



KCBA THE BATTLEFIELD DISPATCH

P. O. Box 729

Washington, Georgia 30673

Newsletter of the Kettle Creek Battlefield Association, Inc. Editor: N. Walker Chewning

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Continuing the Fight for Kettle Creek, Preserve the Kettle Creek Battlefield

How it Started

February 14, 1779, was a significant day in the American Revolution. British provincial troops under the command of Col. Boyd were defeated by a much smaller force of colonial militia under the command of Gen. Andrew Pickens, Col. Elijah Clarke, and Col John Dooly at the Battle of Kettle Creek in Wilkes County, Georgia. In the words of Gen. Pickens: “We gave them such a beating that they never ventured into the backcountry of Georgia or the Carolinas again”.

After the battle, the acres settled back into a farming community and its pristine condition remained so until this day. In 1899, the DAR purchased 12.5 acres to preserve the site on which in 1930 a monument to the patriots who fought at Kettle Creek. Two acres were added later and the parcel was turned over to Wilkes County for management. Ceremonies have been conducted at the site on many occasions during the past 15 years. The GASSAR has conducted a memorial service on the weekend of or prior to February 14th of each year. In recent years, the celebration has expanded into a three day event which has included a parade, living history performers, and a re-enactment of the battle. It has become an exciting event for thousands of visitors.

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KCBA Board Meeting Dates

July 25, 2013
August 22, 2013
September 26, 2013

The Board regularly meets at 2:00 PM
4th Thursday of each month at
Mary Willis Library

The Case for Development

In 2009, the LAMAR Institute, with funding from the American Battlefield Protection Plan and the City of Washington, conducted an extensive archaeological study of the area and determined the battle occurred over a 400+ acre area, not just the original 14.5 acres which long have been designated as “War Hill”. An additional 400 acres is required for protection from commercial development. Most of the additional acreage is owned by two companies.

In 2011, the KCBA was incorporated for the purpose of preserving the battle site and expanding the area into a historic park. A pressing objective of the KCBA has been to increase interest in purchasing more of the actual battlefield and protecting this for historic, memorial, and educational purposes.

Master Plan

In 2013, the Central Savannah River Area Regional Commission (CSRARC) completed a Kettle Creek Master Plan Study for the development of a historical park. The plan includes hiking trails, historic educational paths, parking area, rest room facilities, welcome and informational center, and other educational sites in the park. The Master Plan has been received with increased support from state officials, local officials, the education community, genealogical organizations, and the public. Today we have an opportunity to rectify a pressing need for the creation of an exceptional educational, historical, and recreational park.

Purchase of Land

The KCBA has entered into negotiations with the owner of the majority of the battlefield which consists of an 800+ acre tract. The terms of the proposed contract will allow the KCBA to immediately purchase as much acreage as it has cash on hand, while placing a 5 year option to purchase the remaining acres.

This plan will allow the KCBA additional time to raise an estimated total of \$2,500,000.00 which will be needed for the purchase of the entire battlefield acreage. With that goal in mind, we are initiating a fund raising drive between now and October 31, 2013, with the goal of raising \$200,000.00. This amount will allow us to immediately purchase additional acres from the present owner and will be a strong incentive for potential funding agencies to grant monies for the purchase of the remaining acreage.

How You Can Help

The KCBA has established two funds which are available to receive your contributions. Each of the funds is established for the purpose of purchasing land to increase the size of the Kettle Creek Battlefield. The contract for the purchase of the initial acreage and the subsequent option for the remaining acreage is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

You may make a contribution to either or both of the following Funds:

KCBA Land Account

All contributions to this fund will be used to purchase land for the Kettle Creek Battlefield

\$5,000.00 Matching Land Fund

An anonymous donor has pledged \$5,000 in matching funds for the purchase of land for the Kettle Creek Battlefield. For each dollar received from individual donors for this fund, the fund will match the contribution.

Our Founding Fathers pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to provide us the freedoms that we enjoy today. Is it too much to ask that we honor their memory by preserving for future generation the Kettle Creek Battlefield upon which they fought? Can we not contribute some of our "fortune" to the preservation of this historic site?

