

An Historical Digest of **The Georgia Society** **Sons of the American Revolution**

www.sar.org/gassar

Organized March 15, 1921

Incorporated July 24, 1998



The Georgia Society has 29 active chapters as of October 2005: **Abraham Baldwin, Altamaha, Athens, Atlanta, Blue Ridge Mountains, Button Gwinnett, Casimir Pulaski, Cherokee, Coweta Falls, Dalton, Edward Telfair, George Walton, Joel Early, John Collins, John Milledge, Joseph Habersham, LaGrange, Lyman Hall, Marquis de Lafayette, Marshes of Glynn, Mill Creek, Ocmulgee, Piedmont, Rome, Samuel Butts, Samuel Elbert, Valdosta, William Few, and William Miller.**

The Georgia Society has had two Compatriots who rose to the office of President General: James R. Westlake, 1989 and Col. Robert B. Vance, 1993. James R. Westlake served as Secretary General in 1988, was twice Historian General, 1986 and 1987, and Chairman of the Membership Committee for four years. Col. Robert B. Vance served as Secretary General in 1992, Treasurer General in 1991, and was Chairman of the Congress Planning Committee for seven years.

Georgia Society Compatriots who have served as South Atlantic District Vice President General during the period covered by this history are: Dr. Homer E. Wright, 1983; John W. Loud, 1987; Hardwick S. Johnson, Jr., 1991; Lt. Col. Robert F. Galer, 1995; Dr. T. Fisher Craft, 1999. Lt. Col. Robert F. Galer served as Chairman of the important Revolutionary War Graves Committee for ten years, and has served on the Executive Committee three times.

Georgia Society Formation and Atlanta Chapter

From Atlanta Chapter History¹

This history was composed in 1996 compliments of Judge Alexander Dyer Williams, with updates from other Compatriots and we in the Georgia Society certainly appreciate its publication. Any review of the history of the Atlanta Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, must recognize that its origin cannot be separated from the origin of the Georgia Society, SAR. There is a story that bears repeating for the benefit of all members as to exactly how the Georgia Society was formed.

William LeRoy Doughtry on several occasions related the following many years ago to Compatriot Joe Brown of the Atlanta Chapter. Compatriot Doughtry said that while he was stationed in Europe during World War I, he was in the company of some other men from the New England area who were having a party which he was not allowed to attend because it was restricted to members of the Sons of the Revolution or Sons of the American Revolution. Compatriot Doughtry knew that as a descendant of John Pope, who had been appointed as Captain in the North Carolina State Militia by the North Carolina Assembly in 1776, he was eligible in all respects and was determined to become a member as soon as he returned to Atlanta. It was under his urging and direction that the Georgia Society was formed with sixteen charter members. Those members along with their National and State Numbers were:

¹ Georgia Society *Source Book* & Chapter Web Sites, additional research by Lt. Col. Robert Galer, Col. George Thurmond, and Kline O. Pugh.

Allan Waters N# 32883 S# 1
Charles Moore McLaughlin N# 35202 S# 2
Eugene Chapman McLaughlin N# 35203 S# 3
Moultrie Moore McLaughlin N# 35204 S# 4
Lawrence Hall McLaughlin N# 35205 S# 5
William St. Julien Freeman N# 35206 S# 6
Howard Henry McCall, Jr. N# 35207 S# 7
Wellborn Hope N# 35208 S# 8

George Melville Hope, Jr. N# 35209 S# 9
Arthur Whitney Falkenburg N# 35210 S# 10
John Richard Watts, Jr. N# 35211 S# 11
Bert Albert Tyler N# 35212 S# 12
Joseph Wilton Puder N# 35213 S# 13
Daniel Chisholm Pate N# 35214 S# 14
William LeRoy Doughtry N# 35215 S# 15
Herbert Craig Carpenter N# 35216 S# 16

The first President of the Georgia Society SAR, Compatriot Allan Waters, who served for two terms, became a member of the New York Society on October 6, 1919, and was assigned National Number 32883. Compatriot Waters had transferred to the Illinois Society later in 1919; the exact date is not known.

Compatriot Waters' transfer request and the fifteen new applications for membership were all sent to National Headquarters together and approved on March 14, 1921. Compatriot Waters was assigned Georgia Number 1. Compatriot Doughtry was assigned Georgia Number 15 and National Number 35215.

The date of the Atlanta Chapter Charter is not known, but it is considered to be the date of the Georgia Society Charter, which was March 15, 1921. A certificate was signed on April 7, 1984 that stated that the Atlanta Chapter was a Chapter of the Georgia Society. It was signed by John W. Loud, President, and Leeward L. Dunn, Secretary. It remained the only Chapter in the Georgia Society until the formation of the John Milledge Chapter in Milledgeville in the early 1930's. Also in 1921, Georgia Society President Allen Waters distinguished himself as the first Georgia Society delegate to a National Congress.

