



# Atlanta Tidbits Ledger

Atlanta Chapter  
Sons of the American Revolution  
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Editor: Barrett Hanson  
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## Next Meeting Thursday April 13<sup>th</sup> @ 12:00PM

**At the Petite Violette Restaurant, 2948 Clairmont Rd, Atlanta, GA 30329**

**Program speaker: Carter Wood - “Secret Meanings of Common Nursery Rhymes”**

Regular meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month except in February when we meet on the Saturday closest to George Washington’s Birthday, and in July and August when we do not schedule a regular meeting. Remember those soda can tabs, Labels for Education, and Box Tops for Education for donation to the Children of the American Revolution; magazines and toiletries for veterans at the VA Hospital; paperback books for the USO;

**Non-members:** You're welcome to attend our monthly meetings scheduled the 2nd Thursday of the month with the above mentioned exceptions. The cost of the lunch is \$30.00 per person.



## March Speaker John Titus



Atlanta Chapter member John Titus addressed the luncheon with his presentation: “*George Washington: The Final Years*”. Compatriot Titus also serves as our local Chaplain.

Our nation's first president did not spend his final years in a quiet and relaxed retirement. Compatriot Titus shared with us the busy activity of Washington during his latter days at Mount Vernon which focused on making his plantation productive, getting his affairs in order, and grappling with a moral question which had nagged him for years. In addition to the Mount Vernon estate, he was responsible for the affiliated farm houses with their stock of horses, mules, sheep, and about 300 slaves. Each day Washington would mount his horse and ride to parts of his property to survey the state or condition. This would often be an all-day affair. When he returned home, however, a quiet and tranquil environment was usually not awaiting him.



According to Compatriot Titus, during Washington's final years of retirement, he was oftentimes deluged with a constant flow of visitors who simply wanted to meet our nation's first president. Many were complete strangers who would just show up, sometimes with a letter of introduction from a mutual friend. Although this was becoming a tiring affair to both Martha and George, the former president did remain accessible to the American people up until his death.

During the early hours of December 14, George Washington woke up Martha complaining of a sore throat and breathing problems. She sent for the family doctor of many years to come and provide treatment. The former president was bled - which was the common treatment at the time - that probably did more harm than good. During the course of the day, two more physicians were called to assist. They bled him multiple times, giving him herbal teas, and an enema. None of these “cures” proved to be effective.

George Washington, the man known as “the father of our country” died between 10 and 11 pm that evening at the age of 67 years old.

During his last year Washington was faced with a moral dilemma - that of slavery. There were 317 enslaved people at Mount Vernon with Washington personally owning 123. The majority of which, however, were the “property” of Martha, from her marriage to Daniel Curtis. In the end, only one of Washington’s enslaved persons was freed immediately at his death. William Lee, a Revolutionary War veteran and trusted manservant of the former president. The widow Martha Washington would later free the remainder of her husband enslaved people about a year later, per her husband’s wishes.



*John Trumbull painting of George Washington, c.1780 with valet William (Billy) Lee in stylized dress. Courtesy The Metropolitan Museum of Art.*

Compatriot Titus concluded his presentation with a eulogy commissioned by the Sixth Congress following Washington’s death, which remembers the nation’s founding father as, “**First is war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen.**” (A familiar quote which many Compatriots have committed to memory!).

# New Members Inducted



The Atlanta Chapter was honored to induct the newest members for 2023 at our March meeting. Compatriot Mathew A. Pinson (center) is the descendant of Patriot Alexander McAllister, who assisted in establishing American Independence by acting in the capacity of Colonel in North Carolina, Lt.Colonel in the Cumberland County Militia; member of Committee of Safety and the Provincial Congress.



Compatriot John F. Rozzo (right) is the descendent of Patriot Francis Baker who assisted in establishing American Independence while acting in the capacity of Private in the state of Massachusetts.



Compatriots Pinson and Rozzo extended a hearty welcome by the Atlanta Chapter and proudly displayed their NSSAR Membership Certificates.

# Chapter Photos



Two of our lucky raffle winners! Kathryn G. Anderson - DAR Kettle Creek Chapter (wife of Compatriot Edward M. Anderson) and newly inducted Compatriot Mathew Pinson. Shown in the background is our Sergeant at Arms - and winning lottery picker! - Compatriot Benjamin Jetter.





