



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

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<http://www.kettlecreekbattlefield.org>

Apr ~ Jun 2017

Park Day April 1, 2017
Kettle Creek Battlefield



Each year, the Civil War Trust and Campaign 1776 conducts a nationwide event called Park Day. Park Day 2017 was an effort to get volunteers to enjoy their local historical parks through volunteering to clean and repair those sites. Georgia has eleven battlefields participating in the Park Day 2017, and this year the Kettle Creek Battlefield was the first American Revolutionary War site to participate.

Twenty-one children and adults ranging in age from 5 to 80 spent several hours at the KC Battlefield on April 1, 2017, cleaning and clearing the four existing trails- a total of 4.5 miles. The enthusiastic participants included adult members of the SAR and DAR and both children and adults of the GSSCAR. Armed with rakes, blowers, and trash bags, they made the trails more easily passable by removing leaves, limbs, and

twigs which had fallen during the winter. The volunteers also used soap, water, paper towels, and lots of elbow grease to clean the interpretative signs which are enjoyed by the visitors.



The volunteer work crew members were awed by the sight of 28 new white

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wooden crosses scattered across the 70 acres to indicate where cadaver dogs and ground penetrating radar have identified the likely location of



You never know what you will find when volunteering for Park Day

shallow Revolutionary War soldiers' graves from the battle on February 14, 1779.

It was a beautiful day with warm temperatures and blue skies, and the volunteers enjoyed the activities and the camaraderie of all who came out to help preserve our history. Each one also enjoyed receiving a special t-shirt that had the following inscription:

Saving Battlefields
PARK DAY
2018

VOLUNTEER
I PRESERVE HISTORY
www.civilwar.org/events/park-day

UGA Students Conduct Studies at Kelly Branch

KCBA Executive Board members met with Dean Daniel Nadenicek of the UGA College of Environment and Design in December 2016, to discuss ways the KCBA and the UGA could work together to promote the usage of the Kettle Creek Battlefield by UGA students. Dean

Nadenicek expressed his opinion that the pristine condition of the battlefield would provide an excellent opportunity for UGA students to conduct studies of the environment and to develop designs for future parks.



In April, several students from the Department of Environmental Design came to the Kettle Creek Battlefield to conduct a study of the Kelly Branch environment for a project on water quality at the University of Georgia. The students were provided a short tour of the battlefield by KCBA President Walker Chewning, and they were impressed with the discovery and marking of many likely Revolutionary War gravesites.



The proximity of the battlefield to the UGA campus provides an excellent opportunity for additional study classes under exceptional conditions, and the Kettle Creek Battlefield Association welcomes the involvement of the UGA students.

Painting of Battle of Kettle Creek displayed at meeting of W -W SAR



On hand for the presentation of the Kettle Creek Battlefield painting at the W-WSAR Chapter meeting are (l-r) Dwight Harley, Joe Harris, admiring the Jeff Trexler painting of the 1779 battle on War Hill. The Jeff Trexler painting of the Revolutionary War battle at Kettle Creek, recently framed for hanging, was displayed at a recent meeting of the Washington-Wilkes Chapter, SAR.

Trexler is a Pennsylvania historical artist and illustrator who studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of Art. His battlefield scene represents an early stage of the conflict as it developed on the west side of War Hill on an early morning in February, 1779. Retired MSgtM Dwight Harley, Lincolnton, commissioned the painting as a gift to the Kettle Creek Battlefield Association. Harley is a Legacy member of the Association.

The painting was framed by The Frame Shoppe, Augusta, on the advice of Roy Smith, W-WSAR Chapter member, as a gift. Smith said, "The frame design matting and molding are right for the subject." Details of this had been discussed at length since the artist's suggestion was quite different. "I got agreement on this from Linda Chesnut," Smith admitted. "The work on this has been in progress for a few years," Harley remarked. He values the work as a reminder of the time in American history when the possibility of freedom from the oppressive rule of England was just being realized. He is determined to have copies of

the painting on display locally and Mercer Harris Photography is now working on possibilities. The original was recently voted by KCBA to be located in the Wilkes County courthouse.