Compatriot Arthur Falkenburg also had a distinguished career in the Georgia Society by serving as Secretary for over nine years and served as acting President of the Georgia Society during 1923 and 1924. Although not a charter member, Compatriot William M. Francis served as Georgia Society President for a total of nine terms.

It should also be noted that in the mid 1970's when it became known that the National Society wanted to move from Washington, DC, the Atlanta Chapter extended an invitation for them to consider a building located on Peachtree Street in downtown Atlanta as a possible site for National Headquarters. National decided to move to Louisville, KY instead and in 1979 completed the relocation to Kentucky. Prior to the relocation but after the Washington property was sold, the Atlanta Chapter hosted a National Society Trustee's meeting held at the Biltmore Hotel. Noteworthy as well, is that the Georgia Society was the host when the National Society held its 1983 Congress in Atlanta, Georgia.

Chapter Histories through 1988²

The Athens Chapter, Georgia Society was organized on November 9, 1936 in Athens, Georgia with local attorney Robert Russell Gunn elected as the Chapter's first President. Other original members included Steadman Vincent Sanford, for whom Sanford Stadium is named, and Dr. Robert Cumming Wilson, Sr., after which the Pharmacy building at the University of Georgia campus is named.³

² Georgia Society *Source Book* & Chapter Web Sites, additional research by Lt. Col. Robert Galer, Col. George Thurmond, and Kline O. Pugh.

³ Supplemented from information provided by James Larry Wilson.

Georgia Society had at least two large, active chapters that are now defunct. One was in Winder and was led by a retired Army officer named Watson who went to New York state, located William Few's previously unknown grave site, and got New York to transfer the remains to Augusta, GA where they are now located. The other was called the Wiregrass Chapter and was located in the area of Homerville in southern Georgia. The leader was Dr. Folks Huxford.

The Rome Chapter was organized in 1958. The Xavier Chapter of the DAR, under the leadership of Leonora Gordon, guided the Rome Chapter through the formative stage. The Rome Chapter became dormant in 2000 due to a lack of interest in the membership. Under the leadership of both James Clark and DeForest Hamilton, the chapter became active again in 2002. Since that time, the Rome Chapter has become very active in the community.⁴

Coweta Falls Chapter, chartered October 23, 1976, became the newest chapter in the Georgia Society SAR for many years. Its origin dates from January 19, 1976, when a group of men gathered at the Bradley Library to consider suggestions from a smaller group, which had met at Fort Benning in December.

The William Few Chapter, Georgia Society, Sons of the American Revolution was organized in 1976, the bicentennial year of the birth of the United States of America. With the assistance of Mrs. Edward L. Pietrowski and Mrs. P. Ulmer Savage of the Augusta Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and members of the College Hill Chapter, GASDAR and the North Augusta Chapter, SCSDAR, potential members were located in the area. On July 7, 1976 it was decided that the chapter would be named the Colonel William Few and a Constitution was adopted. Colonel William Few, a native of Maryland, moved from North Carolina to join his family in Augusta in the Fall of 1776. He served as an officer in the Georgia Militia during the Revolutionary War and was a signer of the United States Constitution from Georgia. After signing the Constitution, Few and James Gunn became the state's first two U.S. Senators. Georgia's two Senate seats are still known today as the Few and Gunn seats. Col. Few's grave is located at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Augusta.

In 1985 nineteen descendants of veterans of the American Revolution petitioned the Board of Managers of the Georgia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution to allow them to establish a chapter in Gainesville, Georgia. The chapter would be named for Dr. Lyman Hall, a native New Englander, who came to Georgia, settled at Midway and became one of Georgia's first representatives to the Continental Congress and one of three Georgians to sign the Declaration of Independence. He later served as Governor of Georgia and worked with Abraham Baldwin to get the General Assembly of Georgia to charter the first state university in America. On July 20, 1985, the Board of Managers of the Georgia Society approved the application for the charter.

On the evening of February 15th, 1986 at the Ramada Inn in Brunswick, Georgia, the Marshes of Glynn Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution was formally installed. President General Benjamin H. Morris presented the Charter to Joseph Denison Elder, President of the new chapter.

The George Walton Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution was chartered on the 22nd of March 1986 in Conyers, Georgia. The chapter is named for one of the three Georgia signers of the Declaration of Independence. Former President General James R. Westlake, then President of the Georgia Society, initiated the forming of the chapter. The Chapter was assisted greatly by Mrs. Margaret B. Stephenson of Covington, an active member of the DAR.

⁴ From revised Chapter History by James E. Clark, edited by Mark C. Anthony

Of historical interest is that an early chapter in the Albany area, now defunct, was also called the George Walton Chapter. As noted, the Conyers chapter adopted this name, and a new chapter formed in Albany.

The Abraham Baldwin Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution was chartered on March 27, 1988 in Albany, Georgia. The Chapter was named for Abraham Baldwin, a Patriot Chaplain in the Revolutionary War. State and National Representative and Senator; founder and first President of the University of Georgia, his most important work was his participation in the adoption, signing and ratification of the Constitution of the United States.

