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

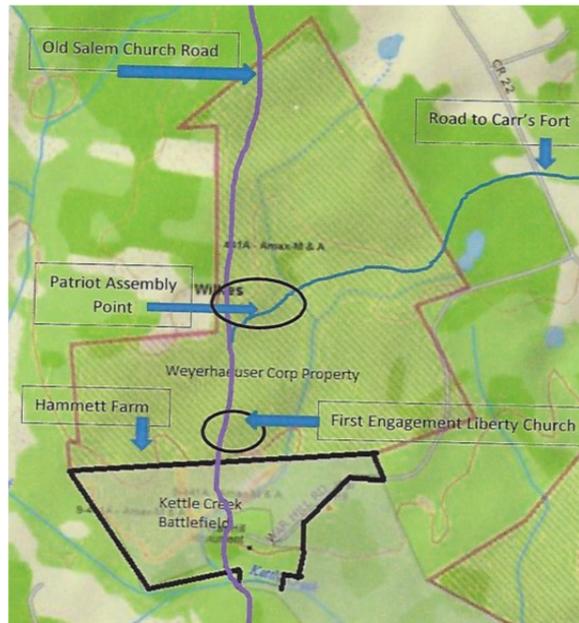
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## **Kettle Creek Battlefield Phase Two Land Fund Drive**

The primary objective of the Kettle Creek Battlefield Association is to purchase and preserve the land on which the Battle of Kettle Creek took place. In 2013, the KCBA developed a three-phase plan for land acquisition.

**Phase One** began with the purchase in 2014 of 60 acres to the north of War Hill. This added to the existing 12.5 acres which were purchased in 1899, and the creation of a larger historic site began. Phase One was accomplished through generous donations from individuals and organizations that recognized the urgency and importance of preserving the site of the only Patriot-won battle in the Colony of Georgia during the American Revolution. In addition to purchasing land, the KCBA conducted several studies which revealed the possible location of several American Revolution grave sites, extended the trail system for easier visitor access, and constructed an improved parking area.

**Phase Two** of the battlefield acquisition plan is significant because the property targeted for purchase contains the Patriot assembly point where Pickens, Dooly, and Clarke decided on the attack plan against the Loyalist forces under Col. Boyd. The property also contains the Hammett Farm site and the Liberty Church site where the Battle of Kettle Creek began. In addition, this portion



*Phase Two Land Acquisition Map*

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of the battlefield contains the road network between Kettle Creek and Carr's Fort where Pickens had engaged Maj. Hamilton only four days earlier. With the permission of the Weyerhaeuser Corporation, extended studies of this property have revealed additional possible grave sites. These grave sites, combined with the Lamar Institute study of 2008, are producing an exciting view of how the action flowed across the battlefield during Pickens' advance.

**Phase Three** will be the purchase of the southern part of the battlefield. Here we expect to find additional grave sites on Spurgen Hill where the Loyalist defense collapsed, resulting in what Col. Pickens called "... the severest check and chastisement the Tories ever received in South Carolina or Georgia".

Currently, the Kettle Creek Battlefield Association is undertaking the most important historic preservation effort in Georgia. The Kettle Creek Battlefield, with its grave sites and archeological discoveries, is unprecedented in its pristine condition. Almost all of the other American Revolution sites in Georgia have been covered with parking lots, and only a small portion of those sites are available for us to visit today. The Kettle Creek Battlefield presents a unique opportunity to protect a site that is virtually in the same condition today as it was on the day of the battle on February 14, 1779.

The KCBA is receiving extensive financial support from national preservation organizations for the purchase of the 340-acre northern tract targeted by Phase 2. These foundations have agreed to provide 80% of funding for the purchase of the northern portion of the battlefield, and the KCBA will need to contribute \$100,000 toward the purchase price. We expect to have a contract ready by August of 2017, with a closing scheduled by the end of the year.

