



The Musket Report



Newsletter of the Wiregrass Chapter, Alabama Society, Sons of the American Revolution

ENTERPRISE, ALABAMA **OCTOBER 2025**

Upcoming Events

October 8th- Compatriot Travis Parker will be on hand to honor our returning veterans of the Hero Flight at the Daleville Civic Center at 6:00pm. All members and families are welcome to attend.

October 16th- Wiregrass Chapter Meeting. 11:30am Enterprise Country Club. The Nominations Committee will present a list of nominations for next year's officers. If you are interested in becoming more involved with the SAR, please contact our Chapter President or Secretary.

November 7th- A Flag Raising ceremony will take place at 3:00pm in front of the Ozark-Dale County Public Library. The ceremony will in the SAR and the U.S. Army as well as other organizations.



November 20th- Wiregrass Chapter Meeting 11:30am Enterprise Country Club. This is a very important meeting as the entire Chapter will be electing the next year's officers. All members are strongly encouraged to attend.

Patriot Memorial Marking

We are pleased to announce that the patriot memorial marking for Captain William Brackin is officially underway! The Wiregrass ALSSAR in conjunction with the Emasse-Robert Grierson DAR Chapter of Dothan will host the ceremony located at the Kirkland-Brackin cemetery in Henry County on April 18th, 2026 at 2:00pm. We are in the early planning stages and more information will be provided to you in the near future. Captain Brackin is one of our local patriots and the ancestor to one of our own Compatriots, as well as some DAR members. Please plan to attend.



What we do



Since its chartering on December 19th, 1992, the Wiregrass Chapter has remained steadfast in its mission to honor the memory of our patriot ancestors throughout the Alabama Wiregrass region. Through commemorative events such as patriot grave markings, veteran support activities, and other civic endeavors, the Chapter seeks to preserve the legacy of the American Revolution while educating the public about the founding principles of our Nation. Headquartered in the City of Enterprise, the Wiregrass Chapter serves a broad area of influence encompassing **Coffee, Covington, Crenshaw, Dale, Geneva, Henry, Houston, and Pike** Counties. Membership in the Sons of the American Revolution is a distinction reserved for those who can directly trace their lineage to a patriot who either bore arms in the struggle for Independence or rendered material or patriotic service in support of the cause. If you or know someone who may be interested, please contact our Chapter Registrar for more information. wiregrassregistrar@gmail.com

The SAR Store

Interested in purchasing SAR apparel? The SAR store has everything from clothing, ribbons, secretary supplies and much more. Pictured here is the SAR Member's Badge. This badge is authorized for wear by all Compatriots by virtue of your membership. Click on the link to get started. <http://store.sar.org/>





President's Corner- Compatriot Paul Olson

Wiregrass Compatriots, welcome to the newly reestablished *The Musket Report*, all from the great efforts being put forth by Compatriot Dallas, whose efforts are most appreciated. Additionally, if you're reading this on the soon-to-be-completed website for the Wiregrass SAR, you can thank Compatriot Dallas again for his efforts.

Our state organization had their board of managers meeting this past weekend, with 5 WG members in attendance. The state is on track for the coming Semi-Quincentennial, with a wealth of information to be found on the America250.org webpage. Here you can get caught upon what the nation has in store, it should be a great year for the country. Additionally, the Southern District is hosting the NSSAR National Congress in New Orleans from July 9th – 15th, 2027 with many activities and events planned out for those of you interested.

For the state and our local chapter, dues are a primary concern here at the end of the year. Please be sure to get your dues in to the Treasurer, Compatriot John Cheney no later than December 16th. We also have a few events on the horizon I wish you all to check out and participate in. This November 7th, at Ozark Public Library at 3pm, we have a flag dedication in the park out front. This park is the site of a new sign that we are having made, which will be a memorial marker for that space as well. Ft. Rucker, The BSA, City of Ozark among others will all have representation. Later that month, Compatriot Parker has a veterans 5k walk and run, or 11-mile ruck march to raise funds for our veterans in need. That will take place on the October 15th at 7:30am in Enterprise on the Boll Weevil Circle (contact Compatriot Parker for more info). Our Christmas Dinner is being planned as we speak, with a penciled-in date of DEC 11. More to come on that, and finally, next April 18th we'll have the Brackin Memorial Marking of Compatriot Brackin's actual family patriot at the Kirkland-Brackin Cemetery. This will be a big event for us, and we'd love to see everyone there. More to come on that as well.

