



KCBA

THE BATTLEFIELD DISPATCH

P. O. Box 729

Washington, Georgia 30673

Newsletter of the Kettle Creek Battlefield Association, Inc.

Editor: N. Walker Chewning

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<http://www.kettlecreekbattlefield.org>.

March 2013

Book Signing Event

On Thursday, May 23, 2013, William R. Reynolds Jr. will be in Washington, GA to hold a book signing event at the Rotary Club meeting. Bill has recently published a book on Brigadier General Andrew Pickens and will be the guest speaker. His presentation will be on Pickens and his contributions toward defeating the British in the Southern States and eventually driving General Cornwallis to Yorktown, VA.

Mr. Reynolds says about his book: "It does extensively treat the Battle of Kettle Creek. I spent about seven years researching for this book. I was inspired to write the book because for many years, Brig. Gen. Pickens has not had a strong current biography on the shelf, alongside Francis Marion, Thomas Sumter, and Henry Lee. There were some good biographies written about him in the past; however, they have been long out of print. I did correct some historical errors about the family and have included the justification within the book."

After this book signing, Mr. Reynolds will be traveling to Fort Ninety Six, Guilford Courthouse, and Cowpens where he has been invited to conduct similar presentations and book signings.

The public is invited to attend the event in Washington, Georgia. Time and place are on the next page.

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KCBA Board Meeting Dates

May 23, 2013
June 27, 2013
July 25, 2013

The Board regularly meets at 2:00 PM
4th Thursday of each month at
Mary Willis Library
Washington, GA.

Book Signing and Presentation

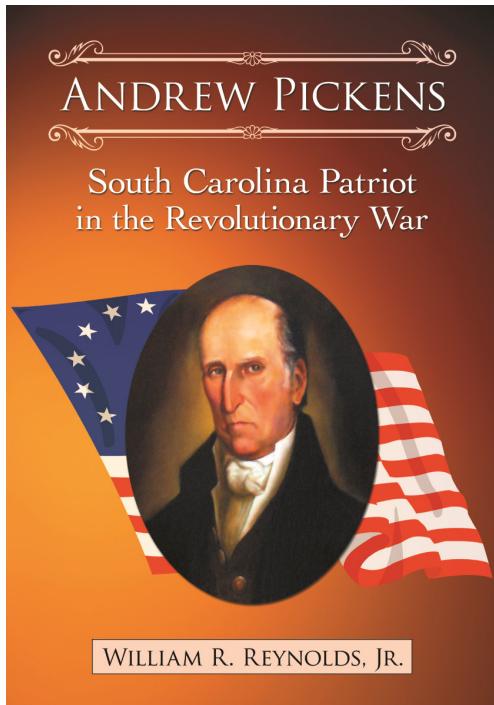
Thursday May 23, 2013

12:00 PM to 1:00 PM

Rotary Club of Washington , GA

Washington Women's Club

108 N Alexander Ave.



Photos, maps, appendices, notes,
bibliography, index
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Brigadier General Andrew Pickens was a primary force bringing about the end of British control in the Southern colonies. His efforts helped drive General Cornwallis to Yorktown, Virginia. His later actions on behalf of the Cherokee Nation are fully explored, and much never before published information about him, his family, and his peers is included. Andrew Pickens loved his country and was a fearless exemplar of leadership. He earned the

Andrew Pickens *South Carolina Patriot in the Revolutionary War* **by William R. Reynolds, Jr.**

unyielding respect of his superiors, his fellow officers, and most importantly his militiamen.

William R. Reynolds, Jr., retired in 2005 from his position as Chief Intercontinental Ballistic Missile Facilities Engineer for USAF Space Command at Peterson AFB, Colorado Springs, Colorado. He is a direct descendant of General Andrew Pickens' brother, Captain Joseph William Pickens. An experienced historian of part Cherokee ancestry, he lives in Hebo, Oregon.

Kettle Creek Battlefield Association given historic Kurtz drawing of battle scene

A significant gift was presented to the Kettle Creek Battlefield Association (KCBA) in support of its efforts to preserve and promote the site's historic value. It will be displayed along with related memorabilia in the Washington Historical Museum while it is on loan to the city.

