



# The Musket Report

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



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### October Meeting

The October meeting of the Wiregrass Chapter will be held on **15 October at 11:30** at the **Enterprise Country Club**. As always please let Dr. Jack know by **12 October** so the appropriate reservations can be made. Our guest speaker for the day will be Dr. Jim Reese, Enterprise Superintendent of Schools. At the same time we will be finalizing all the last minute plans for the James Cadenhead Grave Marking Program on the **Sunday 18 October at 2:30** in the afternoon.

While the Perote Cemetery is a little over 50 miles from Enterprise, we are looking forward to a great event. Estimates are we will have 16-20 descendants in attendance, along with local citizens and several DAR Chapters. The memorial stone should be in place by the time this newsletter is published. *The chapter is asking that everyone bring some types of "finger food" for the reception following the event at the home of Mack Hixon near the cemetery.* Mr. Hixon is on the Cemetery Board, and his great-grandfather provided the land for part of the present day cemetery. ALSSAR Sr. VP Bruce Pickette will be on hand, and we have a commitment from several Color Guard members. Dr. Gwinn with his pipes along with the Boy Scout Troop from Dothan will be presenting the colors for the event. DAR chapters have been invited and encouraged to bring their chapter wreaths. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. Map Attached

### SAR/DAR Constitution Week Awards Luncheon



Again, the annual luncheon was a complete success. The 75 people in attendance (representing 4 SAR chapters and 5 DAR chapters) gave ALSSAR President John Killian a standing ovation following his address on the contributions of the Scots-Irish during the American Revolution and the ultimate framing of the Constitution. The chapter presented the Law Enforcement Award to Geneva Police Chief Charles Lindsey for his efforts during the shooting spree in Geneva earlier this year. Mrs. Kelli Curtis was presented the Fire Safety on the recommendation of the local Fire Department Chief. Mrs. Curtis is responsible for the scheduling of the "fire safety house" program here in Enterprise, which provides fire safety instructions to schools and other groups within the city. A very big "Thumbs Up" to Nell Gilmer and her ladies for the great decorations at the luncheon. Nell has been involved (i.e. decorations) with the SAR/DAR program since the start some nine years ago!



### DUES

The chapter has received some questions as to why dues have taken such a jump this year over last year. This has come about due to an increase in both state dues from \$12.00 to \$15.00 (\$3.00 increase) and national dues going from \$25.00 to \$30.00 (\$5.00 increase) for full members while junior members went from \$5.00 to \$10.00.. In both cases it has been several years since either raised dues (1991 for the state) and the basic cost of doing business for both have gone up especially in the area of postage. We have to remember also that the National Society is faced with payrolls, postage, publication of the magazine along with maintaining the headquarters and all of these costs have steadily risen over the years. While not having a direct affect on current members fees for new applications have also been raised. The cost of processing a supplemental application has also been increased. There is a new fees schedule chart posted on the ALSSAR website ([www.ALSSAR.org](http://www.ALSSAR.org)).

The chapter is doing everything possible to hold costs down, and that is the primary reason that newsletters are sent electronically to the fullest extent possible, and notices are posted on the chapter website.

By getting your check payable to the *Wiregrass Chapter, SAR* for **\$58.00** into the mail to **John Kelsoe, 1654 County Road 606, Enterprise, AL 36330-5488** as soon as possible precludes the chapter from having to mail a notice directly to you. It also helps reduce the workload on the chapter treasurer and secretary at the end of the year. **Thanks!**

### New GWEF Fellow

Dr. Nelson Gwinn has recently committed to becoming a George Washington Endowment Fund Fellow. This NSSAR Endowment, valued slightly over \$1,000,000, will never be spent, and 80% of the earnings are used to support the activities of National Committees and special projects. The ALSSAR received \$1250.00 for the Gen. Galvez Marker and funds for the Blue Star Salute. One can become a fellow by making a tax deductible \$1000.00 pledge which can be paid over five years.

### Changing County Lines

Each of us is aware that over the years the size and shapes of counties have changed as areas grew. It is suspected you have found an ancestor in one county in 1850 but have the same one in a different county ten years later. In many cases the family did not move, rather the county lines were redrawn. The following website has most of the states (to include Alabama) with maps from each year as new counties were added.