All of us understand the importance of saving these hollowed grounds. Doing so will enable us to tell the story of the Battle of Kettle Creek: how patriots of Georgia and other Southern states drove

the Loyalists from this land and helped to establish a new nation.

With your generous financial support today, tomorrow the Kettle Creek Battlefield will be preserved for future generations.

Thank you for your contribution!

**Contributions may be mailed to:**  
KCBA Land Fund  
P O Box 729  
Washington , GA 30673

## Foundation shows interest in Kettle Creek



Lisa Williams (left) and Sara Armour Hehir of the Sara Giles Moore Foundation followed a Loop Trail tour of War Hill recently. The foundation is interested in historic preservation, education, and enhancing the well-being of communities. Through local residents Carolyn and the late Frank McGaughey, the Kettle Creek Battlefield Park has attracted the interest of the Sara Giles Moore Foundation. The foundation has supported several local community improvement efforts and its continued interests brought the chairman of the board, Sara Hehir, and the executive director, Lisa Williams, both of Atlanta, to the site.

The guests were welcomed by Joe Harris, Kettle Creek Battlefield Associa-

tion board chairman, on a pleasant morning on War Hill. Harris briefly described the battle, and Wilkes County history including its origin from ceded lands from the Cherokees and Creeks, to its recognition in 1777.

Hehir asked about the apparent tombstones on the hilltop, but Harris explained, "They are not gravesites but largely memorials to Patriots buried in abandoned cemeteries."

Hehir and Williams, into their walking shoes as soon as they left their van, were anxious to hit the Loop Trail. Harris mentioned the intensive archeological study of the trail in preparation for a walkable surface. "Root coverage and some sort of leveling are essential for preventing falls; eighth-graders walk the trail in large numbers," Harris explained.

At the foot of War Hill they noticed the high creek embankment. "The creek was straightened to prevent flooding many years ago," Harris said. Williams noticed a pawpaw tree, said to be the only native American tree species which bears edible fruit.

The tour moved northward on the west side of the hill, then to the Liberty Church site about a half mile north of War Hill.

"Liberty was a high-energy church," Harris said. "Its members included Robert Grier who published the first Grier's Almanac in 1807, Alexander Stevens who became vice president of the Confederacy and later a U.S. Representative, and Moses Waddell who became president of Franklin College. It was named Liberty for several reasons, at the end of the Revolution in 1783."

After lunch on The Square in Washington, the group was invited to visit the McGaughey home on Swann Road.

## **\$100,000 gift to Kettle Creek for land purchase**

For the Sara Giles Moore Foundation, Mrs. Frank McGaughey (center) presents a

check for \$100,000 to KCBA chairman Joe Harris as board members Ruthie Clements, Dr. James Granade and Allen Burton look on. Honoring the late Frank McGaughey, the Sara Giles Moore Foundation (SGMF) recently provided the largest grant yet in support of Kettle Creek Battlefield Park development. At a luncheon meeting with KCBA board members Allen Burton, Ruth Clements, and Joe Harris, Mrs. Carolyn McGaughey presented a check from the Foundation for \$100,000 specified for land purchase.



The foundation's decision to make the donation followed a recent visit to the battlefield and Washington by both board chairman Sara Hehir and Executive Director Lisa Williams.

Mrs. McGaughey, who maintains a home near Rayle, described the charitable work of her husband and related a recent foundation memorial event honoring him at the Atlanta High Museum of Art. As lawyer for the Sara Giles Moore Foundation, he had many professional and other close friends in Atlanta and served with the international law firm Bryan Cave, LLP.

"He was the great-great-grandson of J.J. Haverty, a name widely known in the furniture business since 1855," Mrs. McGaughey said. "But Frank was known for his charitable efforts by which the Sara Giles Moore Foundation had found him as a major asset.

"Mac was quite the historian, a history major in his college days, and loved the Battlefield Association for the work it has undertaken, and for the vision it had for local development. Through his efforts, the Sara Giles Moore Foundation

discovered the association,” she said. “I feel like I’m a little closer to Mac with this endeavor,” she added.

