



# The Musket Report



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

**ENTERPRISE, ALABAMA**

**November 2025**

## Our Chapter Website Is Active!



Last October marked the re-launch of the Wiregrass Chapter website. If you have not already, take some time to check it out. Learn about the chapter's history in the newsletters, keep abreast of upcoming events, pay dues online, or link to genealogical research sites. It belongs to all of us! <https://www.sarwiregrassal.org/>

## Last Month's Events

The Chapter held its monthly meeting on October 16<sup>th</sup> at the Enterprise Country Club. Compatriot Dallas gave a presentation on the history of Captain William Brackin and his family. Our Chapter will honor his service at a ceremony on April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026. We held our first 'Continental Brunch' at Porky Barn in Geneva on the 25<sup>th</sup>. We discussed the various Revolutionary War pension acts of the 1800s, what the differences are and the information each provides. Your Chapter officers are busy gearing up for the Flag Raising/Monument Rededication in Ozark, planning for our Annual Meeting and the Wiregrass Chapter 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Chartering & Officer Installation Banquet.



## Dues Time

Do not let your membership lapse! If you have not yet done so, get your dues to our Chapter Treasurer John Cheney, 2019 Stonewood Drive Dothan, AL 36301-2177. The deadline is 16 December. If you do not like to use checks, you can always pay online: <https://onlinepayment.alssar.org/dues>

## Upcoming Events

**Friday, 7 November:** The Wiregrass Chapter will hold a Flag Raising ceremony / Revolutionary War Patriot monument rededication at **3:00 PM** in front of the **Ozark-Dale County Public Library**. This is a joint venture with the U.S. Army Warrant Officer Career College to honor our veterans. The Wiregrass Chapter initially installed a monument to honor the 4 known Revolutionary War veterans associated with Dale County in 2000. We will rededicate this monument and celebrate our now known 13 patriots in Dale County. Please try to attend.



**Thursday, 20 November:** Wiregrass Chapter Annual Meeting. This is an extremely important meeting as we will hold officer elections for 2026. You have a voice in how your Chapter operates. All Compatriots are strongly encouraged to show up and vote! **11:30 AM, Enterprise Country Club.**

**Saturday, 22 November:** The next Continental Brunch will be held at **10:00 AM, The Cracker Barrel**, 3431 Ross Clark Cir, **Dothan, AL 36303**. This is an unofficial gathering for Compatriots who are unable to attend the regular meetings. No official business or voting will occur.

**Thursday, 11 December:** The Wiregrass Chapter will hold our Annual Chartering and Installation of New Officers Banquet at the **Enterprise Country Club at 6:00 PM**. This is a *by reservation event only*. Check your inbox for the reservation form. We will have special recognitions, door prizes, and remarks by the ALSSAR State President Compatriot Benny Hannah.

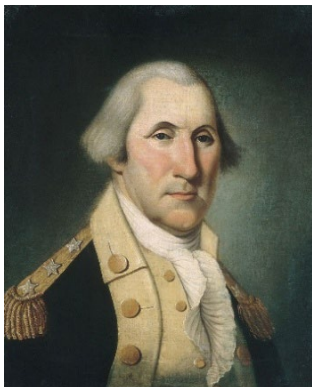


“Remember, Remember, The 5<sup>th</sup> of November.” Gunpowder, Treason, and Plot!

The death of Queen Elizabeth I in 1603 brought an end to the Tudor period in England with the late queen being praised as a heroine of the protestant cause, for her victory over the Spanish Armada and the ruler of a golden age. Careful negotiations with James VI of Scotland prior to her death, resulted to him being named, within hours, as her successor and crowned as James I of England. (He had a valid claim to the English throne as he descended from the sister of Henry VII – Elizabeth’s grandfather.) He had been King of Scotland since the age of one when his mother Mary, Queen of Scots had been forced to abdicate, and for many years various members of the Scottish court governed in his name. He was tutored by a stern Presbyterian and was a protestant (although some thought he might lean a bit toward Roman Catholicism) even though his mother had been a devote Catholic and executed by Elizabeth I.



Toward the end of 1605, many ardent Roman Catholics in England were becoming upset that the new king had not granted more religious toleration to Catholics and there started a conspiracy to blow up James I, his queen, and eldest son on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 1605 during the state opening of parliament. It was hoped that in the confusion following the deaths that a Catholic monarch could be placed on the English throne. One of those conspirators was Guy Fawkes. He was caught in the basement of the parliament building the night before with barrels of gunpowder (and later hung, drawn and quartered along with other conspirators). In January 1606, Parliament established November 5<sup>th</sup> as a day of public thanksgiving. This was often celebrated with bonfires and the burning of various “effigies”. Like so many other traditions, Guy Fawkes Day was transported to the colonies by the English settlers.



Fast forward to late October 1775. Continental troops were pushing north to Quebec in an attempt to surprise the British forces and attempt to rally French speaking Catholic Canadians into supporting the American Cause while troops were also fighting near Boston where Guy Fawkes Day was known as “Pope’s Day”. General George Washington viewed this anti-Catholic celebration, which traditionally included burning an effigy of the pope, as both a serious political and strategic blunder and had no place in the new Army. Earlier, in the autumn of 1775 as army elements marched into Canada, he had ordered his officers and men to respect their Catholic practices. On 5 November 1775, Washington issued a general order condemning the army’s planned celebration of Guy Fawkes Day by prohibiting all anti-Catholic activities calling the custom a “ridiculous and childish” practice while also calling out troops around Boston for their lack of decency and insulting the religious beliefs of Canadians. Such actions, he felt were so monstrous as not to be suffered or excused thus becoming one of the first colonial leaders to strongly advocate for tolerance of various religious beliefs outside the Church of England. Guy Fawkes Night or Bonfire Night continues to this day in England and is celebrated with bonfires, fireworks and the burning of a “Guy”!

*-Compatriot John Wallace*

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