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

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## Weekend Revolutionary Days sees largest crowds in history

By KIP BURKE



Southeastern Militia re-enactors fire a musket salute at the Black Revolutionary Patriot monument on The Square in honor of Austin Dabney and other Revolutionary War soldiers. The weekend's observance of Revolutionary Days in Washington Wilkes was a great success, with hundreds of visitors and local people attending and participating, SAR leaders say.

"I've received many positive comments regarding the event," said Thomas Owen, Chairman of the Historic Sites and Celebration Committee of the Georgia State Society SAR. "My group outdid

themselves and by all estimates from the SAR and the DAR, this was the largest crowd participation in the 16 years we have delivered Revolutionary Days in Washington."

Crowds filled The Square Saturday morning to watch and participate in the annual parade and battle re-enactment, and to talk with historic re-enactors. "We had a fantastic representation of militia and continental actors from Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Florida, and Georgia," Owen said. "I had circulated an invitation to the event all over the southeastern U.S. via our state SAR connections and it served well."



Children enjoyed re-enactors including Roy Collier, a Creek-Iroquois native who described the roles played by Native Americans in the Revolution. In another first, cos-

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tumed militiamen presented arms and fired a musket salute at the Black Revolutionary Patriot monument on The Square to honor Austin Dabney and other veterans of the Revolution.

More than ever, children dressed up and marched in the parade and took part in the battle re-enactment, he said. "Everyone was very impressed with the children of Washington-Wilkes," Owen said. "I wish I had a picture of all those who stood and saluted the raising of the Revolutionary colors on the courthouse flag pole at 9 a.m., and again the replacement of the colors at 12:30 p.m. when we put the National Banner back up. Everyone was impressed as both times the militia presented arms and fired muskets making the children very excited."



A packed house enjoyed musical performances by actors and puppets during Saturday's Washington Little Theater performance of "The American Revolution: 1763-1789." For the first time, the Washington Wilkes Comprehensive High School Tiger Marching Band marched in the parade, playing "Yankee Doodle," Owen said. "It was not only an exciting addition to the event, they were all having fun and enjoying the parade. Band Director Emme Hines and the high school students were just amazing."

Record numbers visited the displays around The Square, he said. "Our count for the Living History center in the old sandwich shop to see the exhibits and

presentations also reached a new attendance level with over 400 visitors in less than three hours. Educational book sales were the highest ever and demonstrations wore out our presenters, and that was a good thing."

A packed house of children and adults also enjoyed musical performances by kids and puppets as the Washington Little Theater performed "The American Revolution: 1763-1789" Saturday afternoon in the Retro Event Center on Spring Street.

Well-attended, too, were the detailed historical tours on Friday and Saturday at War Hill with historian Steven J. Rauch and Allen Burton. "The tours drew many out-of-state visitors and local residents," Owen said. "The tours also had the largest visitor turnout we have had."

## Kettle Creek Celebration Pictures

### *Friday Night Banquet*



*Master of Ceremonies  
William DeGolian  
calls the meeting to  
order.*

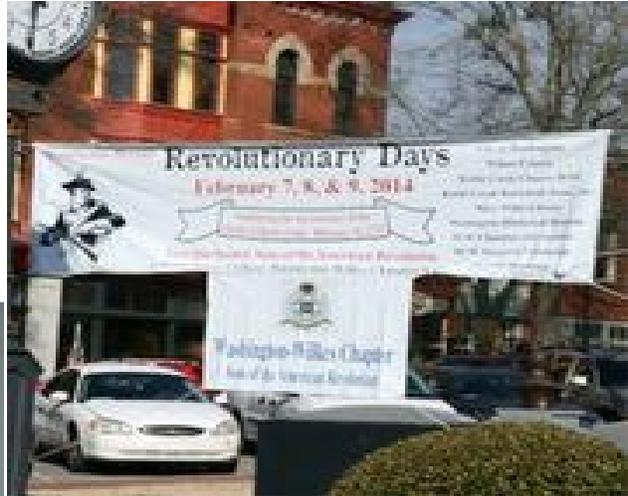
*KCBA President  
Walker Chewning  
Welcomes Guest*