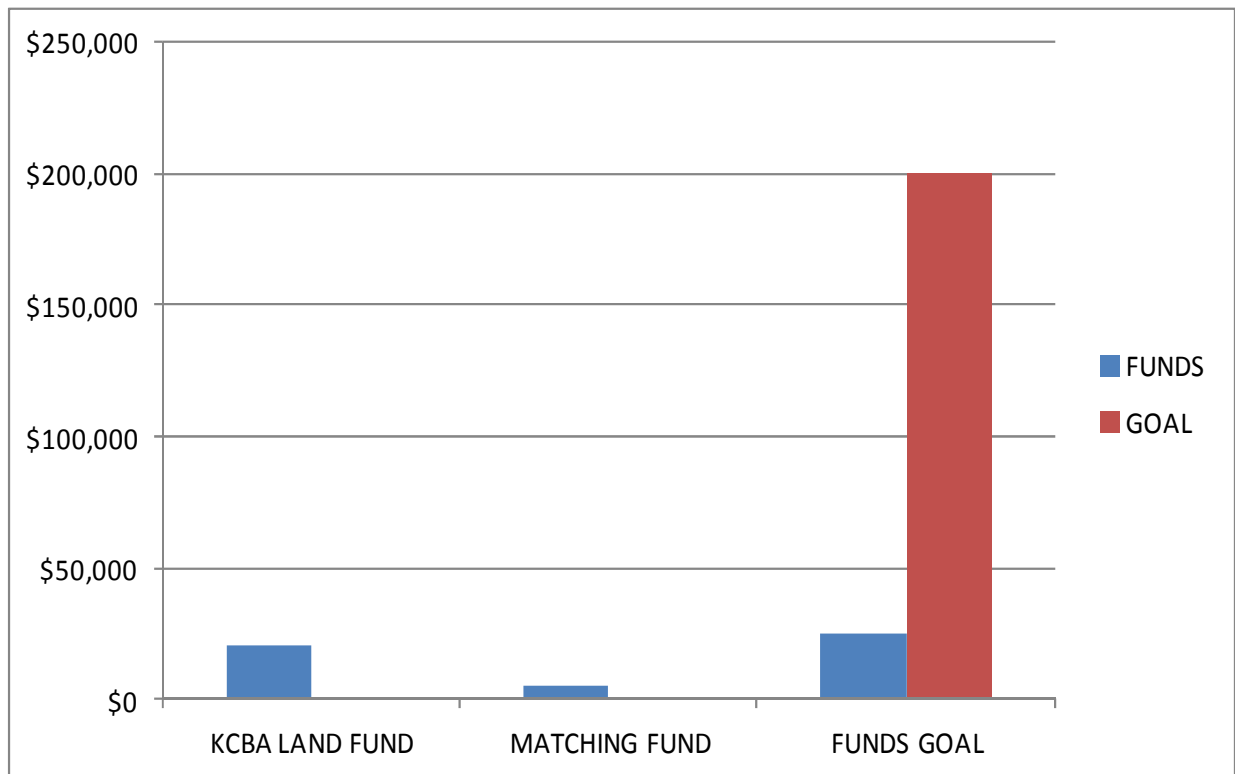
You can help to preserve their memory by contributing to the Kettle Creek Battlefield Association for the purpose of purchasing additional acreage for the establishment of a park on this historic battlefield.



**In the spirit of the 26-year old Col. Andrew Pickens in February of 1779:
Let us continue the fight!**

Funding Chart

*With your help
OUR GOAL IS TO REACH \$200,000.00 BY
OCTOBER 31, 2013*



List of Donors

KCBA - \$20,000.00

Matching Fund Donor - \$5,000.00

Battlefield Preservation Contribution Form

DATE: _____

Name or Organization: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

EMAIL: _____

This donation is in the amount of \$_____ is made to the Kettle Creek Battlefield Association for the purpose of purchasing land for the preservation and expansion for the Kettle Creek Battlefield. My pledge is for the following land purchasing account:

KCBA Land Fund

\$5,000.00 Matching Land Fund (Individual Donations Only)

All checks should be made payable to the Kettle Creek Battlefield Association and mailed to:

**Kettle Creek Battlefield Association
PO BOX 729
Washington, GA 30673**

*The KCBA is a 501(c)(3) Tax Exempt Organization.
Your donation is tax deductible.*

For additional information please contact :
Walker Chewning
President, Kettle Creek Battlefield Association
Cell: 678-409-4644 E-Mail: wcjc1@aol.com

Colonel John Dooly by Robert S. Davis

In the early days of the American Revolution, Dooly was one of the forty influential frontier Georgians who rallied behind Royal Governor James Wright by signing a protest against patriot activities in Savannah on August 5, 1775. Patriots refused admittance of the protest and the delegation to the rebel meetings in Savannah, Dooly joined with hundreds of Georgians in signing seven new protests.

