



# KCBA THE BATTLEFIELD DISPATCH

P. O. Box 729

Washington, Georgia 30673

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 Newsletter of the Kettle Creek Battlefield Association, Inc. Editor: N. Walker Chewning  
 Vol. 1 No. 4 <http://www.kettlecreekbattlefield.org> December 2012  
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## **DAR Chapter Feels Need to Preserve Kettle Creek Battleground**

**By Debbie Houston**

LAWRENCEVILLE, Ga., Nov. 9, 2012 -- It is not as if Kettle Creek Battleground will soon disappear. Land generally does not vanish unless an ocean swallows it or developers cement over it. It is unlikely an ocean will rise high enough to swallow the site where a militia force of

Patriots defeated and scattered a Loyalist militia force on Valentine's Day, 1779, outside Washington, Ga., nor will commercial development threaten the backwoods battlefield in the near future. However, like any battleground that defines American heritage, we must recognize its worth and maintain its grounds.

As a native Georgian, even I knew nothing about Kettle Creek. I often ignored the marker on the side of the freeway. The Revolutionary War seemed too distant to care about. But an important Patriot victory Kettle Creek was. It confirmed the inability of British forces to hold the interior of Georgia or shield a large number of Loyalist recruits outside immediate British protection.

I learned these details when I joined the Philadelphia Winn Chapter



of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution of Lawrenceville, which is one of several organizations that donate to the preservation of Kettle Creek. Out of curiosity, my husband and I stopped by the site when returning from vacation in June.

We drove down a largely deserted road that ran about seven miles. Then we turned onto a short one-lane road that led us deep into the woods. "War Hill" stood before us. On top lay pristine graves of Patriots who fought in the battle. The tranquility of the woods struck me as I noted the monument commemorating the event. I found it hard to believe that men had fought a frenzied battle for freedom in such a peaceful place. Birdsong filled the air instead

of musket fire. Surely, the dead rest soundly in such a soothing forest.

I asked myself, "What more does Kettle Creek need?" The answer came quickly --- visitors. It needs visitors to learn about the war's Southern Campaign. It needs visitors to see the role Georgia militias played. It needs visitors to recognize that Bunker Hill was not the only spot where Patriots spilled their blood for a new nation.

If we do not visit and maintain Kettle Creek, regardless of the markers, monument, and graves, we will forget the battle (as I feel we already have). As mentioned earlier, Kettle Creek has friends, among them the Allen Howard National Society, Children of the American Revolution of Lawrenceville. These kids raise funds so one day perhaps a two-lane road may lead into the site. Kettle Creek needs restroom facilities where a busload of tourists may freshen up. It needs a museum to illustrate and educate people on what happened there.

In other words, the Patriots who fought at Kettle Creek need us. At the very least, we owe them our gratitude.



Allen Howard NSCAR members are, from left, on front: Anna Ford of Stone Mountain and Walker Chewning, Jr. of Lawrenceville. On the second row are Daniel Ford of Stone Mountain and Z Staehling of Suwanee. The third row consists of Sarah Doner of Lawrenceville, Marianne and Levi Woodard of Suwanee and Adam Doner of Lawrenceville. The back row includes Patriotic Education Senior Chair Patsy Reynolds of Cumming and Senior President Vanessa Watkins of Buford.

### **KCBA Board Meeting Dates**

February 28, 2013

March 28, 2013

April 25, 2013

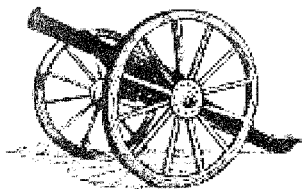
May 23, 2013

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

**Georgia Society  
Sons of the American Revolution  
make Contribution**



Ed Rigel, President of the Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution, presents a donation for the Kettle Creek Battlefield Association to the KCBA President, Walker Chewning. This year, the Georgia Society SAR has donated a total of \$1,500.00 to the KCBA for the preservation and development of the Kettle Creek Battlefield. The Georgia Society SAR gives more than financial contributions in the support of the battlefield. Each year, its members contribute a large amount of time and effort during the annual Battle of Kettle Creek anniversary celebrations. The continuing support of the Georgia Society SAR is greatly appreciated.



