



# 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

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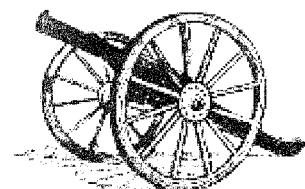
## **2013 Battle of Kettle Creek was a Spectacular Success**



The 234<sup>th</sup> Battle of Kettle Creek Celebration was a wonderful success. The weather was beautiful, with blue skies and warm sunshine falling on the participants and the crowd of visitors.

The Battle of Kettle Creek was fought on February 14, 1779. This three day celebration of that battle included colonial re-enactors recreating the lives of the inhabitants of colonial Washington, Georgia in 1779. Visitors were able to talk with historical figures like Nancy Hart, Thomas Jefferson, George Washington and Elijah Clarke. They could see activities that demonstrated the frontier life, a colorful parade around the square, and a live skirmish in Washington Park between the Tory troops of Col. Boyd and the Patriot militia under the command of Gen. Pickens, Col. Elijah Clarke and Col. John Dooly.

In the afternoon, the activities moved to War Hill for the memorial ceremony for the patriots that fought at the Battle of Kettle Creek.



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

### **Elijah Clarke's Militia at Kettle Creek**



Dr. Christine Swager conducted a presentation at Mary Willis Library on Elijah Clarke's Militia at Kettle Creek. A large group of interested visitors attended and asked questions.

### **Children's Program**

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

### **KCBA & SAR Dinner**

Friday evening a dinner was provided at the Pope Center. The program was on the Kettle Creek Battlefield Master Plan. An update on the plan was given by speaker, Jason Hardin, Regional Planner for the CSRA Regional Commission. He discussed where we are and where we are going.



Table decoration were prepared by the Kettle Creek DAR Chapter. I'm ready to eat!



George Thurmond welcoming guests

### **KCBA Board Meeting Dates**

April 25, 2013  
May 23, 2013  
June 27, 2013

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



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

### **Parade & Living History**

Saturday's activities began with the award winning Georgia Society SAR Color Guard leading the parade from the Mary Willis Library and proceeding to the Washington Town Square. Participants consisted of patriots of the Continental Army, Georgia Militia, ROTC Cadets and local youth groups. Individuals portrayed George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Elijah Clarke, Nancy Hart, Continental Army soldiers, a backwoods trapper, spinner, weaver and others. Local children marched enthusiastically as part of the parade.



Georgia Society SAR Color Guard



Leading the parade.



Colonial ladies



Georgia State Society  
Children of the American Revolution



Enthusiasm !!







Can we be in the parade next year?

### **Battlefield Skirmish**

The Elijah Clarke Militia conducted a dramatic portrayal of the Battle of Kettle Creek at Washington Park behind the Courthouse where Col. Boyd and his Tory troops suffered another dramatic defeat.



### **Chamber of Commerce**

Jason Hardin, Regional Planner for the

CSRA, held a discussion on the Kettle Creek Battlefield Master Plan with the public at the Chamber of Commerce. The discussion was very informative and many questions about the plan were answered.



Jason Hardin at the Chamber of Commerce

### **Battleground Walking Tours**

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

### **Washington Little Theater Company**

The Washington Little Theater Company presented thirty minute performances of "The American Revolution". The performances by the children were a delight to the crowd of spectators.





### Colonial Living History Characters

On the Washington Square and in the adjacent buildings, visitors were able to talk with living history characters as they described what life was like in 1779. Children were able to be part of a cannon firing demonstration and learned how to prepare furs for trading.



### Battleground Memorial Ceremony

In the afternoon the pageantry moved to the Kettle Creek Monument at the Kettle Creek Battlefield. Continental Army, Georgia Militia, fife & drum music, musket volley and wreath laying ceremony were part of the continuing celebration.



NSSAR  
Vice President General  
Joe Dooley





GASSAR  
President  
James Stalling



"Patriots, we salute you"



Georgia Society SAR Color Guard

### KCBA Annual Meeting

The Kettle Creek Battlefield Association held its annual meeting on Saturday night at the Pope Center. Various contributors to the association were recognized with larger than life checks.



Recognition of Contributors

### Washington Open House Exhibits

Additional attractions were open for the visitors at:

#### Washington Historical Museum

308 E Robert Toombs Ave.

#### Robert Toombs House Historic Site

216 E Robert Toombs Ave.

#### Callaway Plantation

2160 Lexington Road



Washington Historical Museum  
Kettle Creek Battlefield Display

## **Sunday, February 10th**

### **Colonial Worship Service**

On Sunday morning a colonial worship service was held at the First United Methodist Church, 102 West Liberty Street, Washington, GA. The service was sponsored by GA Society SAR Chaplaincy Corps and conducted by GASSAR Chaplain Roger Lamb. Many of the attendees were dressed in colonial attire which added to the 18th century atmosphere of the service.

### **Elijah Clarke Grave Memorial Ceremony**

At the Elijah Clarke State Park, a ceremony at the gravesite of Elijah Clarke was held to recognize his part in the successful Battle of Kettle Creek. Wreath presentation, musket salute, and living history characters in the 1780s log cabin were part of the program.



