North Georgia Foothills Dulcimer Association, Inc.

Foothills Footnotes

October 2015 ISSN 1559-1441 Volume 27, No. 10

Fall Festival Registration Is Still Open and Accepting New Registrations!!

by President and Festival Director, Mike Van Demark

The registration deadline for the NGFDA Fall Festival at Unicoi State Park Lodge is open until October 15th. Plenty of spaces are still available and hopefully will be filled by the Deadline. So please tell all of your Satellite members and dulcimer friends to go to: www.ngfda.org and look at the great faculty who have been engaged and the interesting workshops being offered this year.

The daily schedule is arranged so participants can take workshops on Friday and Saturday without any overlap in times.

Unicoi Lodge has a new option this year. Instead of purchasing prepaid meal tickets from the club as you may have done in the past, all meals will be offered at a discounted rate. The **meals will not include tax or gratuity**. Unicoi offered this option because NGFDA is the only group occupying the lodge and they wanted to streamline the process.

Meal prices are as follows:

Soup and Salad Bar (lunch or dinner-not including drink) $9.95

Lunch (includes drink) $12.95

Dinner Sunday-Thursday (includes drink) $14.95

Dinner Friday & Saturday (includes drink) $18.95

Ala-Carte Menu items as priced on the menu in Restaurant or Tavern

Also again this year the Market Grill will have a lighter fare which includes slices of pizza, hot dogs, burgers, cereal, milk, muffins and a coffee bar.

continued on page 2

NGFDA 2016 Slate of Nominees

The 2015 NGFDA Annual Membership Business Meeting will be held on Saturday, November 21, at 4:15-4:30 p.m. in Masters Hall at Unicoi State Park during the Fall Festival. The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the following Slate of Nominees for the elected positions on the NGFDA Board of Directors. The Slate has been approved by the current Board. A vote of the membership will be taken. Floor nominations will be accepted for vote.

By NGFDA Bylaws, all terms of office shall begin immediately upon election.

The following nominees have agreed to serve if elected:

President.....John Shawhan
Vice President .....Open
Secretary/Treasurer .....Barbara Stevens
Fall Festival Director.....Mike VanDemark

Volunteers Needed

Producing the NGFDA Fall Festival requires a lot of people working together. Would you (and/or your non-playing spouse) be willing to pitch in this year? Folks are needed to staff the registration/faculty merchandise table in approximately two hour shifts, operate the cash register (for those already familiar with cash register operation). If you or your spouse can help with this, please contact Millie Chaplin at princessofpossumcorner@yahoo.com. Thank you.

Peach Jam Reminder

19th Annual PEACH JAM October 1- 4, 2015

F.D. Roosevelt State Park at Pine Mountain, Georgia, Camping Area #2, Covered Shelter.

Come jam and visit for days at the campground, or come just for Saturday.

Saturday: join us at the Park Registration Office 1-2pm for an organized JAM PRESENTATION for the public.

Saturday POT-LUCK Dinner 5:30pm

Detailed information at www.ngfda.org under club events.

2015 NGFDA, Inc.
Board of Directors

PRESIDENT
MIKE VAN DEMARK
P. O. BOX 197
OCOEE, TENNESSEE 37361
mvandem@gmail.com
404-822-3666 (MOBILE)
423-338-2307 (HOME)

VICE PRESIDENT
JOHN SHAWHAN
126 SOUTH TAMIE CIRCLE
KATHLEEN, GEORGIA 31047
jshawhan@windstream.net
478-542-0495

TREASURER
MELANIE LIGON
650 WINDWALK DRIVE
ROSWELL, GEORGIA 30076
chefmelanie@aol.com
770-401-9899

SECRETARY
BARBARA STEVENS
114 OAK LEAF CIRCLE
EATONTON, GEORGIA 31024
gbs468@aol.com
478-457-6539

FALL FESTIVAL DIRECTOR
MIKE VAN DEMARK
P. O. BOX 197
OCOEE, TENNESSEE 37361
mvandem@gmail.com
404-822-3666 (MOBILE)
423-338-2307 (HOME)

SPRING THING DIRECTOR
KAT VALLISH
kvallish@gmail.com
678-468-7561

LIAISON TO NGFDA SATELLITE GROUPS
PEGGY MARTIN
martin.pb@comcast.net
770-974-1980

