

## Preparations underway for celebration of Revolutionary Days in Washington/Wilkes

Preparations are well underway for the annual Revolutionary Days Celebration in Washington-Wilkes during the weekend of February 13-15. "This, the 230th Anniversary of the Battle of Kettle Creek, will be the biggest and best ever Revolutionary Days Celebration," states Walker Chewning, Sons of the American Revolution chairman of this year's annual event.

There are three days of historical, educational and fun activities with many opportunities to learn more about daily life in Wilkes County during the 1770s. Saturday afternoon at the Battleground will feature a first-time dramatic portrayal of the victorious action which occurred in February of 1779. "Come help us remember our Patriot ancestors and their sacrifices," Chewning said. "Feel proud to be an American."

During last year's activities Pam Sutton, a visitor from Johns Creek, Georgia, commented, "Our family has been to tons of historical sites, lots of events and reenactments. This was without a doubt the most family-child friendly, educational, and well-organized event we have ever attended!"

### January activities

Bartram Trail regional librarian Lillie Crowe said that Revolutionary Days activities have already begun for Wilkes County school children. The Kettle Creek Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution is sponsoring two poster contests, she said. "Fourth-grade students in the elementary school will prepare posters which illustrate the Battle at Kettle Creek, and the Georgia History class in the middle school will create posters about the founding of the City of Washington which occurred on January 23, 1780."

The winners will be recognized on The Square on Saturday, February 14, and their posters will be displayed in the meeting room at the Mary Willis Library during the entire month of February.

Christine Swager, Revolutionary War author, visited Washington schools in December and highlighted portions of her new book, *Heroes of Kettle Creek 1779-1782*, with the children. To further help the students interpret the battle and life in Wilkes County, members of the SAR Elijah Clarke Militia in Revolutionary attire will visit the schools in January. Copies of Swager's book and poster boards have been provided to the schools by the Kettle Creek Chapter DAR.

It was at Kettle Creek on February 14, 1779, that a small group of Georgia and South Carolina militia took on a British unit twice its size and prevailed by sheer courage and determination. Their leaders, Colonels Andrew Pickens and Elijah Clarke, would go on to further glory, but Colonel John Dooley would pay with his life for his role in this battle.

**Parade - Saturday, February 14**  
The Revolutionary Days Parade will begin at 10 a.m. in front of the Mary Willis Library and proceed to the historic Washington Square. The SAR Color Guard in Continental Army uniforms and Elijah Clarke Militia, many Revolutionary War re-enactors from Georgia and South Carolina, and the U.S. Army Band from Fort Gordon will lead the parade.

Washington-Wilkes Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H Club members and any other local youth organizations are invited to walk in the parade. Groups may contact the Chamber of Commerce at 706-678-2013 to learn more about the parade and participation in the day's activities.

### Living History on the Square

Living History activities and demonstrations with Colonial personalities will continue through the lunch hour. "Imagine Living in Wilkes County during the Revolutionary War" will be the theme. General George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Austin Dabney, Nancy Hart, and Thomas Jefferson will be present. Children will have opportunities to play Colonial games and drill with the Georgia Militia.

There will be black-powder rifle demonstrations, archaeologists with artifacts from Wilkes County forts, and explanations of the Revolutionary War Battle flags. Patriots

and Loyalists will compete for allegiance and recruit townspeople for their militia. BBQ and hamburgers will be sold for lunch as well as tricorn hats for boys and mob-caps for girls to purchase.

Visitors will enjoy living history window displays by merchants around The Square, including Colonial ladies doing hand work and sewing inside the Chamber office, a puppet show of Colonial music performed by children in the Washington Fitness Center, and a Colonial spinner in the window at Talk of the Town. A backwoods trapper will display his pelts in the entrance to Grate Fires and a Continental Army surgeon will be present at the Master's Wildlife Taxidermy.

All activities are free and everyone is invited participate in this historic weekend celebration. Tourism Director Ashley Barnett said, "Have fun while learning about how Georgia played an important part in the forming of our great nation."



### Confederate Gen. Porter Alexander on display

Curator Stephanie Macchia of the Washington-Wilkes Historical Museum shows the exhibit of a new collection of Civil War art now at the museum. Loaned to the historical museum by Jerald Land, a collector and expert on Confederate Brigadier General Porter Alexander, the exhibit will be on display for the next several weeks. The centerpiece is a signed and numbered print of Mort Kunstler's "Forming the Line."