**Saturday  
Living history, parade and Celebration**



*GASSAR President brings greeting*



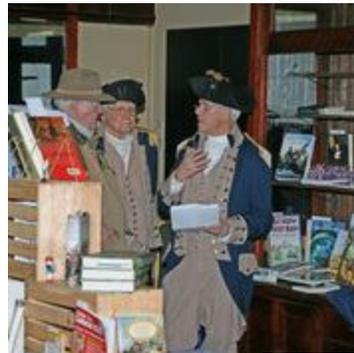
*Mr. Steven Rauch, Historian, U. S. Army Signal Corps, introduces the speaker for the evening*



*Allen Howard Society, C.A.R. members conduct canon firing demonstration for visitors.*



*Charles B. Baxley entertained the guest with a presentation on "The Revolution Comes to the Ceded Lands, Wilkes county and its Birth Under fire"*



*Terry Manning sells books at the Colonial Bookstore*

*Tom Owen makes presentation of ink prints "The Last Word", By Wilbur Kurtz to KCBA Life Members*



*A review of the troops is conducted by the SAR Color Guard Commander Mike Tomme*





*Don't fire until you see the whites of their eyes.*



*Bystanders were entertained by the High School band colorful flag corps.*

*Fife and drums lead the Parade*



*The Greene County High School Junior ROTC Honor Guard was participated in the parade ant War Hill Ceremony*



*Dignitaries rode in the covered wagon pulled by an unknown number of horses.*



*Colonial ladies were out for a shopping spree.*

*Washington & Wilkes Comprehensive High School Tiger Color guard was impressive*



*Old and young alike discussed the events of the Kettle Creek Battle*





*The Elijah Clarke Militia prepares for battle*



*Trying on new hats is always fun.*

*The first shots are fired.*



*Colonial spinning demonstration*



*Col Boyd and his Tory sympathizers fought valiantly but to no avail.*



*Musical entertainment was provided by the dulcimer*

*The final surrender and the last HAZAAH*



*A fur trader was demonstrating item of clothing*



*Col Boyd and his Indian companion.*



*Everyone gathered at War Hill for the wreath laying Ceremony*



*KCBA President Walker Chewning honors the patriots of the Battle of Kettle Creek*



*Elijah Clarke Militia salute in honor of the patriots.*



*GASSAR President Roger Coursey welcomes the guest*

## **Sunday Elijah Clarke Wreathing Laying Ceremony**

*Wilkes County Commission Chairman Sam Moore speaks on the county commitment to preserving the Kettle Creek Battlefield*



*The Georgia Society color Guard stands proud during the Pledge of Allegiance during the Ceremony opening*



*GASSAR President Roger Coursey salutes the heroes of the Battle of Kettle Creek*

*NASSAR Secretary General Lindsey Brock brings greeting after being introduced by Master of Ceremonies Charlie Newcomer*





*Dr Sam Powell of North Carolina SAR Foundation, Inc presents honors to the American Patriot Elijah Clarke.*

## **Wilkes County Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year**

It's hard to keep a secret in a small town, but once again, individuals and business owners and leaders were caught completely by surprise as they were honored by the members of the Washington-Wilkes Chamber of Commerce.

At its annual dinner, the directors and members of the chamber honored Joe Harris , chairman of the Board of the Kettle Creek Battlefield Association ,who has long worked to make Wilkes County a better place to live.

The honoree was speechless with surprise, and accepted the award with tears of joy as the crowd stood and applauded.

*Walker Chewning Jr. past President of the Allen Howard Society CAR pays his respect to Revolutionary War Patriot Elijah Clarke.*



Introducing the chamber members' choice for Citizen of the Year, board member Margie Burke listed his accomplishments: "The Chamber's choice as Washington-Wilkes Citizen of the Year has earned this honor by completely re-defining what one person can do in their retirement years," she said. "He has led an organization dedicated to meeting the intellectual, cultural, and social interests of retirees in Washington-Wilkes. Most recently, he has spearheaded an enormous effort to help ensure the preservation and development of the Kettle Creek Revolutionary War battlefield site for future generations. Our Citizen of the Year is Dr. Joseph Harris."

