



The Musket Report

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



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June, 2009

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JUNE MEETING

The June meeting of the Wiregrass Chapter will be held at **11:30** at the **Enterprise Country Club** on **18 June**. This will be our last meeting before we break for a couple of months. It is hoped everyone can attend as several important items will be discussed. At the same time, we will be honored to have Col. Kelly J. Thomas, Chief of Staff, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence, Fort Rucker as our guest speaker.

We certainly want to thank Bruce Pickette, ALSSAR Sr. Vice-President for his presentation on the Battle of Kettle Creek at our May meeting, and for making the trip down to "LA". It is always good to have state officers visit the chapter and updated the membership on what is happening within the society across the state..

Please remember that the chapter **will not meet in July** nor will a July newsletter be published. There was such an abundance of information, that despite previously announced plans, this June newsletter was published. Our August meeting will be the annual picnic on **SATURDAY 22 August!** Don't forget to mark this date, and consider bringin' all the young 'uns! Full details in the August Newsletter.



The chapter wants to congratulate Ms. Jane Jesson on her election as the new regent of the John Coffee Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. The Wiregrass Chapter looks forward to working with her and all the great ladies of the local DAR chapter!



Books for Veterans

Our chapter's Veterans Chairman John Ray Fuller reports that he delivered 218 books to the Veterans Home in Bay Minette during the first part of May. At the same time he has been in contact with a new veterans facility in Panama City, and they would like to have as many books as possible. The problem is the chapter is just about out of books to donate to these veterans facilities. John Ray reports he is down to only 50 books available to donate.

Over the years the chapter has delivered thousands of paperback/hardback books to veterans homes and hospitals across the state and along the Gulf Coast. Several of our chapter members have received the NSSAR Support of Veterans Medal for their efforts in this project. If you have any books please contact John Fuller or bring them to a meeting. It is requested they be packed 25 - 30 per box, and the quantity be marked on the exterior of the box. Help make a difference in the lives of the men and women who defend our freedoms!

ROTC RECIPIENTS

The chapter wishes to congratulate the following cadets for their selection as recipients of the SAR Bronze ROTC Medal.

CDT Aaron McLanahan - Daleville
CDT John B. Broam - Enterprise
CDT Clarence Brooks - Goshen

The chapter presented a total of six awards this year to various high school ROTC programs. The three other awardees were reported several months ago. Again, a special thanks to **John Ray Fuller** for handling this special youth program and making the presentations.



New Member

The chapter would like to welcome **J. Fletcher Jones** of Andalusia into the chapter. Fletcher was an "at-large" member who elected to affiliate with our chapter here in Enterprise. He is familiar with the Wiregrass Chapter as he knew Dick Kemp. His wife Jane is the current regent of the Three Notch DAR Chapter in Andalusia. Fletcher who was a Naval Aviator during the WW II has recently returned from a Freedom Flight to Washington to see the new WWII Monument.

Baldwin County Marker to General Galvez

On 9 May 2009 the Alabama Society, dedicated the monument to General Galvez at the Bicentennial Park in Baldwin County. Some 25 color guard personnel from AL, FL, GA, LA and TX were on hand to include colonial Spanish soldiers.

Chapter President Jack Oden presented the Chapter wreath during the program while Compatriot



John Wallace presented the Southern District Wreath and brought greetings from the National Society on behalf of Southern District VPG Andy Jones. State President John Killian presented the dedication remarks.

This project has been in the works for a couple of years and was partially funded by the GW Endowment Fund.

Cadenhead Grave Marking in Perote

The chapter is pleased to report that things are progressing well for the planned Grave marking for James Cadenhead on Sunday 18 October, 2009 at 2:30 in the afternoon at the Perote Cemetery, Perote, Bullock County. The local cemetery board has agreed to the program, and are also extremely interested. The granite "Patriot Marker Stone" (like the one used last year at the Wicker Grave Marking) has been received and Dr. Kenneth Cadenhead, author of, *The Southern Cadenheads* which tracks James Cadenhead, SR and his family from North Carolina to Alabama will be the family speaker at the event. Dr. Cadenhead descends from James Cadenhead's youngest son, Ivey. Preliminary contact with the various DAR chapters in the area has been made and Dr. Gwinn has us on his schedule to play his pipes that afternoon and bring the boy scouts to help with the color guard. The ALS-SAR has been informed of the program and initial coordination has been made with the Southern Area Color Guard Commander.

