



Atlanta Tidbits Ledger

Atlanta Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution
Organized March 15, 1921
Editor: Barrett Hanson

www.saratlanta.org

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Next Meeting Saturday June 10th @ 12:00PM

**At Babinelli's Italian Restaurant, 2039 Crescent Centre Blvd, Tucker, GA
30084**

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.



May Speaker Dr. David Ludley



“We have art in order not to die of the truth.” - Friedrich Nietzsche

The Atlanta Chapter was honored to have the Georgia Society SAR State President, Dr. David Ludley, who addressed the luncheon with his presentation: ***“Colonial Era and Revolutionary War Art”***.

We are often treated with the daring exploits of various military leaders of the Revolutionary War. The battles they fought, the armies they led, and for some, even the grounds on which they died. They are revered, and rightfully so. But how often have we considered the role which art has played in immortalizing some of our historical figures? Just as Paine demonstrated the power of the pen, there were Revolutionary War artists who welded the paintbrush with equal efficacy. And from their canvas emerged captured moments of time which have become lasting images of Americana.

In the photo above Dr. Ludley describes one of the most iconic images of the Revolutionary War.

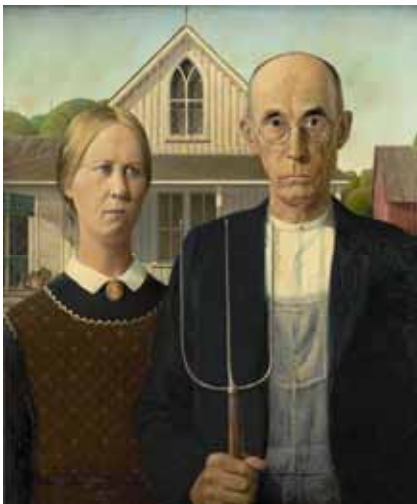
It is a painting of John Trumbull's "*The Death of General Warren at the Battle of Bunker's Hill, June 17, 1775.*" The main focus of the painting is the body of General Warren, wearing white and on the ground. John Small, a British major, is shown preventing a fellow soldier from bayoneting Warren. On the far right is a colonial officer, Thomas Grosvenor with a raised sword in his left hand and a black man holding a musket behind him. (*Some sources identify him as Peter Salem, a freed slave who served in the cause of American Independence. Others identify him as a slave of Grosvenor.*)

Other British soldiers depicted are: Major John Pitcairn, falling back dying in his son's arms; Lieutenant Colonel James Abercrombie, the redcoat soldier lying dead underneath John Small and at General Warren's feet.

Among the Colonists are: General Israel Putnam, a colonial officer on the far left of the painting; and Colonel William Prescott, who allegedly ordered his soldiers not to fire until "*you see the whites of their eyes*".

There are clusters of Patriots and Redcoats in close proximity carrying their respective flags. Boston Harbor is visible in the background. There are pillows of smoke obscuring the sky, rising from Charlestown, which had been torched by the British.

Dr. Ludley pointed out that in this painting, as with many other contemporary "battle scenes," a smoke-filled sky is a standard characteristic.



A slight departure - or perhaps seismic! - from the Colonial Era to American Gothic... Dr. Ludley addressed a widely-held misinterpretation of the iconic 1930 Grant Wood painting of the stern-faced man with the pitchfork and woman. They are standing in front of their rural farmhouse.

But NO, she is not his wife, but his spinster daughter!

Another famous painting, which Dr. Ludley shared with the chapter was, "*Washington Crossing the Delaware.*" At the mention of this event, most Americans picture a heroic George Washington, perfectly poised, and standing in a small boat. That's how this huge painting has been reproduced in history textbooks and hung in American classrooms for the past 160 years.

But is it accurate? Is it really how it happen? Well...yes and no. Many may find it surprising that this American icon was painted by a German painter, Emanuel Leutze who based the river on the Rhine in Germany, where he painted it. Actually, Washington's army crossed the Delaware at night, in large flatboats, during a snowstorm.



The details, it would seem, are more symbolic than historical. Leutze did exercise his artistic license to create a powerful composition. But when we look at the diverse assembly of Washington's boat, we find a frontiersman guiding the boat, another man rowing wears a Scottish hat, the farmer is wearing a wide-brimmed hat. Then there is the hatless figure rowing wearing a man's red shirt, which some historians guess could be that of a woman. And on the far side is an African American man rowing. He could represent one of the Massachusetts seamen who played an important role in ferrying the army back and forth across the river.

Leutze was successful in creating a vision of liberty. In showing how a group of men from diverse backgrounds could unite around a common cause and against overwhelming odds. This is, as Dr. Ludley reminded us, is the essence of **E pluribus unum** - "*Out of many, one.*"



Induction of New Member



The Atlanta Chapter was honored to induct one of its newest members, Compatriot **Theodore Earl Chappell**. Chappell is the descendant of Patriot Robert Chapell who served as a private with service in the state of Virginia. Compatriot Joseph Blackmon, Chapter Registrar and sponsor of Compatriot Chappell, assisted with the induction.



Compatriot Chappell shares with the chapter his genealogical journey which brought him to the SAR.



During the May luncheon, Compatriot Paul Anderson took advantage of the visit by our special guest speaker, Dr. David Ludley prior to his presentation.



Chapter President Barrett Hanson shares with the membership his first personal encounter with State President Ludley. It was during the GASSAR Annual Conference in January. There was an after-hours reception held where the two talked extensively about art. With much of the discussion focusing on the American born artist who gained international fame while living in Paris, Henry Ossawa Tanner.

