



The Musket Report

Newsletter of the Wiregrass Chapter, ALSSAR
Enterprise, Alabama
"Home of the Boll Weevil Monument"
www.wiregrasssar.org



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March Meeting

The March meeting of the Wiregrass Chapter will be held on **15 March 2007 at 11:30** at the Rawls Hotel in Enterprise. Mr. Kevin Ammons of the Enterprise Ozark Community College will be our guest speaker and his topic will be "The Founding Generation". Finalization of plans for the parade in Goshen and the meeting that evening in Troy will be finalized (see below). The chapter wants to express its appreciation to Jack Oden for his outstanding presentation last month on the "Revolution within the Revolution". Hope to see everyone on the 15th! Remember we always look forward to having the ladies in attendance.

Troy Chapter Development

The list of prospects for the new chapter in Troy and Pike County continues to increase. To date four new applications have been submitted (one of which has already been approved) and one reinstatement in the NSSAR for the Troy chapter have been effected. Work on three additional applications is underway. The first organizational meeting for this new chapter will be held at **6:30 PM at the Troy Public Library on 15 March**. Members, especially color guard members, are encouraged to attend so that the colors can be posted.

As part of increasing the awareness of the SAR within Pike County, elements of the ALSSAR Color Guard will lead the Centennial Day parade in Goshen on the 31 of March. President John Fuller has the recently procured ALSSAR Color Guard Banner which will lead the group. We will be needing two individuals to carry this in the parade - the parade route is to be 0.4 miles. Please contact Bruce Taylor if you are interested in participating.

ALSSAR State Convention

The State Convention on the 16/17 of February saw several general officers participate in the event. On Friday afternoon, President-General Nathan White presented Tom Walker and the American Village the Distinguished Patriot Service Award for the work the village does in promoting patriotism among the children. Historian-General David Sympson and Genealogist-General Chuck Bragg also attended our meeting. At the Saturday night banquet Compatriot Jim Alexander was installed as our new State President. Bruce Taylor was the recipient of a Meritorious Service Medal, Silver Good Citizenship medal along with the newly authorized Service to Veterans Medal. The later recognition was also awarded to John Fuller and John Wallace. Congratulations gentlemen for all your work within the ALSSAR!

Kettle Creek Remembered

On February 10th several members of the ALSSAR made the trip to Washington, GA to celebrate the Battle of Kettle Creek and honor the patriots who fought in this most important Revolutionary War battle. Former state president Price Legg, William Wyatt and our own Joe Graves joined color guard members from around the southeastern US, in the day long event. Compatriot John Wallace was also in attendance. The special guest of honor for the event was Secretary General Bruce Wilcox.



Joe Graves (center) at the battle field monument with some of the over 65 wreaths which were presented. Photo Alva Graves

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

It is with great pleasure to announce that the new membership application for **Allison Spann** has gone into the mail. Al is the first cousin of chapter member John Kelsoe, and, by extension, the brother of Andy Spann! While Al lives in California, he is very excited about becoming a SAR member and part of the Wiregrass Chapter! We need to continue to identify potential members within the area. As past president Larry Cornwell noted, we are best served by "qualifying the interested, rather than interesting the qualified". Individuals who join based on a real interest in the SAR are more likely to become actively involved in the chapter programs and events.

NSSAR Executive Director

As many of you are aware, NSSAR Executive Director Jim Randall resigned his position effective the 31 December 2006. Since that time a search committee has been soliciting resumes for a new Executive Director. At the Spring Leadership Meeting, it was announced that the Executive Committee had approved the hiring of Joe Harris for this position. Joe is a retired Army LTC, with an educational background in organizational management. He is currently completing his second year as the president of the North Carolina Society, and will soon be moving to Louisville. He will actually come on board about the 15th of March. He has extensive knowledge of the SAR and will provide excellent leadership to the NSSAR Headquarters staff.

"Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph." Thomas Paine (American Crisis, No. 1, 19 December 1776)

The Lansdowne Portrait:

The painting, done in 1796 by Gilbert Stuart, is known as the *Lansdowne Portrait* as it was a gift to the Marquis of Lansdowne, an English supporter of American independence, from Senator and Mrs. William Bingham of Pennsylvania. The painting is full of symbolism, drawn from both American and ancient symbols of the Roman Republic. Many of the objects in the painting probably never really existed, but were chosen by the artist to convey specific ideas to viewers. Stuart painted Washington from life, showing him standing up, dressed in a black velvet suit with an outstretched hand held up in an oratorical manner. Some think that Washington is pointing toward the future, foreseeing bright prospects for his nation. Others believe that Washington is saying farewell. When this portrait was painted, he was about to leave office after having served two terms as President. Viewing the portrait, an observer saw him "bestowing his good advice to his countrymen." Others have inferred that the painting commemorates the recent signing and ratification of Jay's Treaty. The decision to portray Washington in a formal black suit emphasized his status as a citizen-leader, as opposed to a monarch. Citizens of the new nation, once subjects of a king dressed in royal robes, needed to see that Washington was a different kind of leader. Washington's plain attire—reflecting his own beliefs about the Presidency—gave his fellow citizens a visual representation of this new form of leadership: one who is elected of, by, and for the people. The sword that he holds on his left side is a dress sword and not a battle sword (symbolizing a democratic form of government, rather than a monarchy or military dictatorship)

The table leg may have been inspired by a wooden ceremonial mace in the U.S. House of Representatives (one that was later destroyed when the British destroyed the capital city during the War of 1812 (the U.S. House symbol was itself inspired by the Roman *fascies*). The House mace was a bundle of tied reeds topped with a bald eagle, an American symbol. A version of it, looking more like a torch, appears on today's dime.

In the sky, storm clouds appear on the left while a rainbow appears on the right, signifying the American Revolutionary War giving way to the peace and prosperity of the new United States after the 1783 Treaty of Paris. The medallion at the top of the chair shows the red, white, and blue colors of the American flag. The silver inkwell rests on silver dogs, age-old symbols of loyalty.

This is one of only three pictures of Washington that Gilbert Stuart painted from life, the Lansdowne portrait was so very popular, many people made copies — without the artist's permission. In 1797 Stuart himself painted the copy that Dolly Madison would save from the burning White House in 1814.

Washington's unusually clenched facial expression comes from his famous false teeth. Stuart wrote that: "*When I painted him [Washington], he had just had a set of false teeth inserted, which accounts for the constrained expression so noticeable about the mouth and lower part of the face..*"

The painting hangs in the *National Portrait Gallery* in Washington, DC.

Presidential \$1 Coin Act of 2005 - Title I: Presidential \$1 Coins - (Sec. 102) Amends federal monetary law to set forth requirements for the redesign and issuance of circulating \$1 coins emblematic of each President of the United States. Requires such coins to be issued in the order of the period of service of each President, beginning with President George Washington. Restricts such coin series to deceased Presidents.

The first of these coins bearing the likeness of George Washington has been released and is available at local banks. Its release in February, 2007 was fitting as 22 February 2007 was George Washington's 275th birthday.