Dooly soon after joined the rebellion. In 1775, his neighbors elected him colonel of a vigilante militia organized to protect the settlements from Indian attack. By the end of the year, he received a commission of captain of the local revolutionary militia and, the following year, he became captain of the 12th Company of the elite Georgia Continental Regiment of Horse. With his brothers, George and Thomas (both continental officers), he traveled to Virginia to recruit men for the Georgia forces. Using legally questionable means, they brought back ninety-seven re-cruits. Thomas Dooly died in a

Creek Indian ambush in the summer of 1777. After John seized an Indian peace delegation as hostages in retaliation, he released the Indians and resigned his commission.

John Dooly did not remain out of action long. Already a member of Georgia's General Assembly, he qualified as the first sheriff of Wilkes County, Georgia and replaced the deceased John Coleman as colonel of the Wilkes militia, a position to which his men elected him in December. In the summer of 1778, he won a battle at Newsome's Pond against the Creek Indians, although he received criticism from the officers of his South Carolina militia allies for his failure to cooperate with them.

In December 1778, the British captured Savannah. By the end of January 1779 had overrun the entire state from Augusta southward. All of Georgia still in rebel hands consisted of only original Wilkes County. Loyalist patrols sent from the British camp arrived at the request of persons wanting to leave the war.

Dooly and some 100 of his men withdrew to South Carolina to seek help from the men he had offended the previous summer. Colonel Andrew Pickens and part of his regiment returned with Dooly and his men to Wilkes County, on the condition that Pickens had overall command. Together they drove the Loyalists from the county and on February 14, 1779 at Kettle Creek defeated a regiment of 600 South Carolina Loyalists attempting to reach the British at Augusta. A month later, Pickens and Dooly again combined forces, this time to route 600 Creek Indian allies of the British.

Augusta became Georgia's new state capitol as the remnants of the state government attempted to organize. Unable to unite enough persons to form a quorum, the remnants of the Savannah faction formed a rump government called the Supreme Executive Council with Dooly as a member. He also became colonel commandant (commander) of the state militia and attorney for the state in the prosecution of persons arrested for aiding the British. Nine of the men he prosecuted in the summer of 1779 went to the gallows. As a

military leader, he and his men marched to the mouth of Briar Creek to join the American forces gathering there to attempt to retake Savannah from the British. The American forces there were defeated in the Battle of Briar Creek the day before Dooly and his command arrived. In the spring of 1779, while most of the British forces marched on Charleston, South Carolina, Dooly attempted to organize the Georgia militia for an attack on the garrison left at Savannah. The failure of the military bureaucracy in the South to support Dooly and insubordination of other Georgia militia officers resulted in Dooly's campaign coming to nothing more than a cattle raid. As part of a militia brigade, he and his men joined the Franco-American forces that failed to recapture Savannah by siege and assault in September-October 1779.

John Dooly's career was from then on in decline. Georgia's state government in Augusta finally held elections and the public voted into office the rivals of Dooly's Supreme Executive Council. Thomas Lee won a court order to have Dooly evicted from Lee's former lands but had been unable to get the

order enforced. He found the new government willing to order Dooly's subordinate, Lieutenant Colonel Elijah Clarke, to carry out the order. (However, the Doolys were not evicted until after the war; the land is now, ironically, Elijah Clarke State Park.)

The new state government was not in power long, however, for in the late summer of 1780, South Carolina and Georgia fell to the British and the Georgia rebels again fled. Dooly and most of his men elected to surrender and become prisoners of war on parole.

The return of British control to Georgia meant the return of Loyalists to whom Dooly owed considerable funds from before the war. The restored colonial Georgia (Loyalist) Assembly also passed legislation against the former rebel leaders. Lee was still attempting to enforce his claim to the Dooly lands. Stories that John Dooly was planning to return to the American cause are very credible. Before he could do so, however, someone put him to death in front of his family. Loyalists likely killed him in retaliation for the attack upon the garrison at Augusta by Elijah Clarke and his rebel partisans in Sep-

tember 1780. He also may have died at the hands of someone angered by his surrendering or in revenge for some of his controversial personal dealings. The state of Georgia honored his memory by naming Dooly County for him.