## **Book Signing**

On Thursday, May 23, 2013, William R. Reynolds Jr. will be in Washington, GA to hold a book signing event at the Rotary Club meeting. Bill has recently published a book on Brigadier General Andrew Pickens and will be the guest speaker. His presentation will be on Brigadier General Andrew Pickens and his contributions toward defeating the British in the Southern States

and eventually driving General Cornwallis to Yorktown, VA.

After this book signing, Mr. Reynolds will be traveling to Fort Ninety Six, Guilford Courthouse, and Cowpens where he has been invited to conduct similar presentations and book signings.

The book signing will take place at:

Rotary Club of Washington, GA  
Washington Women's Club  
108 N Alexander Ave.

**Thursday May 23, 2013  
12:00 PM to 1:00 PM**



**Are you smarter than a  
Georgia 8th Grader?**

1. Who was Georgia's last royal governor?
2. People from Virginia and the Carolinas who settled into middle and western parts of the colony were called \_\_\_\_\_?
3. What document set Georgia's southern boundary at St. Mary's River?
4. What Georgia city was captured and looted by British troops in December, 1778?
5. What is the name of the conflict between the Spanish and English over the land between South Carolina and Florida during Georgia's Colonial period?

(See page 9 for the answers.)

**Brief Annual Report -  
A Statement of Progress  
Kettle Creek Battlefield Association, Inc.**

Joseph B. Harris, PhD, Chair of the Board of Directors  
February 9, 2013, Pope Center, Washington, Georgia

The Congressional Record, Vol. 138 No. 24 (February 14, 2012) includes A Resolution Commemorating the 233rd Anniversary of the Battle of Kettle Creek. This followed conversations with Jordan Chinouth, of US Rep. Paul Broun's office in Athens. Chinouth presented a copy of the resolution at a board meeting.

On the battlefield site, clearing of a rough walking trail around the south side of War Hill has provided new access to the site. Underbrush had been cleared from most of the hill by Wilkes County and offers a new experience for visitors.

A grant from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, originally valued at \$50,000, for a Kettle Creek master plan was announced on May 29. This followed letters of appeal to state Senator Jackson and Representatives Channell and McCall, DCA Commissioner Michael Beatty and Governor Nathan Deal.

The Chair of the Board, Joseph Harris, was invited to the second annual Grillin' with the Governor barbecue in Gainesville in July. He attended with GASSAR President Ed Rigel, MD.

*The Battlefield Dispatch*, the newsletter of the Kettle Creek Battlefield Association, was released by Walker Chewning, Editor, in September. The name of the publication had been suggested by George Thurmond, association president. A monthly release of the *Dispatch* was proposed.

The receipt of a \$5,000 grant from

Plum Creek Foundation was locally announced in November. This would cover cost of duplicating existing brochures and producing a two-panel rack card for wide distribution through state welcome centers. The grant proposal had been submitted by Larry Wilson, KCBA Funding Committee chair.

Grants are being sought from several sources. In November, a proposal for funding a recreational, half-mile walking trail around the base of War Hill was submitted by Wilkes County to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites Division. It was prepared by Anne Floyd, CSRA Regional Commission, Joseph Harris, and landscape architect Kurt Wolfe. \$130,000 is being sought. Park use by public schools and other organizations are committed to trail use. A proposal to the American Battlefield Protection Plan was submitted in January. It would cover costs of a community consensus building event, estimated at \$30,000, and was submitted by Larry Wilson. Wilson is also preparing a proposal to the Watson-Brown Foundation for signage. It would cover less than \$10,000 in costs.

Major responsibilities for organizing the many events of Revolutionary Days in Washington have been assumed by Tom Owen, KCBA treasurer, and Walker Chewning, association president. For a number of years this event had been organized by GASSAR membership with Bob Galer of Columbus taking much of the initiative.

A resolution which recognizes the importance of the Battle of Kettle Creek and KCBA development efforts by the Georgia legislature is being pursued by Board member William deGolian, working primarily with Rep. Tom McCall.

An original pen and ink drawing of wounded Loyalist (Tory) Col. Boyd and Col. Pickens on War Hill was obtained through board member David Chesnut. It was presented by the grandson of artist Wilbur G. Kurtz at a Washington Rotary Club luncheon



on February 7, 2013, to Joseph Harris, KCBA Chair, by Wilbur G. Kurtz III. It is on permanent loan in the Washington Historical Museum until a visitor center is established at the Kettle Creek Battlefield.

Projects which are in the early stages of development include map production of the location of Patriot graves, a public school student contest for a KCBA motto and the production of murals on the Battle of Kettle Creek for location in the new Wilkes County Com-

prehensive High School Building; finally, an organization of descendents of Kettle Creek Patriots.

Current KCBA membership includes 54 organizations and 138 individuals. As of December 31 our net income is slightly over \$17,000.

## 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. Dooley? 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)

*Answers to the "Are You Smarter than a Georgia 8th Grader?" questions.*

1. Wright  
2. Crackers

3. Proclamation of 1763  
4. Savannah

5. The War of Jenkin's Ear