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, 4th Thursday of each month at:  
Mary Willis Library  
Washington, GA.
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.

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

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, An-
drew 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. Rey-

nolds:

"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 in-
cluded 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 in-
cluded 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 Ket-
tle Creek.

A second substantiation is in-
cluded 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 Jo-
seph 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 Jo-
seph Pickens became a Captain
about that time. He was quoting a
statement of historian Alexander
Garden, a former officer of Lee’s Le-
gion. Another quotation that led to
the misunderstanding is one from
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.

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

Friday, February 8th

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 9th

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 9th, 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
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?

Have you written an article that may be of interest to our readers?
Please email your article to wcpatriot@bellsouth.net