



The Musket Report

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



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August Family Picnic

First, for those who are wondering what happened to the June Newsletter, it was not published due to the editor's medical problems. Of course, one is never distributed in July.

It is hoped that everyone is having a good summer, and is ready to start thinking about the SAR again. As always the chapter will kick off the second half of 2007 with our August Family Picnic which will be held on **SATURDAY 18 August** at the **Little Red School House/Enterprise Welcome Center starting at 11:30**. This year, arrangements have been made to have barbeque catered by Larry's to include beans/coleslaw. To help defray costs, we need to collect \$5.00 per person and get a count of those planning to attend. Like in years past, chapter ladies (or you SAR cooks - Rex has promised his Banana Pudding again) are being asked to provide a salad or dessert for the event. Please contact **Dr. Jack Oden NLT 15 August** with the number who will be attending, (jpoden@roadrunner.com or mail the information and check to: Jack Oden, 202 Lake Oliver Dr, Enterprise, AL 36330) and what "goodies" you might be bringing. The chapter will be providing buns, and soft drinks for the event.

The **SAR/DAR Luncheon** is scheduled for **Thursday, 20 September, at 11:30**. Our speaker will be Dr. Bill Hazen, a recognized expert on the Middle East. This year the luncheon will be held in New Brockton at the Gathering. Follow HY 84 West to New Brockton to the traffic light (parking lot of the Baptist Church will be on the right) turn right, and the building is directly behind the parking lot. The DAR State Regent, Ms. Shelby D. Ward, will be our guest again. The ladies of the John Coffee Chapter have volunteered to do the decorations. This is a **by reservation only event**, and a reservation slip is enclosed. The cost will be \$13.50. The chapter will be presenting the SAR Law Enforcement Award at the luncheon. Reservations must be returned to Mrs. Mary Ann Wallace, 200 E. Silver Oak Drive, Enterprise, AL 36330 **NLT Monday, 17 Sep 07**. It does appear the Rawls Restaurant will no longer be available to us, so efforts are being made to find a suitable location for monthly meetings.

Marion B. Brunson, SR

With the death of Judge Brunson on June 3rd the chapter lost not only a charter member, past president but a good friend and strong supporter of the SAR. His insights and stories will be missed. Unfortunately, ill health precluded him from being on hand last September to receive the Law Enforcement Medal, but his name was listed as a recipient in the program at the Tuesday night banquet at Congress. Our condolences go out to Nancy, Matt and Bailey!

117th Congress

The recent 117th Congress held in Williamsburg, VA was a total success! Over 500 delegates and guests were in attendance to include approximately 100 first time attendees and were afforded the very best of Southern Hospitality. The venue at Williamsburg with the close proximity of both the Yorktown battlefield and Jamestown could not have been a better setting to reflect the historical interests of the Sons of the American Revolution. The high light of the event was the Wednesday night formal banquet which saw Bruce Wilcox (VASSAR) installed as our new President General. For those who might not know, the SAR owns a ring worn by George Washington which was endowed to the society several years ago. During the installation program the ring is placed on the finger of the new incoming President General, albeit for a very short time, before it is returned to the society's vault. Each outgoing PG is presented with a copy of the ring to wear permanently.

The ALSSAR was well represented at the meeting with 12 compatriots and 8 wives in attendance. Larry Cornwell was installed as our new National Trustee and Jim Alexander took over as the Alternate Trustee. At the same time our own chapter member John R. Wallace (in white tie, gloves and tails - rumor has it that John is looking for a part time job as the doorman at Burger King!) was sworn in as the new Vice President General of the Southern District. His duties will include serving as a liaison between the four states of the district and the president general along with representing the Southern District at events both within the district and in other areas of the country. This position rotates among the four states of the district so only comes to Alabama every four years.

The composition of national committees and chairmen will be announced in a couple of weeks, and it is anticipated that the Alabama Society will be well represented on many of the national committees.

Attendance at a national meeting, be it a Congress or one of the Leadership meetings in Louisville, is an ideal way to learn about our great society, meet our leadership and make new friends from around the country. Everyone is strongly encouraged to consider attending the Fall Leadership meeting in Louisville in late September.

The Musket Report



At the Monday night recognition program at Congress *The Musket Report* newsletter of the Wiregrass Chapter was awarded the Carl F. Bessent award for the best national single page chapter newsletter. This is the second time our chapter newsletter has been so recognized and included a \$50.00 check to the chapter along with a certificate for the editor! See logo above.