**CSRA meets with  
Advisory Board**



On December 11, 2012, the Central Savannah River Area Regional Commission held its third advisory board meeting in Washington, Georgia. The meeting was conducted by CSRA representatives Christian Lentz, Projects Manager, and Jason Hardin, Regional Planner, Anne Floyd, Preservation Planner. Present for the meeting were representatives from the City of Washington, the Wilkes County Commission, and the KCBA. A presentation was given on the present status of the Kettle Creek Master Plan.

The overall plan will consist of a short term plan and long term plan for the possible development of the Kettle Creek Battlefield . The plan will suggest the placement of a tourist center, parking lot, walking trails, historical markers, biking trails, horse trails, picnic areas, and camping facilities. All of these various components will be designed with the goal of preserving the historical aspects of the area in their pristine condition for future generations



## **Are you a descendant of a hero of the Battle of Kettle Creek?**

The KCBA would like to recognize those who are descendants of a hero who fought at the Battle of Kettle Creek. If your ancestor fought at this battle, please come by the Washington-Wilkes Chamber of Commerce on Saturday, February 9, 2013, between 9:00 AM and 12:00 PM. There you will receive special recognition from the Kettle Creek Battlefield Association for your ancestor's contribution to American freedom.



## **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](mailto:tourismdirector@washingtonwilkes.org)

Office: 706-678-5111 FAX: 706-678-3033



## **Joseph Pickens** **Battle of Kettle Patriot**

Mr. William R. Reynolds, Jr.,



*Vice President of the Republic Chapter, Oregon Society SAR, in 2012, published a book on Brig. Gen. Andrew Pickens, one of*

*the patriots who fought at the Battle of Kettle Creek. The book is "Andrew Pickens: South Carolina Patriot in the Revolutionary War".*

"My 7th great-grandfather was Captain Joseph William Pickens, Andrew Pickens' older brother by 2-1/2 years, who was killed at the Siege of Ninety Six, SC on June 17, 1781. He had been wounded June 7th."

Mr. Reynolds says about his book: "It does extensively treat the Battle of Kettle Creek. I spent about seven years researching for this book." The following five paragraphs are taken from an email written by Mr. Reynolds:

"I was inspired to write the book because Brig. Gen. Pickens has not had a strong current biography on the shelf, alongside Francis Marion, Thomas Sumter, and Henry Lee, for many years. 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. For example, my grandfather, Joseph Pickens, was a Lieutenant at

the time of the Battle of Kettle Creek and not a captain as is shown on the monument. One substantiation included on page 77 of my book is an excerpt from the pension application of Charles Holland. He stated that Joseph Pickens did not become a Captain when Andrew Pickens was promoted to Major. He further stated that Joseph Pickens did not become a Captain until Captain Thomas Weems retired. Thomas Weems was still the captain at the Battle of Kettle Creek.

A second substantiation is included on page 121 of my book. On July 21, 1779, Joseph Pickens went to the Justice of the Peace, Patrick Calhoun, and filed an indent (a claim for restitution for lost property) with the state. The claim was for saddle, blanket, saddle cloth, and saddle bags lost in February of 1779 in a fight with Boyd and his Tories. The claim refers to Joseph as Lieutenant Joseph Pickens and states he was in Captain Thomas Weems' company. The indent is signed not only by Joseph Pickens, but also by Colonel Andrew Pickens as a witness.

Some of the reasoning behind why people believed Joseph Pickens to be a Captain at Kettle Creek is also explained. On page 77 of my book, a statement by historian, and Andrew Pickens biographer, Dr. A. L. Pickens that it '...appears...' that Joseph Pickens became a Captain about that time. He was quoting a statement of historian Alexander Garden, a former officer of Lee's Legion. Another quotation that led to the misunderstanding is one from

Brig. Gen. Pickens. In 1811, he wrote a letter to his friend, Henry Lee, where he went over some of the happenings from the war. He talked about Kettle Creek and stated that Captain Robert Anderson and others, including his brother Joseph Pickens, were detached to block Boyd's crossing of the river. He then stated flatly to Lee that Joseph was a Captain. However, Andrew Pickens' signature on a legal document 5 months after the event likely counts for more than his statement in a letter 32 years after the said action. Of course, he remembered that his brother was a captain, but that promotion didn't happen until just before Cowpens. Captain Weems had retired when many militiamen were taking parole from the British, and Joseph Pickens was a Captain when Andrew Pickens abandoned his parole and reorganized his militia as a SC State Regiment.

