracy— a world leader.

During the Civil War (or the War Between the States), my ancestors fought on both sides of the conflict. Each side used our founding principles to justify their actions. President

Lincoln provided courageous leadership to maintain our union at a very great cost in lives and property.

WWI was said to be the war that would end all wars. It was followed by WWII, during which millions of innocent people were treated inhumanely and millions more killed outright. Our proud country stood on the side lines at the beginning of these two major wars, but once involved, many individuals demonstrated courage and leadership. During these wars, we knew who the enemy was and where they were located. The objectives were clear and the outcomes were known.

After WWII, the Cold War brought strategic conflicts with opposing economic and humanitarian philosophies. Then came the Korean Conflict and next came Vietnam. Throughout the history of our country, we have been called upon to help resolve conflicts, and we have responded with American blood and treasure.

Not long ago we were fighting in Kuwait and Iraq, and now we are in Afghanistan, fighting an ongoing “War on Terrorism” with Al Qaeda being the primary focus. Unlike past wars, we are now uncertain of who the enemy really is and where they are located.

Some of these recent conflicts have involved countries with citizens who have limited respect for “western” norms in regard to freedom and individual liberties. As we look at the cost in human lives, it begs the question: for what purpose? In these conflicts we did not

lose. We seem to have left with limited accomplishments. Did we win? I wonder how our Patriot forefathers would answer those questions. Have we not given others the same opportunity for freedom as the French gave us, and might the French have asked, “For what purpose?” Time has answered that question.

As I travel, I meet people like myself who believe that we still have a leadership role in the world. As we scale back, we must be careful not to weaken our military to the degree that we endanger our national interest. Our national resolve must remain as it has always been, willing to help others in need.

Let’s pray for our country; pray that our leaders will make wise decisions in regard to our military and our role in world affairs.

**124th Annual Congress hosted
by the South
Carolina Society**

Greenville SC Hyatt Hotel
19 July—23 July 2014

Make Greenville SC your destination this coming July for the 124th Annual Congress hosted by the South Carolina Society! Following several Congresses out west, the Society returns to Revolutionary War country and a state critical in the Southern Campaign. In the planning for 5 years, this Congress will be a great place to understand your Society, make new friends, learn about the different activities and committees, and return to your chapter energized.

The above announcement provided by the South Carolina SAR.



The Traveling Trunk Presented at East Side Elementary School



A series of Traveling Trunk presentations was made by members of the Piedmont Chapter Speakers Bureau on April 21, 2014 to 242 fourth grade students and nine teachers of East Side Elementary school in Marietta. The events were held in the school's media center. The interactive presentations involved the students and helped them to understand what life in colonial times was like.

In conjunction with the presentations, compatriots George Thurmond, Bill Kabel, and Paul Prescott donated a copy of the book Heroes of Kettle Creek 1779-1782 to the school library. The book depicts a Revolutionary War battle which occurred in Washington, GA. Shown in the photo on the left are: Piedmont Past President George Thurmond, media specialist Cheryl Keeline, Color Guard Commander Bill

Kabel and Piedmont Past President Paul Prescott.

The Piedmont Chapter wishes to express its appreciation to Lauren Bailey, who coordinated the logistics for us on behalf of East Side Elementary school. We were very pleased by the enthusiastic and well-behaved students who attended the presentations, as well as the friendliness and gracious hospitality with which our group was greeted while on campus. We also appreciate the support of school Principal Elizabeth Mavity, for making the school facilities available to us. A special thanks to Bonnie Landers, who expressed an interest in Revolutionary history, and requested the SAR to make a presentation at her school.

We sincerely trust that all students and teachers felt their time was well spent.



Photos and article submitted by Compatriot Rick Reese, Piedmont Chapter Sergeant-at-Arms and Education Chairman.



To: Piedmont SAR Speakers Bureau and Color Guard
I wanted to say how much I loved the presentation! My class was interested and even talked about the presentation later in the day. It's hard to get a bunch of 4th graders to sit still for an hour. I was impressed!
Thank you and I hope we do this again next year.
Kelly Jones
4th Grade is Fantastic!
East Side Elementary



Piedmont Chapter Color Guard Participates in Patriot Grave Markings

On a beautiful spring day the Piedmont Color Guard participated in the grave marking for Patriot Jeremiah Sparks at the Mitchem family cemetery near Fair Play, Georgia. The event was held on Saturday, April 1, 2014 and was sponsored by the Athens Chapter GASSAR. It was well attended by Patriot Sparks' descendants, and by members of the SAR, DAR and CAR from various Georgia chapters. Approximately sixteen wreaths were placed around the grave and representatives from each organization saluted the grave. Piedmont Compatriot John Mortison played a tribute on the bagpipes. Below are photos from the service taken by Compatriot Rick Reese.



The grave of Piedmont Compatriot Tom Holcombe was marked on March 29, 2014 at Big Springs Methodist Church cemetery near Hickory Flat, Georgia. Piedmont President Bill Lusk and Piedmont Past President George Thurmond delivered tributes praising Compatriot Holcombe for the services he provided the SAR. A US flag was presented to the Holcombe family. Shown below are photos of President Lusk giving his remarks and a photo of the Color Guard with members of the Holcombe family.





(Continued from page 1)

Tom Holcombe

Tom was born in Kansas City, Missouri in 1928. In 1939 he moved with his parents to a farm in Illinois. At age fifteen he moved to Korea as a military dependent where he soon afterwards joined the Navy. He served aboard the power barge "Electra" which furnished electric power to towns in South Korea. In 1948 he received a discharge in order to finish school in the American Yokohama High School, graduating in 1950.

