



The Musket Report

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



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NOVEMBER MEETING

The November meeting of the Wiregrass Chapter will be **Thursday, 19 November** at the **Enterprise Country Club** at **11:30**. Chapter member Guy Meadows will be presenting a program on his patriot ancestor. At the same time the chapter will hold elections for chapter officers for 2010. Your presence and vote is needed! The Cost will be \$10.00 per person and you need to let Dr. Jack know by the **16th** that you will be attending.

Over the past several years the chapter has held a food drive in November. **Everyone is being asked to bring two or three cans of food to the meeting** for distribution to one of the local food banks. We are all aware of the state of the economy and the rising unemployment rate, so let us share some of our bounty at this Thanksgiving time with those less fortunate in the community.



Chartering Banquet & Installation of Officers

The chapter's annual chartering banquet will be held on **Thursday 10 December** at the Enterprise Country Club. Please note this is the second Thursday of the month. A social time will be held at 6:30 with supper at 7:00 with the cost being \$17.00 per person. The new chapter officers will be installed, special recognitions of individuals will be made while door prizes will be awarded. As always this will be an outstanding time to start the holiday season while showing support of the chapter's newly installed officers. This will be a **"By Reservation Only"** event, and a reservation form will be sent electronically and must be returned NLT **3 Dec 2009**.



The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, and so ended World War I. Known today as Veterans' Day, the 11th of November is a day set aside for each of us to remember the sacrifices made by the men and women of our armed forces in defending our freedoms. Fly your flag proudly that day and everyday!

Dues Collections

Dues collections are going well, but a few still need to pay as the chapter needs to be able to submit funds to the state by the middle of November. By getting your check payable to the *Wiregrass Chapter, SAR* for **\$58.00** into the mail to **John Kelsoe, 1654 County Road 606, Enterprise, AL 36330-5488** as soon as possible will preclude the chapter from having to mail a notice directly to you. It also helps reduce the workload on the chapter treasurer and secretary at the end of the year not to mention postage costs **Thanks!**

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Over the past ten years or so it has been my distinct pleasure to serve as the Editor of *The Musket Report*. I took on the job as newsletter editor shortly after becoming a member of the SAR in order to give then President Dick Kemp a helping hand in getting information out to the members. At that time he was doing a one sided sheet (on a typewriter) to members to announce the next meeting, and introduce new members. While in the military I had been responsible for putting out pharmacy newsletters to hospital staff at various facilities, but I was not too sure what this SAR job entailed. Plus, I had a life long newspaperman looking over my shoulder. In those early days, it was a relatively easy job as there were only 16 members. Those first copies were done on letter size paper, and, some articles, were typed in 14 pitch as we did not have much news. Most of those early publications dealt with things like when the next meeting would be, getting dues paid and looking for new members: things have not changed a great deal, other than we have found ways to "pad" the contents. Those early publications certainly did not have a proper name!

Over the years, I have learned a great deal about the American Revolution and some of the more obscure facts surrounding the struggle for freedom. It is my hope that you, as the reader, have also been able to expand some of your knowledge. While it was easy to note when the chapter would meet in the newsletter, it was always a challenge when it came to the preparation of the history section. It was even more difficult to have to place the death notices of some fine members and friends in the newsletter.

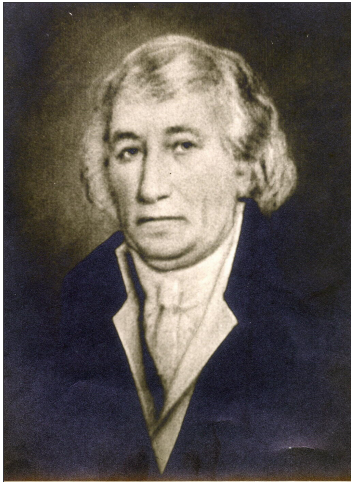
The positive feed back I have received from the membership has been ample reward for the time expended in putting out the newsletter. The fact that *The Musket Report* has received two first place awards of the National Carl Bessent Award and two honorable mentions during the past several years, has been icing on the cake. For several years, it did require the actual printing of fifty or more copies, preparing envelopes and a whole lot of "lickin' of envelopes and stamps" to get 'um into the mail. Mary Ann has always been there to help with the foldin' and stuffin' part of the process! With the electronic distribution, this job has become much easier.