# JROTC Bronze Medal Awards



The Atlanta Chapter is a proud supporter of the JROTC program of select Atlanta and Dekalb County public High Schools. Recognizing future leaders of our armed forces who stand out in their service continues the tradition of honoring the Patriots who served and granted us freedom.

We are currently in need of Compatriots to volunteer approximately one hour of their time to attend an Awards Day Ceremony to present the SAR Bronze Medal Award and Certificate to the selected cadet. *(If you would like to say a few words of encouragement, fine. If not, no problem. Just take advantage of the photo opportunity which the school will request).*



Please see our newly appointed JROTC Committee Chair Compatriot John Rozzo for a list of schools, times and dates of scheduled ceremonies.  
[johnrozzo@gmail.com](mailto:johnrozzo@gmail.com)



# History Making Publication



Congratulations to Atlanta Chapter Dr. David Noble as co-author of the article *Large-Scale Forensic Search for Fallen Soldier Burials from the American Revolutionary War at Kettle Creek Battlefield, Georgia, USA*. The article was published in Forensic Science International, a prestigious flagship journal which publishes the most innovative, cutting-edge, and influential contributions across the forensic sciences. FSI is a Dutch published, English speaking, peer-reviewed academic journal.



The article, published as a report, is of major significance due to its combination of forensic archaeology, the Revolutionary War, the use of cadaver dogs, ground penetrating radar and the science drawn from these applications to write history. Moreover, to have this type of historical archaeology written in such a prestigious scientific journal.

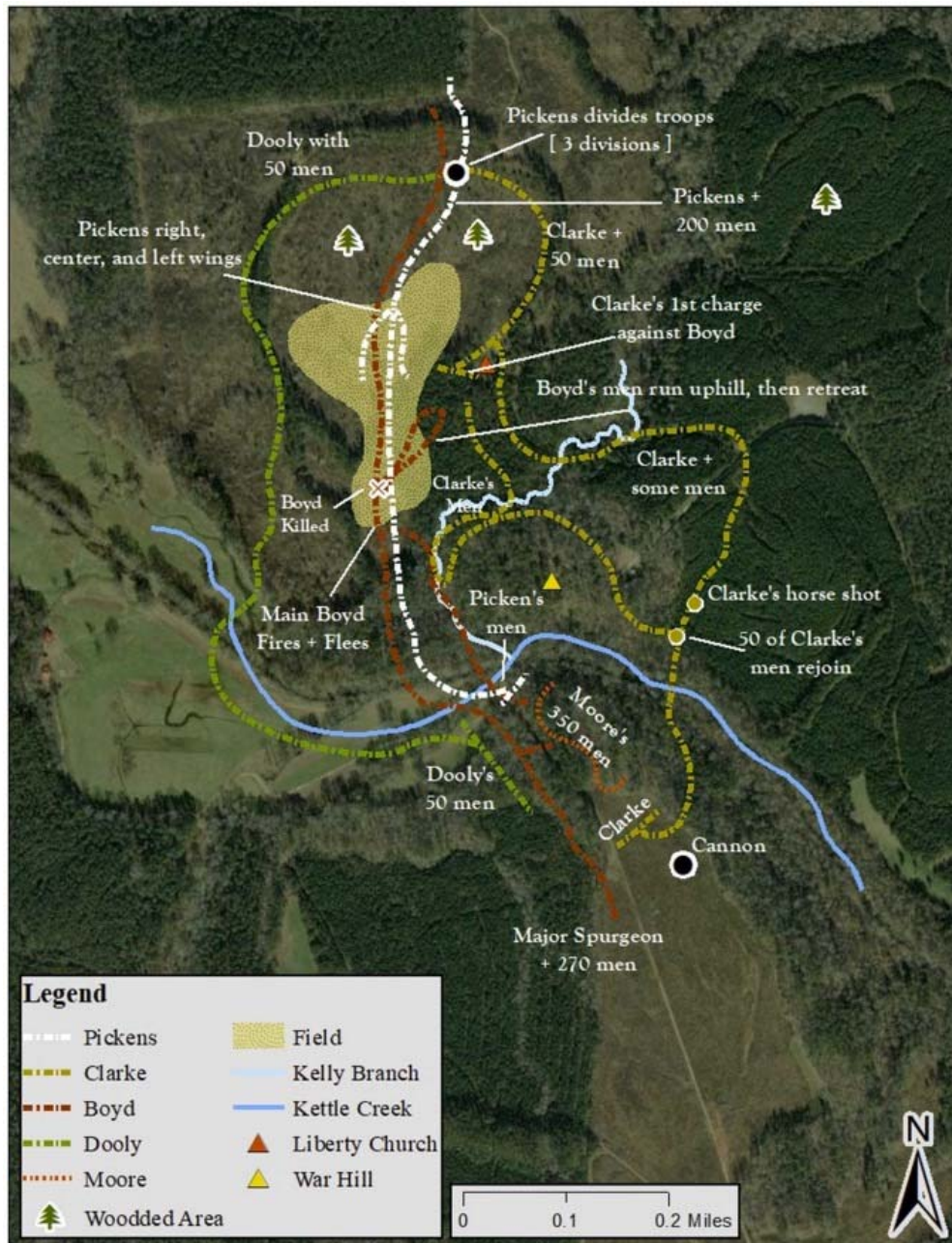
*The HRD (Human Remains Detection) dogs perform their trained indication/alert by sitting, which indicates the dogs' detected human remains scent in a particular area.*



Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) surveying for anomalies was used at the Kettle Creek Battlefield via the 3-wheel push cart because of its rugged construction and oversized wheels. This system facilitated data collection in the project site conditions where the instrument had to be pushed up and down steep slopes in sometimes densely wooded areas. The FSI Report also detailed how archeological excavation and soil testing was done at the 1779 battle site. This

is a body of work which Dr. Noble and co-authors have been working on it since 2015. **Its significance in terms of forensic archaeology and scientific, peer-reviewed recognition, is worthy of national attention! #**

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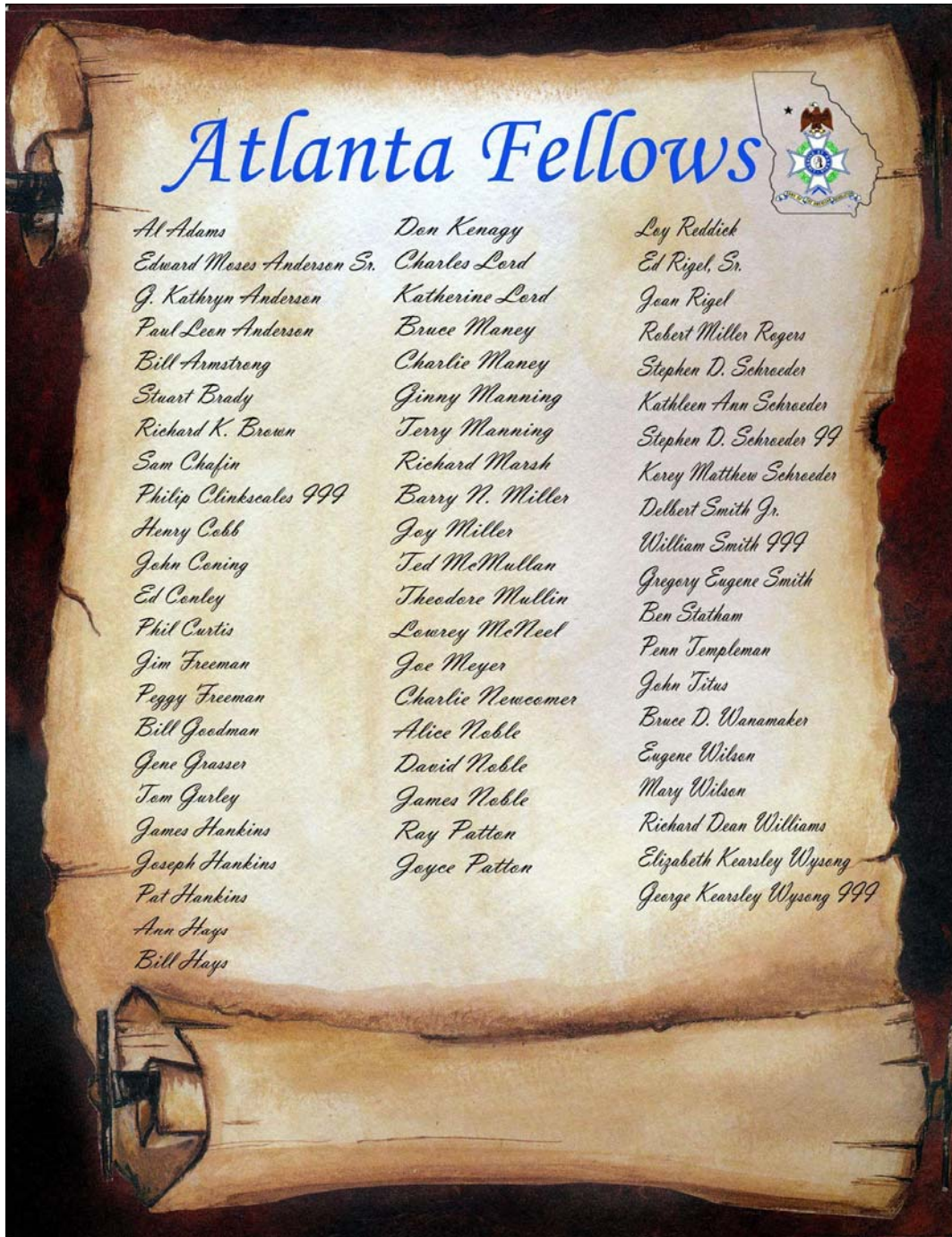
# Slate of Officers 2023 Chapter Officer Directory