The contributions of these early chapters established a strong foundation for continued growth, as we begin the final decade and transition to the 21st century.

The Decade from 1989 to 1999

By Former President General James R. Westlake⁵
Supplemented by Chapter Histories⁶

The decade from 1989 to 1999 was one of growth and increased participation for the Georgia Society.

At the 99th National Society Congress held in San Francisco in July 1989, Compatriot Col. James R. Westlake was elected President General. Among the accomplishments of his administration was the production for National Society of a Centennial Video giving the history of the Society for the first 100 years from 1889-1989. The video was widely circulated among chapters of the National Society for showing to other civic groups, to new members and for use on Public TV. He presided over the 100th Congress in Louisville where the first Congress was held in 1890.



In March 1990, President General Westlake enrolled former U.S. President Jimmy Carter into the National Society as the 14th President to become a member since 1889. On February 14, 1996, President Carter was awarded a National Society Gold Good Citizenship Medal. President General William Gist presided over the ceremony at the Carter Center in Atlanta.

In August 1991, it was determined there was a sufficient number of members and candidates to approve the charter of the Altamaha Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution. Eight members of the William Miller Chapter transferred their membership into this new chapter and of these members; Lemuel Stanton Lee was elected president. The name, Altamaha, was chosen because it is representative of the geographical area and a popular local name for organizations and businesses.

On October 1, 1991, the organizational meeting of the Sons of the American Revolution for the Macon area was held at the Best Western Hotel on Riverside Drive. The meeting was called to order by Jeff Jowdy, who was instrumental in organizing this local chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. Col. Robert B. Vance, the Treasurer General of the National Society, SAR was on hand to oversee confirmation of charter members, the naming of the chapter and election of the first officers. James R. Holman, Senior Vice President of the Georgia Society, presented flags to the new chapter. The charter members voted that the name of this chapter be the Ocmulgee Chapter. Members come not only from

⁵ From *National Society SAR History, Vol. III*, pp. 455-457.

⁶ Georgia Society *Source Book* & Chapter Web Sites, additional research by Lt. Col. Robert Galer, Col. George Thurmond, and Kline O. Pugh.

Macon, but Warner Robins, Bonaire, Forsyth and Gray. The Ocmulgee River and the Ocmulgee Indian Mounds both played an important role in the development of this part of the State of Georgia.

The Samuel Butts Chapter organizational meeting took place on April 25, 1992. The Jackson-based chapter was named for Samuel Butts, born in south Hampton County, Virginia on November 24, 1777. His paternal grandfather was Captain James Butts who served under Light Horse Harry Lee along the Continental Line. His maternal grandfather was Spratling Simmons, who fought in such decisive battles as Guilford Court House, Brandywine and Cowpens. Samuel's father served as a captain in the Georgia Militia prior to the War of 1812.

At the 103rd Congress in Phoenix in June 1993, Compatriot Col. Robert B. Vance, Sr., who had been Congress Planning Committee Chairman for the National Society, was elected President General. Compatriot Vance is also a five-time winner of the Florence Kendall Award for enrolling the most new members into the Sons of the American Revolution. President General Vance set up the National Society SAR Foundation as a financial vehicle for soliciting major contributions from Compatriots, corporate America, and Foundations in America. Future plans for development were also a hallmark of his Administration.

The Georgia Society donated a portrait of Abraham Baldwin in 1992 to the National Society, SAR Museum. Baldwin was the Founder of the University of Georgia, Delegate to the Constitutional Convention in 1787, Chaplain Patriot in the American Revolution and U.S. Senator from Georgia. The portrait was the State Project under Georgia Society President Charles "Hal" Dayhuff, III, and was made a reality by donations from members, chapters and support from the Endowment Trust Fund. James Westlake retrieved the original copy from the University of Georgia Archives from which the commission was to be created. Participation was encouraged by offering 8x10 copies to those donating \$100 or more. The Georgia Society, the Regent of the Abraham Baldwin DAR Chapter, and the President of the Abraham Baldwin SAR Chapter presented the portrait, by artist Gregory Stapko (after the original by C. F. Naeyele), to President General Brandau. It was then to Headquarters in Louisville, Kentucky and hung in a prominent location, which continues to be a favored photo setting for Georgia delegations.⁷



Also, the Georgia Society contributed the portraits of the 14 U.S. Presidents who were enrolled as National Society SAR members. These portraits are on display in the Memorabilia Room in National Society SAR Headquarters. The Georgia Society further assisted the Library by purchasing Georgia U.S. Census microfilms to use in research.

Membership showed a healthy growth. In 1989, the official membership was 559 in the State Society. By 1999, it had grown to 930, for a 66% increase in total active members. In 1994, the Georgia Society received the Robert Sonfield award from the National Society for the largest numerical membership increase of any State Society. It continued in runner-up categories through 1999. This growth was enhanced by an increase in Chapters in the State to a total of 23 with several new prospects under consideration by the end of 1999.

