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Newsletter of the Kettle Creek Battlefield Association, Inc. Editor: N. Walker Chewning

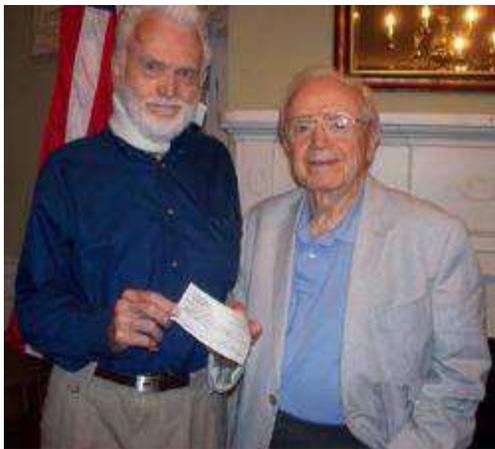
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**Harley makes generous donation  
for the Kettle Creek Battlefield Park**



*Dwight Harley presenting donation to Joe Harris, KCBA BOD Chairman*

Dwight Harley (left) presents a check for \$30,000 to Joe Harris for use in development of the Kettle Creek Battlefield Recreational Park. Harley is an SAR member with more than 20 family lineages to Patriots of the Revolutionary War. Dwight Harley of Lincolnton has made a \$30,000 challenge donation toward development of the Kettle Creek Battlefield Park. “He is a veteran of the Korean War and every war since, including the Cold War,” Kettle Creek Battlefield Association chairman Joe Harris said as he accepted the check for the organization. The occasion was the monthly meeting of the W-W Chapter, SAR. “With total gifts to park development of over \$50,000, Dwight is the only in-

dividual donor in the ‘Legacy’ category of park support,” Harris said.

Harley’s commitment to the cause of freedom and liberty is not new with his generation in family lineage. His grandfather was a World War I veteran and Harley grew up on his farm in Hancock County. His grandmother was the only surviving child of Gen. William Tatum Woffard, CSA. “Living was never easy for us, we grew up to appreciate what we have,” said Harley, who himself connects through more than 20 family lines back to Patriots of the Revolution.

Toward his own military contribution and dedication to the cause, Harley received his draft notice for the Korean War in April 1951. He was in college. He never served in Korea though positions took him into 11 foreign countries in increasingly sensitive positions following specific technical training. Early assignments were in Europe, beginning in France and Germany. In 1953 he was transferred to Norway with the first Americans stationed there. It was a top secret assignment at the time, for service to airmen on Russian spy missions.

Following the Cold War, he served at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma, working on development of the first military internet programs. His final service years were in the Pentagon where he was trained for 72-hour uninterrupted national emergency conditions. Having always wanted to fly, he got his pilot license in 1967.

Harley married an English girl and they

had two sons – one is a National Guard medical officer in Brookings, South Dakota, and the other lives closer by, in Vidalia. He has life membership in the VFW, American Legion, the DAV, and Paralyzed American Veterans. In addition to substantial contributions to the Lincoln County Library, he has contributed heavily to other charities.

### **Expert flags trails at Kettle Creek**



Walter Cook (right), forest trails specialist, and Kim Clements, visitor to the Kettle Creek Battlefield Recreational Park, study maps of the Revolutionary period Hammett farm area in preparation for trail flagging. The trail will connect the colonial farm site with the War Hill Loop Trail. Trails in the Kettle Creek Battlefield Park which connect the War Hill Loop Trail with the Hammett farm site and with Liberty Church sites of the Revolutionary period were both recently flagged, providing informative additions to trails for experienced hikers. “They are not ready for eighth--graders,” said Walter Cook, forester and expert in trails design. However, Kim Clements, a Washington visitor and woodlands lover, found the trails delightful.

“I hiked nearly eight miles in the Liberty Church, Hammett farm, and Kelly Branch circle. The flagging is good,” she said. On a recent morning she assisted Cook in defining sections of the Hammett farm trail. It was a fortunate coincidence that trails were under development at a time when Clements was in the area.

“From an ecological standpoint, the

Hammett farm trail has a most exciting feature,” said Joe Harris of the Kettle Creek Battlefield Association which scheduled the trail flagging. “A section of the flat land, cornered by Kelly Branch and Kettle Creek, is littered with rotting logs of mature pines under a canopy of immature hardwood. There is no better demonstration of the transition from an old field pine stand to mixed pine and hardwood forest,” Harris said.

“It is precisely as described on old local maps of the Revolutionary Period,” he added. The site had been discovered earlier by Walker Chewning, KCBA president, and Harris as they had attempted a trail route in the area.