Wilbur Kurtz III, grandson of its creator and Assistant District Governor of Rotary District 6910, presented the original pen and ink drawing to Joe Harris, KCBA chairman,

at the end of a program in which he described his grandfather as a "Yankee" but "an artist first and a historian second." The 1935 drawing depicts "Colonel Andrew Pickens and the mortally wounded Tory Colonel Boyd on the battlefield of Kettle Creek, February 14, 1779," as described in the artist's own hand at the bottom of the drawing.

"Its historic value means a lot to us," Harris commented on accepting the gift. "It is really a treasure from several standpoints and it will greatly enhance all our efforts." Washington City Councilman Henry Harris was on hand representing the city and the museum.

Bill Kurtz (right) presents an original pen and ink drawing by his grandfather to Joe Harris representing the Kettle Creek Battlefield Association. Washington City Councilman Henry Harris (left) will see that the art is properly displayed while on loan to the Washington Historical Museum.

"Thousands died defending freedom in this country and that needs to be preserved," Kurtz said concerning the drawing and the many others created by his grandfather. Those drawings and paintings are now hung in private collections and many public buildings including the Bank of Reserve and the Bank of America.

Kurtz told the Rotary Club several stories about the elder Kurtz, who he said was "very careful about history in his art." He noted his close friendship with *Gone With The Wind* author Margaret Mitchell and how she had asked him to check her chapter on the Battle of Atlanta for accuracy. Later, when she declined to supervise the historical aspect of filming for David O. Selznick, she recommended Kurtz for the job. Two of the challenges Kurtz faced in Hollywood involved making the sets in California look like Civil War-era Georgia. "People out there had never seen Georgia red clay," Kurtz said, "so my grandfather had to come up with a way to make them understand." He said that a friend in Atlanta actually went to a mound of exposed red clay, took a shovel full, and shipped it to Kurtz in a candy tin.

Later, back in Atlanta, Kurtz was attempting to insure the accuracy of prop reproduction when he climbed a ladder to measure a lamppost. When approached by the police, he tried to explain but they didn't believe him. Fortunately, he was allowed to leave and no charges were filed.

This article appeared in the February edition of The News - Reporter, Washington, GA

Biography of Wilbur George Kurtz

By Charlotte Hale Smith



Wilbur George Kurtz, who became known nationally as a Georgia artist-historian and a foremost authority on the Old South, humorously counted himself a “transplanted Yankee.”

Born February 28, 1882 in Oakland, Illinois, reared in Greencastle, Indiana, educated at DePauw University and the Art Institute of Chicago, Mr. Kurtz' origins and upbringing were Midwestern. As a young artist in Chicago he worked as a draftsman, engraver, professional illustrator, and specialized in architectural rendering.

He first saw Atlanta in 1903, when he journeyed South to interview Andrews Raid participants. The “quiet, pleasant town, full of churches, where they rolled up the sidewalks at dark every night”, captivated him. He moved to Atlanta in 1912. His home was “right next to a Civil War battlefield”, and he embarked on an amazing lifelong quest for history, within a region rich with unrecorded history.

His adventures with pen, paintbrush, and sketchbook spanned the 55 years he lived in Atlanta, and earned for Wilbur Kurtz a unique place among artists, historians, and the respect and affections of fellow Georgians. Many public buildings and private art collections throughout Atlanta and the South feature Kurtz murals and historical paintings.

