

## ***THE POWDER HORN*** — *Always full and dry!!*

Enterprise, AL

January, 2001

TO ALL COMPATRIOT AND FRIENDS:

### **JANUARY MEETING**

We start off the New Year with our annual meeting with the Tri-State Chapter in Dothan at which time the new officers of each chapter will be installed. The meeting will be held **Saturday 13 January 2001 at 11:30AM** at the **Wiregrass Rehabilitation Center, 795 Ross Clark Circle**. The cost of the luncheon will be \$11.00 per person. Checks, payable to the Tri-State Chapter, SAR, should be sent to Carlos E. Lee, 907 Selkirk Drive, Dothan, AL 36303 NLT 3 January 2001. Compatriots, who might miss this deadline and are interested in attending, please contact Compatriot Wallace, 347-0661, as soon as possible. This meeting is an excellent opportunity to show the chapter's support of the following slate of new officers for 2001 that were elected at the December meeting:

President — John R. Wallace  
Vice-President — John Ray Fuller  
Secretary — Bailey Brunson  
Treasurer — Jody Creekmore  
Historian — Jim Lee  
Chaplain — William J. Paul  
Registrar — Richard Kemp

### **OZARK MEMORIAL MARKER FUND**

At the April 2000 meeting the Chapter voted to take on a project to place a monument in Ozark dedicated to four Revolutionary War Patriots who settled in Dale County. In just over six months this project came to fruition with the formal dedication taking place on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November. During that time the chapter received \$3442.50 in contributions - an amount beyond the expectations of

anyone. Of this money some 50% came from SAR members; truly a reflection of the patriotic spirit of members and strong desire to preserve our heritage. The actual cost of the monument was \$2198.00 with administrative costs associated with fund raising and the dedication program totaling \$545.51, leaving a balance of \$698.99. The chapter's premise has always been that any monies collected above and beyond the costs associated with the placement of the memorial would be donated to the Ozark-Dale County Library. To this end, on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December a check for \$698.99 was presented to the library. The Librarian has indicated these funds will be used toward additional landscaping around the monument itself. In a letter from Sandra Holmes, Library Director, to the chapter, she stated, "We receive compliments daily on the Memorial Monument; it is so attractive and many people stop and take the time to read the inscription. It definitely receives a lot of attention."

With this check presentation, the chapter has completed the project, which we undertook last April. In this small way we have helped to preserve an important piece of the history of the Wiregrass Area for future generations. It is hoped that this memorial can be used in coming years as a focal point for patriotic programs such as on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July or on Veteran's Day to help keep alive those principles of freedom, which our forefathers struggled to obtain. Again a very special "Thank You" is extended to the members of the chapter, for their support both in time spent on bringing this project to completion and for their financial contributions. Each member can be proud of the accomplishment.

## MEMBERSHIP

The Chapter would like to extend a very special welcome to Dr. Kenneth Chancey and his two sons, Johnathan and Matthew, who have recently transferred their membership to the Wiregrass Chapter. Compatriot Chancey, while living in Ozark, has his dental practice in Enterprise. At the same time, Mr. Gordon Griffin of Enterprise and his son Todd are in the process of transferring their membership from the New Mexico Society and wish to affiliate with our chapter. The chapter membership looks forward to working with these new members in the upcoming year.

On or about January 10, 2001 the finalized roster of chapter members and dues will be submitted to the State Society. Any member, who has not done so, should submit their dues of \$37.50 in the form of a check payable to the Wiregrass Chapter, SAR to John R. Wallace, 200 E. Silver Oak Drive, Enterprise, AL 36330 **ASAP**. Failure to pay dues in a timely fashion will result in a disruption of mailings from both the State and National Organizations. Late submission of dues also creates additional administrative burdens both on the Chapter Secretary and the State Secretary. A roster of chapter members will be provided with the February Newsletter.

## DID YOU KNOW?

In the spring of 1776 the British had a force of 10,000 men in place with plans to divide the American Colonies in half by taking control of Lake Champlain and driving down the Hudson River Valley thus splitting the colonies. Though the summer of 1776 American forces frantically raced to build a Naval fleet for the lake. On October 11, 1776 a squadron of fifteen hastily built American warships commanded by Benedict Arnold engaged a superior British fleet. The resulting cannon battle lasted for 5 hours with the American force losing 2 boats (the schooner Royal Savage and gunboat Philadelphia); ten percent of their man power and being blockaded by the British. This battle was

known as "The Battle of Valcour Island". Desperate, Arnold and his officers planned a daring nighttime retreat past the British blockade. Under the cover of darkness with oars silenced by greased rags, Arnold's fleet of gunboats slipped past the British fleet. The next morning found Arnold struggling south with the British fleet in hot pursuit. On October 13, they caught the rearmost American vessel and engaged in a second battle. This several-hour running fight ended when Arnold intentionally destroyed five vessels in what has become known as Arnold's Bay in Panton, Vermont. While the British continued to fire on them, Arnold and his men escaped overland to Fort Ticonderoga. Only four of the original fifteen vessels made it back to Ticonderoga; control of the strategic lake had shifted to the British.

During the first week of the 1997 during a survey operation of wrecks in Lake Champlain a promising sonar contact was made. Researchers had long believed that one of Arnold's gunboats sank during the nighttime retreat was still out in Lake Champlain. A dive operation was staged to confirm the discovery; upon surfacing, the diver told the waiting crew, "We have found the missing gunboat". He described an intact 54-foot gunboat in an excellent state of preservation, sitting upright on the bottom, its mast still standing over fifty feet high and its large bow cannon still in place.

The sister gunboat Philadelphia, which was sunk at Valcour Island, was raised in 1935 and is located at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

<http://www.lcmm.org/pages/NauticalGunBoat9707.htm>  
<http://www.hazegray.org/danfs/sloops/enter1.htm>

**NOTE: ALSSAR Annual Convention is to be held 23- 24 February 2001 at Lake Gunter'sville State Park Resort and Lodge. Mark your calendars now – more information later.**

Richard Kemp – President  
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