⁷ Added text from information provided by Charles "Hal" Dayhuff, III.

The Georgia Society began a new newsletter in 1994 called *The Hornet's Nest* under Editor Compatriot Herman Tovey, winning the runner-up award at the national level for the best newsletter of its size and type. Tovey also revamped and published the *Source Book*, the Georgia Society reference tool for state and chapter officers.

In 1994 the Georgia Society Endowment Trust Fund was doubled in principal in six months through a state funds drive under State President Galer. The State Board of Managers concurrently approved a change in investment policy from certificates of deposit only to blue chip stocks, bonds and mutual funds. This led to a 600 percent increase in the Fund by the end of the decade.

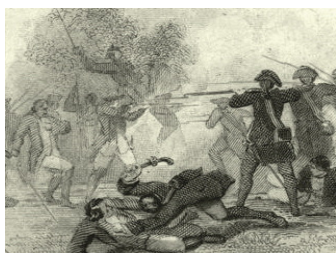
The Piedmont Chapter was chartered on the 17th of March 1994 in Roswell, Georgia. Instrumental in the forming of the chapter were Frank H. Darwin, Jr., Edgar B. Sterrett, Jr., Merrill Law and Aubrey R. Morris assisted by Col. Robert B. Vance and Lt. Col. Robert F. Galer. Both Vance and Galer are former Georgia Society Presidents, Col. Vance a Former President General of the National Society, SAR. Several names were suggested for the new chapter serving the Roswell-Alpharetta area. It was decided to let the location within the state determine the name. And so it was - *Piedmont, at the foot of the mountains*. The Piedmont Chapter has provided four Georgia Society Presidents - Edgar Sterrett, Larry Guzy, Roger Lamb, and George Thurmond. In addition, members of the Piedmont Chapter have been the impetus in starting four new chapters - Button Gwinnett by Edgar Sterrett; John Collins by Larry Guzy; Casimir Pulaski by Robert Bauchspies; and Cherokee by Roger Lamb.

A Georgia Society history and genealogical library was established at the Atlanta Historical Society Complex. Over \$100,000 has been contributed by a private foundation to form a library of 6000-7000 volumes. Compatriot H. Ross Arnold, Jr. was the prime mover behind this development. He also originated and sponsored an 803-page two-volume county-by-county compilation of 3,421 Revolutionary War veterans who were buried in Georgia. Mrs. Mary Jane Galer (Mrs. Robert F.) participated in the publication of the second edition. In 1995 the Georgia Society Board of Managers approved the archives of the Atlanta History Center Library to be the permanent repository for Georgia Society records.

The newly formed Elberton Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, The Samuel Elbert Chapter, had their Charter Night festivities Friday, December 1, 1995 at the Elberton Country Club.

The Joseph Habersham Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, was chartered November 21, 1996, during the administration of Georgia Society President, Dr. T. Fisher Craft. Former National Society President General Robert B. Vance, Sr., and DAR members, Marilyn Vance and Rebecca Perry, were instrumental in organizational efforts.

Former State Presidents were honored during the Annual Meeting in 1996, led by State President Jack Bozeman commemorating the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Georgia Society in March 1921. Those serving as State President in this decade include: 1989-90 Hardwick S. Johnson, Jr.; 1990-191 Dr. Julian D. Kelly, Jr.; 1991-92 Charles Hal Dayhuff, III; 1992-93 James L. Holman; 1993-94 Lt. Col. Robert F. Galer; 1994-95 Dr. James L. Bush; 1995-96 Rev. Jack R. Bozeman; 1996-97 Dr. T. Fisher Craft; 1997-98 James E. Clark; 1998-99 Herbert B. Braselton, Sr.; 1999-2000 Edgar B. Sterrett, Jr.



In 1997 Compatriot Lt. Col. Robert F. Galer, serving as Chairman for the Georgia Society Historic Sites and Celebrations Committee, worked to restore the commemoration of the Battle of Kettle Creek near Washington, Georgia. More than 500 SAR's, DAR's, and others from over the country attended the

event including President General Carl Hoffman. Forty-two SAR, DAR and CAR organizations participated in laying wreaths. It is observed annually on the second Saturday of February. The "500 man" first anniversary celebration of the battle in 1998 was co-sponsored by the Samuel Elbert Chapter, Rev. Jack Bozeman, President.

The Color Guard for Georgia was begun in 1993 and by 1999 had grown to over 20 members in uniform. It has participated in programs at Cowpens, King's Mountain, Guilford Courthouse and Kettle Creek as well as for National Congresses. By 1999 there were a total of 12-15 events per year requesting Color Guard Activity, including Grave Markings throughout the State.

The first Color Guard committee chairman was James Westlake and the first Georgia Society SAR Color Guard Commander was Captain Samuel Padgett (Ret.) of Coweta Falls Chapter. Earliest members in uniform were Westlake, Padgett, Homer Wright, Julian Kelly and James Bush. First appearance at all four quarterly Board of Managers meetings was 1993-94, with Padgett commanding. A female fifer from a high school band joined the Color Guard at the Annual/Spring Board of Managers meeting. She wore a uniform purchased by the State Society and issued occasionally to member and non-member students who performed with the Guard.

