



The Musket Report

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



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February Meeting

The February meeting of the Wiregrass Chapter will be held **16 February** at the **Rawls Hotel** at **11:30** in Enterprise. The program will center around a DVD presentation of The Battle of Cowpens. This is the same film used by the National Parks Service at the battle field. Certainly an appropriate program given the 225th anniversary of this important Revolutionary War battle was just celebrated (page 2).

The chapter had an excellent turn out for our January meeting and some outstanding programs are in the making for the remainder of the year. First and foremost you need to mark your calendar now for **December 14th** which will be our Chartering Banquet and Installation of Officers. Note this again will be an evening event on 2nd Thursday of the month. In March Glenn Nivens will make the trip south to present a program on the Blue Star Salute scheduled for Armed Forces Day in May. Rod Hildreth, former ALSSAR State President and Southern District VPG, will be speaking in April on Washington's Ancestral Home in England. As always the chapter will not meet in July but the traditional family picnic is being planned again for **Saturday the 19th of August**. Judge Brunson has willingly agreed to allow us to use the facilities again on his farm for this event. The chapter's premier event - SAR/DAR Constitutional Week Awards luncheon is again planned for the third Thursday in September. For our veteran's program in November, Compaatriot Wallace will discuss some of his experiences in Berlin, and the day the Wall came down. Dr. Jack Oden has volunteered to also give a program one month and it is also planned to preview the film, *The Spirit of Liberty*, produced by the American Village. This production stars some of our very own color guard members.

Remember the ladies are always welcome at the meetings and please make every attempt to bring a prospective member.

This is your chapter and your ideas, support, and involvement are constantly needed to help keep alive the ideals for which our patriot ancestors fought!

For those who might have missed this photograph

ARLINGTON
NATIONAL
CEMETERY
AT CHRISTMAS



"A cemetery is a history of people - a perpetual record of yesterday and sanctuary of peace and quiet today. A cemetery exists because every life is worth loving & remembering--always." Unknown

LET'S GET INVOLVED !

At our January meeting President Fuller presented the theme for the Chapter in 2006 - *Let's Get Involved !* The Wiregrass Chapter and the ALSSAR have such a wide range of activities, and there are ample opportunities for each compatriot to become more actively involved. With the orations, essay, and JROTC activities; book distribution to veterans; color guard events; grave markings; identification of potential flag certificate recipients; assisting a potential member with his papers; locating the burial sites of Revolutionary War soldiers; recognition of high school students with the Shoffner Award; the annual SAR/DAR Constitutional Week Luncheon; attendance at Revolutionary War Site celebrations; participation on State Committees - there is something of interest for everyone! It is also guaranteed that you will have fun and gain a great deal of satisfaction for your efforts! Just ask some of our color guard members about their experiences, or talk to a member who has made some type of presentation to a young person at one of the schools. There is a special feeling in speaking with a veteran who says "thanks" when you deliver books to a VA facility.

Speak with President Fuller about your interests, and
Let's Get Involved!

New Year's Resolutions

How are your 2006 resolutions coming? It is suspected that our ancestors had much more resolve in keeping their resolutions than we do today.

It is New Year's Eve 1852 and my ancestor sits at his desk by candlelight. He dips his quill pen in ink and begins to write his New Year's Resolutions:

1. No man is truly well-educated unless he learns to spell his name at least three different ways within the same document. I resolve to give the appearance of being extremely well-educated in the coming year.
2. I resolve to see to it that all of my children will have the same names that my ancestors have used for six generations in a row.
3. My age is no one's business by my own. I hereby resolve to never list the same age or birth year twice on any document.
4. I resolve to have each of my children baptized in a different church — either in a different faith or in a different parish. Every third child will not be baptized at all or will be baptized by an itinerant minister who keeps no records.
5. I resolve to move to a new town, new county or new state at least once every 10 years - just before those pesky enumerators come around asking silly questions.
6. I will make every attempt to reside in counties and towns where no vital records are maintained or where the courthouse burns down every few years.
7. I resolve to join an obscure religious cult that does not believe in record keeping and I will not participate in military service
8. When the tax collector comes to my door, I'll loan him my pen, which has been dipped in rapidly fading blue ink.
9. I resolve that if my beloved wife Mary should die, I will marry another Mary.
10. I resolve not to make a will. Who needs to spend money on a lawyer?