Sources: Robert S. Davis, "A Frontier for Pioneer Revolutionaries: John Dooly and the Beginnings of Popular Democracy in Original Wilkes County." *Georgia Historical Quarterly* 90 (Fall 2006): 315-49. An expanded version of this article appears in Robert M. Calhoun, *et al*, *Tory Insurgents: The Loyalist Perception and Other Essays* (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 2010).

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County to take ownership of more land around Revolutionary War battlefield

By SPARKY NEWSOME

The Wilkes County Board of Commissioners has agreed to assume ownership of acreage purchased through the efforts of the Kettle Creek Battlefield Association (KCBA) with two parcels totalling about 20 acres falling immediately into the plan.

The county already owns property at the War Hill site and it has been established that the KCBA will work to acquire addi-

tional adjoining lands for the development of a historic park encompassing the area where the Battle of Kettle Creek took place during the Revolutionary War. Those acquisitions would be funded by grants and other monies raised by the KCBA. No taxpayer money is involved.

“Since Wilkes County has a record for credibility and integrity which KCBA is too young to have established, it would be advantageous in most instances for the county to serve as owner,” Joe Harris said. “The immediate proposal is for 20 acres owned by Plum Creek Timberlands with additional acreage as we might find available,” he added. Harris is chairman of the KCBA.

Harris explained that funding agencies want to know who will own and maintain the land. He further explained the future benefits to the county and its tax base based on a model of the similar development, the Ninety-Six National Historic Site. The 20

acres included in the current proposal are made up of two 10-acre, roughly triangular parcels adjoining existing county land. KCBA proposes to pay \$1,000 per acre for the property and “that Plum Creek retain title to all presently growing trees and timber and retain right to harvest the same in some agreed and reasonable time period.”

In a letter to James Rundorff, Senior Land Asset Manager for Plum Creek, Harris said, “We very much appreciate Plum Creek’s willingness to consider the Kettle Creek Battlefield Park Master Plan and your personal interest in making this project a reality for generations to come.”

All of the commissioners – Divenski Lee, Ed Geddings, Chairman Sam Moore, Kerry McAvoy, and Clem Slaton – were in attendance at the regular June meeting of the board, as were County Administrator David Tyler, County Attorney Charles LeGette, and a number of visitors.

**KCBA Officers & Directors
January 201**

Officers:

President: Walker Chewning

Secretary: Darla Wilson

Assistant Secretary: Louise McClearen

Treasurer: Tom Owen

Parliamentarian: Lou Ricciuti

Past President: George Thurmond

Board of Directors:

Chairman: Joe Harris

Board Members

Darla Wilson

Tom Owens

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Kerry McAvoy

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Donna Hardy

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Betty Slaton

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Anne Floyd

Walker Chewning

David Toburen

Ex Officio

Walt Andre

Marcia Campbell

Robert Davis

David McClearen

David Jenkins

Archaeologist tells Kettle Creek group of 2,700-acre search to find Carr's Fort

By Kip Burke



Describing his successful month long search for the site of Revolutionary War-era Carr's Fort, archaeologist Daniel Elliott told the board of the Kettle Creek Battlefield Association last week that he thought he might have to come to them empty handed.

Thanking the KCBA for their support, Elliott said, "As a result of the last day's work, we've wrapped up our work, we're done. We've found Carr's Fort, we've delineated the location and found different components of the battlefield scene."

Funded by the National Park Service American Battlefield Protection program and the KCBA, the search for Carr's Fort almost came up empty, he said. "This may have been the largest metal-detector survey in the U.S.," he told the board Thursday, "because we just didn't find it at first. About three-quarters of the way through I thought I was going to have to do some fancy footwork to explain to the National Park Service why I had wasted their money."

The survey covered some 2,700 acres in the Beaverdam Creek watershed, and the first solid evidence of the fort's location was found literally on the last day of the survey in April. The LAMAR Institute archaeology team volunteered to return for a few more

days of searching on a promising area, and finally found what they had been looking for.

Last week, the team returned to Wilkes County with ground penetrating radar equipment to locate the exact location of the old fort's walls. "We had two different areas where we were getting bullets, one of which is the fort, and one is from a house uphill from the fort," he said. "The house uphill from the fort is probably where the American riflemen were, shooting down into the fort."

During the survey, Elliott said, his team located dozens of Revolutionary War-era objects. "We found a Sears-Roebuck catalog of 18th Century artifacts," he said. "We found everything related to living on the frontier, and not many factory-made metal objects. In surveying over 2,000 acres, we had found only four musket balls, so when we found 18 fired musket balls in a 30-acre site, we felt we had found the site of the battle. All of the bullets had been impacted, and the site was occupied for only four or five years, so we feel confident."