Hopefully, the development will offer an opportunity to set the record straight regarding Joseph Pickens as right now he is listed on the monument at Kettle Creek as a captain right next to Captain Weems."

We know Mr. Reynolds' book will be interesting reading for those who study the history of the Battle of Kettle Creek. His book is available on Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble web sites. For more information on Mr. Reynolds and his publications, visit his web site at:

[www.therevolutionarywarauthor.com/](http://www.therevolutionarywarauthor.com/)

## **Little Theater Play a Part of Kettle Creek Celebration by Ginny King**

The 2013 celebration of the Battle of Kettle Creek will have an exciting addition to the events. The Washington Little Theater Company will present "The American Revolution Musical" featuring 30 patriotic puppets and an all-star kids cast for your enjoyment. Betsy Ross- -a bit prone to exaggeration- -tells her grandkids how the colonies became a nation... from the French and Indian War to the election of George Washington as the first president. It's a difficult time: taxes are high, Sam Adams hates tea, and Paul Revere keeps forgetting his horse! The colonies don't even like each other that much, and John Hancock is spending way too much time practicing his signature. But it's a glorious story nevertheless, and enlivens an exciting part of our history.

Thirty minute performances will be conducted : Saturday, February 9, 2013 at 11:00 AM, 12:00 PM, 1:00 PM and 2:00 PM on The Square in The Old Bank Building, at the corner of South Jefferson St. and Robert Toombs Ave. across from Regions Bank.



**Battle of Kettle Creek  
Celebration Activities  
February 8, 9, 10 2013**



Learning to fire a cannon.

**Friday, February 8<sup>th</sup>**

**3:00pm, "Heroes of Kettle Creek 1779-1782"**

Presentation by Christine Swager, author and display of Kettle Creek Contest entries at Mary Willis Library, 204 E. Liberty St., Washington.

**3:30pm, Children's Program**

Colonial character, Nancy Hart and instruction in Colonial children's games at Mary Willis Library.

**6:30pm, KCBA & SAR Dinner**

Dinner at the Pope Center. Program will be on the Kettle Creek Battlefield Master Plan. Speaker, Jason Hardin, Regional Planner, CSRA Regional Commission. Where we are and where we are going. Membership Drive . Open to the General public.

**Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup>**

**8:00am, Battle of Kettle Creek Video**

Discussion by army historian, Walt Andrae at Mary Willis Library, Washington.

**9:00am, Parade & Living History**

Start at Mary Willis Library and proceed to Washington Town Square to celebrate Anniversary of the establishment of the City of Washington. Featuring Continental Army, Georgia Militia, and local youth groups with Colonial portraying George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Elijah Clarke, Nancy Hart, backwoods trapper, Continental Army surgeon, spinner, weaver and others. Children will be taught Colonial games and how to drill with muskets.

**9:30am, Battlefield Skirmish**

Dramatic portrayal of the Battle of Kettle Creek performed at Washington Park behind the Courthouse.

**12:00 -1:30pm, BBQ & Hamburger Lunch**

Mary Willis Library. \$12 tickets can be purchased in advance at Chamber of Commerce and Mary Willis Library or at the time of the lunch.

**10:00am-1:00pm, Chamber of Commerce**

Jason Hardin, Regional Planner, Kettle Creek Battlefield Master plan

**9:30am- 12:30pm, Battleground Walking Tours**

Trace the steps of Patriots and Loyalists as they fought for three hours on February 14, 1779. Led by Army historian, Walt Andrae, at Kettle Creek Battleground, 10 miles from Washington off SR 44.

**2:00pm, Battleground Memorial Ceremony**

Pageantry at the Kettle Creek Monument on War Hill Road, Kettle Creek Battleground, 10 miles from Washington off SR 44. Continental Army, Georgia Militia, Fife & Drum Music, Musket Volley and Wreath Laying Ceremony.

**11:00 am—2:00 pm The Washington Little Theater Company presents “The American Revolution”** Thirty minute performances at the old bank building.

