



THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE
AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Wiregrass Chapter

Enterprise, Alabama

NEWSLETTER

November, 1999

TO ALL COMPATRIOTS AND FRIENDS

NOVEMBER MEETING

The November meeting of the Wiregrass Chapter, SAR will be held at **Noon on 18 November at Po Folks Restaurant in Enterprise**. This will be an important meeting as we will be electing officers for the upcoming year and all members are strongly encouraged to attend. The following slate of officers has been proposed:

President - Dick Kemp
Vice-President - John Ray Fuller
Secretary/Treasurer - John R. Wallace
Historian - Joe Paul
Chaplain - Jack M. Bryan

Additional nominations will be taken from the floor. We want to thank Dick Kemp for the great video he presented at last month's meeting on the Battle of Brandywine. Those who were unable to attend the meeting, missed an excellent presentation.

DUES

For the past several months, reference has been made to getting your dues paid in a timely manner. Part of this push has been, in part, due to changes in the reporting period set down by the National Society. The other reason is to try and determine exactly how much money the chapter will have available to support the local Eagle Scout, ROTC and Oration programs. Each of these worthwhile activities, directed toward the youth of our community to encourage citizenship and patriotism, does cost the chapter money in the form of medals, certificates, and cash awards. If you

have not done so already, please send your check payable to the Wiregrass Chapter for \$37.50 to John Wallace, 200 E. Silver Oak Dr., Enterprise, AL 36330

NEW MEMBER



We want to extend a warm welcome to the Chapter's newest member, **Jack R.**

Brunson of Elba. Compatriot Brunson traces his lineage back to Josiah Brunson. Compatriot Kemp is currently working with **Jody Creekmore** on his SAR membership application which should be ready for submission later this month. At the same time, President Kemp has issued a challenge for each of us to bring in at least one new member next year!!

BICENTENNIAL YEAR

The Bicentennial Year of the Death of George Washington is rapidly coming to a close. The Officers of the Wiregrass Chapter would like to thank all those members who worked to make this a successful year and made special monetary contributions to help support these activities. It is felt the activities undertaken with the local DAR chapter have certainly gone a long way in increasing the awareness of the citizens of the area to the special contributions made by George Washington in the founding of our free nation.

STATE OFFICE

Compatriot Wallace of our Chapter has just been appointment the State Committee Chairman of the ROTC Program. Congratulations to him on his new assignment.

PASSPORTS

When we hear the term 'passport', we normally relate it to travel to some far away place outside of the United States.

However, at one time, a passport was required to travel *within* the United States specifically when traveling through or into Indian Territories. On August 7, 1786, the US Congress issued *An Ordinance for the Regulation of Indian Affairs* in which the following was decreed:

"no... permits or passports to be granted to any other persons than citizens of the United States, to travel through the Indian nations, without their having previously made their business known to the superintendent of the district, and received his special approbation."

One of the earliest laws relating to passports was contained in a treaty between the United States and the Creek Nation and sent to the Senate by George Washington on August 7, 1790.

"No citizen or inhabitant of the United States shall...go into the Creek country, without a passport first obtained from the Governor of some one of the United States, or the officer of the Troops of the United States commanding at the nearest military post on the frontiers or such other person as the President of the United States may, from time to time, authorize to grant the same."

Given that Indian affairs fell under Federal jurisdiction, many of these types of passports were issued by Indian Agents. The primary aim of some of these early documents were to assure good conduct of the bearer while traveling in the Indian territories. Territorial boundaries were often the site of a great deal of lawlessness and the authorities used these passports to attempt to control the individuals traveling within the lands. These earliest travel documents were normally issued to persons entering Indian lands for the purpose of trading, collecting debts, recovering stolen horses and slaves or

just to pass through the area. Individuals seeking such documents were required to provide references as to their good character from local officials or others in a position to vouch for them before such a document would be issued.

The following is an example of such a passport:

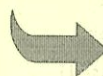
To whom it may concern

Having received authority from the President of the U. States to grant passes to person who may appear to have lawful business with any of the Cherokee & it appearing that Jn. B. Swan of Sevier County in the state of Tennessee hath lawfull business to transact in the Cherokee nation, particularly to endeavor to obtain a mare which is said to be in the hands of Mr. Jn. Rogers living near Highwassee, He is therefore permitted to pass to the place where the said Jn Rogers lives for the purpose aforesaid, He conforming to the Rules and regulations of intercourse with the Indian tribes as established by law

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So. West Point July 27th, 1801.

Return J. Miegs
Agent for the Cherokees

In her book *Passports of Southeastern Pioneers 1770 - 1823* (from which this was extracted), Published: 1982 Gateway Press, Inc, Dorothy Williams Potter provides an intriguing look at various types of passports, along with the supporting documents requesting their issuance. It gives a bird's eye view of many of the reasons for the early and rapid movement of pioneers and settlers throughout the southeastern portion of the United States.



The Chapter Officers would like to wish you and your family the very best Thanksgiving Holiday. Please remember those servicemen overseas who cannot be with their own families during this traditional American Holiday.

Dick Kemp- President
John R. Wallace - Editor