The chapter has seen multiple new members join this year, and we're definitely seeing a resurgence, but we always need more help and participation. Our chapter is quite small, and as we start to chart the path forward, I ask that you consider a leadership position, or volunteer to be a 2nd in command of a particular element of our chapter to help out those heading up a particular office. Great things have been happening, and with the events we have on the calendar it looks to be another good year for the Wiregrass Chapter.



The Wiregrass Chapter was well represented during the 2025 Fall ALSSAR Board of Managers meeting at the American Village in Montevallo on September 27th. Five of our Chapter members attended namely: Compatriots Travis Parker, Paul Olson (Chapter President), Jason Dallas, Phillip Kitchens and Compatriot Minuteman John R. Wallace.



Dues Time Is Here!

Dues & membership cards have been mailed. The online payment option is operational on the ALSSAR website. This option does incur a small fee between \$0.80 to \$1.23 depending on Regular or Lifetime Member status (National vs State or both.) Dues must be received by **16 Dec.** <https://onlinepayment.alszar.org/dues>

-OR- Bring your dues to the meeting.

-OR- Mail your dues to: Compatriot John Cheney, 2019 Stonewood Dr. Dothan, AL 36301-2177.

The Battle of Fort Mercer, New Jersey

On October 22nd, 1777, one of the most dramatic and successful American defensive actions of the Revolutionary War took place at Fort Mercer, located at Red Bank on the New Jersey side of the Delaware River. The fort, a relatively small earthen structure, was an important link in the American defenses designed to block British naval access to Philadelphia. After General William Howe captured Philadelphia in September 1777, the British urgently needed to open supply lines along the river. To do this, they had to eliminate Forts Mercer and Mifflin, which guarded narrow stretches of the Delaware with supporting obstacles placed in the river.

To clear the way, the British ordered an assault on Fort Mercer. Colonel Carl Emil Ulrich von Donop, a Hessian officer serving with the Crown forces, was given command of roughly 2,000 well-trained Hessian grenadiers and infantry. He marched his force across the river into New Jersey and advanced on the American position. The defenders of Fort Mercer, however, were much fewer in number—about 400 men of the Continental Army, largely from Rhode Island, commanded by Colonel Christopher Greene. Despite the disparity in strength, Greene's troops were prepared to exploit their defensive works.



On the afternoon of October 22nd, von Donop demanded the fort's surrender, but Greene refused. The Hessians then launched a direct assault, advancing with bayonets against the earthen walls. The Americans had fortified their position carefully, using both artillery and obstacles to channel the attackers. As the Hessians stormed forward, they were met with devastating musket and cannon fire at close range. The frontal attack turned into a bloody disaster. Within less than an hour, the Hessians were forced to retreat, leaving behind heavy casualties. Estimates indicate that about 377 Hessians were killed or wounded, including von Donop himself, who was mortally injured and captured. American losses were remarkably light—only about 14 killed and 23 wounded.

The defense of Fort Mercer proved a significant morale booster for the American cause at a time when Washington's army had recently suffered defeats at Brandywine and Germantown. Although the fort would eventually be abandoned in November after sustained British pressure, the October 22nd victory at Red Bank showed the effectiveness of determined resistance and inflicted a sharp blow on the prestige of Hessian forces. The repulse at Fort Mercer became a celebrated moment in Revolutionary memory, demonstrating that disciplined Continental troops, even when outnumbered, could withstand and defeat elite European soldiers in open battle.

The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our Country.