Mrs. McGaughey has accepted an ex officio position on the KCBA’s board of directors. “The board is interested in your vision for land which can be experienced for liberating the soul, so to speak,” Harris said.

Mrs. McGaughey had shown the Rayle farm site to Harris and SGMF officers on a recent visit. She has spent several years in developing a relatively large acreage of their farm, selecting trees, clearing underbrush, and selecting appropriate grasses, partly for cattle grazing.

“This acreage is like a Piedmont Prairie which was maintained by Indians for some hunting practices through burning to prevent forest tree growth,” Harris related at the time. A small, natural site like this was found west of the battlefield Summit Trail and it is anticipated that the area will be expanded. It was discovered by Linda Chafin of the Georgia Botanical Garden, who completed a plant inventory of the battlefield core area.

In its proposal for funding from the SGMF, the KCBA described the value of such a grant for purchase of other acreage for expanding the battlefield park. “This SGMF grant is considered as establishing “partnership” status which is expected by other foundations considering support,” Harris explained. “Its value greatly exceeds that of land purchase alone.”

## **Wilkes, Lincoln students tour battlefield at Kettle Creek**

By JOE HARRIS

Three busloads of Wilkes County eighth graders arrive at the Kettle Creek Battlefield. Katy Meech organizes the trips and is assisted by other teachers. On the third of annual visits to the

Wilkes County Revolutionary War battle site at Kettle Creek, both Wilkes and Lincoln County students toured the area. Katy Meech brought Wilkes’ current social studies classes to War Hill.



Students were divided into three groups, each with other faculty members. Historian Allen Burton described the 1779 battle, another group heard Joe Harris on the natural history of the area, and the third group “hiked the War Hill Loop Trail to the Liberty Church Trail and up the ridge to the church site passing recently identified burial site markers,” Meech said as the group came up Settlement Road to War Hill road.

“That was a hike of nearly a mile,” said Harris. “Each one is learning something about history, cultural or natural and it will stick with them.” Clearly, the students were glad to be outdoors. “Maybe they are experiencing a tiny bit of the freedom the Patriots discovered in a new country, void of the control of King George III,” Harris observed, “I hope they can put a name on this experience.”

Allen Burton, historian and retired Captain from the Vietnam War, described the British objective of recruiting from the Southern back country as they were not doing well in the North. As British Col. John Boyd recruited through South Carolina into Georgia, his trail was picked up by Patriot militias of Andrew Pickens of South Carolina and Cols. John Dooly and Elijah Clarke of Wilkes County. The Loyalists stopped near Kettle Creek and “killed a beef” as Pickens later wrote. “A big mistake because it was near here that Boyd was fatally shot,” said Burton.

“The battle continued as troops moved south of the creek and the entire event lasted ... at least three hours according to Col. John Dooly,” Burton said.

About 70 fatalities resulted, others were taken prisoner or escaped, and about 200 Loyalists, of 800, made their way to Wrightsboro, a Quaker community, on their way to Augusta.

“About area natural history, I want you to remember three words,” Harris said to the students, “ridges, competition, and succession.” He explained that ridges describe the terrain, and competition and succession, what goes on there. “All of this explains why trees and other vegetation grow here, why people lived here and built a church here. And it offers a few reasons why Patriots fought here. They could own the land, raise their families, and didn’t have to pray to King George III”.

A few days after Wilkes students arrived, more than 60 from Lincoln County visited the site for the third year with Christie Bryan. They all walked the Summit Trail between War Hill and Settlement Road which approximates the path of Elijah Clark’s militia. Already, Bryan anticipates returning with a new class next year.

