



The Musket Report

Newsletter of the Wiregrass Chapter, ALSSAR
Enterprise, Alabama
"Home of the Boll Weevil Monument"



Dr. Jack P. Oden President (jpoden@roadrunner.com)
334 347 - 7831

John R. Wallace, Editor (johnrx@centurytel.net)
334 347 - 0661

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SAR-DAR Constitution Week Awards Luncheon



The September meeting of the Wiregrass Chapter will be our annual Constitution Week Awards Luncheon hosted jointly with the John Coffee DAR Chapter. It will be held on Thursday **17 September** at **11:30** at the **Enterprise Country Club**. ALSSAR State President John Killian will be our guest speaker and members of both the DAR and SAR from the surrounding counties have been invited. As in the past this will be a **"By Reservation Only"** event and the registrations need to be returned to Dr. Jack Oden **NLT 14 September** so that arrangements can be made with the Country Club. Cost is \$18.00 per person. A reservation form can be downloaded from the chapter's website at www.wiregrasssar.org. Color guard members are asked to verify that you will be attending in uniform. Over the years this has always been a very successful event and again this year the chapter will be presenting both a Fire Safety Medal and a Law Enforcement Medal. Door prizes will be presented, and lucky chances on a special door prize will be available for purchase. All funds raised will be used to help support the chapter's youth activities. If you are aware of a potential member, this would be an ideal time to extend an invitation to join the fun.

Through the efforts of Chapter President Jack Oden, the Enterprise City Council has signed a proclamation proclaiming the week of September 17 - 23 as Constitution Week here in Enterprise. It will be presented to the chapter at the City Council Meeting on 1 September.

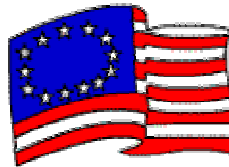
August Picnic

With lower humidity and a gentle breeze, the August picnic at the Enterprise Welcome Center was a complete success again this year. Twenty-seven members, wives and



guests enjoyed down home B-B-Q and a wide array of salads, and deserts. Like a good ol' Baptist Fifth Sunday pot luck, there were no duplications. As always Rex's Banana Puddin' was a great success - just ask John Ray. A big **special thank you** to Bill Tate who provided a \$50.00 contribution for the success of the picnic!

Cadenhead Grave Marking



With the August Picnic and the September SAR/DAR Constitution Week Awards Luncheon, the chapter membership has been very busy! However, it must not be forgotten that the chapter has

yet another big event coming up in October - grave dedication program for James Cadenhead, SR at the Perote Cemetery in Perote, Bullock County. This event will take place on **Sunday 18 October 2009** at **2:30 PM**. We will be asking the wives (or some of the more adventuresome SAR members) to consider making a few "goodies" for the reception to be held following the program. Color Guard members are encouraged to assure their weapons are cleaned and ready to fire a volley or two during the program. A review of some of the other activities across the state would indicate that this grave marking by the chapter is the only one which has occurred in Alabama so far this year. ALSSAR Sr. Vice-President Bruce Pickett will be on hand to say a few words and present the state wreath during the program.

Dues Collection



Both the Chapter Secretary and Treasurer want to express their appreciation to the members who have already submitted their 2010 dues.

Certainly by you getting this out of the way now, it makes their job so much easier later in the year. At the October Board of Managers meeting, President Jack Oden would like to present the state with a check for the bulk of our renewals. If you have not already done so, please grab a check and get it written to the *Wiregrass Chapter, SAR* for **\$58.00** and get into the mail to: **John Kelsoe, 1654 County Road 606, Enterprise, AL 36330-5488** This amounts to less than 0.16 per day to keep alive the history and heritage that gave us our great country!!

Remember, youth member dues are \$10.00 and this should also be sent to Compatriot Kelsoe. This is strictly for national dues as the State and chapter do not collect dues from youth members.

This 'an That

~ Some of the economic stimulus dollars have come to at least one member of the chapter. Everyone at the picnic took a close look at John Kelsoe's new red Ford Fusion. Under the "Cash for Clunkers" plan he traded in his 13 year old truck with 186,000 miles for his new wheels!