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225th Cowpens Celebration

On January 13/14th Chapter President John Ray Fuller led a delegation of four chapter members to



the 225th Cowpens celebration nr Gaffney, SC. Color guard members John Kelsoe and

Bruce Taylor along with Rick Price and Glenn Nivens both of the Cahaba-Coosa chapter, joined the massed color guard at the Washington Light Infantry Monument on the battlefield where approximately 100 wreaths were placed to honor the patriot heroes. In addition to the ALSSAR State Wreath presented by Past President John Wallace, Billy Sims presented a wreath from the Cullman Chapter. The wreath presentation ceremony was concluded

with a 21 gun musket salute and Taps. The ALS-SAR group received a battle streamer for the society's flag to recognize the active participation along with individual 225th celebration pins.



Solomon Wright

At the January meeting, the chapter voted to delay the grave marking ceremony of this Revolutionary War Soldier buried in Henry County from March until October 2006. It was felt there was not enough time to suitably organize an appropriate program for this event. Those who have visited the cemetery are aware of the large amount of clean-up which will be required to gain access to the burial site. Charlie Dye knows some Henry County officials who may be of assistance in getting some of the area cleared. This delay will also give the chapter time to contact descendants in the area. Family members in Mississippi have already given permission for the program, and have indicated their desire to attend and participate at the grave marking.

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

With the start of 2006 the chapter has 51 members, three dual members, two youth members and two applications awaiting approval at National Headquarters. Our newest application is for **Bob Portman** whose papers were submitted the first part of January. We were pleased to see Bob at our January meeting and he has expressed an interest in researching/preserving old cemeteries.

The chapter did lose one member for non-payment of dues and another (Jim Lee) who, of course, transferred to the North Carolina Society. Our potential membership base continues to grow and newsletters are provided several gentlemen who have expressed interest in the SAR. Chapter President John Fuller has announced a goal of one new membership application submitted each month. Given the size of the chapter, and those known to be interested it is felt this is a very achievable goal. Certainly this is another way for members to get involved with the activities of the chapter. Ask some of your friends if they might be interested in the SAR and bring them to a meeting. The Registrar or other members of the chapter are more than willing to assist in the preparation of the final application and help find needed documentation.

www.wiregrassar.org

It is hoped that within the next few months this web address will provide you the most current information on the events of the Wiregrass Chapter. At the January meeting, the chapter voted to pursue a stand alone web site which will be linked to the state web page. Compatriot John Kelsoe has volunteered to help build the web pages and serve as the web master. A web page under the chapter's control offers unlimited potential in getting the word out about the SAR and our local chapter. Just think of the possibilities: pictures of local events, listing of all our patriot ancestors, points of contact for each of our committees, meeting announcements, placement of the newsletter on the web page, listing the name and background of youth award winners, stories about our patriot ancestors, photographs and locations of Revolutionary War soldiers' graves within our area - the possibilities are endless. Construction of the web site, will be a lengthy process and an excellent way for any member who has some knowledge of computers to *get involved*.

Another Wiregrass Patriot ?

John Fuller and John Kelsoe believe they may have identified another patriot buried within the local area - James Cadenhead . He was born 1742 in Pitt County, N.C. and died 1840 in Perote and believed buried in the Perote Cemetery. Apparently a widow's pension application was filed in 1841. For those not familiar with Perote, it is located southwest of Smut Eye and just north of Boot Hill. Still lost? Check a map of Bullock County! Compatriot Kelsoe has calculated a GPS reading so should be able to drive right to the spot. Another opportunity to get involved with chapter activities. Speaking from personal experience, the editor can assure you of a great many laughs when looking for old cemeteries in the back woods of SE Alabama with John Kelsoe, Andy Spann, Rex Everage, Bruce Taylor or John Fuller!! To date no one has stumbled across an illegal still! But many a *red bug* has been located...

Debbie Duay, wife of Ft. Lauderdale, FL SAR chapter president, Ted Duay, has designed a very helpful interactive web page entitled "*Researching Your Family Tree, An Introduction to Genealogy*". It is designed as a tutorial for neophyte genealogists, and is a tool that should be in the hands of every SAR member who is working with a prospective new member. She is the Registrar of the Lighthouse Point Chapter, DAR in Ft. Lauderdale and has given permission to call her web site to your attention:

<http://www.learnwebskills.com/family/intro.html>

Ed Butler, NSSAR Genealogist General

Heredity is a splendid phenomenon that relieves us of our shortcomings. Doug Larson