Cook is retired from the University of Georgia Warnell School of Forestry. He has designed more than 100 woodland trails throughout Georgia and South Carolina. He flagged the Summit Trail of the battlefield park and rerouted sections of the War Hill Loop Trail, originally flagged by Allen Burton and Harris. Cook emphasizes the dimensions, grade, and sites of interest along the trails. The War Hill Loop Trail was recently funded for surfacing by the Department of Natural Resources.

### **Teamwork results in additional Kettle Creek Battlefield signage**



Antonio Aseniero (left) and Allen Burton install a Kettle Creek Battlefield sign directing traffic from Skull Shoals Road to the bat-

tlefield site. In order to direct tourists from US 78 near Rayle to the Kettle Creek Battlefield site, Allen Burton and Joe Harris, Kettle Creek Battlefield Association (KCBA) board members, added signage and moved an existing sign to a new location. In the process, a local resident stopped his pickup and said, "You finally wised up and moved it to the right place." Previously, a Georgia Public Television representative had called Burton for help in finding the site. She had followed signs leading back to Rayle on the Sisson-Bridges Road rather than Courtground Road to the battle site.

Three new signs were cleaned and installed. They had been in storage since a grant provided funding some years ago. Due to storage conditions they needed extensive chemical cleaning due to surface problems.

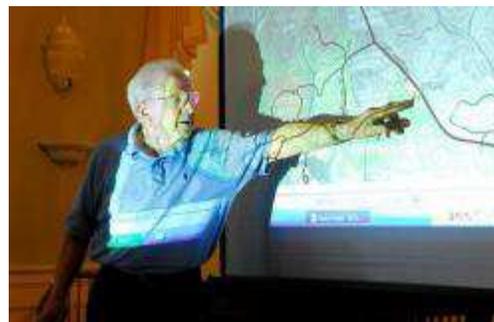
It was a laborious process in which both Antonio Aseniero, a Wills Memorial laboratory technician, and Dot Harris had been involved. Subsequently, Aseniero volunteered, "I will help any time I can" with installation. He became involved in the installation of two new signs – one at the intersection of Skull Shoals Road and Courtground Road, and the other at Rocky Ridge and Courtground. Both signs had been recommended by Chamber of Commerce Executive Director John Singleton and Wilkes County Economic Development Director Tiffany Rainey. Also, Rainey said, "People need to know how to get to Washington from the Kettle Creek site. They don't know directions and mileage and they reach the battle site from all over."

"The KCBA board will address the need for mileage and/or direction signs," Joe Harris said. He has had complaints from Revolutionary Days visitors who get lost returning to Washington from the battle site.

### **"War Hill" first purchased for just \$75**

Dr Joe Harris is a driving force behind plans to make the War Hill site of the Battle of Kettle Creek the principal memorial to the

American Revolution in Georgia. Last week, he brought the Washington Kiwanis Club up to date on the master plan for the proposed park. Here he points out the plan for a new park entrance on Courtground Road.



The goal of the historic core of the park is the interpretation of the events that led up to the Battle of Kettle Creek in 1779. The plan identifies the general areas of activity both before and during the battle. The future park will have the historic battlefield at its core while other areas will have an assortment of recreational and educational activities, displays recreating colonial living conditions, and on-site parking. The Kettle Creek Battlefield Association is negotiating to purchase additional property for the park.

The Kettle Creek Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, organized in Washington in 1895, purchased "War Hill" in 1900 – 12.5 acres for the sum of \$75. In 1929, the U.S. War Department made an appropriation of \$2,500 for a monument commemorating the battle. The granite obelisk was dedicated June 6, 1930. The War Hill site was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975; in 1980, the property was deeded to Wilkes County.

### **Discussions continue at Kettle Creek concerning timber cutting, land use**

Kettle Creek Battlefield Association and Plum Creek Timber Company representatives including (l-r) Dan Lemke, Jim Rundorff, Nicki Price, Grady Britt, and Cliff Hargrove meet for discussion of timber harvesting on the historic battlefield site. The final timber

cut on the Kettle Creek Battlefield Recreational Park historic core area was discussed by Jim Rundorf, Southeast Area Asset Manager and others representing the Plum Creek Timber Company, along with representatives of the Kettle Creek Battlefield Association (KCBA). The 60-acre site, now owned by Wilkes County, was purchased by KCBA in 2014, exclusive of timber rights. The site includes about half the historic core acreage identified in the Kettle Creek Battlefield Park Master Plan adopted by Wilkes County in 2013.