[www.familyhistory101.com/map\\_county.html](http://www.familyhistory101.com/map_county.html)

### Doctor David Bush, or was he?

The year was 1826 and most of the town of Warrenton, GA was upset over the passing of gentle Doctor David Bush who was in his 80's. He had lived in the area for 30 years and for the past 20 years had practiced Medicine and taught religion and science at the local Warrenton Academy. While Dr. Bush was respected, he was a very private man. It was known he was from New England and had lived in France before coming to Columbia County, GA in 1795. Much beyond that very little was known about the local physician. Through his association with Abraham Baldwin, Bush became head of a private school. Several years later he settled in Warrenton, Georgia, and began the practice of medicine. As far as is known he never married.

Now his executors, however, were in for a very big surprise. First they discovered wooden pieces of a submarine prototype in Dr. Bush's workshop and his papers and will were even more startling. They find that Dr. Bush wasn't really Dr. Bush at all. He was Captain David Bushnell, once a member of the Continental Army's Corps of Engineers. It is believed that it was through the urging of fellow Yale student Abraham Baldwin that Bushnell came to Georgia and Baldwin is believed to have been only one who knew Bushnell's true identity. It will be remembered that Baldwin established what is now the University of Georgia and Baldwin County, Alabama is named in his honor.

David Bushnell was born on August 30, 1740, in Saybrook, Connecticut. He worked on his family's farm and spent his free time in the pursuit of knowledge. Accounts describe him as reticent, quiet, distant, and exceedingly private. When his father died, Bushnell sold his inheritance and moved to town, where he could prepare for higher education. Two years later, at the age of thirty-one, he entered Yale College (later Yale University) in New Haven.

While a student, Bushnell experimented with exploding timed gunpowder charges under water. During his final year at Yale, he spent his last penny constructing a manned submarine capable of employing weapons. Built entirely of oak beams, the elliptical craft resembled two joined turtle shells. Thus, the craft was given the name "Turtle". The Turtle did not resemble that animal, but rather a huge walnut, seven 1/2 feet tall and six feet wide at the center, made of oak reinforced by iron bands. A single operator entered through the now familiar type of airtight hatch at the top, sat on a stool inside the vessel, and maneuvered the machine with hand-cranked propellers -- a large one at the front and a smaller one at the top --- and a rudder at the back. The Turtle could float on the water's surface and pump in fresh air through a special, leak-proof intake valve before submerging; the operator could only keep the vessel under water until that fresh air became stale. Although Bushnell had some help with the various apparatus of his craft, the overall design and many of the details were entirely of his own creation.

The Turtle also had an oversized wood screw sticking straight up from its top, with its handle inside the vessel's chamber. Attached to this screw was a waterproof fuse that led to the mine, which was buoyant but fastened to the outer hull. Bushnell's plan of attack was for the operator to steer in secret under an enemy ship, drill the screw deep enough into the keel of the enemy ship to anchor it, then detach both the screw and the mine, set the fuse burning, and drive away as quickly as possible. The mine, held by the drill-bit and its own buoyancy against the bottom of the enemy ship, would explode and sink the ship. Among the admirers of Bushnell's first successful trial runs at Saybrook in the summer of 1775 was another inventor, Benjamin Franklin.

The Turtle finally saw action in 1776. The British navy was blockading New York City, intending ultimately to invade along the Hudson River. Bushnell had his invention ferried down from Connecticut by ship. He targeted the British flagship, the HMS Eagle, as the Turtle's first victim. However, Bushnell himself was too frail to pilot the craft, and his usual captain, his brother Ezra, was ill with a fever. A volunteer was quickly trained to operate the machine, and the mission began.

The Turtle moved with perfect accuracy and stealth; but the operator could not drill the screw through the copper-plated hull of the British ship, and had to abandon the mission. At most the Turtle's efforts may have spooked those on board the ship, who could tell that something was attacking the bottom of the ship but could not see what it was. In two subsequent battles at Fort Lee on the Hudson River, the Turtle again performed well but failed to damage any shipping. Nevertheless, George Washington provided Bushnell a commission in the Corps of Engineers, hailing him as "a man of great mechanical powers, fertile in invention and a master of execution."

After 1776, Bushnell abandoned the Turtle and returned to inventing variations on the standard naval mine, including a "drift" model that exploded on contact. Bushnell's mines helped hamper and harass, as well as destroy, British ships throughout the War.

In 1787, Bushnell disappeared from his home in Saybrook and it was only after his death did it become known he had moved to Georgia under the name of David Bush.

Today, Bushnell is credited with the advent of submarine warfare and, in recognition of his contributions, his adopted state of Georgia declared August 2, 2004, as David Bushnell Day.

### Flag Certificate

On 15 September the Chapter presented a flag certificate to Richard R. Guilmette on Silver Oak Drive. Mr. Guilmette flies his flag 24/7 in the proper manner and is the treasurer of the local VFW Post.