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN
LYNN MCCOLLUM
445 LONG STREET
DEMOREST, GEORGIA 30535
lynnmccollum50@gmail.com
706-499-3212

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
BARBARA JOE
ngfda_footnotes@yahoo.com
931-239-2111 (MOBILE)

NGFDA YAHOO! GROUP MODERATOR
ED HUMPHRIES
ed@humphries.com
770-439-9608

Foothills Footnotes
(ISSN 1559-1441)

POSTMASTER: Send any address changes to **Lynn McCollum**, NGFDA, Inc., PO Box 522, Demorest, GA 305353. You may also contact **Lynn** by e-mail at lynnmccollum50@gmail.com
All other newsletter-related matters, including material intended for publication, should be directed to **Barbara Joe** at the email address listed in the above column. The deadline for publication submissions for the September issue is **August 22, 2015 at 6:00 p.m**. *Foothills Footnotes* is published monthly by the North Georgia Foothills Dulcimer Association, Incorporated.

About The Tablature . . .

Psalm 137 is one of the best known of the biblical psalms. Its opening lines, "By the rivers of Babylon..." have been set to music on several occasions.

The psalm is a hymn expressing the yearnings of the Jewish people in exile following the Babylonian conquest of Jerusalem in 607 BCE. The rivers of Babylon are the Euphrates River, its tributaries, and the Tigris River (possibly the river Habor, the Chaboras, or modern Khabur, which joins the Euphrates at Circesium). In its whole form, the psalm reflects the yearning for Jerusalem.

Of the two dozen musical adaptations, the first two verses were also used for a musical setting in a round by English composer Philip Hayes. Don McLean covered the song as 'Babylon', which was the final track on his 1971 album, *American Pie*.

Peggy Ertz relates that she first heard the Don McLean version at a concert at Columbia University in New York City in the early 70s. The entire audience sang it in a round. She recalls how hauntingly beautiful it was when played and sung in a three-part round and has shared it for any satellite group that would enjoy playing it and singing it as a three-part round.

Rick and Peggy first joined the NGFDA in 1998 after attending one of John Stockard's Peach Jams, then held at Arrowwood Park in Macon. Rick is a past vice-president and Peggy ran the Fall Festival marketplace for several years. Although now mostly inactive, they do still work with beginners at Peach Jam at FDR State Park in October and attend the Mistletoe Jam every year after starting it back in 2000.

Fall Festival

continued from page 1

All of the instructions for registering for the festival are on the website. If you have questions about registration or do not use the computer easily, you may call Mike Van Demark at 423-338-2307 or email him at: mvandem@gmail.com. Please leave a message if no answer. Mike usually returns all phone calls and emails within the same day.

Upcoming Events

October 15-18, 2015

17th Annual Dulcimer Chautauqua On The Wabash. This dulcimer festival is held in beautiful historic New Harmony, Indiana, and features workshops and concerts by some of the top teachers/performers. Vendors will be on hand for all things dulcimer.

Times/hours/schedule: Things get started with a pot luck supper Thursday evening at 5:30 p.m. followed by a community sing & jam sessions. A variety of morning (9:00 - 11:00 a.m.) & afternoon 2:30 - 5:00 p.m.) workshops are followed by an evening concert (8:00 p.m.) & more jamming on both Friday & Saturday. Things wrap up with our Hymn sing & closing ceremony on Sunday morning (9:00 a.m.) *Times listed are Central Time Zone

Cost: Full participant pkg. includes all events Thursday - Sunday. am & pm Dulcimer Workshops, Seminars, Concerts, Hymn Sing, & Friday lunch buffet. $125.00

$75.00 Pkg. includes all of the above except the Friday & Saturday workshops.

Concert tickets only are $12,50 each. (Free admission for ages 18 and under)
More information: Website: http://dulcimerchautauquaonthewabash.com. Contact: Rick Huffman Call: (812) 205-6781. Email: dulcimerchautauquaonthewabash@gmail.com

By The Waters of Babylon

HAYS, LEE / MCLEAN, DON

Read more: Don McLean - Babylon Lyrics | MetroLyrics

TablEdited by Peggy Ertz

Obituaries

John Stockard

by Pam Deemer

A very good friend and excellent dulcimer maker, John Stockard, passed on to the big jam on September 5. A couple weeks before, knowing his final tune was to be played soon, he emailed me and asked that I announce his passing to this group when it happened. The shock is that it happened so soon after that email.

