

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE  
AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
**WIREGRASS CHAPTER**  
**NEWSLETTER**

Enterprise, Alabama

December, 1999

TO ALL COMPATRIOTS AND FRIENDS

### DECEMBER MEETING

The December meeting of the Wiregrass Chapter will be held **December 16th at Noon** at the **Devco Restaurant in Geneva**. It is realized this is one of the busiest times of the year, but the meeting will provide a perfect opportunity to take a break from the hustle and bustle of the season, and join fellow compatriots for the last time in 1999. Our speaker will be the Hon Harri Adkinson, Probate Judge of Geneva County. All members are encouraged to attend and to bring their wives and a guest. For those who were unable to attend the November meeting, the following compatriots were elected chapter officers for the upcoming year:

Dick Kemp - President  
John Ray Fuller - Vice-President  
John R. Wallace - Secretary/Treasurer  
Joe Paul - Historian

Jack Bryan requested his name not be considered for re-election as the Chapter's Chaplain due to personal reasons. We would all like to thank him for his support and service to the chapter during this year! As a **HEADS - UP** our January meeting will be in Dothan on **Saturday 8 January**. This is a joint meeting with the Tri-State Chapter and ALSSAR President Hoyt Smith will install the new officers of both chapters. More later.



I want to thank every member who has submitted their 200 dues in such a timely manner. As of this writing, all but one member has renewed for the upcoming year. New membership cards are included with this mailing. Please check

them, as they were prepared by the State Society. Thanks Again! J. Wallace

### AMERICAN VILLAGE

The ALSSAR was well represented during the November 30th dedication of The American Village on Highway 119, north of Montevallo, AL. Led by current President Hoyt Smith, others present were Past Presidents Wylie Johnson, Tom Richardson, O.Lee Swart and the present Senior Vice President Rod Hilreth. The Society's Color Guard composed of Chapter President Dick Kemp, Tri-State President Harry Dunaway, his brother Robert Dunaway, Hoyt Smith and Society Treasurer Edmond Van Orden, participated in the event. The American Village is planned to serve as an educational attraction for Alabama school children and visitors. It will bring individuals in touch with history, the heritage and the lifestyle of those who lived during the American Revolutionary War era.

### BICENTENNIAL

In recognition of the George Washington Bicentennial 1999, the United States Congress has issued an official call for the following events on December 14, 1999:

- Fly the flag of the United States at half staff from dawn to dusk.
- Toll all bells for the duration one minute commencing at 12 o'clock noon, central standard time.

All members are urged to support this nation wide salute to our Founding Father. The final Chapter event will occur on December 13th, at 1830hrs at the First United Methodist Church when a flag flown at Mount Vernon will be presented to Boy Scout Troop 99 of Enterprise.



## A REVOLUTIONARY WAR COMMANDER

The most outstanding company commander in the American Revolution and, no doubt, in the history of the American military, was Captain Robert H. Kirkwood of the Delaware Continentals. Robert H. Kirkwood was born in New Castle, Delaware in 1730. He was educated at Newark Academy and became a farmer. When the Delaware Regiment was formed he was commissioned a Lieutenant on 17 January 1776, and fought with them at Long Island, Trenton, and Princeton. Promoted to Captain on 1 December 1776, he led his company in all important actions for the next three campaigns. In 1780 he went south with General Gates. At the battle of Camden, the Delaware Regiment lost its two senior officers and eight others in the battle. The unit was reorganized into two 96-men companies commanded by Captains Kirkwood and Peter Jaquett. Kirkwood distinguished himself at the battles of Cowpens, Guilford, Honkirk's Hill and Eutaw Springs. A biographer of General Green wrote the Delaware Continentals were "the admiration of the army and their leader Kirkwood, was the American Diomed. (Diomed of Tydides was a legendary Greek hero at the siege of Troy) On 30 September 1783 Kirkwood was breveted Major. Captain Kirkwood's comrade in arms "Light-Horse Harry" Lee included a

eulogy in his memoirs to Robert Kirkwood. "The remnant of that corps, from the Battle of Camden, was commanded by Captain Kirkwood who passed through the war with high reputation and as the line of Delaware consisted of only one regiment and that regiment was reduced to a captain's command, Kirkwood could never be promoted in regular routine... Kirkwood retired upon peace, a captain, and when the army under St. Clair was raised to defend the West from the Indian enemy, this veteran resumed his sword as eldest captain in the oldest regiment. In the decisive defeat on the 4th of November 1791 (The Battle of Miami) the gallant Kirkwood fell, bravely sustaining his point in the action. It was the thirty-third time he had risked his life for his country; and he died as he had lived, the brave, meritorious, unrewarded Kirkwood." *Tri-State Chapter Newsletter 19 September 1999*



*The officers of the Wiregrass Chapter would like to wish each and everyone a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and a VERY SPECIAL HAPPY NEW YEAR as we start a new Millennium!!*

Dick Kemp - President  
John Wallace - Editor