

TO ALL COMPATRIOTS AND FRIENDS:

### MAY MEETING

The May meeting of the Wiregrass Chapter will be held at **Noon, 18 May 2000** at the **Holiday Inn** in **Ozark**. Please note this new location. This will be a joint meeting with the Tri-State Chapter of Dothan and the Mayor of Ozark will be the guest speaker. Every member is encouraged to attend and to bring their special lady and/or any prospective SAR member. Our April meeting in Geneva was very well attended, and Compatriot Wallace provided some good insight into both the positive and negative aspects of using the Internet for genealogical research.

### SYMPATHY

The Chapter wishes to extend its sympathy to Compatriot Myron Vail on the recent death of his wife. At the same time condolences are extended to Compatriot Jack Bryan on the recent loss of his mother.

### BOOKS FOR THE VA

The collection of paper back books for Veterans Administration Hospitals is going very well. On Friday, 21 April, Compatriots Dick Kemp and John Wallace delivered forty books to the library of the VA Hospital in Montgomery. The Librarian was very pleased to receive them and expressed her thanks to the Chapter. If you have some books you would like to donate, please bring them to the next meeting or contact one of the chapter officers and efforts will be made to pick them up. It is hoped that the chapter will be able to make several more donations throughout the remainder of the year. This type of activity

along with any assistance to a veteran by a member should be documented and reported to Compatriot John Fuller. Each year the chapter does provide a report to the state society on the chapter's involvement with military veterans.

### REVOLUTIONARY WAR GRAVES

As was mentioned in last month's newsletter, four Revolutionary War Patriots are known to have settled in Dale County, but the exact location of the graves of three of the four patriots is unknown. Plans are continuing to establish a monument to these four heroes in Ozark. It has been decided to place the monument on the grounds of the Ozark-Dale County Library. This site selection has received the approval of the Friends of the Library Committee and the proposal will be presented to the full Library Board in the first week of May. The project has the full support of the Mayor's Office and the proposal has also been presented to the Military Affairs Subcommittee of the Ozark Chamber of Commerce. To date only one estimate of the cost of the proposed marker has been received which amounted to some \$2400.00. The Chapter is in the process of seeking other quotes. To kick off our Monument Fund, President Dick Kemp has presented the chapter with a check for \$100.00 on behalf of his son and himself. Any member who would like to contribute to this fund, should send a check, payable to the Wiregrass Chapter, SAR to Dick Kemp, PO Box 2253, Ozark, AL 36361. Various organizations and business within the area will be offered the opportunity to make a contribution to this fund. Donations to the Sons of the American Revolution are tax deductible.

## EULOGY FOR A VETERAN

Do not stand at my grave and weep,  
I am not there, I do not sleep.

I am a thousand winds that blow.  
I am the diamond glints on snow.

I am the sunlight on ripened grain.  
I am the gentle autumn rain.

When you awaken in the morning's hush,  
I am the swift uplifting rush  
of quiet birds in circled flight,  
I am the soft stars that shine at night.

Do not stand at my grave and cry,  
I am not there, I did not die.

~Author Unknown

Memorial Day is observed on the last Monday in May to honor the nation's military personnel killed in wartime. The holiday, originally called Decoration Day, is traditionally marked by parades, memorial speeches and the decoration of graves with flowers and flags. Memorial Day was first observed on May 30, 1868, on the order of General John Alexander Logan for the purpose of decorating the graves of the American Civil War dead. His orders to decorate graves in 1868 "with the choicest flowers of springtime" urged: "We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance. Let pleasant paths invite the coming and going of reverent visitors and fond mourners. Let no neglect, no ravages of time, testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided republic." The selection of May 30th is attributed to a Virginian of French descent who may have selected this date as it was "The Day of Ashes" in France - the day that Napoleon's remains were returned to France from St. Helena. Local springtime tributes to the Civil War dead already had been held at various places. One of

the first occurred in Columbus, MS, April 22, 1866 when a local group of women visited a cemetery to decorate Confederate graves with flowers. Nearby were the graves of Union soldiers, neglected as they were the enemy. Disturbed by the sight of the bare graves, the women placed some of their flowers on these graves as well. It was not until after World War I, however, that the day was expanded to honor those who had died in all American Wars. In 1971 the date of Memorial Day was changed to the newly established federal schedule of holiday observances.

The origins of special services to honor those who died in war can be found in antiquity. The Athenian Leader Pericles offered a tribute to the fallen heroes of the Peloponnesian Wars over 24 centuries ago that can be applied today to the 1.1 million Americans who have died in the defense of this nation. "Not only are they commemorated by columns and inscriptions, but there dwells also an unwritten memorial of them, graven not on stone but in the hearts of men."

"Your silent tents of green  
We deck with fragrant flowers;  
Yours has the suffering been,  
The memory shall be ours."

~ Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

[www.va.gov/articles/celebam/memday/html](http://www.va.gov/articles/celebam/memday/html)

"Memorial Day" [encarta.msn.com](http://encarta.msn.com)

[www.geocities.com/Athens/Acropolis/1465/memorial.html](http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Acropolis/1465/memorial.html)

May 29 is Memorial Day and a time when we should all pause and remember those who gave their life for this county.

Dick Kemp - President

John R. Wallace - Editor

# THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

WIREGRASS CHAPTER

## NEWSLETTER

Enterprise, Alabama

May, 2000

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