Aware of the historic value of old roads and other sites in the larger acreage, the timber company offered to protect new trails and significant areas from the harvesting operation with a 20-foot buffer on each side of roads and trails. Cliff Hargrove and Joe Harris, representing KCBA, discussed current and future plans with Plum Creek representatives including Rundorff, Senior Land Asset Manager Dan Lemke, Senior Resource Forester Grady Brit, and Nicki Price, an intern who actually flags the roads and trails.

Hargrove was particularly interested in saving a section of Plum Creek's current acreage for demonstration of forestry practices including the effects of burning, but the proposal seemed impossible due to restrictions on burning established for the site by Plum Creek. A large part of Plum Creek's 800 acres in the park area is now being thinned and other acreage clear cut. However, the conceptual plan for the Kettle Creek Battlefield Recreational Park includes about 600 acres in recreational forest, an acreage of which would be demonstration forest with

hiking and biking trails and camping areas.

The timber company has been involved in development planning for the larger site for more than five years, including the production of the Kettle Creek Battlefield Park Master Plan. The company owns nearly a million acres of production timber land in Georgia, the third largest holding in about twenty states. Plum Creek Foundation, a non-profit charitable foundation, has funded a Kettle Creek Battlefield project and local hospital projects as well.

### Taking a hands-on approach to improvising



Hefting a fallen tree, John Singleton shows that sometimes promoting tourism takes a little lumber work. When Singleton, W-W Chamber of Commerce executive director, and Tiffany Rainey, W-W director of economic development, media relations, and tourism, toured the Kettle Creek Battlefield site last week, they noticed that a tree had fallen on the sign directing tourists to the battle site. Rather than call in a county crew, Singleton said, he just lifted the fallen timber off the sign while Rainey photographed it for posterity. "We also noticed a lack of signs directing tourists back to Washington," Rainey said, "so we've got to fix that." Later in the week, Rainey and Singleton were promoting Washington-Wilkes in Atlanta at the BB&T Open Tennis Tournament, "extending

invitations to hundreds of people to come visit, and getting the word out about our upcoming events,” he said.

### **Sara Giles Moore Foundation gives funding for KCBA, theater, W-WHF**



Lisa Williams, executive director of the Sara Giles Moore Foundation, stops in a tour of the Kettle Creek Battlefield for a review of the history of the site with Joe Harris of the Kettle Creek Battlefield Association. The battlefield site was one of several interests the foundation has in Washington. The Sara Giles Moore Foundation, through interest of its board member Frank McGaughey, has financially assisted the Kettle Creek Battlefield Association, the Washington Little Theater, and the Washington-Wilkes Historical Foundation. The local activities of these organizations attracted the foundation’s interest and resulted in a recent visit by the foundation’s executive director, Lisa Williams, and discussions with organization membership. Hosted by KCBA board chairman, Williams and her 8-year-old daughter, Adelaide, toured the battlefield site, and the War Hill Loop Trail.

Representing the Washington Little Theater, Ginny King, Buzzy and Jo Randall, Shay Harris, and others discussed a number of activities at a luncheon meeting. A tour of the theater included stage, sound, and lighting demonstrations by Richard Crabbe and a visit to the costume collection of hundreds of pieces of apparel for performers of almost any age.

Stephanie Macchia provided an extensive tour of the historical museum, representing the Washington Wilkes Historical Foundation. Williams and her daughter stayed overnight in the guest house of the historic Sarah Hillhouse home, hosted by Betty Slaton.

A dinner discussion with Harris and an impromptu art lesson for Adelaide next door by Laura Connely completed the tour. “Williams will send a review of the Washington tour within a few weeks,” Harris said. “It will cover the interests of the Sara Giles Moore Foundation.”

### **Ancient origin of War Hill explained for SAR**



In a talk for the W-WSAR chapter, Dan Williams of the UGA Warnell School of Forestry points out the location of War Hill and an isolated area of high calcium rocks which explain the rare occurrence here of tree species far out of their natural range. Dan Williams, of the UGA Warnell School of Forestry, recently spoke to a dinner audience of the Washington-Wilkes Chapter, SAR. He described the origin of both the basic and unique features of War Hill in the Kettle Creek Battlefield. Months earlier, a geologist visiting the site said, “The hill is here because rocks are here,” implying that erosion and the weathering of rocks had created the hill. Williams identified the rocks and described their origins.

They were once a part of a volcanic island chain like Japan. Here, the islands were

pushed under the ancient coast of what is now eastern North America. Geologists can identify the fault line across Georgia where the subducted islands were pushed against the older Atlantic coast. They named it the Middleton Lowndesville Fault and find that it extends from south of Athens to south of La-Grange, he said. Subsequently the subducted lands emerged and relatively small, isolated areas of deep ocean crust emerged with them and are found along the northeast edge of the fault. One of these includes the headwaters of Kettle Creek and its influence on adjacent vegetation.

