



Atlanta Tidbits Ledger

Atlanta Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution
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Editor: Barrett Hanson

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Next Meeting Thursday November 9 @ 12:00PM

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

Program speaker: Dr. David Noble - “Kettle Creek Battlefield”

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.



Guest Speaker Rebecca “Becky” West



A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to **DAR Rebecca West** for her contribution to the Atlanta Chapter Sons of the American Revolution. The certificate was presented by Past President Al Adams, who presided over the meeting.

“The American vocabulary contains a trove of unusual slang,” according to our guest Becky West. During her presentation, she distributed to the membership a handout of “only a small representation of colorful language dating back to America’s Revolutionary War and even to the Colonial period”. She went on to explain, “as one might expect, many of these expressions are from common settings and situations of the day - the barnyard, the village, the woods. Surprisingly, a number of them also began in connection with the world of politics”. Becky

challenged the members to write the meaning of the 15 slang expressions on their handout. Afterwards, she shared with the chapter the origins of these interesting expressions. For example, a sampling of some of America's slang...

“left holding the bag”



This expression may have had its beginnings during the American Revolutionary War. It was first used in print by an American army officer, Maj. Royall Tyler, who participated in the suppression of Shay's Rebellion in 1786. The following year, Maj. Tyler authored the first comedy written and produced in America and in his play one of the characters comments, "General Shay has sneaked off and given us the bag to hold."

Today's usage: The person “left holding the bag” is a scapegoat.

“to go off half-cocked”

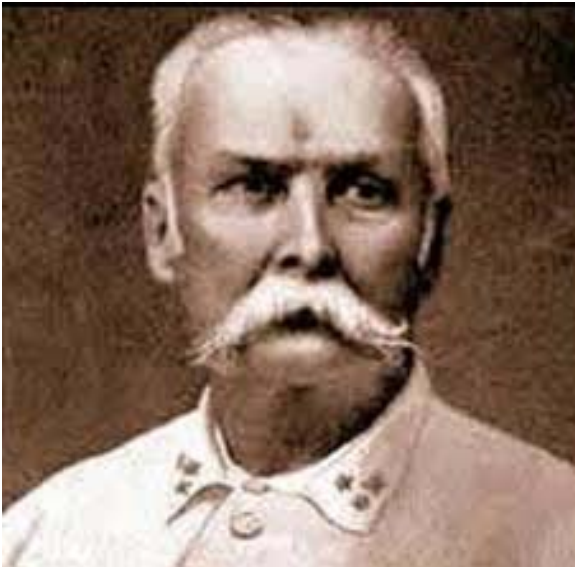


The original reference goes back to the middle of the 18th century and refers to a musket. If the musket's hammer was cocked halfway, it was safe against accidental discharge. Sometimes, however, the musket's mechanism was faulty, and the gun would discharge with the musketeer totally unprepared.

Today's usage: to do something hastily, without adequate preparation

“to take a message to Garcia”