National Committee Chairmen serving the decade were Former Presidents General James R. Westlake and Col. Robert B. Vance, and Lt. Col. Robert F. Galer, Dr. Homer Wright and Hardwick Johnson.

Minuteman Award recipients in the decade were James R. Westlake ('89), Hardwick Johnson ('94) and Lt. Col. Robert F. Galer ('99).

Over 30 men signed the charter for the Button Gwinnett Chapter of the Georgia Society, which was presented and approved at the April 10, 1999 Board of Managers Meeting. Button Gwinnett was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence and the namesake of the chapter's home county of Gwinnett. It is interesting to note there had been an earlier chapter in Gwinnett with the same name that had disbanded in the 1960's. The grandfather of member, Hubert Tucker, was a member of that chapter.

Compatriot Galer was also appointed a member of the National Society SAR Executive Committee by President General Howard Horne at the 109th Congress in San Diego in July 1999.

The LaGrange Chapter of the Georgia Society was chartered at the Fall 1999 Board of Managers meeting, on October 23, 1999.

In October 1998, Georgia Society President Herbert B. "Kit" Braselton headed a delegation of State and National SAR officers who traveled to Valdosta to discuss chapter possibilities with the Valdosta members. It was at this meeting that Georgia Society President Braselton appointed Bill Carswell as Acting President of the Proposed Valdosta Chapter and gave the group authority to function as a chapter. An Application for Charter of the Valdosta Chapter was submitted and approved at the April 1, 2000 Board of Managers Meeting. Georgia Society President Larry Guzy presented the charter of the Valdosta Chapter during the charter banquet in June 2000.

The decade ended as it began, a State Society of enthusiastic Compatriots seeking to enter the new millennium to make further contributions to the growth and progress of Georgia Society and National Society SAR in the goals of patriotic, educational and historical matters and events for the SAR.

The Years from 2000 to 2005

By Billy H. Thompson⁸

Supplemented by Chapter Histories⁹

The Georgia Society, SAR has a glorious and interesting history, and this is one way to preserve this heritage for future Compatriots. The Georgia Society, SAR has prospered and grown under the leadership and vision of its past and present Presidents, and the Chapter Presidents.

Starting the new decade, the Dalton Chapter of the Georgia Society was chartered at the January 8, 2000 Board of Managers meeting.

The 21st century began with Compatriot Edgar G. Sterrett, Jr., President. At the April 2000 Annual Meeting, Larry Guzy became President and brought youthful energy and vision into the Society. As time moved on many innovative ideas were developed to improve the Society's image and History.

The Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter of the Georgia Society had its first organizational meeting in July of 1999. The organizer of the chapter was Bill Fredrickson, a member of the Lyman Hall Chapter of Gainesville, Ga. They were chartered on April 1, 2000.

The Captain John Collins Chapter was chartered at the Fall 2000 Board of Managers Meeting, October 13, 2000. Patriot Collins, who is buried in Cobb County, served in the South Carolina Militia from 10 May 1776 to 26 Oct. 1776 under Captain Robert McAfee and Colonel Neal.

At the Annual Meeting held in Atlanta in March 2001 Roger G. Lamb, Jr. was elected President. President Lamb's goals were to increase the membership count and to promote the founding of new chapters. His purpose was to educate the public and especially school children of the freedoms secured by the heroes of the American Revolutionary War.

The Georgia Society has been in good hands. Dr. Milton Johnson was elected President for year 2002/2003 and continued the program in place to provide Society and chapter growth. The main thrust of President Johnson and his State Officers was to enhance all SAR activities.

Senior Vice President BG John W. Gillette became the next President of the Georgia Society in April 2003. "Passion is the hallmark of every dedicated and devoted member of the Sons of the American Revolution" was the opening line of the first message of the newly elected President Gillette, quoted in *The Hornet's Nest* newsletter. President Gillette was installed at the March 2003 Annual Meeting in Atlanta. He emphasized that every Compatriot should dress and act like one, and to always wear a nametag.

The list of great Presidents with leadership skills goes on. The current President, Col. George Thurmond, was elected in April 2004 and again in April 2005 for a second term. President Thurmond has provided excellent leadership, and the Society has grown in membership and National acclaim during his tenure. The Georgia Society has become known as the "Award Winning Society" due to its many fine accomplishments and awards. Many of these awards are the result of years of dedicated, loyal and patriotic labor of many Georgia Compatriots.

⁸ Georgia Society Chairman, Americanism Committee (completed October 2, 2005).

⁹ Georgia Society *Source Book* & Chapter Web Sites, additional research by Lt. Col. Robert Galer, Col. George Thurmond, and Kline O. Pugh.