**7:00pm - 9:00pm. KCBA Annual Meeting**  
At the Pope Center

**Washington Open House Exhibits  
10:00am – 5:00pm,**  
Washington Historical Museum, 308 E Robert Toombs Ave.  
Robert Toombs House Historic Site, 216 E Robert Toombs Ave.  
Callaway Plantation, 2160 Lexington Road



## **Sunday, February 10th**

### **9:30am - Colonial Worship Service**

Sponsored by GA Society SAR Chaplaincy Corps at First United Methodist Church, 102 West Liberty Street, Washington, GA

### **11:30am Elijah Clarke Grave Memorial Ceremony**

Ceremony at the gravesite of Elijah Clarke to recognize his part in the successful Battle of Kettle Creek. Open House at 1780s Log Cabin Museum. Elijah Clark State Park, 2959 McCormick Hwy. Located 7 miles northeast of Lincolnton on U.S. Hwy. 378.

**Information** - All living history activities are free and the public is encouraged to attend.

## **Upcoming Events**

February 9, 2013 Battle of Kettle Creek, Washington, GA

February 10, 2013 Elijah Clarke Ceremony, Elijah Clarke State Park

March 2, 2013 Battle of Brier Creek, Sylvania, GA

March 16, 2013 Battle of Guilford Courthouse, Greensboro, NC

April 20, 2012 Frederica Naval Action, St Simon Island, GA



The Kettle Creek Battlefield Association  
&  
Georgia Society  
Sons of the American Revolution

Invite you to celebrate the Battle of Kettle Creek  
at the annual banquet to be held on:

**Friday , February 8, 2013 at 6:30 PM**

Pope Center  
48 Lexington Ave  
Washington, GA 30673

Speaker: Jason Hardin, Georgia Planner  
**"The Kettle Creek Battlefield Master Plan"**

Dinner Cost : \$25.00 per individual  
Please make your checks payable to : KCBA

Mail to :  
KCBA  
P. O. Box 729  
Washington, GA 30673

Please include your Email address and names of attendees  
Dinner reservation must be received by January 25, 2013  
For additional information contact: Walker Chewning 678-409-4644

**Wreath Presentation  
Kettle Creek Battleground  
Memorial Ceremony  
Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 2:00pm  
Washington, Wilkes County, Georgia**

*All Societies and Chapters of the C.A.R., DAR, SAR, other hereditary  
Societies and patriotic or historical organizations are invited to attend.*

*Descendants and the public are especially welcome.*

**Submit request to participate in the Wreath Presentation no later than  
January 19, 2013, to assure listing in the Ceremony Program**

Organization:

Name of Presenter:

Office or Title of Presenter:

Will Participate in the Color Guard:

Email Address: Phone:

**Mail to: Ed Rigel, Sr., 1504 Berkeley Court, Gainesville, GA 30501-1260; or**

**Email : [compatriotrigel@charter.net](mailto:compatriotrigel@charter.net)**



**Revolutionary Days**  
**Heroes of the Hornet's Nest Ceremony**

**Elijah Clark State Park  
2959 McCormick Hwy. or  
7 miles N.E. on Hwy. 378  
Lincolnton, GA  
Sunday, February 10, 2013  
11:00 am**

**Wreath Registration**

Name of Wreath Presenter\_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Presenter's e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Send registration form **by February 4, 2013, to**

**Charlie Newcomer**—email: **canewcomer@att.net** or by regular  
mail to 1601 Spartan Lane, Athens, GA. 30606-5327.

Telephone: 706-543-3977

## 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)

Patriot Member ☐ \$10, ☐ \$25, ☐ \$50 ☐ Col. Elijah Clarke Member \$2500

☐ Col. Andrew Pickens Member \$500 ☐ 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) \_\_\_\_\_

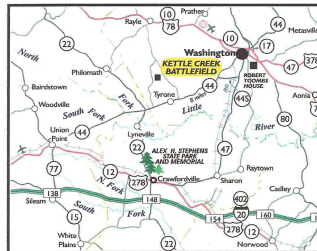
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

#### Method of Payment

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

#### Mail Membership Application To:

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



The Kettle Creek Battlefield is located 3 miles off of Hwy. 44 south of Washington, Georgia.  
There are directional markers that will lead you to the site.

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

Please email your article to  
[wcpatriot@bellsouth.net](mailto:wcpatriot@bellsouth.net)