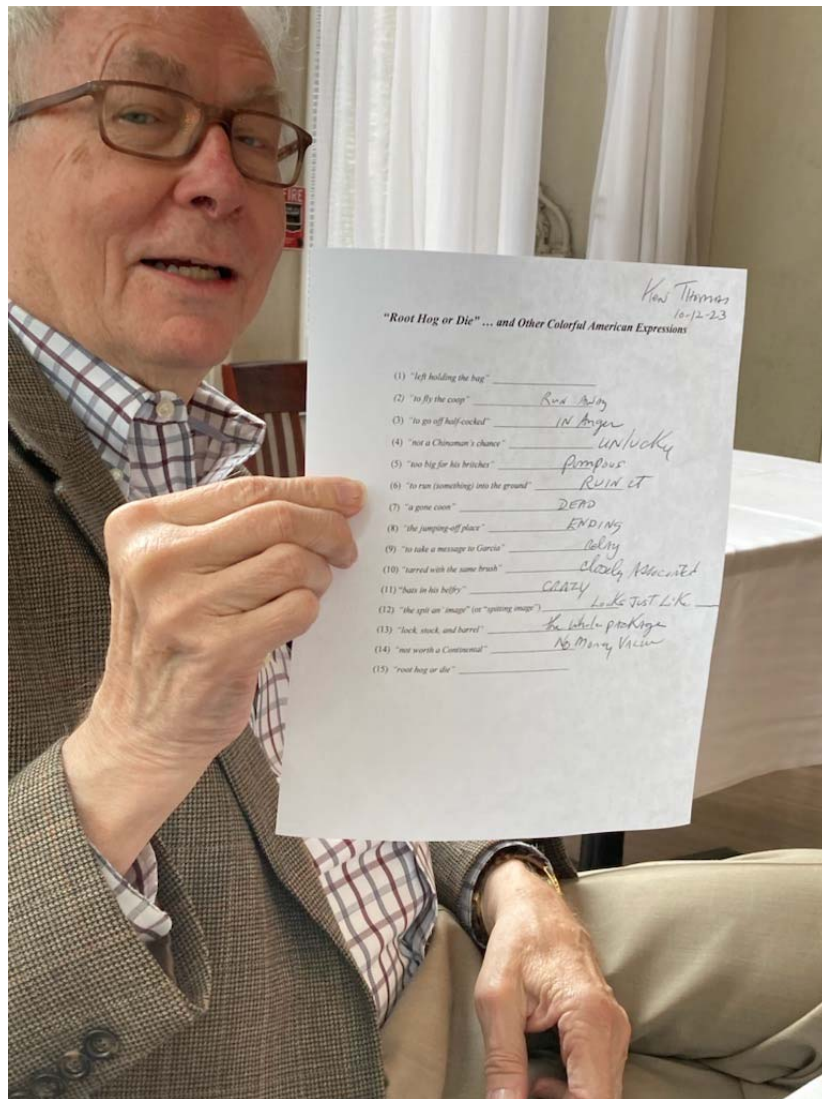
This expression is based on an actual event that occurred during the Spanish-American War. In April 1898, the American chief of staff wished to obtain vital information from the leader of the Cuban rebel forces, Gen. Calixto Garcia, but had no means of contacting him because of the Spanish blockade. A young lieutenant, Andrew Rowan, was sent in secrecy to Cuba to find Garcia even though no one in Washington actually knew where the insurgent general might be. Rowan landed on the coast of Cuba, learned from the Cuban patriots where to find Garcia, obtained the necessary information from Garcia, and returned to Washington.



Today's usage: to show that one is resourceful, inventive, and can achieve success.

General Calixto Garcia - (1839-1898)

Place of burial: Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA.



Atlanta Compatriot Ken Thomas, who also introduced DAR Becky West, shares his answers to the 15 slang American expressions. She kept the chapter entertained with her interactive presentation and fill-in questionnaire.



No, it is not a coon-skinned cap... but it is a raccoon!

“a gone coon”

This expression has two possible origins - both of them quite colorful and amusing. The first is a legend that sprang up during the Revolutionary War. According to legend, an American spy was seeking information about British troop strength the night before American forces were scheduled to attack. He dressed himself in raccoon pelts, crawled to the outskirts of the British camp, and then climbed a tree so that he could determine the number of soldiers. To his dismay, shortly thereafter, a British soldier on a nocturnal raccoon hunt spied this unusually large

specimen perched in a tree. As he prepared to shoot, the American spy cried out, “Don’t shoot! I’ll come down. **I know I’m a gone coon.**” As luck would have it, the British soldier was so startled by the “talking” coon that he dropped his rifle and ran away in a panic, thus allowing the spy to escape.