President Thurmond re-implemented the Leadership Training Conferences after a three-year hiatus for chapter presidents and committee chairmen. These conferences were well-attended and provided needed information and training.

It is interesting to note that even though every President had unique goals for the Georgia Society, there was always a common concern for chapter and membership growth. Each understood that membership is the lifeblood of the organization. There were motivation contests, recognition lapel pins and ribbons and other incentives to secure new members.

It is noteworthy to mention that the total membership count for the Georgia Society exceeded 1400 members in 30 chapters. This record is a good indication that the Georgia Society is moving in the right direction.

Following are the membership numbers reported to the National Society by Compatriot Kline Pugh Georgia Society Secretary:

2000	-	2001	-	2002	-	2003	-	2004	-	2005	-
1160		1157		1182		1383		1476		1236	

It is a known fact that to be an active and viable organization, growth is a vital asset. The Georgia Society had the good fortune of chartering four new chapters during these years. This excitement, however, was dulled by the loss of two existing chapters (Middle Georgia and McIntosh) on January 22, 2005. The members of these chapters transferred their membership to other active chapters.

The Pulaski Jubilee: October 9, 1779 was a dark day for the American Revolution Continental Army. On that day Brigadier General Casimir Pulaski was mortally wounded in the Battle of Savannah, and died two days later on the U.S. brig *Wasp* in Savannah harbor.

The United States Congress had, shortly after Pulaski's death approved the erection of a marble monument to his memory, but this was not completed at that time. The second monument was begun in 1825, when General Marquis de Lafayette, on an official visit, laid the cornerstone, but not completed until October 1853, and dedicated in Monterey Square in Savannah.

Then on October 9, 2001, epitomizing another first for the Sons of the American Revolution, the Georgia Society had the opportunity to say "thanks" to General Pulaski, who had contributed so much to the Revolutionary War effort.

Many high-level officials and public people, including the Georgia Society, participated in rededication and commemorative ceremonies. The Georgia Society Color Guard was a principal element of the activity.

Another exciting event in October 2001 was the Coweta Falls Chapter 25th Anniversary and Banquet. One hundred twenty Compatriots and distinguished guests attended the gala affair, including Georgia Society State President Roger Lamb and Columbus City Officials. The 12 living charter members of the chapter were recognized as the guests of honor and were awarded certificates commemorating the occasion. Former President General James R. Westlake attended the original chartering banquet, and was the featured speaker for this special occasion.

Space will not permit the telling in detail or even listing the many activities of the Georgia Society Color Guard. This colorful patriotic group of Compatriots dressed in their Colonial uniforms, musket unit, and

drummer are in demand for many celebrations and events. One such event is the U.S. Army Birthday celebration each year at Fort McPherson. This is, indeed, a great honor be invited year after year.

For the first time, the Georgia Society Color Guard was privileged to be a part of the 221st Anniversary Victory Celebration Parade at Yorktown, VA on Saturday, October 19, 2002.

The Georgia Color Guard is present at Regional Revolutionary War Site celebrations and has been given many medals and awards for outstanding performance over a long period of time. The Color Guard is a credit to the Sons of the American Revolution organization.

The King's Mountain Celebration in 2004 was dedicated to the 30 forgotten Georgians that participated in the Revolutionary War engagement on that site. The most notable wreath laid was the one presented by Compatriot Lt. Col. Robert Galer, Chairman of the Georgia Historic Sites and Celebrations Committee. A total of 23 Georgia Color Guardsmen mustered – nearly 80% of the requested 30, to honor the memory of 30 Georgians that history has largely forgotten.

After two days at King's Mountain, the Georgia Compatriots moved on to Savannah, GA to celebrate the 225th anniversary of the Siege of Savannah, the 2nd bloodiest battle of the Revolution, 2nd only to Bunker Hill in terms of casualties. The main event for the SAR was the presentation of the National Society, Georgia Society, Altamaha Chapter and the Marshes of Glynn Chapter wreaths on Saturday, October 9, 2004, at the Battlefield Park.

This describes the fourth and last of a series of events that were begun in 2001 in Savannah to honor the Polish General Casimir Pulaski who fought with the American troops and was mortally wounded in the Battle of Savannah on October 9, 1779. The Polish Ambassador, the National Society, the Georgia Society and others laid commemorative wreaths at the Pulaski monument to honor General Pulaski. The Georgia Society Color Guard participated in the ceremony. The Pulaski Jubilee was 2001-2005 in the City of Savannah.

The Casimir Pulaski Chapter, Georgia Society, was established October 13, 2001 in Carrollton, Georgia by Compatriot H M "Dutch" Dreyer and Col. Robert Bauchspies and named in honor of this Polish General of the American Revolutionary forces. Pulaski became a Revolutionary War hero.

The Georgia Society chartered a new chapter in Fayette County on July 13, 2002. Appropriately named the "Marquis de Lafayette Chapter," the group has increased from 11 organizational members to 43 members. Said newly elected president, Doug Stansberry, "I am very proud to be associated with this organization and this chapter. We must always remember and honor those, whose freedoms were dearly won, so that we might be here today. I have a friend who teaches school, and he told me that the schools new history book only has eight sentences on the American Revolution."