"In voting for me," Harris said, "you must have felt some hopes for the Kettle Creek project, and I thank you for those hopes. There's a long road ahead of us, and we need a lot of help, and you may get called on, so be ready."



*The Elijah Clarke fires a final three musket salute .*

This years celebration of the Battle of Kettle Creek was very successful Both visitors and participants alike learned more about colonial life and American History . Everyone is looking forward to next years celebration and the continued development of the Kettle Creek Battlefield .

## Visitors make \$5,000 contribution to the Kettle Creek Battlefield



A Chinese Malaysian family, on a recent visit to Washington, hiked around War Hill of the Kettle Creek Battlefield site. Impressed by the history of the site and local efforts for development, the family contributed \$5,000 “for whatever use is needed”, said Boon Thiam Ng. As guests of the Dot and Joe Harris family, they made two hiking tours around War Hill. The site was somewhat reminiscent of mountainous terrain of their home country and the hills of Kuala Lumpur.

The family has made a number of trips to Washington in winter, returning home before the Chinese New Year in January. There is no winter in Malaysia where fresh produce, fruits and flowers are available year-round and it produces more rubber, palm oil and tin than any other country in the world.

The \$5,000 donation qualifies for the George Washington level of membership in the battlefield association. There are only four other memberships at this level. The family was impressed with local efforts to give proper recognition to the Patriots who fought for the cause of liberty. They had come to Washington after a few days of snowmobiling at Jackson Hole where Boon had noticed the Rockefeller donation of land to Yellowstone National Park. In a memorial recognition of this contri-

bution, and that of others in park records, Boon noticed several Chinese names on the list of benefactors. “This is not unusual”, he said, “many nationalities around the world appreciate what Americans have done to support freedoms of others”. Boon’s company, Biomed Diagnostics has offices in Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.

Karen and Boon were “foster” students of Dot and Joe Harris when Joe was Professor of Biology at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Both students came from Malaysia. Faculty members were invited to serve as host families for foreign students. Boon and Karen were married as seniors at the University with Dot and Joe as witnesses in the ceremony. They now have three sons, one of whom graduated from Singapore University and works in business, a second is completing an engineering degree in London with hopes of coming to Georgia Tech for a master’s degree. The youngest is entering college at home. In addition to Yellowstone, the family visited San Francisco, Chicago and friends in Tampa before returning Home.



## Dwight G. Harley Matching Fund

Dwight Harley of Lincoln County recently challenged the Kettle Creek Battlefield Association with a second donation. A \$5,000 gift in December was immediately matched. A few weeks later he offered \$8,500 in Plum Creek Timberlands stock if that can be matched. A \$2,000 contribution came right away from a George Washington member. Harley has a family background which drives his support for such charitable endeavors. But his military history, in particular, covers an interesting piece of American history and shapes his world view.

Family military involvement spans generations. However, when he was drafted into service, all he really wanted to do was fly. He was born on the 400-acre Hancock County farm of his grandfather, a WWI veteran. With families of two brothers in the home of his grandfather, and six growing boys, it took about twenty hogs per year just for meat. It was a tough life. The depression wasn't over but tougher times had been known. Grandmother Harley was the only surviving child of Gen. William Tatum Woffard, CSA. After his grandfather built a school for both boys and girls in Cassville, Sherman burned them down. His paternal great grandfather also fought for the Confederacy. Harley, himself, connects through more than twenty family lines back to Patriots of the Revolution though he uses the lineage of his mother for his SAR membership.

While in college, Harley got his draft notice in April, 1951 to serve in the Korean War and took three weeks of basic training in San Antonio, finishing up in Wichita, Kansas. A winter transfer to technical school in Cheyenne, Wyoming followed, then to Le Havre, Munich, and Rein-Main AFB in Frankfurt, the transportation hub of Germany.

