

TO ALL COMPATRIOTS AND FRIENDS:

AUGUST MEETING

The August Meeting of the Wiregrass Chapter, SAR will be held **August 17, 2000 at Noon** at the **Devco Restaurant in Geneva**. Compatriot Paul is arranging the program for the meeting. All members are encouraged to attend and to bring their wives and/or potential member. In order for the chapter to grow we need to place special emphasis on the recruitment of new members into the chapter.

BOOKS FOR THE VETERANS

The chapter donated 85 paperback & hardback books along with some 67 back issues of the *National Geographic Magazine* to the William Green State Veterans Home in Bay Minette. A special "thank you" is extended to each member who donated reading materials. Please continue to save your paperback books as the chapter hopes to make another donation later in the year.

MONUMENT MARKER

Plans for the Revolutionary War Monument are proceeding very nicely. The finalized order has not been placed as of this writing, as we may have identified another Revolutionary War Veteran who settled in Dale County. The chapter is waiting for documentation from a descendant of a John Windham who settled in the area. We are very pleased to say that we have been in contact with descendants of John Merrick who are currently living in Texas and Missouri. Initial indications are some of these individuals will try to attend the dedication of the monument in the fall of the year. At the same time an article about the planned memorial appeared in the Summer Edition of the *Pea River Trails*. In terms of donations to

the monument fund, the chapter has reached the 80% level of the money projected to cover all the costs associated with this project. The Ozark Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution recently presented the chapter a check for \$100.00 for the monument. Individual chapter members have been extremely generous in their donations. Should an individual like to contribute, a check payable to the Wiregrass Chapter, SAR should be sent to John R. Wallace, 200 East Silver Oak Drive, Enterprise, AL 36330. Those who have seen the design feel the monument, which will include an etching of a Minuteman on black granite, will be a fitting memorial to those Revolutionary War Patriots who settled in Dale County.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Members are encouraged to mark their calendars for the following important dates:

September 21, 2000 – A joint meeting with the John Coffee Chapter DAR will be held at 11:300 at the Rawls (old Lobby) Restaurant at the Rawls Hotel in Enterprise. Special recognitions will be made of an area WW II Veteran and a member of the Judiciary. Make plans to bring your spouse to this special meeting. More next month.

November 9, 2000 – This is the tentative date for the dedication of the Memorial Marker in Ozark. Coordination is being made with the guest speaker and the Friends of the Library Committee.

NIGHT MEETINGS

At the July meeting, comments were solicited about the chapter having night meetings. Any member with comments should send them to Compatriot Wallace at the above noted address.

THE FATE OF HEROES

The following was submitted by Compatriot Creekmore, but arrived too late for inclusion in the July Newsletter. It is worth printing, however, at any time:

"Have you ever wondered what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence? Five signers were captured by the British as traitors and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons who served in the Revolutionary Army. Another had two sons captured. Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War. They pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor.

What kind of men were they? Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants. Nine were farmers and plantation owners. All were men of means and well educated, but they signed the Declaration of Independence, knowing that the penalty would be death if they were captured.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags.

Thomas McKean was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken, and poverty was his reward.

Vandals or soldiers looted the properties of Ellery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnet, Heyward, Rutledge and Middleton.

At the Battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson Jr. noted that the British Gen. Cornwallis

had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. He quietly urged Gen Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt.

The home of Francis Lewis was destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months.

John Hart was driven from the bedside of his dying wife. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year, he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children gone. He died shortly thereafter, heartbroken. Morris and Livingston suffered similar fates.

Such were the stories and sacrifices of the American Revolution. These were not wild-eyed rabble rousing ruffians; they were soft-spoken men of means and education. They had security, but they valued liberty more. Standing tall, straight and unwavering, they pledged, "for the support of this Declaration, with a firm Reliance on the Protection of the divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor."

They gave us a free and independent America. The history books never tell us much of what happened in the Revolutionary War. We were British subjects at that time, and we fought against our own government. Too often, we now take these liberties for granted."

Let us never forget the debt we owe to all the patriots who help found this great country.

Richard Kemp - President
John Wallace - Editor

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