I first met John at the Powers Ferry Festival many years ago. John was a professional artist and his booth had wonderful wood carvings and one dulcimer. The next year there were maybe three among all the other carvings. After that year, it seemed he displayed only dulcimers at the festival. He started going to the North Dulcimer Foothills Dulcimer Association Fall Festival, and I bought my first Stockard. It sounded wonderful, but he reluctantly sold it to me because it was slightly physically flawed. He began experimenting with dulcimer construction and continued to do so for all the years, which were many, that he made dulcimers. I sold my original Stockard, but I cherish my standard, baritone, and chromatic dulcimers. On each he tried something new.

He not only made dulcimers, he enjoyed playing them and jamming with others so much and was very supportive of the NGFDA. John not only was past president of the NGFDA, he also started the NGFDA Peach Jam and was a contributor of tablature to the NGFDA *Foothills Footnotes*. He never missed a Fall Festival and its jamming possibilities.

John's sense of humor was terrific, and it was often expressed in whacky wooden carvings and inventions. He made at least two washtub basses with red toenailed feet. One had giant wooden lips attached. The other was much more elaborate with a carved bass top and neck and stuffed arms attached to the sides. Who can forget his pedal operated wooden foot flying up to signal finishing a tune in a jam?

John gained fame for his dulcimers world-wide and sold many abroad. Being on the cover of *Dulcimer Players News* and featured inside helped bring him to players' attention.

The past few years, he didn't make as many dulcimers, but branched out into making guitars and other instruments. He also began concentrating on playing guitar.

Oh, how he loved jamming! He had many, many Sunday gatherings at his house. Sometimes they were potlucks, sometimes his wife, Jane, made baked goodies. He also became active in SEBA and recently had to resign as its vice-president. Jams at his house had many giggles and a few silly songs. He really loved it if you could introduce a silly song to the group. This is why his final wish is no sad funeral be held for him, but there should be a light-hearted jam.

Bill Lee

William Howard Lee, "Bill" died on Sunday, June 21, 2015; he was 83 years old. He was predeceased by his wife Jean E. (Chadwick) Lee in 2011; they were married for 59 years. After high school Bill worked in the local textile mills before joining the U.S. Air Force in 1951. He was stationed near Houston TX and there met and married Jean Elizabeth Chadwick in 1952. Bill served a distinguished U.S. Air Force career with the Security Service/National Security Agency; he retired as a Master Sergeant with 24 ½ years in service. Before moving to Lexington SC in 2007 he and Jean traveled to gem shows to sell his jewelry creations and to music festivals to play dulcimer. Bill's heart was attacked by a virus in 1991 and

continued on page 5

Bill Lee

continued from page 4

he thanked his cardiologists both in TX and SC for giving him an additional 24 years to be with his many friends and to see his own family grow. He and his late wife Jean volunteered at the vendor tables at the Fall Festival.

Spotlight on Satellites

Gainesville Strummers

The summer was a busy time for Gainesville Strummers, working independently while on hiatus. Individual players took time to search for new tunes to add to the Summer/Fall Playlist. The goal was to find music that everyone would enjoy while still offering a challenge. As well as providing the tab, it was suggested that we provide links to recommended videos or midi files of the music. In our last few sessions before the break, members learned to really appreciate the value of everyone having the same tune in their heads, with the same rhythm and tempo. The group learned that this is particularly important when there are different levels of players in a group.

Come join the fun each Thursday at 12:15 for beginners and from 1-3 for all levels. Visitors are always welcome. For more information contact: claudine.nickens@gmail.com

Land of Waterfalls Dulcimer Players

The photo shows some of the players providing music during a morning service at church. Afterwards two parishioners approached the group and asked about learning to play the dulcimer. The beginner classes will start again in October and some of the members from last year's beginner group will continue with advanced beginner and novice classes as well as some players also joining the playout ensemble group. New players are encouraged to attend Fall Festival at Unicoi.

Similar to the Yonah Pickers, an additional small ensemble group has evolved. Being able to play music comfortably is important to some members while others thrive on the challenge of new music so having more than one playout group meets both those needs.

