



The Musket Report



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

ENTERPRISE, ALABAMA

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Wiregrass Chapter Honors Captain William Brackin



Captain William Brackin of Anson County, North Carolina was surrounded by scores of his descendants on April 18th in a long-awaited grave marking ceremony at the Kirkland-Brackin cemetery near Newville. Captain William Brackin served in the Anson County militia, the Montgomery County militia, and the North Carolina Light Dragoons Regiment, which for a time operated as part of the Continental Army. He was present and took part in the Battle of Beatti's Bridge, fought near present-day Fort Bragg NC, and later at the Battle of Eutaw Springs in South Carolina. Captain Brackin continued his service through the close of the Revolutionary War.



The key note speaker was one of Captain Brackin's 6th great-grandsons Dr. Glenn Brackin of Geneva; one of the Wiregrass Chapter's Compatriots. President Phillip Kitchens did a wonderful job officiating the event and keeping everyone in line. The ALSSAR State President Dr. Ronald Dains travelled all the way from Prattville to present the official remarks. Thank you Sir! The invocation and benediction were read by Compatriot Dr. Jack Anderson also of the Wiregrass Chapter. Another special thank you is owed to the Alabama State Color Guard who not only travelled many miles to support this event, they also began to train our very own color guard! We are eternally grateful to Mrs. Debbie Kirkland and all of the Kirkland & Brackin families for their unwavering support of this event.

The wonderful ladies of the Emassee-Robert Grierson Chapter ALDAR were kind enough to host a delightful reception following the ceremony at Concord Baptist church nearby. Nearly the entire Wiregrass region was proudly represented at this ceremony. Wreaths were presented by the Joel Early Chapter Georgia Society SAR, the Emassee-Robert Grierson Chapter, the John Coffee Chapter, and the soon to be commissioned Constitutional Oak Chapter- all of the Alabama DAR Society. We cannot forget to mention our very own Mrs. Claire Murphy and Mrs. Jenn Dallas who always go above and beyond in their efforts to support our Chapter. Thank you! All told, nearly half of the Wiregrass Chapter was present and over 80 patriotic Americans were in attendance. Huzzah!



The Wiregrass Chapter wishes to extend its deepest condolences to our Compatriot Jim Gilmer and his family on the loss of his wife Nell Gilmer who served the Wiregrass Chapter as our First Lady from 2004 – 2005.

The City of Enterprise Issues 250th Proclamation



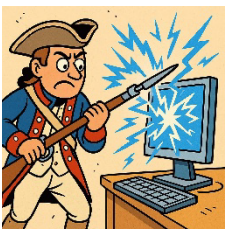
The Wiregrass Chapter sponsored by the Pea River Historical Society were invited to participate in the City of Enterprise's 250th Anniversary of American Independence proclamation ceremony at the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) Luncheon on April 8th. President Phillip Kitchens read the City's proclamation and attended the Enterprise Mayor William E. Cooper as he signed the proclamation in front of over 500 members of the general public. Major General Clair A. Gill, Commander, US Army Aviation Center of Excellence gave the official remarks. The event was televised on WTVY News.



Wiregrass Minutemen Honor Veterans



Yes, your Chapter has been very busy! On Friday night, April 24th the Wiregrass Minutemen supported Operation Homecoming at Enterprise State Community College. At this event, Enterprise Honor Flight hosted returning veterans from a trip to Washington D.C. Our Chapter provided a Color Guard to help honor these veterans. Honor Flight is an organization where they sponsor veterans to fly to our nation's capital to visit their respective memorials. Recently, some veterans (especially those who do not have an extended family) have had a profound experience participating in this program. The Wiregrass Chapter was honored to support these Americans who proudly served our country. WDHN was on hand to televise the event.



Registrar's Corner

I'd like to welcome our Chapter's newest member, **Compatriot Michael Semeniuk** of Midland City. Application approval time at headquarters has dramatically been reduced compared to this time last year. His application took only 69 days! Mr. Compatriot Semeniuk's ancestor is **Corporal Samson Powers** of the **New Hampshire Militia** who directly engaged the British at Breed's Hill & Bunker Hill among others. Corporal Powers' war service is interesting and very well documented. I plan to include it in the next newsletter. Huzzah!

The Chapter has another new member application at HQ and we expect approval within the next couple weeks. We have several supplemental applications at Louisville as well; we anticipate seeing action on those beginning in June or July and continuing into the fall. Additionally, we are extremely proud to have had **four membership reinstatements** in the past month. **Compatriots: Dr. John Simmons Jr, Jack Simmons, Robert Salisbury and Nicklaus Chrysson.** Welcome back gentlemen!