~ Board of Managers meeting on 3 Oct in Montgomery. Contact President Jack for more information

Battle of the Rice Boats (sometime referred to as Battle of Yamacraw Bluff)

In the early days of the American Revolutionary War, Georgia had managed to remain relatively neutral in the conflict. Though Georgians opposed British trade regulations, many hesitated to join the revolutionary movement that emerged in the American colonies in the early 1770's. The colony had prospered under royal rule, and many Georgians thought they needed the protection of British troops against a possible Indian attack. Georgia did not



James Wright was the third and last royal governor of Georgia, serving from 1760 to 1782, with a brief interruption early in the American Revolution. Almost alone among colonial governors, Wright was a popular and able administrator and servant of the crown. He played a key role in retarding the flame of revolution in Georgia long after it had flared violently in every other colony.

even send representatives to the First Continental Congress that met in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1774. Attitudes did began to change following the initial battles at Lexington and Concord in April 1775. Patriot elements gained control of the colonial government and dispatched representatives to the Second Continental Congress, where they would eventually vote in favor of independence

The Whigs in the Georgia House, inflamed by events in the northern colonies, came into power and entered into an epic political conflict with Georgia's Royal Governor James Wright. In January 1776, Royal navy vessels entered the Savannah River and Captain Andrew Barkley proposed to purchase supplies, but Savannah Whigs flatly refused. Governor Wright ordered the provisioning of the several British warships anchored in the Savannah River near Cockspur Island. but the Georgia Council of Safety believed the warships had been sent to put down rebellion in Georgia. The militia-sympathizing assembly refused to allow the re-supply and put Wright under house arrest and subsequently drove him from the capital, effectively overthrowing royal rule in Georgia. Wright, along with several dozen Loyalist, took shelter on the warships.

The first military use of Cockspur Island was in 1761 with the construction of an earth and hewn log fort near the confluence of the South Channel of the Savannah River. This Fort, named Fort George, protected both the entrances to the city as well as enforcing quarantine and customs regulations. During the Revolutionary War, the Patriots, because of its exposed location, dismantled Fort George. However, the British established a safe haven for Loyalists on Cockspur and since the Royal Governor, Sir James Wright, fled there with the great seal of the Province, Cockspur Island became, for a short time, the capital, of the colony of Georgia.

On 1 March, 1776, the British ships moved up the Savannah River and seized boats, their cargo (they were loaded with rice), and the men on board. Aware that British ships had sailed to Savannah harbor, the Committee of Safety ordered some men to remove the riggings of the ships, which would render them

useless. The men were detained by the British seamen who had boarded the vessels. A group of men attempted to negotiate the release of the men sent to remove the rigging and the return of the boats. These men were also detained when they boarded the ship. The committee issued a call to arms and quickly the next day more than 500 Georgia Whigs, aided by a hundred South Carolina Rebels positioned themselves along the bluff overlooking the harbor, preparing for a land-based attack as the ships attempted to leave for the British base on Cockspur Island. An attempt was made to float a burning ship (the *Inverness*) into the rice boats, which resulted in the destruction of the British Ship *Nelly*. Two or three other ships also suffered some damage from fire. The British used a channel on the far side of Hutchinson Island to escape the wrath of the Whigs with some of the rice boats. While the British and the Royal Governor were gone for the moment, they would return before the end of the War.

New Display at NSSAR Headquarters



A display of three mannequins featuring George Washington, a drummer boy and a militia man have been added to the museum area of the SAR Headquarters. Sculpted by Glynn Acree (GA) they were initially intended for the Museum of Patriotism in Atlanta. The museum closed and then reopened in a new location, but did not have space for the display. Given Glynn still had control of the figures, he moved them to Louisville.

The cost of producing these items was covered by the George Washington Endowment Fund.

From out of the past

Resolved: That the annual dues to the National Society from the State Societies be fifty cents for each member of Said Societies.

This resolution unanimously passed, following the defeat of a motion to raise the dues to forty cents! This action was taken at a Board of Managers and of the Executive Committee of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution held at Bedford Springs Hotel, Bedford, PA, August 2 and 3, 1904. At the time James Denton Hancock (b.1837) was the President-General of the Society