After they are cleaned, the artifacts will be kept at the University of Georgia under National Park Service-approved conditions for preservation. It is possible that

some of the artifacts could be loaned temporarily for display at the Washington Historical Museum, he said. After returning with ground-penetrating radar last week, Elliott said they found a series of spikes, with linear disturbances, that were apparently walls. The site was less than 75 yards across.

The hardest part of locating Carr's Fort was getting permission from those landowners to survey. "People are kind of wary about letting us on their property," he said. "It's gotten harder and harder to get on private property to do scientific research. We had a lot better response from local landowners than from distant landowners. The local folks seem to have more love for history."

The owner of the land where Carr's Fort was finally located didn't give permission to search until late in the process, he said. The site is on the property of two private property owners, and Elliott said he would be contacting those property owners with the news.

"We hope to assure the landowners of our good intentions," KCBA Chairman Joe Harris said. "We don't want anybody to be concerned about condemnation – that's not on the table at all."

Finding the location of Carr's Fort is not the end of possible research in Wilkes County, he said. "During our research on the Battle of Kettle Creek, we found that there were 34 frontier forts here, but this is the only one with a battle. Half a dozen of those forts would be easier to find. There's potential for more work here – there's a lot more to be found. Wilkes County is virgin territory when it comes to undisturbed 18th Century sites."

Elliott told the KCBA board that further explorations are likely, but their help is needed. "We're getting some momentum, but it takes organizations like the KCBA to keep the interest and awareness up."

Kettle Creek Battlefield Site Proposal Taken to Governor

March 29, 2013

The Revolutionary War battlefield site of Kettle Creek in Wilkes County is marked with a 14-foot tall granite monument on about 12 acres of land, but there is a movement afloat to enlarge the small park to at least 800 or more acres.

Recently, a group representing the Kettle Creek Battlefield Association took their ideas and proposals to Gov. Nathan Deal in Atlanta to request state funds to help with the purchase of additional land bordering the historic site.

"Deal couldn't make the group any promises regarding a donation of money, but he did refer the proposal to the Historic Preservation Division of the Department of Natural Resources," said Joe Harris, Chairman of the Kettle Creek Battlefield Association Board and one of the members speaking with the governor.

"We know that this site has been surveyed and reviewed by the DNR," Harris said. "They know the site and what needs to be done."

“David Crass, who is with DNR’s historic preservation, is familiar with the site as he has visited several times,” Harris said.

“We are always hopeful,” said Harris, a botanist who worked as a professor with University of Wisconsin System for 27 years before retiring and moving to Wilkes County. “There is so much going for the history of this site. Our Kettle Creek Battlefield Association is a little over a year old and has around 300 members.”

The group is seeking financial help from the state as it also seeks financial support from other groups, such as the Trust for Public Land and the Robert W. Woodruff Foundation in Atlanta.

Others attending the meeting with the governor were Wilkes County Commission Chairman Sam Moore, KCBA members Larry Wilson and Bill deGolian, and Doug Hattaway of the Trust for Public Lands. Also involved were state Sen. Bill Jackson and Rep. Mickey Channell of Greensboro and Rep. Tom McCall of Elberton.

The battle at Kettle Creek occurred Feb. 14, 1779, where about 350 Patriot soldiers led by Col. Andrew Pickens of South Carolina fought against 700 Loyalists. The Patriots won the battle, the major victory of

the Revolutionary War fought in Georgia. Elijah Clarke, for whom Clarke County is named, also fought in the battle.

In 2008, the LAMAR Institute of Savannah conducted an archaeological investigation of the property and found artifacts more wide ranging in the area than on the small acreage now protected.

The park’s site, owned by Wilkes County and known as “War Hill,” is surrounded by land owned by a private landowner and by Plum Creek Timber Co. The Kettle Creek association has had talks with Plum Creek about purchasing its land, where artifacts from the battle were found. The Central Savannah River Area Regional Commission is developing a master plan for the park, which should be completed in July, Harris said.

The plan is modeled after another Revolutionary War site in South Carolina called the Battle of Ninety-Six, which is under the National Park Service, said Harris, who added that studies show this park has created jobs in the Ninety Six area and generates tourism revenues.

While support has been offered by some groups, the Kettle Creek association is looking for a variety of partners to help purchase the property.



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



Have you written an article that may be of interest to our readers?

Please email your article to
wcpatriot@bellsouth.net