Over the past several weeks there has been a tremendous amount of interest shown in the program, not only by local citizens of Perote, but also by the Cadenhead family, and some extremely interesting pieces of history on the family and the cemetery have been uncovered.

In the 1840 census of Pike County we have an individual 90 - 100 years living in the home of James Cadenhead, Jr. and there is an annotation in the census as to James Cadenhead, Sr (98) being a pensioner. Living just down the road is William Wicker another Revolutionary War Soldier whose grave the chapter marked last year at the Ramah Primitive Baptist Church in Josie some ten miles from the Perote Cemetery where James Cadenhead is buried. Cadenhead's head stone indicates he was a "Soldier of 1776" and only indicates his first initial "J". Due to the close proximity of these two Revolutionary War Soldiers there is speculation that they probably knew each other. Cadenhead probably died in 1840 shortly after the census was taken. It must be remembered that in 1866-1867 the boundary between Pike and Bullock County shifted with Perote winding up in Bullock while Josie remained in Pike County.

The Troy Messenger has been a leading newspaper publication in Pike County for many years. In the edition of October 17, 1889 there was an article on "Some Old People" who were pioneers in Pike County and who had seen the changes over the years. One of those featured was J.N. Sanders who grew up in Georgia and eventually moved to Alabama and settled near Perote in 1853. In the article the author states, "Mr. Sanders' great grand father, John Cadenhead, was a revolutionary soldier, and his bones rest in the soldier's cemetery at Perote, and receives the same care and attention from the ladies memorial association of that place that the confederate soldier's graves do, so highly was he esteemed by the people of that community". It is unknown why the name "John" was used and it is also unclear why the notation of a "soldier's cemetery" was used. In looking deeper into the history of the cemetery itself, a deed has been located dated 20 August 1857, between William Hixon and W.D. Bryan, et al, "trustees for and in behalf of the persons who are or may be interested in the Perote Burial Grounds" where in consideration of \$1.00, Hixon conveyed some three acres of land for the cemetery which is partially described as "for the purposes and use of a burial ground and for no other purpose a certain tract of parcel of land in the Village of Perote whereon is the present grave yard and adjoining it and described as beginning at a stake near the old road leading to the Methodist Church..." To make this whole story even more interesting is that one of the current Cemetery Board members with whom the chapter has been dealing is Mack Hixon, the great grandson of William Hixon.

In her book, "One Hundred Fifty Years in Pike County, Alabama, 1821-1971", Margaret Pace Framer notes "On September 7, 1840 a presbytery composed of William Pain and James Caddenhead examined fifteen prospective members of Ramah and found them orthodox and in good standing. These became the charter members of Ramah. On the following day five additional members were received by letter. Elder James Caddenhead was chosen as the first pastor." The original minutes of these meetings still exist and copies are available in the Troy Public Library. These minutes reflect James Caddenhead (Jr) as being the moderator of the Ramah Primitive Baptist Church until April, 1842. The written minutes reflect the use of the double "d" in the spelling Caddenhead. So, we have the Cadenhead family involved in the formation of the church where William Wicker would eventually be a member and eventually buried.

It is hoped that even more information can be found before the actual grave marking in October.

Grave markings: Some probably wonder if the time, work and effort in conducting a significant grave marking program is really worth the effort. Certainly one of the basic tenants of the Sons of the American Revolution is to honor our patriotic ancestors. It is felt that the Wiregrass Chapter has done an outstanding job in stepping up and meeting this challenge to honor revolutionary war patriots. In the past five - six years the chapter has marked the graves of four revolutionary war soldiers within the Wiregrass area (William Carter, William Harrison, William Wicker and Solomon Wright), while assisting in a similar program (Ruben Ard) conducted by the DAR ladies. In each of these very positive feed back was received from the descendants of the soldier recognized.

The chapter has received a copy of an e-mail sent to the GASSAR from a Robert Harrison in Atlanta with a picture of the Harrison headstone in Kingston. This individual is interested in joining the SAR and the chapter has been asked to provide family information and grave marking details. The efforts we make today to honor our patriots, are repaid when younger generations realize their lineal heritage in the founding of this great country.