

13th Colony Trail

Second Meeting – a Report on the Colony Heritage Tourism Trail February 26th, 2008, at the R&D Seafood and Steakhouse 10:00 am in Sylvania, GA.

By James Larry Wilson, Chairman 13th Colony Trail GASSAR committee.

GASSAR Committee Members: Present were: President GASSAR Charlie Newcomer, Bill Ramsaur, NSSAR VPG S. Atlantic Dist. George Thurmond, Walker Chewning, former Sites and Celebration Committee Chairman Ltc Bob Galer, , and Chairman of GASSAR 13th Colony Trail Larry Wilson. Economic Directors, County Commissioners, City Officials, Chambers of Commerce, and District Directors of Tourism and Bruce Green, Product Manager, Georgia Department of Economic Development.

(Proceedings and impressions of the Feb 26th meeting by Larry Wilson, Chairman, “13th Colony Trail, GASSAR”

Product Manager, Tourism, GDITT led the session again and continued the discussion and planning for “13th Colony Heritage Tourism Trail” as he titled it. After being welcomed by Mayor Margaret Evans of the City of Sylvania Bruce Green led the sessions in 1) Development Opportunities for Tourism Trails, 2) Potential Resources for Trail Inventory, 3) Input from attendees. The session was treated for lunch by the Mayor Evans, and 4) afterwards the group divided into 5 categories for SWOT analysis –a) Organizational Possibilities, b) Inventory, c) Funding, d) Signage, e) and Marketing, f) Partnerships, projects, and product

One of the more important discussions concerned the organizational direction for the “13th Colony Trail” Organizational Group. To determine “who are we?” A “501 3c” was discussed and a “County by County Opt in method” was discussed. No decision was made, but the group discussed to organize with a “501 3c” initially and then go to a second phase “County Opt in” for final planning.

Funding was not very clear, but it was apparent OneGeorgia funding, TE GDOT grants, and other sources were available through County/City applications.

A House of Representative Resolution will be submitted for the 2009 Session.

The National Parks Service should be consulted to obtain their endorsement.

NSSAR should be asked to endorse the “13th Colony Project”.

A list of Stakeholders should be identified. (Historians, consultants, corporations, State Organizations, Colleges and Universities, authors, publishers, artists, photographers, and other allied associates....)

A Chronology of events/heritage should be catalogued. A List of Resources – camps, trails, homes, cemeteries, churches, historic markers, historic places, water ways, canons, battlegrounds, museums, etc.

Finally, a tour bus carried the group to see the battle site of “Brier Creek March 3rd, 1779” where Samuel Elbert was captured and imprisoned for a lengthy period of time.

Thank you, Chairman, GASSAR, “13th Colony Trail”...Larry Wilson