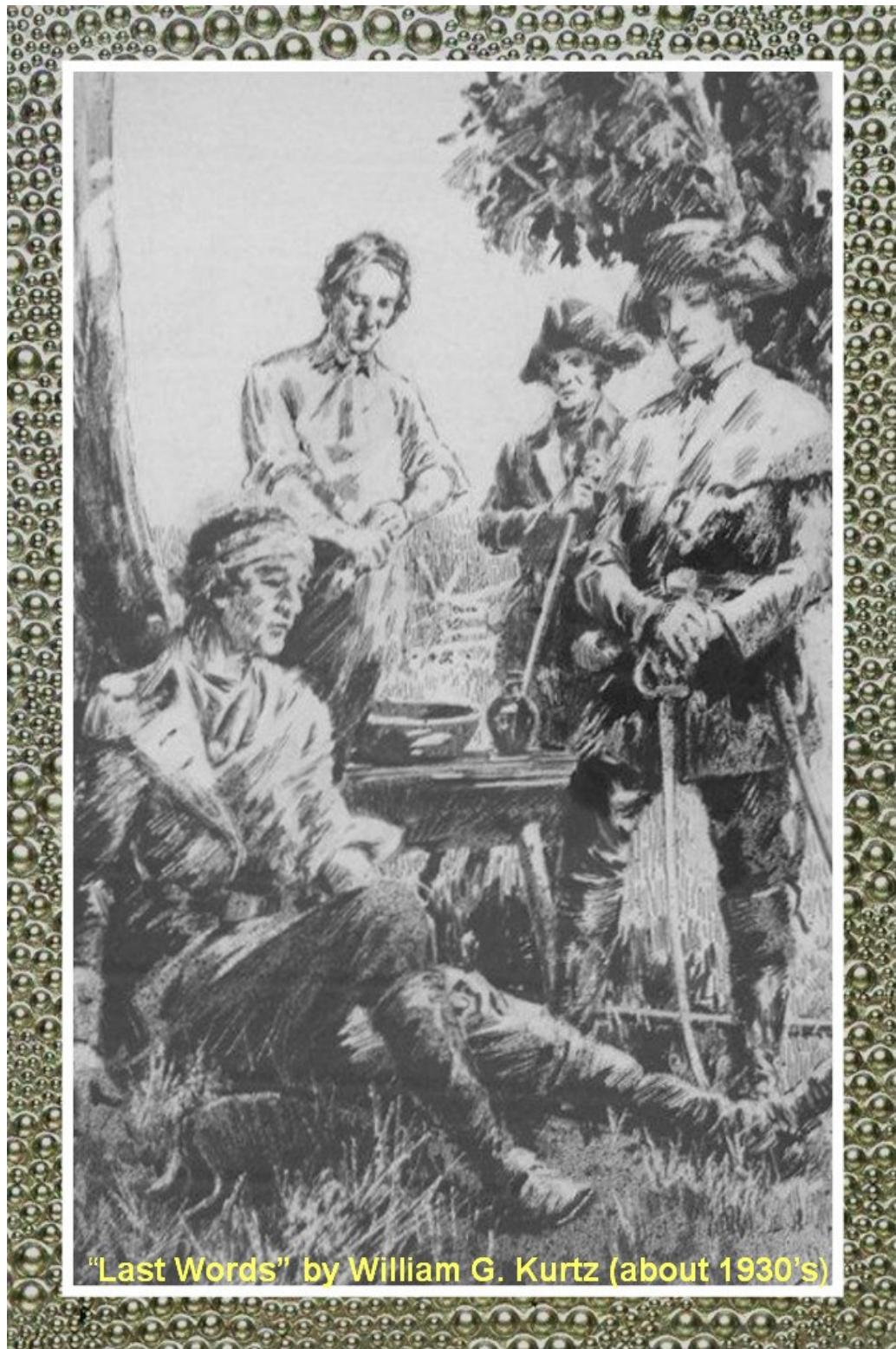
Mr. Kurtz became technical advisor for three notable Hollywood motion pictures which treated Georgia themes: *Gone With The Wind* (1939); *Song of the South* (1946); and Walt Disney's *The Great Locomotive Chase* (1957).

In 1911 Wilbur G. Kurtz married Miss Annie Laurie Fuller, daughter of Captain William Allen Fuller of Atlanta. Captain Fuller was conductor on the train pulled by the locomotive General when it was captured by a band of Union soldiers dressed as civilians on the morning of April 12, 1862 from Big Shanty (Kennesaw), Georgia. The incident is known to history as the Andrews' Raid or the Great Locomotive Chase.

After 35 years of marriage and five children, Annie Laurie died in 1946. In 1949 Mr. Kurtz married Miss Annie Rachel Pye, daughter of Joseph Christopher Pye of Woodland, Georgia.

