



The Musket Report

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



John Ray Fuller, President (fullers65shelby@aol.com)
334 347 - 4213

John R. Wallace, Editor (johnrx@snowhill.com)
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August Family Picnic

It is hoped that everyone has been able to cope with the heat this summer, and that the recent much needed rain has greened up your garden and lawn; not to mention decreasing the ol' water bill! The chapter has a full slate of activities for the next several months which will require everyone's assistance. The first big event since our last meeting will be our Annual Family Picnic at **Judge Brunson's Farm on Saturday 19 August starting at 11:30**. As in the past everyone is asked to bring a salad or desert for this event and wives, young 'uns and grand young 'uns are all invited. Very casual will be the dress of the day! At the same time a donation of a couple of bucks would be gratefully appreciated to help defray some of the costs. Looks like chicken will be on the menu this year, and those planning to attend should contact John Fuller (see above) with the number in your family who will be attending. This will allow the chapter to determine how much food should be prepared. A strip map is enclosed for those who have never traveled to Elba to the Brunson Farm.

Again, this is a great way to kick off the second half of the year, and an update will be provided on our other upcoming activities.

Solomon Wright Grave Dedication

Plans for the chapter's Solomon Wright Grave Dedication program on 14 October in Henry County are progressing well. Committee Chairman Mark Steetle reports that members of the chapter have visited the Wright's Chapel Cemetery a couple of times and have made a good start towards some general clean up. For those who have not had an opportunity to help with "tree cuttin' and weed wackin'", Mark has indicated that much more work is needed prior to October. The ladies of the War of 1812 have committed to taking part in the program, and the SCV have also been contacted about participating. The Henry County Commission have been approached about declaring 14 October "Solomon Wright Day" in Henry County, and the Henry County Historical Society wants to be involved. The Alabama Cemetery Preservation Alliance is on board to participate and through their efforts The Wright's Chapel Cemetery has been placed on the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register. A certificate to this effect is being prepared for presentation at the program. Color Guard participation is expected from Florida, Mississippi and several of the chapters here in Alabama. Work continues in trying to develop a list of Wright descendants within the local area, while descendants living in Mississippi and possibly Texas will be attending. This is shaping up to be an outstanding program, and everyone is encouraged to mark their calendar now.

116th Congress

Despite the Texas size heat, delegates and guests to the 116th Congress in Dallas were treated to true Texas hospitality ranging from a BBQ to the opportunity to attend a rodeo along with tours of both Dallas and Fort Worth. Ten ALSSAR compatriots and seven ladies represented our state at the meeting which saw Nathan E. White, Jr. installed as our new President General. PG White is no stranger to Alabama as he is a dual member with our society and a member of the Tennessee Valley Chapter. In the only contested race for a General Officer position, Chuck Bragg (IN) was elected Genealogist General. He likewise is a dual member of the Alabama Society. Hunter McDonald (TNSSAR) was installed as the new VPG of the Southern District.

The work of the Alabama Society was recognized at the Congress with the ALSSAR being awarded an Officer Flag Streamer for having the president and trustee at the last three national meetings; a Theodore Roosevelt certificate for involvement with the Blue Star Salute Program; a C.A.R. certificate noting the society's work with the Children of the American Revolution and the Howard F. Horne, Jr Award for having the largest increase in GW fellows based on membership. In addition to a streamer, this last award came with a \$500.00 check



Members of the massed NSSAR Color Guard prepare to present the colors at the Memorial Service Fowler (FL)

During the Memorial Service held Sunday afternoon in the chapel of Southern Methodist University, several ALSSAR members who died in 2005 were remembered.

On the last day of the Congress, our own Compatriot John Wallace was named by PG White as one of his five voting member appointments to the National Executive Committee. Others included David Boring (MI), Jack London (DC), Roland Downing (DE) and George Thurmond (GA).

The Congress next year will be held in Williamsburg, VA and, given the setting, should be an outstanding event. If you missed attending this year's congress make plans now to travel to Williamsburg. It is a perfect opportunity to meet new compatriots, socialize with old friends, and learn more about the goals and operations of our great society.