## **CSRA Personnel Visit** **Kettle Creek Loop Trail**



Recently, a group from the Central Savannah River Regional Commission endured the bitter cold in Wilkes County,

Georgia, to visit the Kettle Creek Battlefield to prepare for the implementation of the recently approved DNR Loop Trail Grant. The hearty group consisted of Andy Crosson, Executive Director, CSRA; Anne Floyd, CSRA Regional Planner, CSRA; Stephanie Quattlebaum, Director of Economic and Workforce Development, CSRA; Carli Goetchus, UGA Cultural Landscape Architect; Kurt Wolf, Landscape Architect for the project; and Walker Chewning, President, KCBA.



At the bottom of War Hill, Walker Chewning began the tour by giving a brief description of the battle, and he provided other details of the battle as the group walked the loop trail. The group was interested both in learning the history of the battle of Kettle Creek and how the trail would affect the historic features of the site.

The group focused on the placement of the trail and the need for special consideration of areas with steep grades which will require boardwalks to preserve the ecology of the battlefield. It was concluded that an extensive boardwalk would be needed on the northeast side of War Hill due to the slope of the terrain. The group also discussed various types of materials that could be used on the trail both to provide good footing for visitors and also preserve the natural landscape.

After completing their walk on the loop trail, the group decided to push on further to the Liberty Church site. Every-

one was excited about the improvements that have been made there and grew even more excited about the prospect of preserving this historical battlefield. Carli stated, "This is an exciting project with great opportunities for further development and preservation of Georgia history."

## Kettle Creek Artifacts



While you are in Washington for the Battle of Kettle Creek Celebration you might also enjoy stopping by the Washington Historical Museum and viewing the artifacts which were found at the battlefield. Its located on the third floor and is a room full of interesting items. The artifacts are visible in four large glass top tables and consist of musket balls. Weapon pieces, wagon parts and farm implements. The Kettle Creek Battlefield was a treasure trove for interesting colonial artifacts and thanks to the 2008 Lamar Institute study and the Washington historical museum they are available for everyone to enjoy.



*Washington-Wilkes  
Historical Foundation*

## 2017 Membership Drive

*With the beginning of the Battle of Kettle Creek Celebration the KCBA starts it's annual membership and fund raising drive. Although much has been accomplished since 2011 there is still much more that needs to be done. We need your financial support to continue to develop and preserve this historic battlefield. Remember we currently control only 20% of the core area of the battlefield and 80% remains with private land owners.*

*Please help in our  
preservation effort!*

*You may renew you membership or contribute to the Land Fund on Page #11.*

**Thank you for your  
support**



# **Kettle Creek Battlefield Association Annual Banquet Invitation**

You are invited to join 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 10th, 2017**

Pope Center  
48 Lexington Ave  
Washington, GA 30673

**Program Speaker will be**

**Dr. David Noble**

**“Cutting Edge Science at the Kettle Creek Battlefield”**

Dinner Cost: **\$35.00** per individual  
Please make your checks payable to KCBA  
Cash Bar & Reception 5:00 P.M.  
Dinner at 6:30 P.M.

**Mail you check to:**

KCBA  
P. O. Box 729  
Washington, GA 30673

**Please include your email address**  
**Dinner reservation must be received by January 31, 2017**  
**(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.**

# Take Notice

**238<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Kettle Creek  
Revolutionary Days  
A National Society SAR Historic Site Event Sponsored  
by the  
Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution  
February 10, 11 & 12, 2017  
Washington, Wilkes County, Georgia**

## Friday—February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**12:00 Noon—4:30 P.M.:** Join U.S. Army Military Historian for a walking tour of the Kettle Creek site, 18<sup>th</sup> century history and Battlefield Relics. Tours start at the Federal Monument on War Hill at 12-noon, 1:30 P. M. and 3:00 P.M...

**6:00 P.M.:** The Kettle Creek Battlefield Association, Georgia Society SAR and Kettle Creek NSDAR will host a dinner and Revolutionary War program in honor of the Kettle Creek Patriots.

## Saturday Morning-February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**9:00 A.M.** The Georgia Society SAR Elijah Clarke Militia Honor Guard with Musket Salutes will raise the 1776 Colors of the Revolutionary War on the Wilkes County Courthouse Flag pole.