Like so many other things, it is time to pass the job on, and get some new and fresh ideas about this publication. This will be my final edition of the chapter newsletter, and Dr. Jack Oden will be taking over the reins for getting the newsletter published.

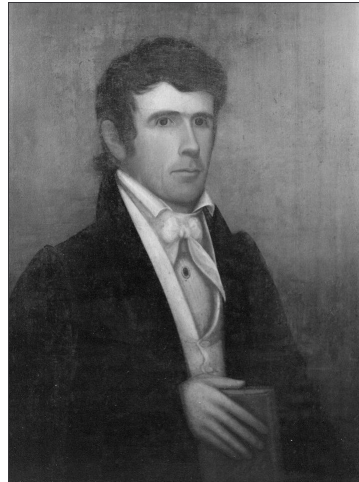
Again, I want to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve the Wiregrass Chapter, and all your support over the years. *John*

Meeting our Patriot Ancestor Face to Face: Each of us knows the name of patriot ancestor(s) and some general information about who they were and the service each provided in the establishment of our nation. If we are fortunate, and, our ancestor was famous, a great deal of information is probably known. In many cases, however, our patriot ancestors were hard working farmers, small business owners, or maybe a seafaring man who had a desire for freedom, and little is known about them let alone what they might have looked like. John Kelsoe and Andy Spann were in this position concerning their ancestor Charles Spann. Recently Larry Cornwell put an Ohio Compatriot who also had Charles Spann as an ancestor in contact with John Kelsoe. To John's total amazement, the Ohio Compatriot supplied a picture of an oil painting of Charles Spann of South Carolina 1753 - 1844.

At the same time John received a picture of portraits of Charles Spann's daughter and husband William Washington McConnico and Mary E. Spann McConnico. The SAR member in Ohio descends through this daughter, which is different from John's and Andy's lineage. Certainly this is a "find" that most of us can only dream about! John Kelsoe has indicated there is a very strong family resemblance to some of his Spann uncles! Do we see Andy is some of these?



Charles Spann



William W. McConnico



Mary E. Spann McConnico

James Cadenhead, SR Grave Dedication

Certainly the biggest thing happening in Perote, AL on 18 October was the most successful grave dedication program at the final resting place of Revolutionary War Soldier James Cadenhead, Sr. Close to 100 people were on hand to include many Cadenhead descendants who had traveled from north Alabama, south Florida and Georgia to participate in the program. The blue sky of a crisp autumn day made for the perfect setting for the chapter's tribute to this soldier. Numerous floral tributes were made during the program to include a wreath from the Mecklenburg, NC SAR chapter and flowers from a DAR chapter in Virginia.



The chapter was extremely pleased to have ALSSAR Sr. Vice-President Bruce Pickette to present greetings from the Society and former State President Larry Cornwell who participated with the color guard. A special thanks goes out to the Boy Scout Troop 166 from Dothan who served in the color guard and provide the trumpet player for TAPS - Luke White. A most special "thank you" goes to Mack and Sarah Hixon for opening up their beautiful home for the reception following the program.

Family members were most kind in their words of appreciation, and the chapter can be proud of all the hard work and effort everyone put into making this a most successful day.



John Kelsoe, Andy Spann and Bruce Taylor provided the musket salute at the end of the program.



Dr. Kenneth Cadenhead co-author of the book *Southern Cadenheads* provided remarks on the family movement from North Carolina to Alabama.



The officers of the Wiregrass Chapter want to wish you and yours a very Happy Thanksgiving. As you and your family celebrate this American Holiday please take a moment and remember those US service men and women around the world who are in harms way defending our freedoms and way of life!