The other version, published in 1839, attributes this expression to a story about a Capt. Martin Scott of Vermont, who had a prodigious reputation as a sharpshooter during the Revolutionary War. According to the author,

“He (Martin) went out one morning with his rifle, and spying a raccoon upon the upper branches of a high tree, brought his gun up to his shoulder; when the raccoon perceived it, he raised his paw for a parley. ‘I beg your pardon, mister,’ said the raccoon, very politely, ‘but may I ask if your name is Scott?’ ‘Yes,’ replied the captain. ‘Martin Scott?’ continued the animal. ‘Oh, then,’ said the animal, ‘I may just as well come down, for **I am a gone coon.**’”

Today’s usage: someone who has no hope of survival



Atlanta Chapter Past President



It was a delightful pleasure to see Atlanta Past President Jim Freeman (right) attending a double Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony in Lawrenceville, GA. Jim said he was now **100% cancer free!** He added he feels better than he has in many years. Atlanta Past President Gregory Smith (center) and Terry Manning were also in attendance.

Fall Board of Managers Meeting



The Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution Board of Managers Meeting was held on Saturday, 28 October 2023 in Barnesville, GA. State President Dr. David Ludley presided. *(All photos are courtesy of William Edelen - VP / Registrar, Captain John Collins Chapter, Historian Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution).*





The colors were presented by the Georgia Society SAR Color guard led by State Commander K. Scott Collins of the Athens Chapter. Compatriot Collins also serves as Commander - National Society SAR Color Guard.





The Invocation and Benediction were led by Georgia SAR Chaplain Edward Anderson, who is a dual member of the Washington-Wilkes and Atlanta Chapters. Additional Atlanta Chapter members present were Past President Gregory Smith, dual member Shep Hammack, VP Metro Region and Barrett Hanson, Atlanta Chapter President.





The Fall Board of Managers Meeting was filled to capacity with Compatriots from SAR Chapters throughout the state. In addition, a high volume viewed the meeting, which conducted two major elections, via Zoom. Compatriot Ed Rigel Jr. (*seated at left*) served as Moderator of the National Candidate Forum. Rigel is also the Senior Vice-President of GASSAR.



Also present were wives and visitors who represented various Chapters of Daughters of the American Revolution. At far left, is DAR Kathryn Anderson, wife of Rev. Edward Anderson, of the Kettle Creek Chapter in Washington-Wilkes. Standing in the middle, is the wife of State President Ludley.

Honoring All Who Served



The Veterans Committee of GASSAR would like to remind all chapters and state societies to recognize Veterans Day by displaying their support for those who sacrificed so much for our country. Some suggested ways of showing support on or about Veterans Day are:

- participating in Veterans Day ceremonies/parades,
- donating non-monetary items to organizations whose primary clients are Veterans,
- visiting Veterans that are homebound or in the hospital,
- placing flags or wreaths on the graves of Veterans, and
- taking a Veteran(s) on an outing such as a shopping trip, ride in the country, attending a sporting event, meal at a restaurant, attending a Veterans Day ceremony, etc.

The country will observe Veterans Day on Friday, Nov. 10, and state and federal buildings will be closed for business to honor the holiday, which falls on Saturday, Nov. 11.

Henry Rifle

Boston Tea Party Edition



In honor of the 250th Anniversary of the Revolution, a special commemorative rifle will be offered annually for the next 10 years, beginning in 2023. Each edition will be offered for approximately 1 year, depicting a different scene from the American Revolution.

A portion of the proceeds from each rifle sold go to support the SAR Education Center and Museum in Louisville, Kentucky.

If you are interested in purchasing the 250th Anniversary Henry Rifle Boston Tea Party Edition, visit your local Cabela's® or Bass Pro Shops® and provide the sales clerk the SKU number: 3815337.

Just a Friendly Reminder...



WE WANT YOU!