After finishing high school Tom joined the Army and served in Korea from July 1950 to December 1951. Returning at last to the U.S., he served for a while at Fort Benning. He was then placed on reserve status at which time he joined the East Point Police Force, serving from 1953 to 1963, during which time he completed the John Marshall Law School as an aid to his law enforcement duties. He then served as Fire and Safety Engineer at Ford Motor Company, taking retirement in 1985.

Tom was a descendant of Elijah Holcombe who served at Valley Forge during the American Revolution. The Holcombe House overlooking the Delaware River near Lambertville, N.J. is the Holcombe family's ancestral home. The home served as General George Washington's headquarters from July 1777 until June 1778.

Tom was involved in fifty patriot graves marked by the chapter and several member graves marked. During this time, he fabricated copper pipes for installation to hold the flag at each grave; medal flag staff holders used by the chapter (8) and state (22) color guards at outdoor ceremonies. He designed a method of embedding 120 pound granite grave stones with 80 pounds of sakrete to insure that the stone would not be easily stolen. He would carefully "dress" each installation where you could not detect that it had recently been installed. He even designed and fabricated an auger used to install stake markers, named "Long Tom" by grave committee members. All of this equipment and service was done at his own time and expense. Tom will be greatly missed by all who knew him. By George Thurmond.

Patriots Day Proclamation

Members of the Piedmont Chapter Color Guard received a Patriot's Day proclamation from the Milton City Council at the Council Meeting which was held on April 14, 2014. Photo below shows members of the Milton City Council with the Piedmont Color Guard. Photo by Jason Wright, Communications Manager, City of Milton.



Annual Picnic

Please make plans for you and your spouse or guest to attend the annual Piedmont Chapter SAR/Martha Stewart Chapter DAR picnic at Roswell Park on Woodstock Road Roswell, Georgia on Saturday July 19, 2014.

2014 Piedmont Color Guard Schedule

- 17 May Chapter Meeting: Kabel, Prescott, Thurmond, McCleskey
- 17 May Kings Ridge Graduation Ceremony (new HS bldg), Milton, GA, 0930 hrs: Prescott, Thurmond, McCleskey, Kabel
- 19 May Memorial Day Proclamation, Milton City Hall, Milton, 1800 hrs: Kabel, Prescott, Thurmond
- 22 May Roswell Rotary Club Memorial Day Luncheon, Roswell Area Park, Woodstock Rd., 11:00 hrs: Prescott, Thurmond, Kabel
- 24 May Scout Day, Marietta National Cemetery, Marietta, 8:00 hrs: Greenly, Thurmond, Prescott
- 26 May "Roswell Remembers," Roswell City Hall, 11:00hrs: Kabel, Thurmond, Prescott, McCleskey, Greenly
- 26 May Marietta National Cemetery Memorial Day Observance
- 8 Jun MOAA Wounded Warriors, Lake Lanier Islands, GA: Thurmond, Prescott
- 11 Jun Roswell Ramblers, Roswell, GA, 11:30 hrs: Kabel, Prescott, Thurmond
- 13 Jun INS, Atlanta, GA, 1100 hrs: (musket & 2 flags): Kabel, Prescott, Thurmond, McCleskey
- 21 Jun Chapter Meeting: Prescott, Kabel
- 24 Jun American Heritage Society of Georgia, Alpharetta City Hall, 1900 hrs: Kabel
- 28 Jun Bushnell Monument Dedication, Warrenton, GA, 1100 hrs: Thurmond
- 4 Jul Windward Children's Parade, Milton, GA, 0830 hrs: Kabel, Thurmond, Prescott, McCleskey
- 18-24 Jul 124th NSSAR Congress, Greenville, SC: Thurmond, Prescott
- 19 Jul Piedmont SAR/MSB DAR Picnic, Roswell 10-12:00 hrs: (no formal posting of colors)
- 26 Jul GASSAR BOM, Garden Parch Restaurant, Barnesville, 1000 hrs: Kabel, Thurmond



The Piedmont Piper

Bill Lusk, Publisher
Gerald B. Breed, Editor
Rick Reese, 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 July 1, 2014. In addition to the material, please include a copy of any photos to be included. Please direct all inquiries 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

2014 Officers of the Piedmont Chapter

President, William C. Lusk 1355 Summit Road Milton, GA 30004 Phone 678.458.4208 bill@luskco.com
Vice President, Bill Kabel 4305 Sprucebough Drive Marietta, GA 30062 Phone 770.565.1902 flytier44@comcast.net
Secretary, Bob D. Shaw 2900 Barbara Lane Marietta, GA 30062 Phone: 770.971.3416 bdseds@bellsouth.net
Treasurer, E. Sheppard Hammack 1586 Dunwoody Club Crossing Dunwoody, GA 30338 Phone 770.396.5453 Shep7h@aol.com
Chaplain, Allen R. Finley 4303 Revere Circle Marietta, GA 30062 Phone 770.992.9395 arfinley@aol.com
Registrar, Carl Bhome 7240 Wynhill Drive Atlanta, Georgia 30328 Phone 770.394.1282 cbbhome@bellsouth.net
Editor, Gerald B. Breed 3344 Thomashire Court Marietta, GA 30066 Phone 770.579.1869 jcbreed77@hotmail.com
Chancellor, Eric E. Thorstenberg 220 Enclave Court Roswell, GA 30076 Phone: 770.740.9321 eet@bellsouth.net
Historian/ Librarian, Robert L. Walker 650 Leather Hinge Trail Roswell, GA 30075 Phone 678.585.9106 synercom@earthlink.net
Sergeant-at-Arms, Rick Reese 9141 Branch Valley Way Roswell, GA 30076 Phone 847-778-9235 RickReese68@att.net

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

First Class Mail