Congratulations Compatriot Smith



Atlanta Chapter member and Past President Gregory Smith was one of the featured Speakers at the 13 April 2023 **Order of the Crown of Charlemagne** Gala at the Metropolitan Club in DC. He spoke about his Native American & Spanish Genealogy that led to joining the SAR and proving that same line through Juan Montes Vigil to Charlemagne. In late July 2019 he was the first Spanish Royal Gateway Ancestor to be proven & accepted as a Royal Gateway Ancestor for membership into North American lineage Societies.

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Two weeks after the acceptance as a proven Gateway Ancestor, in August 2019 Smith was approved as a life member of the OCC & the first using Juan Montes Vigil as a Gateway Ancestor.



Order of Indian Wars of the United States
Commander Michael Scott Swisher, presents the OIWUS Member Certificate to Gregory Smith on Friday, April 14th in the Taft Dining Room at the University Club, Washington, DC.

OIWUS, founded in 1896, has an amazing certificate made from restored antique engraving plates. Gregory was able to join in May 2021 as a Hereditary Companion as a descendant of Cristóbal Faustín Vejil who was a Leather Jacket soldier of the Santa Fe Presidio during the 1779 Comanche Campaign against Chief Cuerno Verde. Faustin later died in Alburquerque of wounds received in the 1787 Gila Apache Campaign.



Patriot William York Grave Marking



Patriot Captain William York Grave Marking and Dedication ceremonies were held in the Yorkville Cemetery, Rockmart, GA, 20 May 2023.





Compatriot Gregory Smith, who attended the ceremony, also laid a wreath. To the left of Smith is GASSAR Color Guard Commander K. Scott Collins of the Athens Chapter.

Important Scheduling Announcement

In an effort to accommodate the working schedule and other time and day conflicts of many of our members, please note the following: our June meeting will be held on **Saturday, June 10th** at 12:00 noon at [Bambinelli's Italian Restaurant](#) located at 2039 Crescent Centre Blvd Tucker, GA 30084.

This will be the last meeting before our two month summer break in July and August.

We look forward to meeting and greeting you!

In Patriotism.



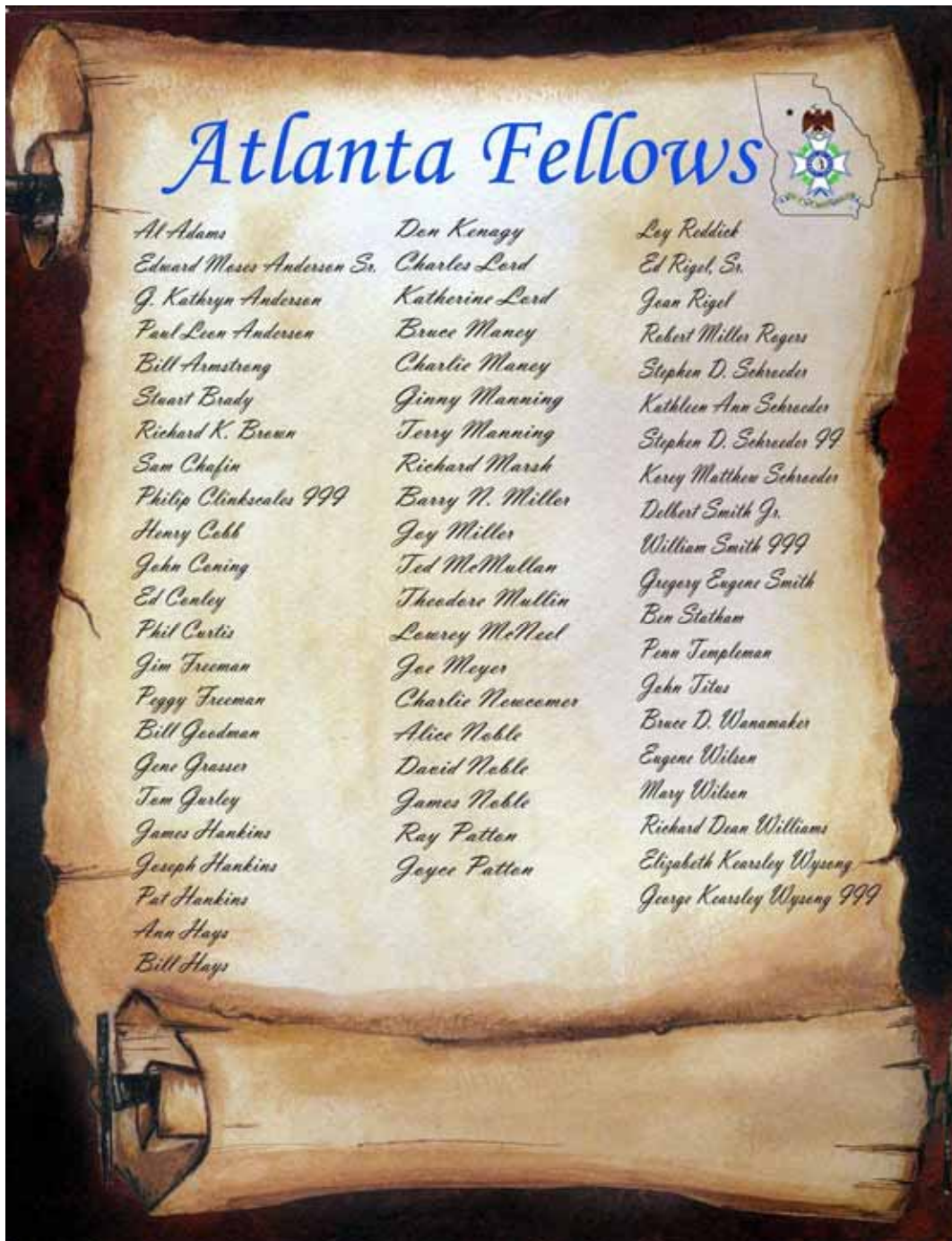
Slate of Officers 2023 Chapter Officer Directory

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

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