



On March 30th 2019 the 242nd Anniversary of the Battle of Thomas Creek was commemorated at Seaton Creek Historic Preserve in Jacksonville, Florida. We were again all spellbound and educated by our SAR award winning speaker/Compatriot, Dr. Roger Smith who taught us the true southern history about the Revolutionary War conflicts in leadership and planning leading up to the Battle of Thomas Creek.

On May 17, 1777, a small force of 109 Georgia Mounted Militia men, led by Lt. Colonel John Baker, were ambushed by a much larger mixed force of British regulars, East Florida Rangers and Native Americans in this park area 242 years ago. Only 42 patriots, including LTC Baker survived the battle. The original intent was for the Georgia Militia to rendezvous with 400 Continental regulars coming down the coast by sea and in-land rivers; however, that force was delayed by contrary winds and low water and did not arrive in East Florida until two days after the battle. This encounter was the second of at least three failed attempts ordered by General George Washington to invade the British Colony of East Florida, to make N.E. Florida our 14th Colony.

A combined color guard of 20 compatriots was led by Florida SAR Color Guard Vice-Commander Dick Young in the presentation of colors and the wreath ceremony. Thirty three wreaths were presented by SAR, DAR, C.A.R. chapters and other patriotic organizations from South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.



There were over 100 people in attendance representing seventeen chapters of the SAR, ten chapters of the DAR, and four societies of the C.A.R. plus the City of Jacksonville, Colonial Dames of the 17th Century, and the West Nassau Historical Society. Greetings were brought from the City of Jacksonville by Parks Division Chief Robert Skatelzky advising about the future city enhancements for the 846 acre battlefield park. President General

(1997) Carl Hoffman brought greetings from the National SAR, and Florida SAR SVP Lee Popham brought greetings for the Florida Society. We were especially honored to have the DAR Florida State Society Regent Dawn Lemongello bringing greetings at our ceremony.