Why the CAAH is so Important

We all realize that one of the primary goals of the Sons of the American Revolution is to preserve our history along with keeping alive the story of our patriot ancestors who gave us the liberties we all enjoy today. The following editorial, written shortly after the 4th of July from *The Record*, Bergen County, NJ provides a rather sad commentary on the preservation of our patriotic history.

“In December 1776, a few months after the Hopewell farmer John Hart signed the Declaration of Independence, Hessians sacked his farm and the 63 year old went into hiding in the cold Hunterdon County woods. He died less than three years later, too early to know how the war or the American Experiment would turn out. We who do should recognize his contribution.

...Hart’s grave and those of four other signers—Abraham Clark, George Clymer, Richard Stockton and John Witherspoon—lie with the state’s borders (ed. NJ), offering opportunities for reflection on our national heritage and principles. These historic places may not be quite as exciting as the pyrotechnics of a few days ago, but they should at least be well marked and maintained.

However, some of these sites lack appropriate markers or bear plaques that have themselves become historical, with faded letters and limited information. A bill that would dedicate \$200,000 to the task of maintaining the graves of the signers has failed to make it out of the state Legislature for three years....

In our minds, this cause ranks above many others that somehow got a piece of the state budget that the governor signed last month...”

Early in 1776, the New Jersey delegation to the Continental Congress was opposed to independence from Great Britain. As the issue heated up, the state convention replaced all their delegates with those favoring the separation. Because Abraham Clark was highly vocal on his opinion that the colonies should have their independence, on June 21, 1776, they appointed him, along with John Hart, Francis Hopkinson, Richard Stockton, and John Witherspoon as new delegates. They arrived in Philadelphia on June 28, 1776, and signed the Declaration of Independence in early July.

George Clymer was one of the first Patriots to advocate complete independence from Britain and was a signatory of the Declaration of Independence as a Pennsylvania representative. He is buried in the yard of the Friends Meeting House in Trenton, New Jersey.

This apparent indifference by a state legislature to the final resting places of individuals who signed one of the most important documents in the world, is yet another reason we all needed to become involved in assuring that our new Center for Advancing America’s Heritage is fully funded and built as soon as possible. Through expanded outreach education the SAR can raise the awareness of our national history, and the roles played by not only those named above, but all patriots in founding this great nation.

Only two things are infinite, the universe and human stupidity, and I’m not sure about the former.

ALBERT EINSTEIN

NSSAR Outreach Education Program

At the George Washington Endowment Fund’s Distribution Committee meeting in Williamsburg, a preliminary idea of helping fund the costs of manikins and a set of Revolutionary War uniforms for use by the Educational Director was discussed. Programs have already been started in Louisville where elementary children tour the museum and receive information about our heritage. These uniforms would be an additional teaching tool for Colleen Wilson. This idea was very well received.

As many of you are aware, when Dick Kemp died, the family gave me his uniform. I have decided to donate his uniform in his name to our National Museum. We all know, Dick greatly enjoyed going into to schools in his uniform and interacting with the children. It is felt he would approve of this donation, as his uniform will continue to help teach about our great history and principles upon which our nation was founded.

John

2008 Dues

With the thermometer hovering around 100 degrees and the humidity still elevated, it seems like a strange time to start worrying about dues. However, it will not be long before John Kelsoe/Bruce Taylor are going to be in the thick of things collecting dues and establishing our new chapter roster. As of yet the chapter has not received official guidelines from the State on to whom the treasurer must send the money or what cut off date is going to be used this year. Total price remains the same at \$50.00 (\$25.00 National, \$12.00 State and \$13.00 for Chapter dues). John Kelsoe will again be collecting our dues, and, if someone wants to get a real jump on the program, he can send his \$50.00 check payable to the Wiregrass Chapter to John at **1654 County Road 606, Enterprise, AL 36330.**

Along these same lines, while everyone has been takin’ a break chapter secretary Bruce Taylor has been working closely with State Secretary John Killian to rectify some of the discrepancies between the chapter, state and national rosters. Bruce reports these have all been addressed and it should now be correct. If for some reason, however, you have seen a disruption in the receipt of *The SAR Magazine* or the State Newsletter, you need to let Bruce be aware of this situation. (bhtaylor@entercomp.com)

Potential Youth Member

Chapter member Christopher Alford reports the birth of a son Parker Allen on 26 May 2007. Young Parker weighed in at 7 lb, 11.5 oz. The young’un, Mamma and proud Papa are all doing fine. Congratulations!!

Heads Up: The fall ALSSAR Board of Managers is scheduled for **20 October** in Montgomery. Time and place are yet to be announced. Mark your calendar now.