Several of you have applications in an 'actively working status.' A couple of sticky generations we are trying to prove but our team is on it! Please be patient and we will stay in regular contact.



From The President

Phillip (PK) Kitchens

My Fellow Compatriots,

As we wrap up the first quarter of this Semi quinentennial year, I'm proud of the significant "Wiregrass Chapter boot print" we've already made together. We launched the *Wiregrass Revolutionary Veterans* YouTube channel to help raise awareness of the 53 Revolutionary War veterans who settled in the Wiregrass—and to tell the story of how they came here. We also secured a grant from the Pomeroy Foundation to erect a historical marker highlighting the ten Revolutionary War veterans who registered for pensions in Dale County. This marker will further bring attention to the monument our chapter dedicated in 2001.

Additionally, we now have two 7-foot display posters placed throughout the Wiregrass listing each Revolutionary veteran from our area—helping our neighbors recognize their direct connection to the American Revolution. We continue to expand our outreach through our Facebook page, increasing awareness of who we are and how to get involved. Our Wiregrass Minutemen have been successfully reactivated and have already participated in several events across the region.

Our biggest success this quarter was the Captain William Brackin / 250th Celebration on April 18th. With a strong crowd in attendance, it was truly one of the finest ceremonies I have ever been part of. A special thanks goes to Jason Dallas for his leadership in planning and coordinating the event. Behind the scenes, Malon Murphy ensured everything was set up for success. Perry Vickers and Paul Olson also played key roles in making the event possible. Perry further contributed by joining the Color Guard alongside Jason Dallas, James Crabtree, and Travis Parker. Thank you as well to Jack Anderson, Glenn Brackin, and Ron Daines (ALSSAR President) for their outstanding presentations. The Brackin family and all guests expressed how much they appreciated the program.

I have also submitted a letter of recommendation to the Alabama Historical Commission on behalf of Glenn Brackin and his family in support of their application for a historical marker at the Kirkland-Brackin Cemetery, honoring Captain William Brackin, Revolutionary War Patriot. I am confident this effort will be successful.

Looking ahead, the next quarter will be just as busy as we continue preparations for the July 4th Semi quinentennial Celebration in Andalusia. It remains an honor to be associated with such outstanding gentlemen and to represent the Wiregrass Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution.

On the Horizon

Thursday, 21 May, 11:30 am- Wiregrass Chapter monthly meeting. Enterprise Country Club.

Saturday 16 May, 10:00 am- ALSSAR Board of Managers meeting. Location: American Village 3727 Hwy 119, Montevallo, AL 35115

Thursday 18 June, 11:30 am- Wiregrass Chapter monthly meeting. Enterprise Country Club

Saturday 4 July, 10:00 am- 250th Commemoration of the signing of the Declaration of Independence!

Join us in celebrating our Independence as the Wiregrass Chapter ALSSAR and the Three Notch Chapter ALDAR participate in the **4th of July Parade in Andalusia**. We will also have a hand in the public reading of the Declaration of Independence shortly after the parade. The line up for the parade will commence in the First Baptist Church of Andalusia parking lot at **9:00am**. All members are highly encouraged to participate!



Stay updated with events by visiting our Events Page on the website: <https://www.sarwiregrassal.org/events>



If you itemize deductions on your federal income tax return, membership and participation in the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) may offer certain potential tax benefits. The SAR is recognized as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, tax-exempt organization, which means that qualifying donations made to the organization can generally be deducted as charitable contributions, subject to IRS rules and limitations. In addition to direct financial contributions, some out-of-pocket expenses incurred while supporting SAR activities may also be deductible. For example, if you travel to and from official SAR events, meetings, ceremonies, or educational programs in a volunteer capacity, those travel expenses—such as mileage, parking, or tolls—may qualify as charitable deductions, provided they are directly related to and solely for the purpose of participating in the organization's mission. It is important to note that personal, social, or recreational elements of travel are not deductible, and proper documentation, such as receipts and mileage logs, should be maintained. As tax regulations can be complex and subject to change, members should consult the most current IRS guidelines or seek advice from a qualified tax professional to ensure compliance and determine eligibility. By understanding these provisions, SAR members can both support the organization's patriotic mission and potentially benefit from the financial incentives associated with charitable involvement.



Chaplains In the Revolution

Chapter Historian: James Crabtree

Recently, the Secretary of War changed the uniform regulations so that military chaplains will only wear the emblem of their religious faith when in work uniform. The purpose of this is so that military personnel will feel at ease speaking to a chaplain, whether that chaplain is a captain or a general. "A chaplain is first and foremost a chaplain, and an officer second. This change is a visual representation of that fact," Secretary Hegseth said.

