
Enterprise, Alabama

February, 1999

TO ALL COMPATRIOTS AND FRIENDS:

FEBRUARY MEETING

Our February meeting will be held at **Noon, February 18 at Po' Folks in Enterprise.** This will be our George Washington Birthday Luncheon marking the kick-off of our celebration of the George Washington Bicentennial Year. It is hoped every member will make a special effort to attend as Miss Jennifer Deal will make her Joseph Rumbaugh Oration presentation at the meeting. She will be representing the Wiregrass Chapter at the State SAR Convention oration contest and this will be a perfect time to show her our support and appreciation. This also affords a great opportunity to bring a prospective member and your wife to a meeting. At the same time, we will be discussing some of the plans made by the joint committee of the Wiregrass Chapter SAR and the John Coffee Chapter, DAR on possible activities for the coming year to help commemorate this bicentennial year.

NEWSLETTER

Over the past few months a new format for the chapter newsletter has been used. It is hoped the members have found it both informative and interesting. This is your newsletter and the editor is seeking your input and suggestions for future editions. How about taking a few minutes to jot down some data on your Patriot ancestor that we can publish? This would be a great way for you to share some of that information you have collected over the years with fellow members. Please

send your comments, input, or critiques to John Wallace, 200 E. Silver Oak Dr, Enterprise, AL 36330 or e-mail to johnrx@snowhill.com

STATE CONVENTION

Just a reminder that the State SAR Convention is being held 26 - 27 February in Auburn, AL at the Auburn University Hotel & Convention Center. Registration forms were included in the last State Newsletter and those planning to attend should get their completed forms in the mail ASAP.

CHAPTER ROSTER

Included with this month's newsletter is the 1999 roster of members of the Wiregrass Chapter, SAR. Each member is asked to take a minute to review your personal data to ensure all entries are correct. Please notify the chapter secretary of any corrections as this is the information that has been submitted to both the State and National Organization.

THE ELECTRONIC AGE

Have you visited the NSSAR and ALSSAR Web page(s) at <http://www.sar.org>? If so you will find that there is no information concerning the Wiregrass Chapter. Initial contact has been made with Compatriot Segraves to determine how we can get our chapter "on the web". It is requested that any member with a e-mail address send it to the Chapter Secretary at johnrx@snowhill.com

REMEMBERING AND REFLECTING

February affords us two days when we can remember and reflect upon our individual lives and also the life of our nation.

Valentine's Day, **February 14**, gives us the opportunity to remember that very special lady in our life who has contributed so much to our personal success and happiness and **February 15**, Presidents' Day, when we can reflect upon two of the greatest presidents ever elected: George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. One man who helped form this country and served as its first president and another who was determined to hold the Republic together during the Civil War.

In his book, *Life of George Washington*, David Ramsay, a contemporary writer and historian, noted: "Of the first nineteen years of George Washington's life, little is known. His talents being more solid than showy, were not sufficiently developed for public notice, by the comparatively unimportant events of that early period. His contemporaries have generally reported, that in his youth he was grave, silent and thoughtful; diligent and methodical in business, dignified in his appearance, and strictly honorable in all his deportment; but they have not been able to gratify the public curiosity with any striking anecdotes."

It is known that Washington was born February 22, 1732 the eldest child of Augustine Washington and his second wife, Mary Ball Washington. John Washington, George's great grandfather had emigrated from the north of England and settled in Westmoreland County, Virginia in the middle of the 17th Century. With the death of George's father in 1743, Lawrence, George's

half brother, became his mentor and substitute father, and it was from Lawrence, that George ultimately inherited his Mount Vernon estate.

At the age of 15 Washington solicited and obtained the place of a midshipman in the British navy. However, his early ambition to go to sea was effectively discouraged by his mother and, he instead, turned to surveying, securing, in 1748, an appointment to help survey Lord Fairfax's lands in the Shenandoah Valley. This experience led to a life-long interest in then known "West" of this country.

Washington's early education was probably very rudimentary consisting of subjects as mathematics, surveying, the classics, and "rules of civility". Again quoting from Ramsay, "'Knowledge of mathematics contributes more perhaps than any other to strengthen the mind. In his case it was doubly useful; for, in the early part of his life, it laid the foundation of his fortune, by qualifying him for the office of a practical surveyor, at a time when good land was of easy attainment; and its intimate connection with the military art, enabled him at a later period to judge more correctly on the proper means of defending this country, when he was called upon to preside over its armies."

Source: <http://odur.let.rug.nl/~usa/P/gw1>
<http://sc94.ameslab.gov/TOUR/gwash.html>
Life of George Washington, Ramsay

Watch for more data on our First President during this, the 200th anniversary year of his death.

Richard Kemp - President
John R. Wallace - Editor