



The Musket Report

Newsletter of the Wiregrass Chapter, ALSSAR
Enterprise, Alabama
"Home of the Boll Weevil Monument"
www.wiregrasssar.org



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JANUARY MEETING

Happy New Year! It is hoped everyone had a great holiday season! We know that our President John Fuller and wife Sue found this to be a very special time, as their son Trey was back from Iraq in time for Christmas!

The **January meeting** of the Wiregrass Chapter will be held at **11:30 on Thursday, 18 January 2007** at the **Rawls Hotel**. This will be an organizational meeting and a time to develop ideas for programs for the year. (see *President's Note*)

Those attending the December Chartering and Installation of Officers banquet had a great time. A very special "**Thank You**" goes out to **Sue Fuller** and **Gwyn Taylor** for all the great decorations. The chapter would be at a total loss if we did not have the support of all our special ladies! **Bob Portman** is in line for a terrific "**Thumbs Up**" for the rose and the candle stick he forged for the chapter to raffle during the evening. (*The Rose has been located!*) Bob has volunteered to hold a chapter meeting at his forge sometime, so everyone can "get their hands dirty" and get some feel for what our patriot ancestors experienced before the days of a Lowe's!

We were pleased to have Enterprise Police Chief Jones at the meeting to observe **Lt. Cindy Dunaway** receive the SAR Law Enforcement Medal. Cindy has devoted most of her time in law enforcement to dealing with the youth of the city. Cindy's parents were also on hand for the presentation. **Mark Steetle's** work on the Solomon Wright Grave Marking was recognized with a Bronze Good Citizenship award while **John Kelsoe** received the Meritorious Service Medal for his efforts in the development of the Chapter Web Page. If you have not visited the page lately, you will find pictures from the banquet. John makes sure that the home page is constantly changing so that visitors are always treated to new information.

"Little" John Kelsoe received his Youth Membership Certificate at the meeting, and became the chapter's newest youth member! Young John also did the drawing for the raffle and somehow managed to make sure his dad won one of the prizes; the other winner was **Kristi Rizzo**, wife of Steve Rizzo former president of the Warrior River Chapter and dual member with the Wiregrass Chapter.

Ted Urquhart was the evening's speaker and presented a slide program on the Alabama Cemetery Preservation Alliance. You could rapidly see the Wiregrass Chapter's commitment across the state as numerous slides had pictures of our color guard participation. He assured everyone that this was his normal presentation, not one aimed at our group! Everyone is encouraged to consider becoming a member of the ACPL as it works to preserve cemeteries across the state.

A special thanks to all who made the evening most enjoyable and to all the chapter compatriots who worked so hard in 2006!

Kettle Creek Celebration - Washington, GA February 9/10th: Color Guard members needed! Contact Compatriot Wallace.

Youth Member



"Little" John Kelsoe receives his Youth Member Certificate from President Fuller while proud papa Kelsoe looks on!

Gerald R. Ford
1913 - 2006
38th President of the United States
and member of the
Sons of the American Revolution

President's Note

Sue and I certainly hope you and yours had a wonderful holiday season! I want to thank everyone who was involved in making our Chartering Banquet such a success and also to express my appreciation for the honor of allowing me to continue as your chapter president for 2007.

This upcoming year is going to be a time of rebuilding for the chapter. We did experience several losses due to the non-payment of dues, transfer to other societies, and one member moving to an at-large status. It is not too late to submit your \$50.00 2007 dues check payable to the Wiregrass Chapter to **John Kelsoe, 1654 County Road 606, Enterprise, AL 36330 - that is less than 0.14 per day!** At the same time 2007 does offer a great many opportunities to continue our work of keeping alive the spirit of our patriot ancestors especially with the development of a new chapter in Troy. At our January meeting, it is hoped each of you will bring your ideas for possible chapter programs and thoughts on how to strengthen our many chapter activities: school participation by the color guard, flag certificates, Shoffner award, recognition of teachers and fire/law enforcement personnel, JROTC recognition along with the various other NSSAR youth programs. There is something for everyone within the SAR, and we want to get everyone involved in some aspect of the chapter's work. Please let me know your interests and how you want to contribute in 2007!

John Ray

ALSSAR State Convention: 16/17 Feb 2007, Drury Inn, Montgomery. Details and registration form available on the State Web Site: www.alssar.org

MONTGOMERY VS. MONTGOMERY

Each of us knows that Montgomery is the state capital of Alabama and is located within Montgomery County. It is a rather easy assumption to make that the city of Montgomery simply took its name from the county where it is located. However, it might surprise you to know that the County and the City were actually named in honor of two separate military men who died almost forty years apart, in two different countries, fighting in totally different wars.

Montgomery County was created by the Mississippi Territory General Assembly on 6 December 1816 and was named in honor of *Major Lemuel Putnam Montgomery* (Tennessee) who was killed in the Battle of Horseshoe Bend in 1814.