The Joel Early Chapter was chartered July 13, 2002. The formative meetings were held in Blakely, Georgia, near Bainbridge. It is unique in that its members come from several southwest Georgia counties for a distance of about seventy-five miles from north to south. Meetings have been held in a number of locations within this area. The chapter name honors Joel Early, born in Virginia about 1745, the son of Jeremiah Early, a Colonel in the Bedford Militia in Virginia. Joel Early served his Revolutionary War service as a Lieutenant in the Virginia Militia.

An earlier Bainbridge chapter, named after Col. John Dooly, became defunct in 1991-92. Col. John Dooly (1740-1780) commanded a regiment at the Battle of Kettle Creek in 1779 and was killed at his home by Tories in 1780.

The Georgia Society Compatriots and the Georgia Society Color Guard participate in the various battle site celebrations in Georgia and the Carolinas on an annual basis. The Georgia Society Color Guard is always available for Revolutionary War Soldiers' grave markings and many other patriotic functions. It is particularly impressive when the Color Guard participates in the burial ceremony of a fallen Compatriot.

The "marking" or identifying the graves of Revolutionary War Soldiers is a very important and significant event in the Georgia Society. This patriotic event is becoming increasingly popular.

The Georgia Society *Source Book*, since its beginning, has been a valuable source of information. Now, in this technical culture that we enjoy, the *Source Book* is available on CD.

The Award-Winning Georgia Society Compatriots have received many medals and certificates in recognition of outstanding service to the National Society and the Georgia Society. It would not be possible to list all the citations here. Some awards follow:

In 2003, Past Georgia Society President Larry Guzy was elected to serve as Vice President General of the South Atlantic District and served with distinction.

President G. E. "Tucker" Haught of the Ocmulgee Chapter presented the Good Citizenship Medal and Certificate to Former U.S. Senator and Compatriot Sam Nunn.

Former President and Georgia Compatriot General James R. Westlake was honored by being elected Commandant of "Old Guard" of the Gate Guard of Atlanta.

The Georgia Society Color Guard has received awards, medals, certificates of recognition for participation in many events in Georgia and elsewhere.

The Georgia Society received several awards at the 113th Annual National Congress held in Chicago. The awards ceremony belonged to the Georgia Society. The Georgia Society is one of the most active State Societies in the nation. The Georgia Society qualified for the National Flag Certificate Award for the first time ever since it's beginning 84 years ago. Nineteen Chapters participated with 85 Flag Certificate presentations. Of special note was the presentation of the National Society SAR's highest honor, the Minuteman Award, to Compatriot Dr. T. Fisher Craft.

The Georgia Society news is well reported in its quarterly newsletter, *The Hornet's Nest*. The publication has won numerous National awards and has been expanded to 20 pages. Editor Jack McCord served for eight years in this position.

Larry Wilson served as Registrar of the Georgia Society from April 1998 through March 2004; Compatriot Wilson decided to retire from this position. He was very knowledgeable, a great source of information and an expert researcher. During Larry's 6-year tenure he processed 975 applications. Larry will be missed and difficult to replace.

Georgia Society Chaplain Rev. Dan Gates, Coweta Falls Chapter, has revitalized the State Chaplaincy with energy and purpose. His compassion, excitement, and talents have been received well all across the National Society.

Compatriot Kline O. Pugh continues to serve in an outstanding manner as Georgia Society Secretary, having been elected at the Annual Meeting in 1998. His long tenure and organizational skills are of great benefit to the society.

Georgia Society Compatriots continue to reap awards for activities beyond the Georgia Society. "Tucker" Haught of the Ocmulgee Chapter has been commended by the United States Secretary of Defense for his volunteer activities with the Georgia Committee of the Office of the Secretary of Defense Medal, for exceptional public service. The medal was presented in a private ceremony in Atlanta, GA.

President George Thurmond and a large group of Compatriots attended the National Society 114th Annual Congress in Pittsburgh, PA. President Thurmond commented "It was with a great deal of pride and pleasure that I represented you at the Awards Night." Compatriots from the Georgia Society appointed to National Society positions were: Dr. T. Fisher Craft, Ambassador to Switzerland; BG John W Gillette Ambassador to the Military; Douglas H. Stansberry Vice President International.

The Georgia Society and its chapters received various National awards for exceptional service to the Sons of the American Revolution organization.

The Georgia Society was saddened by the death of Past State President James L. Holman, a long time member and President of the Coweta Falls Chapter. Compatriot Holman was a loyal and active supporter of the SAR. Compatriot Holman died November 10, 2000.