## From elections to cookoffs, headlines chronicle events of 2008...

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to clean up or city will have work done, put costs on tax bill. . . . Miss Wilkes County Pageant deadline is next week. . . . Fall Cruise-In set for this Saturday.

**September 18, 2008** - Property tax process, rural truck traffic get attention from Wilkes County Commission. . . . New 'Early Voting' starts Monday for November election; no-reason, in-person voting will begin at 8 a.m. . . . Clarks Hill Partnership gets state 'Champion' award for promoting regional tourism. . . . Wilkes County joins other systems in lawsuit demanding adequate state school funding. . . . Yes! You can split your vote.

**September 25, 2008** - Slow gas supply, panicky demand mean spotty fuel shortages here. . . . Pliant to expand, adding 22 jobs at Washington plant. . . . Miss Wilkes/Little Miss Wilkes pageants to be on stage Saturday at Pope Center. . . . Mule Day Southern Heritage Festival preparations nearly complete for day of food, music, fun, mules. . . . 'Cat on a Hot Tin Roof' on stage Oct. 3, 4, 10, 11. . . . Celebrity Waiters Dinner is Thursday, October 2.

**October 2, 2008** - Sheena Kopecky crowned Miss Wilkes County. . . . Alert neighbor's suspicion leads to alleged burglars being caught red-handed. . . . Alleged top Rayle crack cocaine trafficker and Athens escapee arrested after investigations. . . . 'Elvis' to headline Celebrity Waiters Dinner. . . . Forum held for Wilkes County voters to hear from candidates for sheriff, probate, magistrate judge.

**October 9, 2008** - Mule Day this Saturday at Callaway Plantation will be bigger than ever. . . . Severe drought continues to plague Wilkes; meaningful rainfall relief in October unlikely. . . . Washington Presbyterian steeple has a secret (bullet holes). . . . Public hearing set for Rusher Street redevelopment plan. . . . Market Days Street Festival has hot musical lineup for October 25. . . . Tyrone Volunteer Fire Department stops kitchen fire with quick response.

**October 16, 2008** - 'Tiger Blue Out' - Spirits high as Tigers prepare to face archrival Red Devils. . . . County Commissioners approve proposal to revalue residential properties, tracts under 30 acres. . . . City Council denies homeowner request concerning burned Liberty Street home.

**October 23, 2008** - McDonald's Passport to Play brings fun, games to Washington-Wilkes Elementary School. . . . Board of Education struggles between saving tax money and buying locally. . . . Clarks Hill Partnership sees early success in bringing tourist attention to region. . . . Pre-K Teacher Jillian Andrews is Wilkes Teacher of the Year. . . . Wilkes workforce academy plan agreement to be signed at Co-Op ceremony here Friday. . . . Annual Rayle Ramble to highlight children, music.

**October 30, 2008** - Wilkes County voters will choose from one

of the largest fields ever in next Tuesday's election. . . . Wilkes workforce academy takes next step with Co-Op agreement. . . . Fall ArtFest next weekend brings favorite artists, works to The Square.

**November 6, 2008** - Mark Moore elected Wilkes County Sheriff; Rainey, Charming in runoff for probate seat. . . . Wilkes Board of Education votes to request temporary tax digest be set by Wilkes judge. . . . Fall ArtFest 2008 to kick off Friday night with juried art show all Saturday and Sunday. . . . Water plant operator OMI holds meetings, helps clean up parks in Washington visit. . . . Property appraisers now evaluating all homes, smaller plots. . . . Bonfire, parade, game, ceremony to put 'Spotlight on Tigers' for 2008 homecoming.

**November 13, 2008** - City starts process leading to new service delivery strategy. . . . Children get a taste of art at Fall ArtFest. . . . Obama's

election impacts Wilkes people: 'He's set a new standard for everybody.' . . . Voters should return to polls December 2 for local and state runoff elections. . . . Keep every holiday dollar and dime in Wilkes County as holiday shopping time kicks off for the season. . . . Haley Ward crowned 2008 Homecoming Queen at W-WCHS; Lindsey Guin, Miss Tiger; DeWayne Davis, Homecoming King.