Gwinnoters

The Gwinnoter-sponsored "Dulcimer Traditions Workshop" in August served as a catalyst for providing ongoing dulcimer instruction to existing players and, due to extensive pre-event media coverage, opened the door for isolated dulcimer owners that are not aware of our NGFDA statewide organization and supportive playing Satellites to learn and be a part of the 'dulcimer movement'.

Using live demonstrations, unique video and audio recordings, books and photos, the four panel members provided a comprehensive mini-course on the early traditions, history and ways of playing the dulcimer. Gwinnoter members brought extra instruments as "loaners" for interested new participants and by workshop end, everyone had tab to learn four easy tunes in DAA tuning, learned how to use a noter stick, and utilized a handout simply showing the difference between DAD and DAA tunings. Easy parallel chords not needing tab to play (one of the great attractions of DAA tuning!) closed out the afternoon. Panel member, and avid DAA player, Carol Downs handmade close to 100 different noter sticks and let participants choose several to try during the workshop and take home with them.

Lou Ellen Gibson took us into the history of what we now call a 'dulcimer', its European origins from the German scheitholt, and its passage into the Appalachian Mountains. Old dulcimers with hand carved wooden tuning pegs, D-hooks for carrying and hanging and

continued on page 6

Spotlight on Satellites

Gwinnoters

continued from page 5

beautifully crafted in hidden Appalachian Mountain hollows were demonstrated by panel members in their original DAA or Galax tunings and played with turkey quills.

Anne Martin demonstrated two instruments, one Galax-style with turkey quill, playing mountain tunes unique to the area where the instruments were made. Carol Downs played recordings of the original owner of one of her traditional North Carolina instruments and photos of the maker, as well as demonstrating her instruments with mountain hymns. Gwen Caeli demonstrated Galax-style playing in a bagpipe tuning with turkey quill and very old tunes that came from the Galax area of Southwestern Virginia.

Dulcimer Troupers

With fall around the corner, Dulcimer Troupers are getting ready for playouts, including area nursing homes and West Georgia Hospice Memorial Service. The club continues to welcome newcomers who have graduated from Nancy Larson's class. Recently, four new members have joined. Needing more space to practice is a welcomed problem!!

Dulcimer Troupers recently made a road trip to Wetumpka, Alabama to see the off-Broadway musical "Smoke on the Mountain" performed by the Wetumpka Depot players. Laughter abounded as the Sanders Family entertained at the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Mount Pleasant, North Carolina (circa 1938). Imagine our surprise when we found out that one of the players, Elizabeth Bowles, was playing a dulcimer inherited from her mother.

Here is a picture of some of the Dulcimer Troupers taken with some of the Wetumpka Depot players showing off some of the instruments used during the performance. If you have a chance to see "Smoke on the Mountain," don't miss it. You'll be in for a fun filled evening.

Yonah Pickers

The Yonah Pickers have enjoyed the "harvest" of opportunities they have had during the month of September. In addition to their regular schedule, they have had the opportunity to participate in some wonderful local events. They played for the "Pioneer Days" at Traveler's Rest in Toccoa, at Tallulah Gorge State Park, and at the "Lula Pottery and Folk Festival." Each opportunity gave them the pleasure of meeting new people and introducing those new people to the magic of traditional music. The members of their group play mountain dulcimers, guitars, and many other instruments, based on who is performing at any given event. Each one adds their own special flavor to the performance. Often, singing rounds out the sound. At one recent event, a member of the audience steadfastly refused to leave until the group had played his favorite song, which they did. On a more serious note, at their performance at the Respite care program at a local senior center, a wonderful thing occurred. One of the respite care participants had a career as a music teacher. It was to the great delight of everyone there that she stepped back into that role and was able, with the full support of the group, to "direct" the presentation on that day! He had no hesitations, no difficulties with processing and or remembering, none of the usual challenges associated with her waning health, just the beauty of music to lift the soul, body, and mind to their greatest heights. That event will be remembered for a very long time.

In Habersham and White counties the leaves have begun their yearly journey into color. If your autumn wanderings to enjoy the beauty of the season bring you to this area on a practice day (see list), please stop by and join in. (Please note, they do not meet when major holidays fall on their practice days.) All instruments and all ability levels are welcome. For more information on anything in this article, please contact: bswhitmire @windstream.net.