Williams became interested in the Kettle Creek Site due to trees on the site which are relatively rare in this area in Georgia and are out of their normal range. He identified three key species, shagbark hickory, Southern sugar maple, and paw-paw. He found specimens of maple and hickory which were nearly two hundred years old. "Their seed had to have come from mature trees; these species have been in the area for a very long time," he said, "but they depend on calcium in the soil; where did it come from?" he asked. "There is none on surface rocks; they contain the more acidic potassium which is widely common in Georgia soils."

Thus began Williams' search for a calcium source in rocks of the site. Two sources were discovered. Williams explained that as the now-inland volcanic island chain eroded over millions of years, small areas of deep ocean crust were exposed and these are the sources of high calcium rocks, the least abundant on War Hill. One source was found in an isolated area in the creek bed, just west of the Kelly Branch tributary and the other is in the headwaters of Kettle Creek in the Philomath area. As the creek flooded before it was straightened and flooding was reduced, the process brought the calcium into the low areas near the battlefield. He said, "This rock, amphibolite, extends as a formation for many miles under War Hill and beyond, perhaps being exposed in other creek beds."

The WW-SAR chapter vice president Joe Harris thanked Williams for his presentation and noted, "The battlefield site is a treasure of not only military but also cultural and natural history features which will attract many different demographic groups to a Kettle Creek Battlefield Recreational Park. These also include public school eighth graders especially. Lincoln County teacher Christy Bryan is currently scheduling a class trip for October."

## **"Couper" visits the Kettle Creek Battlefield park**

by Andrew M. Grosse, UGA

While recently hiking the trail around War Hill I was excited to meet a unique visitor to the Kettle Creek Battlefield. He introduced himself as Dymachon Couper, short for eastern indigo black snake. "Couper" is the longest snake native to the United States, ranging in size from 60-84 inches (152-213 cm), and is entirely shiny bluish-black color, including the belly. His chin and sides of the head are usually colored reddish or orange-brown. In his youth he looks very similar to adults but have much more red on their heads. Indigo snakes are sexually dimorphic ( check your Webster's ), with males growing to larger lengths than females.

Eastern indigo snakes are restricted to Florida and southern areas of Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi. Although reported historically from extreme southern South Carolina, indigo snakes have not been confirmed in the state in recent years and the early records are questionable. The closely-related Texas indigo snake (*Drymarchon corais*) is found in southern Texas and other subspecies range into Central and South America. Until relatively recently, all indigo snakes in the U.S. were considered to be the same species, *D. corais*.

In the Southeast, indigo snakes are restricted to areas of pine-oak sandhills, which are usually inhabited by gopher tortoises.



*“ Couper”*



*Couper is a little camera shy and doesn't like to smile.*

These snakes use gopher tortoise burrows as shelter during the winter and during the warmer months for nesting and refuge from intense summer heat. During the active season indigo snakes may move long distances and often forage along wetland margins.

Indigo snakes are active strictly by day. During the summer they prefer wetland edges like the Kettle Creek Battlefield, where prey is abundant but move to drier habitats in the winter. Indigo snakes breed in the winter and are more active in cold weather than most other snakes. When cornered, they may flatten their heads, hiss and vibrate their tails, which produces a rattling sound. Despite these intimidating acts, the indigo snake

rarely bites. Indigo snakes regularly feed on mammals, birds, frogs and other snakes, including rattlesnakes and cottonmouths. Also, these snakes will occasionally feed on young gopher tortoises.

The eastern indigo snake is currently listed as a federally threatened species in Georgia and Florida, due primarily to habitat loss. This species is protected throughout its range.

**The eastern indigo snake is not venomous. If you see "Couper", thanks him for allowing you to visit his home.**

# The Kettle Creek Battlefield Association

Invites you to join us with the  
Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution  
in celebrating the Battle of Kettle Creek  
at the annual KCBA banquet to be held on  
**Friday, February 12th, 2016**

Pope Center  
48 Lexington Ave  
Washington, GA 30673

**Program: Langford D. Holbrook**  
**“Kettle Creek Battlefield**  
**Conceptual Plan for a National Park”**

Dinner Cost: \$30.00 per individual  
Please make your checks payable to KCBA  
Cash Bar & Reception 5:00 P.M.  
Dinner at 6:30 P.M.

**Mail to:**  
**KCBA**  
**P. O. Box 729**  
**Washington, GA 30673**

**Please include your email address**  
**Dinner reservation must be received by January 31, 2016**  
**(Contact Walker Chewing at 678-409-4644)**

**NOTE: Those wishing to sit as a group or family please designate  
on your RSVP—Tables seat “8” and will be assigned by number**