Last Words

By William G. Kurtz



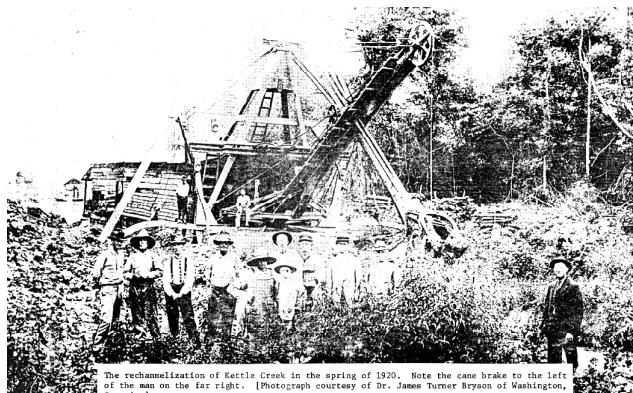
"Last Words" by William G. Kurtz (about 1930's)

KETTLE CREEK, GEORGIA: THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR BATTLE OF THE CANEBRAKES

by Robert Scott Davis



Left: Bear hunt in a canebrake. (Harper's Weekly, October 22, 1870). Right: The Kettle Creek canebrake during the creek's rechanneling in the summer of 1920. (The Author)



On February 14, 1779, the most famous Revolutionary War battle in Georgia took place. Near what became the town of Washington a year later, almost 1,000 Americans decided for

themselves individually how they would stand in that conflict. A mysterious man named James or John Boyd had led 600 to 800 Loyalists (also called Tories or Scopholites) on horseback from the North and South Carolina border in a hurried and desperate effort to reach the British army then in Augusta, Georgia. Some of his following came to join the King's army or to receive its protection as ethnic minorities oppressed by their native born American neighbors, while others traveled along only from threats and intimidation. Along their route, with drums beating, fifes playing, and flags waving, they stole horses and burned forts. On that Sunday morning of February 14, however, the some 600 men who still followed Boyd after a battle in cane choked Van's Creek, Georgia, a few days earlier, were thoroughly defeated and Boyd killed in an attack by 200 South Carolina militiamen under Colonel Andrew Pickens and the 140 Wilkes County Georgia militia under Colonel John Dooly and Lieutenant Colonel Elijah Clarke. Amidst a long string of disasters for the Patriot cause, Kettle Creek would be remembered as a populist defining moment that America's war for independence would not be lost in the South.

One aspect of the battle went more appreciated in 1779 than in recent times, the connection to canebrakes. Kettle Creek likely drew its name from a fish trap (a "kittle" or "kiddle") set by Native Americans in years past among its American cane. James Hammett had a farm there that likely took advantage of the cane to feed and fence his cattle for nothing. The battle would not have occurred had Boyd not stopped there to butcher one of the cows for his hungry men. He died successfully launching an ambush at the farm against Andrew Pickens, who happened to be a relation.

The wild American cane in question forms long thin stalks with few and scattered leaves. It can choke flowing streams and the canebrakes in Kettle Creek would disappear with the new

channel dug to reduce its flooding in 1920. These stalks, however, can reach heights of thirty or more feet to form almost impenetrable walls of cane. Found from Canada to Florida, this plant became parts of many battles of the Revolution from the fight in the Great Canebrake to the battlefield of Cowpens, where the National Park Service is today working to restore a canebrake.

At Kettle Creek on February 14, 1779, it determined the battle. Pickens had ordered Dooly and Clarke to pass around the Hammett farm to cross the flooded creek and cut off the Loyalists. John Dooly's 100 horsemen could not get through the canebrakes but instead came up behind Boyd, mortally wounding the Loyalist leader and defeating his men from the rear. Elijah Clarke, with forty horsemen, found the trail across the creek. They rode over today's War Hill, only to find that most of Boyd's following had earlier squeezed through the canebrakes and camped on the west side of the creek. Led by Major John Spurgeon of South Carolina, hundreds of these Loyalists now proceeded back across the creek to come to Boyd's aid. Clarke led a charge into that cane choked swamp only to have his horse shot out from under him. He and his men pressed on into a hail of bullets, some of which have recently been found by archaeologist Dan Elliott of the Lamar Institute.