On the morning of March 27, 1814, Andrew Jackson gazed upon the Creek Indians' fortress at Horseshoe Bend and penned his observations of this bulwark in his journal: "*Horseshoe Bend -- or Tohepeka to the Creeks -- is a 100 acre wooded peninsula jutting into the Tallapoosa River. A 350 yard inward curved breastwork of large tree trunks laid horizontally atop one another to a height of 5 to 8 feet with a double row of artfully arranged portholes seals off this neck of land and gives its defenders a deadly crossfire upon any advancing army. It is a place well secured by nature and rendered more secure by art -- an engineering feat unequaled in my experience by white men -- let alone savages.*"

Following a failed artillery bombardment of the structure, Jackson ordered a frontal attack of the fortress. The assault party consisted of the 39th United States Infantry under Colonel John Williams and an east Tennessee brigade under Colonel Bunch. The men moved forward steadily under a heavy fire and reached the portholes. Then at close range they returned the fire of the Indians thru the apertures while some of their companions were mounting the breastworks with their bayonets fixed. The first man to reach the top was Major Lemuel Montgomery, a twenty-eight years old soldier from east Tennessee. He waved his sword as a signal to his men to follow, but an Indian rifle ball struck him in the head and he died instantly. He fell into the arms of another officer of the East Tennessee Brigade - Ensign Sam Houston. It is said that Andrew Jackson wept upon being notified of Montgomery's death and characterized him as "the flower" of his army. A statue of Major Montgomery graces the entrance of the Montgomery County Courthouse.

The Montgomery city area was originally heavily populated by the Alibamu Indians (after whom the state is named). By the year 1800 the Indians had mostly gone and settlers began to permanently reoccupy the area. From 1800-1813 settlers continued to move in, but in 1814, two competing businessmen arrived who would lay the foundation of the capital city. Each seeking fortune on the fertile lands near the river, they both constructed separate towns, East Alabama and New Philadelphia, along the Alabama River. Each was a success, and quickly their proximities caused them to merge. Incorporated together in 1819, upon the founding of Alabama, the new city was named Montgomery in honor of *General Richard Montgomery*, who died in the American Revolutionary War attempting to capture Quebec.

Richard Montgomery was born 2 Dec. 1736 near Swords (Republic of Ireland) into a respectable family of Irish gentry where his father was a member of the Irish parliament. After his initial schooling Montgomery was sent to Trinity College, Dublin, in 1754. He did not take a degree, however, but instead on 21 Sept. 1756 entered the army as an ensign in the 17th Foot Regiment which saw much active service overseas during the Seven Years' War. He saw war service at Louisbourg in 1757 and was in the Lake Champlain expedition of 1759, and as adjutant of his regiment he shared in the final threefold advance upon Montreal. Later he was present at Martinique and Havana. By May of 1762 he had attained the rank of Captain. But soldiering during the period of peace after 1763 proved frustrating because of his inability to advance, and in April 1772 he sold his commission and emigrated to America. Settling in New York he would marry Janet Livingston the daughter of Robert R. Livingston, a justice of the New York supreme court. His marriage into the powerful and strongly pro-colonial Livingston family, was, in view of his background, unusual, but he was a friend of liberal politicians in England and had formed a sympathy for the American cause. The couple settled on his wife's estate near Rhinebeck (N.Y.) and he became a popular gentleman farmer.

In early 1775 he was elected a delegate to the first provincial congress of New York, and in June, 1775, was commissioned one of eight brigadier-generals in the Continental Army. Montgomery was, however, at first reluctant to accept the rank. He was unwilling to leave his wife and the comforts of civilian life or to take arms against his countrymen, but he at length consented, in part because he believed that "the will of an oppressed people . . . must be respected." He became second in command to Gen. Philip Schuyler for the invasion of Canada and when Philip Schuyler fell ill, Montgomery took over and led the troops into Canada. They seized the posts at Chambly, St. Johns, and Montreal, then joined with Benedict Arnold's troops outside Quebec. Despite being barely 800 strong, an assault was made on the 31st of December 1775, and almost at the first discharge Montgomery was killed, becoming the first American general to be killed in the American Revolution. Arnold was also wounded and the Americans were forced to make a hasty retreat from Quebec.

The English in Quebec recognized the body of Richard Montgomery, and the American general was honorably interred by the Quebec garrison. In 1818 his remains were removed and transported to New York for re-interment in the church yard at St. Paul's. The journey from Quebec to New York was attended by civic honors, notably at Albany, July 4, 1818, and on the voyage down the Hudson the ship bearing the remains of Montgomery passed Montgomery Place, the home of the widow, who viewed the vessel from the portico.

A tablet was erected upon the spot where Montgomery fell at Quebec by the Sons of the American Revolution in 1901 and the ALSSAR General Richard Montgomery Chapter is named in his honor.



General Richard Montgomery