SATELLITE	AREA	FREQUENCY	TIME	LOCATION	CONTACT
Allatooners	Kennesaw, GA	Monthly, 2nd Mon.	6:30-9:00	First United Lutheran Church of Kennesaw 3481 Campus Loop Rd (formerly Frey Lake Rd.)	Peggy Martin 678-478-2456 martin.pb@comcast.net www.allatooners.org Satellite Scribe: Diana (DeeDee) Nash muffyqnash@yahoo.com
AlphaFretters					Not Currently Meeting
Bent Tree Strings	Jasper, GA	Monthly, 4th Thurs.	2:30-4:30	Club Tamarack Dining Room in Bent Tree. Bent Tree is 6 miles east of Jasper off Cove Road.	Carol Lesley 770-893-2019 Carol.Lesley@tds.net
Blue Ridge	Blue Ridge, GA	Bimonthly 1st & 3rd Mondays	1:00-3:00	Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church Hwy. 515 at Forge Mill Road	Anne Bailey 706-632-3854 Teri Godfirnon terig@windstream.net
Currahee Dulcimer Club	Toccoa, GA	Weekly-Thursdays Beginners Group	 6:30-7:00 7:00-8:30	Stephens County Senior Center 55 Roselane	Joe and Jan Sibley 706-886-7407 jinja717@yahoo.com
Dalton Dulcimers	Dalton, GA	Weekly Wednesdays	2:30	First United Methodist Church 500 S. Thornton Ave.	Sherry Patterson 706-278-7256 jspatts@windstream.net
Dixieland Dulcimers	Griffin, GA	Weekly-Mondays	10:00	Crestview Baptist Church fellowship hall, Griffin, GA	Donna Harpe 770-228-5597 phillip_harpe@bellsouth.net John Garret 770-223-8405 jgsped@yahoo.com Dave Graves 770-227-4890 drg636@gmail.com
Frettin' On Faith	Ringgold, GA	Weekly Sundays	4:00	First Baptist Church downtown Ringgold on U.S. Highway 41 (Nashville St.) in the choir/music room	Michael Whitfield 706-673-6730 mewhitfield@optilink.us Website: www.tiptopwebsite.com/frettin
Gainesville Strummers	Gainesville, GA	Weekly – Thurs. Beginners Everyone	 12:30 1:00-3:00	First Baptist Church Room 208, 751 Green Street, N.W.	Bob Weaver 770-540-5278 bobweaver6@gmail.com.
Garden City Strummers	Evans, GA	Monthly, 3rd Mon.	6:00-8:00	4537 Glenda Lane Evans, GA 30809	Pat & Bill Colbert 706-860-3437 pogosbill@aol.com
Gwinnoters	Lawrenceville, GA	Monthly, 3rd Sun.	1:30-4:30	Fairview Presbyterian 857 Duluth Hwy. (Hwy. 120)	Gwen Caeli 678-863-4342 gwencaeli@gmail.com Linda Depkin suzie.d@mindspring.com
Hart String-Strummers	Hartwell, GA	Monthly – 1st Mon. Monthly – 3rd Sat.	12:30 12:30	Member's Home Hartwell Art Center	Call Mary Alice Ray at 706-371-0176 for directions to the Monday meeting or for more information
Hilltop Strummers	Woodstock-Canton, GA	Weekly – Tues.	1:30-3:30	Canton First UMC 930 Lower Scott Mill Road, Canton, GA Exit 16 at I-575	Bob & Sandra Hange 770-265-5308 bhange65@gmail.com
In Town Down Home	Atlanta, GA	Monthly, 3rd Sat.	2:00	Tenth Street United Methodist Church 425 Tenth Street, NW	Cathy Watts 770-393-3454 chwatts@mindspring.com
LaGrange Dulcimer Troupers	LaGrange, GA	Weekly, Thurs. mornings Weekly, Tues.	10:45-12:15 11:30	First United Methodist Church for jamming & prac. Beginning classes	Ann and Perry Wilder 706-882-5027 perrylwilder@bellsouth.net
Land of Waterfalls Dulcimer Players	Brevard & vicinity, NC	1st, 2nd & 3rd Wed.-Practice 4th Wed.-Playouts	1:00-2:30	St Philip's Episcopal Church 256 East Main St Brevard, NC	Mary Sherwood 828-966-9628 sherwood@comporium.net Ann Brown 828-877-5506
Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club	Macon, GA	Monthly, 2nd Sat.	1:00 Lesson 2:00-4:00 Jam	Young America School of Music 6361 Zebulon Road	Barbara Stevens 478-457-6539 gbs468@aol.com Karen Stewart 478-954-6759 galadybug53@gmail.com
Mountain Sounds	Blairsville, GA	Bimonthly 2nd & 4th Tues.	1:30-3:30	Senior Center	Roxanne Gill roxannegill47@gmail.com
Oconee Belles & Beaus	Salem, SC	Bimonthly, 2nd Thurs. 4th Tues.	2:00-4:00 1:00-3:00	Keowee Key (Routes 130 & 183 So. of Salem, SC) Activity Center, Whitewater Room	Joan Krech 864-944-7094 joankrech@bellsouth.net Bonnie Lamarand 864-888-3328 lmrnd@att.net
Peach Pickers	Fayetteville, GA	Monthly, 2nd. Sun.	3:00-5:00	Fayetteville First United Methodist Church gym	Pat Hobson 770-461-2522 pohobson@gmail.com Wanda Dawkins 678-899-0453 hrwmdawk@yahoo.com
SEHDP (Southeastern Hammered Dulcimer Players)	Support Group for Local HD Satellites	www.SEHDP.com for Individual Satellite Info.			Agene Parsons 423-718-5730 ageneparsons@gmail.com
Sonic Sounds Dulcimer Club (EDIMGIAFAD)	Centerville, GA	Weekly, Thurs.	6:00-6:30 Lesson 7:15-Jam	1st United Methodist Church 600 N. Houston Lake Rd.	Laneah Maddox 478-971-8223 912-687-3621 laneahmaddox@yahoo.com http://wrmusic.tripod.com/sonicsoundsdulcimerclub
Whistle Stop Pickers	East Alabama/ West Georgia (Auburn-Opelika area)	Weekly, Sat.	1:00-3:00	Lee County Historical Society Museum 6500 Stage Road (Hwy 14) Loachapoka, AL	Allen & Deborah McCord 334-821-1301 334-703-3646 (cell) mccord0304@gmail.com
Yonah Pickers	Cleveland, GA Clarkesville, GA	Bimonthly 2nd & 4th Sun. Bimonthly-Beginners 1st & 3rd Mon. Bimonthly-Everyone 1st & 3rd Mon.	2:00-4:00 11:45-12:45 1:00-3:00	First Presbyterian Church of Cleveland Bethlehem Baptist Church in Clarkesville	Lynn McCollum 706-499-3212 Lynnmccollum50@gmail.com Email lynnmccollum50@gmail.com for details.