2007 Dues



With the temperatures hovering around 100 degrees and the cut off for renewal of membership not officially due until 31 December, it probably seems a little strange to be addressing this matter now. However, the ALSSAR has a dead line of 1 November for the payment of dues in order to allow the State

Secretary and Treasurer time to get all the paperwork and money forwarded to national by the end of the calendar year. Total dues (Chapter, State and National) remain at \$50.00 for 2007. Each of you is encouraged to get a head start in getting these paid. Please forward your check for \$50.00 payable to the Wiregrass Chapter, SAR to **John Kelsoe, 1654 County Rd 606, Enterprise, AL 36330**. The chapter would like to have a large check and list of renewals for presentation at the Board of Managers meeting in October. For those dual members who pay national dues through another chapter, dual membership in the Wiregrass Chapter remains at \$13.00. Avoid the rush at the Post Office in December, and get those dues in the mail as soon as possible!

SAR/DAR Constitutional Week Luncheon

Plans are progressing well for the chapter's premier event of the year: SAR/DAR Constitutional Week Luncheon on **September 21st at 11:30 at the Rawls Hotel**. Several ladies of the John Coffee Chapter, DAR have already volunteered for spots on the program and involvement by SAR members will be needed to round out the day's events. A reservation slip has been provided. These need to be completed and returned to John Fuller as soon as possible but not later than 16 September. Given that our guest speaker will be **Shelby Dean Ward**, the new AL DAR State Regent, it is anticipated we will have a full house. It is also expected that ALSSAR State President Larry Cornwell and his lady Leanne will also be in attendance. Hopefully, it will have cooled off a little by then, so each color guard member is requested to be on hand to present the colors at the event. Those who have attended over the last few years, know this is always a great event, and provides an excellent opportunity to meet members of different lineage organizations from around the Wiregrass area. Certainly an ideal time to bring a prospective member. **Make your reservation now!!**

Flag Certificates

At the June meeting, a flag certificate for Jack Jones on Laurel Breeze was approved by the chapter. It is hoped to have this presented sometime within the next few weeks. If you are aware of someone who displays our national colors in an appropriate manner please contact Joe Graves. There is no limit to the number of these certificates which can be presented.

"The circumstances that endanger the safety of nations are infinite, and for this reason no constitutional shackles can wisely be imposed on the power to which the care of it is committed."
Alexander Hamilton (Federalist #23, 17 December 1787)

General Galvez Marker

As we all know, the Spanish General Bernardo Galvez was extremely successful against British forces along the Gulf Coast areas during the American Revolution, to include action in and around Mobile in present day Alabama. Price Legg and the ALSSAR are investigating the possibility of the placement of some type of historical marker, probably in Baldwin County at Spanish Fort, to help commemorate some of these actions within our state. If this comes to fruition the actual program would not occur into next year; possibly in the spring. It is hoped that a more detailed report will be available at the Fall Board of Managers meeting.

Harpersville Grave Marking

Compatriot Glenn Nivens is working hard again in Shelby County. **On Sunday September 17th, from 2 - 4 PM** there will be the rededication of a Revolutionary War Patriot's grave along with the dedication of a Historic Marker at the Harpersville Garden of Memories Burial Grounds. Descendants of Boz Shepard, professed to be the "Last Creek Indian Chief of the Kewahatchie Tribe" are intending to install a memorial marker to the Shepard family. Color guard help has been requested from both the Tri-State and the Wiregrass Chapters. This should be a great event so mark your calendar now and plan to attend.

Membership

The registrar is pleased to report that the Youth Membership application of **Taylor Portman** (grandson of Compatriot Bob Portman) has been approved. Taylor's certificate is being hand carried to Germany by past state presidents Lee Swart and Rod Hildreth who are on vacation. Co-ordination has been made with Taylor's dad (Eric Portman, also an SAR member who is stationed in Germany with the USAF) for a presentation ceremony in August. Certainly a first for the chapter to have a presentation ceremony half way around the world! It is hoped to have pictures available both for the State and National publications.

It is realized that the summer months hold a great many activities, but with fall approaching, the chapter needs to again concentrate on new membership applications. President Fuller challenged the chapter to obtain one new member per month, and unfortunately we are quickly falling behind. Speaking of membership recruitment, six members of the ALSSAR were recognized at the 116th Congress with a Liberty Medal and/or oak leaf cluster for recruiting ten or more new members: John Paul Myrick, Glenn Nivens, Gene Gravlee, Lee Swart, Jerry Jones and John Wallace.

This 'n That

Sep 28-1 Oct, 2006, Fall Leadership Training in Louisville, KY
Saturday, Oct 28, 2006, Alabama Society BOM, Montgomery Country Club, Montgomery

Check the State Website www.alssar.org for a full listing of all upcoming events with our state.