Spurgeon and his men found themselves in a bottle neck caused by the canebrakes. Although they surely outnumbered Clarke's men, the Loyalists could only emerge from the swamp a few men at a time, where they easily fell victim to the marksmanship of the Wilkes County militiamen. At length, Spurgeon and the some 270 men still with him withdrew to the nearby town of Wrightsborough. Clarke chose not to cross the creek and place his men in the same trap but in reverse.

Andrew Pickens in 1811 wrote his detailed account of the battle and he stressed the cane that choked the creek. Historian Hugh McCall may have been in the battle or heard the details

from Andrew Pickens, or most likely, from his old friend Elijah Clarke. He too mentioned the cane and the role it played in the battle in his 1816 history of the American Revolution in Georgia. In 1894, a retelling of that account in the *Carolina Spartan*, a newspaper published in Spartanburg near where Boyd began his march to Georgia, rightly entitled an article about the 1779 fight at Kettle Creek as “The Battle of the Canebrakes.”

Descendants of Elijah Clarke, Andrew Pickens, and many of the soldiers there that day have intermarried, giving Kettle Creek a sort of genealogy. Along the now dry original creek bed, however, today’s visitor to the battlefield can see small descendants of a major participant in those events—examples of American cane!

For more on the Battle of Kettle Creek see Daniel T. Elliott, *Stirring up a Hornet’s Nest: The Kettle Creek Battlefield Survey Lamar Institute Publications Series Report Number 131* (Savannah: The Lamar Institute, 2008). Online: http://www.thelamarinstitute.org/images/PDFs/publication_131.pdf

Progress at the Battlefield Site Cliff Hargrove



On a brisk January 19, Allen Burton, Joe Harris and Cliff Hargrove completed installation of a distribution box station for brochures on War Hill. This was a real down-home project with Wilkes County men

digging the hole in a very solid and rocky soil base, and Tom Owen providing the post. David Chesnut and Larry Wilson paid for the box. There is probably no greater demonstration of the Washington-Wilkes SAR Chapter membership, the Kettle Creek Battlefield Association Board, and Wilkes County working together -- a true microcosm of dedication to the cause of ingenuity and freedom.

No sooner was the box filled with descriptive brochures on a Saturday morning than there appeared two out-of-state visitors. Lucky for them, historian Allen Burton was on hand to provide one of the best small classroom descriptions of the site, the battle, and its significance. Burton has agreed to be on call for the local chamber of commerce and tourism office when visitors ask for this kind of hospitality.

How do you Become a Kettle Creek Battlefield Patriot ?

Bringing History Into Life...

Application For Membership

Yes, I/We would like to join Kettle Creek Battlefield Association, Inc.
Enroll me/us as a member at the indicated level.

Levels of Membership

Charter Member \$50 (offer valid through February 2013)

The membership levels below will apply once the Charter membership expires February 2013.
Patriot Member Annual Dues (Student) \$10, (Adult) \$25, (Family) \$50

Membership level contributions are always welcome.

Col. Andrew Pickens Member \$500

Col. Elijah Clarke Member \$2500 President George Washington Member \$5000

Col. John Dooly Member \$1000 Kettle Creek Battlefield Legacy Member \$25,000

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (H)/(C) _____ (W) _____

E-mail _____

Method of Payment

Mails your check payable to Kettle Creek Battlefield Association, Inc.

Mail Membership Application To:

Kettle Creek Battlefield Association, Inc.
PO Box 729
Washington, Georgia 30673



Battlefield Tours

Would you like to learn more about the American Revolution and the defeat of Col. Boyd at the hands of patriot militia leaders Gen. Pickens, Col. Clarke and Col. Dooly? This patriot victory on February 14, 1779, helped the colonies to gain their Independence and it occurred HERE in Wilkes County, Georgia!

Walk where they fought and learn to appreciate the price of freedom.

Would your group like to have a free guided tour of the Kettle Creek Battlefield?

We can arrange it!

For more information contact:

Erin Pollock
Tourism Director
20 West Square
P. O. Box 661
Washington, GA 30673
tourismdirector@washingtonwilkes.org



Have you written an article that may be of interest to our readers?

Please email your article to
wcpatriot@bellsouth.net