Compatriot Herman R. Tovey, Jr. lost the battle with cancer on September 2003, but he never surrendered. The Georgia Society lost a great friend, great Compatriot and a sincere, loyal and long-time member. Compatriot Tovey was a former member of the Piedmont Chapter, originator and author of the *Source Book*, as well as other firsts in the Society. Herman Tovey contributed in many ways to the Georgia Society through his creative and talented personality. At the time of his death he was a member of the Coweta Falls Chapter.

January 30, 2002 was a sad day for the Sons of the American Revolution organization. From the Chapter, State and National levels, President General Robert B. Vance, Sr. served the SAR well with great vision and energy. It has been said that the greatest honor we can give to Col. Robert B. Vance, his family, his ancestors and family descendants is to remain strong links in the American chain ourselves, to see that it is not broken on our watch. Bob carried his flag high, and never wavered. He now has crossed over the river and rests beneath the trees. President General Robert B. Vance, Sr. was Mr. SAR. He organized new chapters and helped many Compatriots with their application papers. He believed in the purposes and goals of the SAR.

The Georgia Society's loss of Compatriot Herman Ross Arnold, Jr. who departed from this life July 20, 2005 at his vacation home on St. Simon's Island, Georgia, was a great one. He joined the Atlanta Chapter in 1985, and was an active member. He was always interested in history, and was a prime supporter of the SAR Library and was responsible for the two-volume publication, "Georgia Revolutionary Soldiers & Sailors, Patriots & Pioneers. He served as Chancellor of the Georgia Society for many years.

Tuesday, September 11, 2001, was a day that America shall always remember when terrorists made the United States aware that it is possible to be attacked, and lives and property be destroyed in a moment. It was a direct attack on democracy, freedom, and life, as we know it. The call is for all Sons of the American Revolution, descendants of the Revolutionary Army War heroes, to stand up for America. The SAR stands for patriotism.

On July 2, 2003, the Georgia Society Board of Managers increased the number of the Society's Geographical Regions from 7 to 10, effective in the 2004-2005 administrative year. The purpose of the change was to reduce the traveling distances and increase the efficiency of the Regional Vice Presidents in starting new chapters and membership growth.

Compatriot Lt. Col. Robert Galer received the Silver Good Citizenship Medal from the Wisconsin Society. After years of effort the Wisconsin Society dedicated a bronze plaque honoring a Revolutionary War Patriot buried in the state. For his support in this effort, Lt. Col. Robert Galer was invited to be the keynote speaker at this event.

One of the prestigious awards of the Georgia Society is the President General Robert B. Vance, Sr., Membership Trophy that is presented at the Annual Meeting Awards Luncheon to the member who sponsored the most new members in the preceding year.

For the calendar year of 2002 the award was presented to Larry T. Guzy (John Collins Chapter) for sponsoring 20 new members; for 2003 to Douglas H. Stansberry (28) of Marquis de Lafayette Chapter; and for 2004 H. Harrison Tillman, Sr. (9) of Valdosta Chapter.

Georgia Compatriots are active in all areas of National SAR activity. President General James R. Westlake continues to make a difference in the organization. He received the Distinguished Service Award from the Presidential Families of America. The PFA Membership consists of persons who can prove direct or collateral descent from a President of the United States.

Two events, held annually are noteworthy. Kettle Creek has expanded to activities conducted over four days and reached a high in participation with 67 organizations represented in 2005. The Frederica Naval Action program was organized in 2005 by the Marshes of Glynn Chapter as an annual observance on Patriot's Day, April 19, the date of a very successful engagement by Col. Samuel Elbert, capturing three British ships in 1778. A Historic Sites marker was unveiled on this occasion – the first ever by the Georgia Society.

The past history of the Georgia Society is exciting and records the many activities and accomplishments of this great Society. Many Georgia Society Compatriots have held National office and have won awards. The Georgia Society, under capable and dedicated leadership, is destined to move on and accomplish great progress in the future. Georgia Society trusts and foundation funds are growing, membership is on the increase, new chapters are in process and interest in educational programs is on the rise with more chapter participation.

The Georgia Fellows Fund is up and running and doing well. The money donated is being used wisely for un-funded and under-funded activities, and the membership is growing. This is open to any Compatriot or spouse that makes the minimum contribution of \$250 which can be donated in any amount over time.

The new Education Committee is a step forward in the cooperation between the local school systems and the SAR. The poster and essay contests have been around for a long time with positive results. However, the Education Committee will create new emphasis and participation. This effort was implemented during President George Thurmond's tenure.

The Georgia Society will host the 119th National Society Congress in Atlanta in 2009. Compatriot Larry Guzy is Chairman of the Georgia Society Committee, which is planning this event.

The Georgia Society announced the formation of the new Cherokee Chapter, with Billy Templeton elected President. It was through the vision and energy of former Georgia Society President Roger Lamb and others that the Cherokee Chapter joined the other 28 chapters. The Cherokee Chapter was chartered July 23, 2005.

The Georgia Society is alive and well with a great future. Many Georgia Society leaders are called upon to serve as National Officers and Committee Chairmen. The Georgia Society has a fabulous past and there is no limit to the future.