From the very beginnings of the United States Army Chaplains have served an important role among our soldiers. On July 29th, 1775 the Continental Congress authorized one chaplain to serve in each regiment and established a pay grade of \$20 per month (the same as an infantry captain). This was part of the legislation which established the roles expected of each position within a regiment, such as surgeons. At General Washington's request, Chaplain pay was raised to \$33.50 in January 1776 to put it more in line with what a civilian cleric would make.

Indeed, prior to the Revolution many British politicians and military officers noted that it was the clergy who pushed the ideas which animated Americans to resist the unfair treatment they were getting from London. While the hated Stamp Act would control how many broadsides and pamphlets were printed, nothing stopped the clergy from proselytizing on the injustices being forced on Americans from London.

Since the Revolution chaplains have served in every conflict the United States has fought. This merely confirmed the status of what was already the practice in the troops being raised by the states. Religious support of armies traced back to the ancient times but the role of a chaplain as we know them today goes back to the English Civil War, over a hundred years prior to the Revolution.

Oliver Cromwell, who was also fighting the forces of the King of England, worked to create the New Model Army, a force which was uniformly manned, supplied and supported. Chaplains were established for each of the army's regiments, providing divine guidance, moral support and religious services. They also were known to preach to civilians, to explain why the war had to be fought and why parliament was on the right side of the conflict.

The Roundhead chaplains preached the “liberty of conscious,” the dangerous idea that the King should not dictate what people believe. True, many of them were Puritans persecuted for their faith, but they did not seek to persecute others who did not believe in their faith. They only wanted the liberty, the right, to be left alone.

Unsurprisingly, this model carried over to the Continental Army. The pilgrims arrived in the New World before the English Civil War, steeped in doubts about the divine right of kings to rule. It is likely that many of the sermons heard by soldiers at Valley Forge or while resting between marches in the Carolinas would have sounded familiar to the chaplains of the New Model Army. Social equality and republicanism would have been familiar themes for the soldiers who listened to the Chaplain, then most likely in a black hassock, as well as the idea of liberty of conscious.

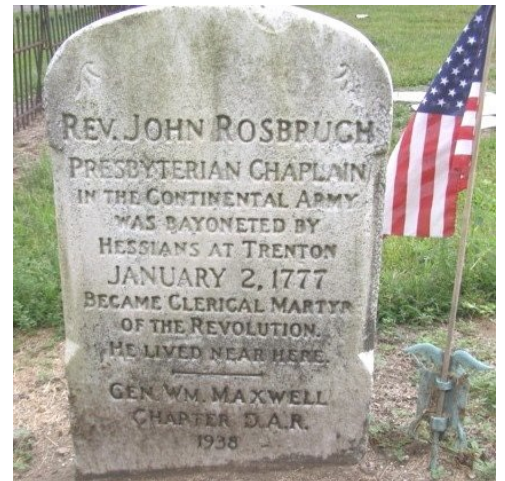
During the Revolution General Washington paid special attention to the chaplaincy and considered it an important part of his army. Many of his letters mention issues involving chaplains and their value. George Washington said in one letter that the chaplains were important *“to animate the Soldiery and Impress them with a Knowledge of the important rights as we are contending for...holding forth the Necessity of courage and bravery and at the same time of Obedience and Subordination to those in Command.”*



Chaplains did not simply sit around and wait for the results of the battles. The good ones were there with the men, tending the wounded and providing water to those who needed it. Many showed a great deal of courage and helped encourage the men.

The first Continental Army Chaplain to die was John Rosbrugh. He was with the 3rd Northampton Militia across the Pennsylvania border while General Washington led the Army into New Jersey in December 1776, to attack Hessian troops making themselves comfortable for the Winter. The position held by the militia was important as a counterattack by Hessian forces could be expected there. Sure enough, the attack came and Reverend Rosbrugh was captured during the raid. When they discovered he was a Presbyterian the Hessians ran him through with their bayonets.

Rosbrugh was born in Ireland, came to America and found his faith there. Before becoming a Chaplain, he recruited his friends and neighbors to fight for the cause. They agreed to do so, but only if he agreed to become their commanding officer. Reluctantly agreed, then handed the regiment over to another officer and formally became the Chaplain. He lost his life not because he was an American or a rebel, but because of his faith.



The U.S. Army Chaplain Corps is the oldest military chaplaincy in the world. Interestingly enough, twenty years later the British Royal Army Chaplain Department would be created during the Napoleonic Wars. Whether they awoke to the need to formally institute chaplains throughout the Army due to the history of their own Civil War, to the examples made by their foes in the Revolution or out of necessity while fighting Bonaparte... who can say?

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