**November 20, 2008** - Downtown Candlelight Shopping heads list of holiday events. . . . County gets 'miracle' GDOT funding for striping, signage on county roads. . . . Wilkes Board of Education recognizes food service heads as 'unsung heroes' . . . Early voting has already started. . . . School principals work at McDonalds for charity.

**November 26, 2008** - Council meets in retreat to tackle problems, consider future programs. . . . Joe Barnett's fine cooking brings na-

tional attention. . . . Pope Center contract is subject of called meeting Wednesday night. . . . Runoff vote on Tuesday, December 4, to decide Probate, Senate seats. . . . *The Sanders Family Christmas* opens at The Playhouse next week.

**December 4, 2008** - Thomas Charming wins easily in Tuesday runoff race for Wilkes County Probate Judge. . . . City chooses new management company to run Pope Center. . . . Candlelight Shopping crowds will return Tuesday night, December 9. . . . "Sanders Family Christmas" opens tonight at Playhouse. . . . Annual Wilkes County Legislative Breakfast set for Thursday, December 8.

**December 11, 2008** - Truck driver dies in hazardous chemical truck wreck near Rayle. . . . City votes to accept Gourmet Services proposal to operate The Pope Center. . . . Russell Morgan resigns as W-WCHS Athletic Director after board denies support. . . . Group honors Larry Chapman for years of firefighting service. . . . Christmas Tour of Homes weekend is packed with holiday events.

**December 18, 2008** - 'Throw-down!' TV chef Bobby Flay makes a surprise entrance and challenges Joe Barnett to shrimp cookoff. . . . Elba pipeline's demand for road access again denied by Wilkes County Commission. . . . Wilkes Legislative Breakfast hears of painful budget cuts from area's representatives. . . . Annual 'Night of Lights' set for Sunday, December 21. . . . Christmas Tour visitors, shoppers fill city to enjoy sights and sounds of holidays.

**December 25, 2008** - Wilkes County babies celebrating their first Christmas featured on the annual *News-Reporter* Christmas tree. . . . New Google Earth features allows visits to Washington-Wilkes from any computer. . . . Shoeboxes of Love bring Christmas smiles. . . . Special reindeer flight granted OK from Georgia agriculture officials. . . . The pipeline is here - watch the mud.

## Stepped up road checks, holiday patrols see more DUI, drug arrests in December

Law enforcement officers in Wilkes County have been hard at work through the holiday driving seasons looking for drivers under the influence of alcohol, using both patrol and road checks. The stepped-up enforcement resulted in several DUI arrests and felony drug arrests, along with license and other violations which lead off this roundup of December arrests.

Ferdinand Corwin Monfort, 50, of Washington, was arrested December 26 by a Georgia State Patrol trooper and charged with DUI, possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute; violation of the habitual violator law; driving while license withdrawn; and driving with an open container. He was held on \$33,000 bond.

Larry D. McWilliams, 33, of Wilkes County, was arrested December 28 by a Georgia State Patrol trooper and charged with felony possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute; speeding; and violation of the seatbelt law. He was released on \$26,000 bond.

Thomas Blanton, 28, of Appling, Ga., was arrested December 26 by a Georgia State Patrol trooper and charged with DUI, misdemeanor possession of marijuana; and an equipment violation. He was released on \$1,332 bond.

Darren Smith, 40, of Washington, was arrested December 26 by a Georgia State Patrol trooper and charged with driving under the influence. He was released on \$666 bond.

Thomas Milton Elam, 45, of Washington, was arrested December 26 by a Georgia State Patrol trooper and charged with DUI. He was released on \$1,628 bond.

Michael Roshawn Elam, 26, of Wilkes County, was arrested December 28 by a Georgia State Patrol trooper and charged with DUI and with driving while license is withdrawn. He was released on \$3,000 bond.

Tashan Crite, 31, of Washington, was arrested December 26 by Washington police and charged with DUI and failure to stop for a stop sign. She was released on \$1,724 bond.

Bernita Crew, 53, of Washington, was arrested December 26 by a Georgia State Patrol trooper and charged with possession of a

controlled substance with intent to distribute. She was held on \$25,000 bond.

Ed Allen Scott, 53, of Elberton, was arrested December 3 by Wilkes County deputies and charged with two counts of possession of a controlled substance; violation of the open container law; possession of firearms or knife while trying to commit crime; possession of drug-like objects, violation of the drug container law; and a traffic charge. He was released on \$26,000 bond.