Harley has ancestral ties to more than a dozen Patriots in the Revolution. These include the Dwight's, Woffards, Harleys, and Alexanders. He grew up in Oglethorpe County and now has a Lincolnton address. He retired from service in the Air Force Command, having served in Germany and Vietnam. He was later assigned to an office in the Pentagon.

Roy Smith is proud of the frame which, he said, causes the viewer to focus on the painting. "The frame does not compete with the painting itself," he said.

Smith comes from generations of Wilkes County families. His family moved to Charleston when he was four years old. He graduated from Mercer University, then Brown University with a Master of Arts in English. He served in the Navy, 1959-62, and was in Bremerhaven when the Berlin Wall was being built. He is a 55-year member of SAR, having been inducted in the Richmond Chapter, Virginia SAR.

Oglethorpe eighth-graders donate \$100 to Kettle Creek Battlefield Association

Coincident with activities scheduled at the end of the school year, Jill Barnes, an Oglethorpe County eighth-grade teacher with a strong interest in history, arranged for nearly 200 students to visit the Kettle Creek Battlefield. In addition, a check for \$100 was made as a contribution.

**Lt. Col. Robert Galer:
Influence on Kettle Creek
Battlefield Preservation**



Retired Lt. Col. Robert Fulton Galer passed away on June 22, 2017, in Columbus Georgia at the age of 98. He was born in July 19, 1918, in Coeur d' Alene, Idaho. In 1940, Bob entered the Army on active duty and served during World War II and the Korean War. He received the Combat Infantryman Badge, Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart.

Bob was always active in community organizations and, during his retirement, worked tirelessly to preserve and promote the history of the American Revolution. While he was active in many aspects of the Sons of the American Revolution, he was closely involved with the promotion of the Kettle Creek Battlefield. As State Chairman of the Graves Committee, and later as State Chairman of the Historical Sites and Preservation Committee, Bob worked to revitalize interest in the Kettle Creek Battlefield. In 1998, he established a two-day celebration in Washington, GA for the recognition of the battle. Every year since, the event has grown in scope and both State and National attention. Now, hundreds of visitors visit the Kettle Creek Battlefield during February to celebrate this patriot militia victory.

**Betty Slaton, Charter Member
of the KCBA Board
and Wilkes County Historian**



Miss Betty Ann Slaton died July 1, 2017, in Washington, Georgia. An eighth generation native of Wilkes County who was born on October 7, 1937, Betty was the daughter of the late John Russell Slaton and Willie Belle Johnson Slaton. Surviving are her brother T. Marion Slaton of Atlanta and Washington and a devoted circle of friends.

Betty graduated from Tift College in 1959, and she continued to follow her interests through extensive postgraduate studies. Betty was a teacher, historian, and preservationist whose teaching career included positions in Elberton, Athens, and Gainesville. She retired to Washington in 1989, and she devoted her expertise to numerous civic and state endeavors.

Betty was a charter member of the Kettle Creek Battlefield Association. As a local historian, she worked tirelessly to preserve the heritage of Wilkes County. Her efforts to preserve the Kettle Creek Battlefield and to teach its importance to the victory of the American Revolution led her promoting greater involvement of children in American history. She was an active recruiter of members for the KCBA, a tireless Kettle Creek Celebration volunteer, and she held a wealth of knowledge on the history of Wilkes County during the American Revolution.

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Washington Wilkes Historical Society

2017 Membership Renewal

Membership Levels & Donations

Patriot Membership

- Adult: \$25.00
- Family: \$50.00

Life Membership

- Col. Andrew Pickens Member \$500.00
- Col. John Dooly Member \$1,000.00
- Col. Elijah Clarke Member \$2,500.00
- President George Washington \$5,000.00
- Kettle Creek Battlefield Legacy Member \$25,000.00

Life Members can continue to reach higher levels of membership through cumulative gifting. Additional donations can be made separately or along with the membership renewal.

We need your continuing support in order to preserve the historic Kettle Creek Battlefield

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Please make your check payable to **Kettle Creek Battlefield Association, Inc**

Send to :

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P. O. Box 729
Washington, GA 30673