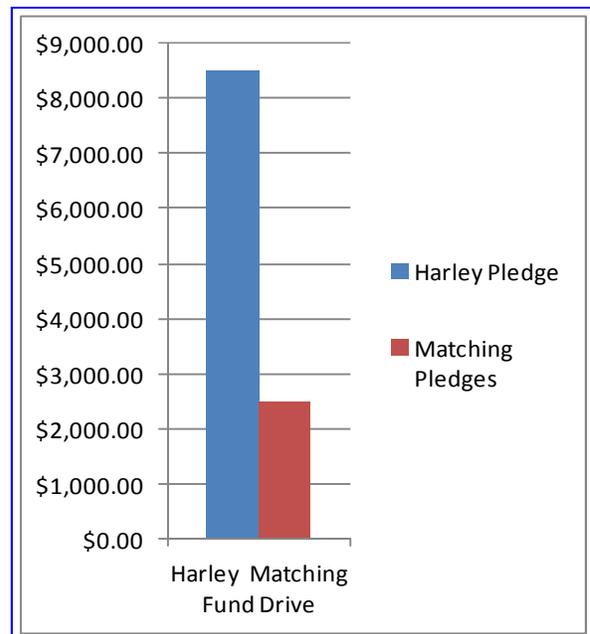
In 1953 he was transferred to Norway with the first Americans stationed there, in an

auxiliary recovery base to serve airmen on Russian spy mission trips if emergency landing was needed - a top secret assignment at the time, with minimal military living accommodations. After the Cold War, it was back to the states, first serving at Tinker AFB in Oklahoma with a computer programming assignment school where the first military internet program was built. From Oklahoma, it was to the Pentagon, underground, where he was trained for 72-hour emergency conditions with no off-duty time. In all, he served at seven locations in the continental United States and in eleven foreign countries including Hawaii, the Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam and Taiwan.

He finally got a pilot's license in 1967.

Harley was married an English girl. They had two sons one of whom is a National Guard medical officer in Brookings South Dakota, another 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

### Dwight G. Harley \$8,500 Matching Fund Drive



## KCBA Membership Renewals Due April 15

As the Association seeks membership renewals, KCBA is pleased with work completed and in progress. As we look ahead, we want your review and your suggestions.

### Progress in 2103

Raised \$122,000,

Purchased 60+ core acres north of, and adjacent to, 14 preserved acres

Secured \$85,000 DOT grant for

Hard surfacing War Hill Road,

Improving road access to settlement hill,

Clearing for War Hill walking trail,

Installing foot bridge connecting War Hill and settlement hill,

Parking lot.

Scheduled field trip for Georgia Botanical Society.

Completed Strategic Planning program using the UGA Carl Vinson Institute of Government faculty.

Established working relationship with tourism and economic development offices for Wilkes County.

### Plans for 2014

Confer with Plum Creek Timberlands on cooperative projects of mutual interest.

Seek funding for additional core battlefield land purchases.

Seek funding for conceptual plans for

Explanatory signage,

Restrooms,

Bike trails.

Seek funding for demonstration forest and recreational use.

Seek funding development of lesson plans for K-12 public school use,

Seek National Historic Landmark status.

**Membership Renewal Policy** was reaffirmed at the March Board meeting as follows:

1. The yearly renewal date is April 15 standardizes the renewal date for all members.
2. The policy provided that all members with membership dates between October 2013 and April 2014, would not have to renew their membership until April 2015. This would allow recently established memberships not be penalized for immediately having to meet the renewal guideline.

The April 15 date was also selected so that members would also be able to consider the KCBA for possible donation when members are preparing their yearly Federal income taxes. These additional donations would benefit from the Dwight Harley Matching Fund Drive.

*The KCBA is a 501(c)3 Tax Exempt Organization.  
Your donation is tax deductible.*

*The Kettle Creek Battlefield Association, Inc*  
*2014 - 2015*

# April Membership Renewal

## Membership Levels

### Patriot Membership (April 15 is Annual membership renewal Date)

- Student: \$10.00
- 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

*Donations can be made separately or along with the membership renewal*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

### Method of Payment

Make your check payable to Kettle Creek Battlefield Association, Inc

Mail Payment to :  
Kettle Creek Battlefield Association, Inc.  
P. O. Box 729  
Washington, GA 30673

*The KCBA is a 501(c)(3) Tax Exempt Organization.  
Your donation is tax deductible.*

*Thank you for your support.*