Brantley P. Walker Jr., 19, of Rayle, was arrested December 5 by a Georgia State Patrol trooper and charged with driving under the influence; failure to report an accident; reckless driving; misdemeanor possession of marijuana; violation of the open container law; interference with government property; and following too closely. He was released on \$24,000 bond.

Katherine Nell Cady, 23, of Martinez, was arrested December 11 by a Georgia State Patrol trooper and charged with driving under the influence and with following too close. She was released on \$1,276 bond.

Antwan Nakia Wilkins, 33 of Thomson, was arrested December 15 by a Georgia State Patrol trooper and charged with driving under the influence and with failure to drive in a single lane. He was held on \$1,822 bond.

William Cofer, 48, of Washington, was arrested December 25 by a Wilkes County deputy and charged with aggravated stalking. He was held on \$250,000 bond.

Deron Walton, 20, of Tignall, was arrested December 27 by a Wilkes County deputy and charged with burglary. No bond was noted on the arrest report.

Paul Epps, 20, of Washington, was arrested December 28 by Washington Police and charged with driving without a license. He was released on \$1,426 bond.

Lilly P. Milton, 44, of Washington, was arrested December 23 by Washington Police and charged with disorderly conduct. She was held on \$283 bond.

Felicia Milton, 21, of Washington, was arrested December 21 by Washington Police and charged with disorderly conduct. She was held on \$283 bond.

John Earl Bunner, 50, of Dewy Rose, was arrested December 22 by a Wilkes County deputy and charged with criminal trespass. He was released on \$3,000 bond.



**The Wilkes County Board of Registrars will meet Thursday, January 15, Room 323, Wilkes County Courthouse, 10 a.m.**

**The Wilkes County Board of Health will meet Friday, January 23, at 11 a.m. at the health department on Gordon Street.**

### Community Calendar

- January 8 County Commissioners, 7 p.m.  
W-W Garden Club, 2 p.m., North Wilkes Library  
Wills Memorial Hospital Managing Diabetes, 5 p.m.  
LWREA, 11 a.m., MW Library  
Census job recruiter, 10 a.m., MW Library
- January 9 Toastmasters Club, 6 p.m., MW Library
- January 10 Old School Reunion, 12 noon, MW Library
- January 12 Washington City Council, City Hall, 6 p.m.  
Woman's Club, 12 noon, clubhouse
- January 13 Iris Garden Club, 10 a.m., Parish House  
Historic Preservation, 5 p.m., City Hall Annex  
Concerned Citizens, 7 p.m., MW Library  
W-WPS Council, 12 p.m.
- January 15 Tignall Homemakers Club, 2 p.m., North Wilkes Library  
Tea and Learn, 2:30 p.m., WMH Cafe  
Wills Memorial Hospital Managing Diabetes, 5 p.m.  
Board of Registrars, 10 a.m., Courthouse
- January 17 New Saints CME SNAP, 10 a.m.
- January 18 Mt. Carmel noon program, 4 p.m.
- January 19 DAR, 12 noon, Woman's Club
- January 21 Census job recruiter, 2 p.m., MW Library
- January 22 CofC banquet, 6:30 p.m., Pope Center  
Wills Memorial Hospital Managing Diabetes, 5 p.m.
- January 23 Wilkes Board of Health, 11 a.m., health dept.
- January 24 New Saints CME SNAP, 10 a.m.
- January 26 Board of Education, 7:00 p.m.  
Civil War Roundtable, 6 p.m., Jockey Club
- January 27 WMH Auxiliary, 10 a.m., WMH Library
- February 5 Wills Memorial Hospital Managing Diabetes, 5 p.m.
- February 9 Washington City Council, 6 p.m., City Hall
- February 12 County Commissioners, 2 p.m.
- February 15 Black History Program, 4 p.m., Mt. Carmel



### Newnan club offers support

Each year Kiwanis Clubs all over the state present the Georgia District Governor with special gifts at their respective Division Rallies. This year Carlton Norris of Washington is the Georgia District Governor and at the Division 23 Rally in Newnan, Georgia, he was presented with a check of \$200.00 to be given to God's Marketplace, Inc. in honor of Margaret Norris. At the Washington club's regular meeting on Tuesday, Kiwanis President Chris Hughes (left) presented the check to God's Marketplace Director David Toburen on behalf of the White Oak Golden K Club of Newnan.