Chapter officers to serve February 9, 2023, to February 8, 2024, are as follows:

<b>President</b>	Barrett Hanson
<b>1 st Vice President</b>	open
<b>2 nd Vice President</b>	Charlie Newcomer
<b>Secretary</b>	Al Adams
<b>Treasurer</b>	Richard Marsh
<b>Registrar</b>	Joseph H. Blackmon
<b>Sergeant-At-Arms</b>	Marvin Jetter
<b>Chancellor</b>	Ed Floyd
<b>Chaplain</b>	John Titus
<b>Historian</b>	Jay McLenden
<b>Information Technology</b>	Richard Marsh



# Thank You to Our Atlanta Fellows



The Atlanta Fellows are members, Spouses, businesses, and other organizations that support unbudgeted projects of the Atlanta Chapter with a \$200 donation. Such donations have supported our Sacred Soils Displays, Bushnell Monument dedication, VA Hospital Portico Project, and Flag Receptacle Program. Many thanks go to our Atlanta Fellows whose donations help support our extended outreach programs. Thanks go to our existing Atlanta Fellows who have made additional donations, including donations made by or on behalf of spouses of members of our chapter. Donations toward chapter-sponsored events such as Wreaths across America also credit toward the Atlanta Fellow program. We are also grateful for several members who have started making incremental donations toward becoming Atlanta Fellows. We thank all our Atlanta Fellows for their support and encourage others to join their ranks.

# Veterans Respect Activities

Our chapter began a project in early 2019 to purchase VA Canteen Coupon Books which patients can use in the canteen, coffee shop or cafeteria at the VAH, Decatur. These books will be distributed by the VA Volunteer Service at the hospital. **At each meeting there will be a jar marked "\$ for VA Canteen Coupon Books" to accept donations. Please look for it and contribute a dollar (or more).**

The role of the Veterans Respect Committee is to pursue opportunities to honor and recognize current service members and veterans of past service. A wide range of activities fall under this charge. Some examples are:

- hours served in the VA Hospital (VAH) Volunteer Service,
- visiting a veteran in a VAH, nursing home or private home,
- donating personal care items to a VAH or nursing home serving veterans,
- donating publications to a VAH,
- organizing an outing for one or more veterans,
- participating in a veteran's funeral as a participant, pallbearer, or attendee,
- attendance at Revolutionary War Veteran's Grave Marking,
- participating in placing flags or wreaths on veteran's graves.

**We are aware that many of our Atlanta Chapter members have been involved in such activities, but we do not know the extent. We would like to gather information on such efforts. If you have been involved in any such activities since January 1, 2022, please report the details to our Chaplain John Titus.**



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