NGFDA sanctions these groups as satellites, but each one sets its own agenda, meeting place and procedures. Last Updated 09/21/2015

NGFDA Membership Form

Please start/renew my membership in NGFDA, including a subscription to the monthly *Foothills Footnotes* newsletter. Tab books available to members only, one copy per member at a cost of $10 (if mailed, add $2 mailing fee). Individual membership: $20. Family membership: $30. Please make checks payable to NGFDA. Dues, according to NGFDA bylaws, are renewable each November regardless of when you join.

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Home Phone_____ E-mail address*:_____

Membership Status (check one): ☐ New ☐ Renewing

Playing Level (check one): ☐ Beginner ☐ Intermediate ☐ Advanced

***Members can automatically access our monthly newsletter at www.ngfda.org by clicking "newsletter" and entering your email address as *listed above*. The newsletter is posted around the 25th of each month.**

I wish to get my newsletter ☐ on the NGFDA website ☐ by email ☐ by mail

Do you want to order a Tab Book? (check one) ☐ Yes / ☐ No

Please add $12.00 for Tab Book and postage

Tab Book $_____

Membership Fee $_____

Total Enclosed $_____

Mail membership form and payment to: **NGFDA P.O. Box 522 Demorest, GA 30535**

North Georgia Foothills Dulcimer Association
www.NGFDA.org
Post Office Box 522
Demorest, Georgia 30535
United States of America