

## **Silver Jackets Meeting**

Tuesday April 9, 2019

Georgia Tech Student Center

### **Minutes**

**Members Attending (13):** Walter Allen (Purchasing), John Balsam (GTRI), Ron Bohlander (GTRI), Earl Cagle (Purchasing), Steve Dickerson (ME), Nan Dooley (Library), Janis Goddard (OSP), George Lee (EII), Bill Leslie (Registrar), Chris Mitchell (ISyE), Chuck Parsons (Management), Ed Rondeau (Real Estate), Kathy Tomajko (Library).

#### **Business Meeting:**

After introductions were made, Kathy Tomajko reported on progress by the USG Retiree Council's Committee (which she chairs) on Library Access and Services for Retirees. Two resolutions were adopted by the Council encouraging the USG to extend library access privileges to as many retirees as possible and to strengthen the emeritus program across the USG which provides electronic access to emeriti. The Committee also drafted a Hitchhiker's Guide to library access.

Silver Jackets VP, Ed Rondeau, then introduced the speaker for the program, Silver Jackets treasurer Earl Cagle, Sr. Earl presented his topic, "In Search of a Patriot," wearing a full revolutionary war uniform. Earl is a Retired Certified Purchasing (C.P.M.) holding lifetime certification. He retired from the University System of Georgia with service in excess of twenty-five years having served at the Medical College of Georgia and the Georgia Institute of Technology. A native Georgian, born in Cherokee County he graduated from Ellijay High School and attended Georgia State University. Married to the former Marguerite Rushing, an educator of thirty years serving in Richmond and Cobb Counties. He has held positions of responsibility with the Cobb County Genealogical Society, Charter member of the Gilmer County Genealogical Society (President, six years), Kennworth Kiwanis Club, Georgia Tech Silver Jackets and currently a member of the Capt. John Collins Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution and serving his second term as President. He is also known as an avid photographer.

#### **Program: "In Search of a Patriot"**

Earl explained that he became a member of the Sons of the American Revolution when he got interested in genealogy and sought to find an ancestor who he believed had been involved in the revolution. He ultimately found seven and confessed, "genealogy becomes addictive." He also found his wife has patriots and interesting historic figures in her lineage, like Sir Francis Drake.

He has found that Marietta has a good genealogy collection. He also uses Family Tree DNA kits and many other tools and sources.

Some highlights:

- Fort Henry in Virginia was established in 1646 to protect the treaty frontier between the European settlers and the Indians near the Appomattox River.
- In 1675, Peter Jones established a trading post known as Peter's Point near there and this later became the town of Petersburg, VA in 1733.
- A Peter Ragsdale (1736-99) descended from Peter Jones and served as Sgt. in the 6<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry in the American Revolution under a commander named Samuel Hopkins. This was a key one of Earl's ancestor patriots.
- Earl's ancestors included persons named Jones and Ragsdale, which became connected to the Cagles by the marriage of Earl's grandparents. His grandmother was a Ragsdale.
- The Cagles got to Pickens County in 1840.
- Col. Blake Ragsdale Van Leer was Georgia Tech's 5<sup>th</sup> president and a cousin of Earl in the Ragsdale line.