**9:00 A.M.—12-Noon:** Historical performers in the City Square, Georgia Society SAR Living History building with demonstrations, Mary Willis Library period display, Robert Toombs House Historic site with Period performers, Washington City Museum with the Kettle Creek Artifact Room.

**10:00 A.M.** The Georgia Society SAR combined Color Guard & Militia will gather at the Revolutionary War monument on the Washington City square to Salute and Honor the  
***Wilkes County Militia - (the Heroes of the Hornets' Nest)*** and all Revolutionary War Patriots.

**Georgia Society  
Sons of the American Revolution  
Celebrating the History of the Battle of Kettle Creek  
&  
Our Heroes of the American Revolution**

**Saturday-February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**10:30 A.M.** Gather behind the Courthouse for the assembly of the Revolutionary War Parade—ALL the public (Children & Grownups) are welcome to participate in the event as our National Colors and re-enactors lead us around the City square.  
**Parade STARTS at 10:45 A.M.**

**11:00 A.M.** Georgia Society SAR Elijah Clarke Militia and other re-enactors with black-powder muskets will present a dramatic portrayal of the Battle of Kettle Creek in Fort Washington Park behind the Wilkes County Courthouse.

**11:45 A.M.** The Georgia Society SAR Color Guard--*Elijah Clarke Militia* and others, will present arms and fire a thunderous musket salute as the Revolutionary War Colors are lowered and our Present-day National Colors are raised on the Square.

**2:30 P.M.** Pageantry at the Kettle Creek Battlefield includes, Continental Army, Georgia Militia, Musket volley salutes, Wreath Presentations, SAR/DAR/CAR, Hereditary Organizations, Local, State & National officials, High School JROTC, students and public, place Wreaths to honor the Heroes of the Hornets' Nest--the Wilkes County Militia for their 1779 Victory at Kettle Creek.

**9:00 --- 5:00 P.M.** The Robert Toombs Historic Site and the City Museum will remain open for  
Visitors. Children & Uniform personnel are welcome Free of Charge.

**Sunday-February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**9:00 A.M. Join the Georgia Society SAR and the Local NSDAR Chapter in a Memorial Service Honoring the Wilkes County Militia (Heroes of the Hornets' Nest) and the SC Upper 96 Militia who together defeated the Loyalists at the Battle of Kettle Creek. As**

**in the past this Memorial Service is open to the public and everyone is encouraged to participate.**

**Phillips Mill Baptist Church, 5479 Greensboro Road, Washington, GA 30673  
(706) 678-7825**

“Revolutionary Days”  
Celebrating the 238th Anniversary of the  
**Battle of Kettle Creek**

**Kettle Creek Battlefield Memorial Ceremony**

**Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 2:30 pm**

**Washington, Wilkes County, Georgia**

*All Societies and Chapters of the C.A.R., DAR, SAR, other Hereditary Societies and patriotic or historical organizations are invited to attend. Descendants and the public are especially welcome.*

**Submit request to participate in the Wreath Presentation no later than  
January 31 2017, to assure listing in the Ceremony Program**

Organization: \_\_\_

Name of Presenter: \_\_\_

Office or Title of Presenter: \_\_\_

Will Participate in the Color Guard:

Email Address: \_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_

**Mail to: Ed Rigel, Sr., 1504 Berkeley Court, Gainesville, GA 30501-1260; or  
Email : [compatriotrigel@charter.net](mailto:compatriotrigel@charter.net)**

**Kettle Creek Battlefield Association  
Annual Meeting**

Friday, February 10, 2017  
4:30 PM—5:30 PM

Edward B Pope Conference Center  
48 Lexington Ave  
Washington, GA 30673

# 2017 Membership Renewal

## Membership Levels

### 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 :

Kettle Creek Battlefield Association, Inc.  
P. O. Box 729  
Washington, GA 30673