

TO ALL COMPATRIOTS AND FRIENDS

APRIL MEETING

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VETERANS COMMITTEE

Compatriot John Fuller announced the Chapter's finalized report on Veterans Affairs must be completed by 15 April. If you have provided assistance to a veteran, i.e. taken a veteran to the hospital, provided reading material to the VA Hospital, or in any way lent support to a veteran, please send the information as soon as possible to: John R. Fuller, 128 Laurel Breeze, Enterprise, AL 36330 or fullerjs@alaweb.com

It has been suggested that the chapter donate some paper back books to the Veterans Hospital in Montgomery. If you have some books that you would like to pass on to our war veterans, please hold them, and we will provide more information on this possible project at a later date.

MEMBERSHIP

One of the established goals of the Chapter this year is to expand our membership base. Please do not hesitate to contact individuals who are eligible to join SAR, bring them to a meeting and lend them a supporting hand in completing their applications. At the same time, the chapter is in the process of contacting some of the "At-Large" members within the Wiregrass to see if they are interested in affiliating with our Chapter.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR GRAVES

While there are no known Revolutionary War Patriots buried in Coffee County, some four patriots are known to have settled in present day Dale County and, based on the DAR Grave Location Roster, and buried in the county. Unfortunately, the location of three of the four graves is unknown. Steps are being taken to investigate the possibility of placing a marker in Ozark to commemorate these heroes. Should anyone have information on the following individual patriots or any other unrecognized Revolutionary War Patriots buried in the Wiregrass, please contact Dick Kemp, P.O. Box 2253 Ozark, AL 36361.

Asa Alexander, Sr

William Brackan

Bartholomew Fields

John Merrick - grave currently marked

This undertaking by the Chapter promises to be an exciting activity but will require a tremendous amount of work on the part of the membership.

THE GOLDEN DOLLAR

By now, most of us have seen, held and probably spent one of the new Golden Dollar coins recently released by the U.S. Mint. The dollar coin has a long history in this country, which dates back to colonial times and has been minted almost continuously since the first mint was established in this country.

Within the colonies there was a wide mixture of coinage from several parts of the world in circulation. To complicate matters most of the colonies had different exchange values for these different coins in circulation.

The Spanish coins in colonial American were some of the most important ones available, especially the Silver 8 Reales or "Piece of Eight". An extremely large coin with a diameter of 39.5 mm, it is often referred to as America's First Silver Dollar. This coin was often cut into eight pieces to make "change" - a "bit". We have all heard our grandfathers or fathers use the term "two bits" referring to 25 cents. It was also based on this, that when Wall Street first opened, stock prices were expressed in 1/8ths.

The first coinage authorized by an English Royal patent for the colonies, stated its value on one side of the coin, not in English currency, but as 1/24th of a Spanish Real. In 1645 Virginia made the Spanish real the standard currency. During the 1770's the colonists sought a milled Spanish Real to use in trade and commerce which they referred to as the "Pillar Dollar".

Several Dutch coins were also in circulation in the early colonies, especially the Lion Dollar (leeuwendaalder). In documents of

1701 and 1708 the Lion dollar was mentioned as the most important circulating coin in Maryland. Many of these coins were poorly minted, and the ones in circulation in the colonies were often very worn leading to a nickname of a "Dog Dollar". The Lion dollars were no longer minted after 1713 and, in the English Colonies, the new Spanish milled silver dollar, replaced the use of the Lion Dollar.

In order to find the derivation of the word "dollar", we have to go back many more years in history. During the Holy Roman Empire, a silver mine in the mountains of Bohemia produced so much silver that it served as the official source of silver for the coinage of the Holy Roman Empire. The mine was located in a valley called Joachimstal, and the coins became known as "Joachimstalers". With time, this was shortened to "Talers". One can see the close connection to the Dutch name for the Lion Dollar - leeuwendaalder. With time, the word "Taler" has evolved to the word we use today for our money - the dollar.

Source:

<http://www.coins.nd.edu/ColCoin/ColCoinIntros/Sp-Silver.intro.html>
<http://didyouknow.com/dollar.html>
<http://washingtonmint.com>

SYMPATHY

The Chapter would like to express its condolences to Compatriot Jim Lee and his wife Kathy on the recent death of Kathy's father, Milo P. Zrever. Mr. Zrever was a World War II Veteran and was in the Bay Minette VA hospital at the time of his death.

Dick Kemp - President
John R. Wallace - Editor

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

WIREGRASS CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER

Enterprise, Alabama

April, 2000

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