



The Musket Report



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

ENTERPRISE, ALABAMA **February 2026**

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Latest News

This past January meeting, The Wiregrass Chapter was honored to induct our newest addition, Compatriot Paul Mullins of Andalusia. Mr. Mullins is the 6th great grandson of Malachi Hinton who rendered patriotic service by taking the oath of allegiance in Johnston County, North Carolina in 1779. The Hinton family has a long history of service on this continent which even pre-dates the Revolution. Congratulations again!



President Phillip Kitchens inducts Compatriot Paul Mullins.

Compatriot Travis Parker was awarded the coveted Bronze Meritorious Service medal for his tireless service to the SAR and all the various veterans' groups in our local community and throughout the state of Alabama. President Phillip Kitchens presented Mr. Parker with a certificate for 5 years of membership. Our Chapter is in the process of catching up with individual awards. HUZZAH!



The Continental Brunch was held on the 24th of January in Troy. Several members were able to show up. We had a great time and the opportunity to catch up with long-time Wiregrass Chapter Compatriot Dr. Duane Gunn of Troy. He is a retired Air Force officer and professor at Troy University. Dr. Gunn received his 10-year Membership certificate. Thanks to all the members who could attend!

Dates To Remember

Thursday 19 February: Wiregrass Chapter monthly meeting. 11:30 am, Enterprise Country Club.

Friday 13 March – Saturday 14 March:



ALSSAR 2026 State Convention Annual Meeting. Hoover Embassy Suites. Here is a link to the State website for room reservations, etc.

<https://alssar.org/alssar-convention>

On The Horizon

Saturday, 18 April: Patriot William Brackin Memorial marking near Newville, AL. 2:00pm.

July 3rd & 4th: The Wiregrass Chapter is teaming with the Three Notch DAR Chapter of Andalusia in celebrating our Nation's 250th Anniversary. This will be a big event! Anyone wishing to volunteer their time / ideas please contact President Kitchens.

August: The Chapter is considering reviving the decades-old tradition of hosting a Chapter Picnic. Covid killed this event. Please contact President Kitchens with your recommendations.

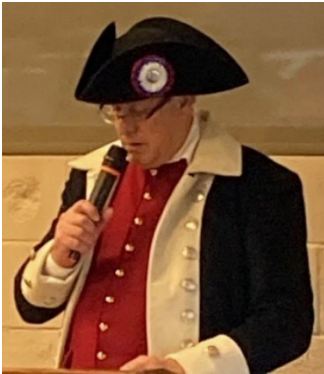
September: The September of every year is typically the celebration of Constitutional Week. Stay tuned!

November: We are awaiting the approval from the Pomeroy Foundation to post a historical marker in the Ozark Dale County Library park.



Wiregrass Chapter SAR is on YouTube!

The Wiregrass Chapter has its own YouTube channel! Through this medium, the Chapter will be producing videos showcasing the lives of our known local Patriots. This effort is known as the **Wiregrass Chapter 250th Project**. We think this is going to be lots of fun! All Compatriots who wish to get involved should contact President Kitchens. Go to YouTube and search: **Wiregrass SAR Alabama**



President's Corner

Compatriot Phillip Kitchens

Fellow Compatriots,

January has flown by, and I am certain February will move just as swiftly. I hope everyone has had a chance to view the first YouTube clip kicking off the Wiregrass Chapter SAR America 250th Celebration honoring the Revolutionary War Veterans throughout the Wiregrass.

This first video in the series honors Revolutionary War Veteran Joseph Watford, the 6th Great-Grandfather of our Wiregrass Chapter Compatriot James Best Jr. Jim has proudly been a member of the Sons of the Revolution since June 12th, 2020. HUZDAH!

February brings two significant patriotic observances — Presidents Day (February 16th) and George Washington's Birthday (February 22nd). I know we will all be flying our flags high in celebration. George Washington once wrote:

"Your love of liberty, your respect for the laws, your habits of industry, and your practice of the moral and religious obligations are the strongest claims to national and individual happiness."

I look forward to our next meeting on Thursday, February 19th. I always enjoy the fellowship of my compatriots.

HUZDAH!



The *HANNAH*

Prior to the Revolutionary War, a great deal of the trading, fishing and movement of passengers depended on small coastal shipping vessels that sailed from various ports on the Atlantic. At the start of hostilities, the British Navy was the most powerful navy in the world and controlled the sea lanes of the Atlantic Ocean, along with having the capabilities of blockading colonial ports, disrupting local shipping and providing a true threat to coastal towns.

At the time there was no such thing as the United States Navy. Yet General Washington was desperate to have a means to transport troops and supplies along the coast while harassing British military shipping. As Commander-in-Chief he authorized several small vessels to disrupt British supply lines



with the 104-foot 78-ton schooner *Hannah* (a modest fishing schooner), being the first of these. Acquired on August 24, 1775, she was outfitted with four “four pounder cannons” and sailed from Beverly, MA harbor on September 5, 1775. She was under the command of Captain Nicholson Broughton with her 42-man crew recruited from Glover’s Marblehead Regiment, which later became the 21st Massachusetts Regiment. Her mission was to disrupt British supply lines near Boston. The incentive for this service was Prize Money which was spelled out in Washington’s orders “For your own Encouragement and that of the other Officers and Men to Activity and Courage in this Service, over and above your Pay in the continental Army you shall be entitled to one third Part of the Cargo of every Vessel by you taken and sent into Port (military and naval Stores only excepted which with Vessels; apparel are reserved for the Publick Service) ” The prorated shares for each position aboard were also outlined in the order. The *Hannah’s* first success occurred on 7 September, when she captured the (sail- powered barge) HMS *Unity* with a cargo of naval stores and provisions.

On 10 October, 1775, the *Hannah* with a new crew again sailed out of Beverly’s harbor but was soon spotted by the British ship, HMS *Nautilus* (16 guns, 125 men). After a short battle, the *Hannah* headed back into the zig-zag channel toward Beverley, with *Nautilus* in pursuit. The *Hannah* was run aground, and the crew quickly removed the cannon and provisions while under fire from the *Nautilus*. At the time cannons and gunpowder were in very short supply and were considered more valuable than the ship itself to the Continental forces. The *Hannah* was soon decommissioned. Her charter rate had been \$1.00 per ton per month, and she was in service for two months and 21 days, at a total cost of \$208.06.

The *Hannah* holds a distinctive place in Revolutionary War history as the first armed naval vessel to sail under the authority of General George Washington and engage in a sea battle. She also serves as a reminder that the Revolutionary War was not only fought on battlefields, but harbors, ports and the open seas.

Courtesy of Compatriot John R. Wallace

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.