~To Please Pay Your Dues~

*Compatriots, it is time to pay your 2024 dues. If you have already done so, **thank you** and please disregard this Friendly Reminder from your Uncle SAM.*

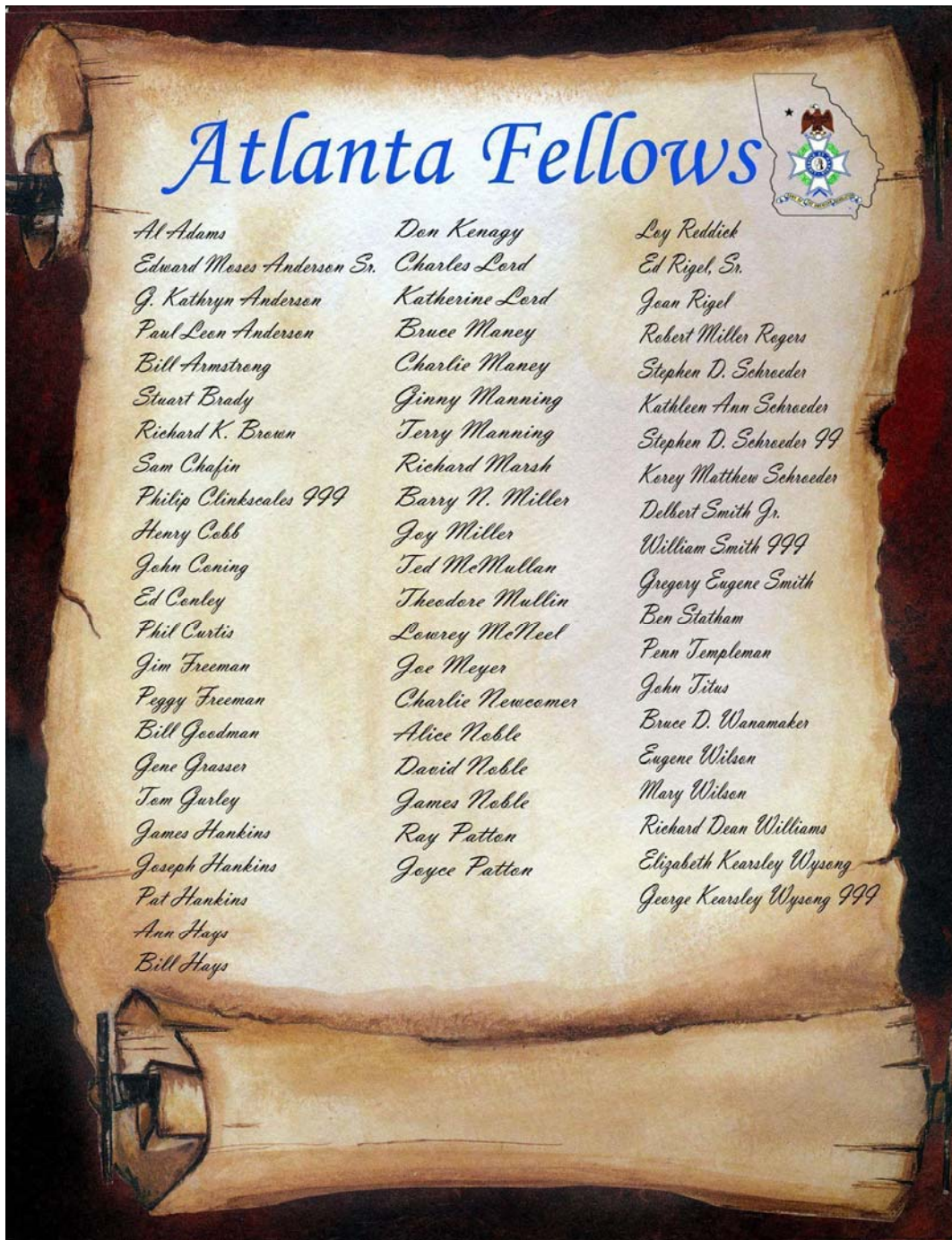
Slate of Officers 2023 Chapter Officer Directory

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.

