



Wiregrass Chapter Sons of the American Revolution

Enterprise, AL

August 2001

TO ALL COMPATRIOTS AND FRIENDS

The August meeting of the Wiregrass Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution will be held at **11:30 Thursday 16 August 2001** at the **Devco Restaurant in Geneva**. A certificate of membership will be presented to our newest member **Compatriot Rex Everage** at the meeting. President Wallace will provide a short history of his patriot's family. Since we did not have a meeting in July, there is a great deal of business that we need to cover, primarily the final planning of our Joint SAR-DAR Constitutional Week Luncheon. Looking forward to seeing everyone there!

Medal or appropriate Oak Leaf Cluster(s): Carlos Lee, Rod Hildreth, Lee Swart and Bill Seagraves. Combined these four individuals have been first line sponsors for 80 new members.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership applications have been submitted for **Wilson Luck** and **Ian Boylston**. Both of these gentlemen were at our June meeting, along with Ian's mother Carol Boylston who is the Regent of the John Coffee Chapter, DAR. June marked the 350th Anniversary of the arrival of Compatriot **Stu Waterman**'s family in this country. Stu has agreed to speak about his early family at the October meeting. **Jim Lee** is home following surgery in Birmingham and we all wish him a speedy recovery. A supplemental application submitted by **John Wallace** based on his ancestor Elias Chaffin has been approved. According to Chaffin's pension application he spent time as a spy and was wounded at the battle of Guilford Court House.

JEREMIAH DIXON

The Congress in Louisville this year was overshadowed by the death of President General Bruce B. Butler in New Orleans on July 2, 2001 from complications of abdominal surgery. The Executive Committee appointed former President General Howard Horne to conduct the business of the Congress until such time that Larry McClanahan was installed as the new president general. The ALSSAR had 13 members along with seven charming ladies at the Congress and did win the Howard F. Horne award of \$500.00 for the largest increase in new George Washington Fund Fellows based on membership. Under a motion approved at the Spring Board of Managers meeting, this money will be used towards the funding of the Patriot Doors in the Colonial Chapel being constructed at the American Village. The society was also awarded a star for the streamer on the state society flag for participation in the Flag Certificate Program. The Alabama Society will be well represented in the new leadership of the National Society; Hank McCarl was elected Treasurer General, Lee Swart was appointed to the Executive Committee and Rod Hildreth was installed as the Vice-President General of the International District. Lee Swart received his Minuteman Award (the highest award given by the National Society) and four state compatriots were awarded the Liberty

As has been mentioned at some of our meetings, Patriot Jeremiah Dixon is one of four known patriots who settled in Covington County. At the end of June, based on information received from a local historian, Compatriots Everage, Kemp and Wallace drove out to an old Dixon Cemetery west of Andalusia. In that cemetery is a marker erected by the DAR in 1980 in memory of Jeremiah Dixon. Based on land records, the patriot is probably not buried at this cemetery, but one of his sons is buried there. It seems that the marker has been almost totally forgotten. At one time there was a plaque in the County Courthouse honoring the four patriots buried in the county. However, during a renovation of the courthouse some years ago, the marker was apparently taken down, and not reset. Efforts are being made to locate the plaque. Compatriot Rex Everage who is descended from Jeremiah Dixon has written a monograph for the Covington County Heritage Book on the four patriots and it is hope to get the same article published in the Fall Edition of the *Pea River Trails*. These efforts are being made in an attempt to increase the awareness of the patriotic history of the county, as there are many individuals in the area who are eligible for membership in the SAR.

GUIDED MISSILE DESTROYER PREBLE CHRISTENED

The Department of the Navy christened the Arleigh Burke class guided-missile destroyer Preble (DDG 88) Saturday, June 9, 2001, during a ceremony at Northrop Grumman Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula, MS. The ship is named in honor of Commodore Edward Preble, a pioneer in U.S. naval and merchant marine service who was born Aug. 15, 1761, at Falmouth, Eastern Massachusetts, now Portland, Maine. In 1779, Preble was appointed to the Massachusetts State Marine, becoming an officer on the 26-gun ship Protector. When the ship was captured in 1781, he became a British prisoner and was held for a time on the prison ship New Jersey. Upon his release, Preble served on the Wintthrop and led a boarding party to capture a British brig at Castine and worked it out to sea despite heavy shore fire. Fifteen years of merchant service followed his Revolutionary War service and in April 1798, he was appointed 1st Lt. in the U.S. Navy. Commanding the 3rd Squadron in 1803, with the USS Constitution as his flagship, he sailed for the Barbary Coast where he promoted a treaty with Morocco and established a blockade off Tripoli. Relieved in September 1804, Preble returned to the United States in February 1805 and became engaged in shipbuilding activities at Portland, Maine. Five previous ships have borne his name.

Preble is the 38th ship of 58 Arleigh Burke class destroyers currently authorized by Congress. These highly capable, multi-mission ships can conduct a variety of operations, from peacetime presence and crisis management to sea control and power projection, in support of the National Military Strategy. The mission of Preble is to conduct sustained combat operations at sea, providing primary protection for the Navy's aircraft carriers and battle groups, as well as essential escort to Navy and Marine Corps amphibious forces and auxiliary ships, and independent operations as necessary.

NEWS RELEASE from the United States Department of Defense
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DUES

It is realized that it is only August, but it is time to start considering payment of the annual SAR dues for the year 2002. At the recent Board of Managers meeting, a motion carried to have all chapter dues into the State Treasurer by the 1st of December 2001. This is being done in order to comply with the National Society's move several years ago to bring the fiscal year into alignment with the calendar year. This new budgeting year will allow the National and also the State Societies to know approximately how much money will be available for the various projects for the upcoming year. Delays in paying dues produces extra paperwork on the part of both the chapter and state treasurer and can result in individuals being dropped from the

rolls of memberships, until which time they are reinstated. Last year the Wiregrass Chapter was one of the few chapters within the state to have a 100% renewal rate, and it is believed this goal can be achieved again this year. Dues for 2002 are **\$45.00**, which includes \$20.00 – National; \$12.00 – State; and \$13.00 Chapter. Checks payable to the Wiregrass Chapter, SAR should be sent to Jody Creekmore, 608 Wildwood Drive, Enterprise, AL 36330.

SAR – DAR CONSTITUTIONAL WEEK LUNCHEON

Plans are coming together for our joint SAR – DAR Luncheon to be held at **11:30 September 20, 2001** at the **Rawl's Hotel** in Enterprise. Members of the South Alabama SAR Color Guard have agreed to post the colors during the program, and ALSSAR President Mike Wells and his wife Elizabeth have indicated their intentions to attend. We hope to have a graduate student from TSU-Dothan to sing the National Anthem. The ladies of the John Coffee Chapter, DAR are planning the decorations for the event. The membership of the Tri-State Chapter has been invited to join us and our chapter hopes to be able to present a Law Enforcement Commendation Medal and a Bronze Good Citizenship Medal as part of the program. Our joint luncheon with the DAR ladies is the main event of the year for the chapter. Every member and their special lady are encouraged to attend. Cost of the luncheon will be \$12.50 per person, which includes the cost of the buffet meal, 15% gratuity, and the appropriate sales tax. A check payable to the Wiregrass Chapter should be sent to John Ray Fuller, 128 Laurel Breeze, Enterprise, AL 36330 along with the names of the individuals attending.

SAR COOK BOOK

Gentlemen, those of you who do some cooking, start digging out your favorite recipes. If you are like most of us who do not know your way around a kitchen, then please pass this along to your special lady. The NSSAR is in the process of developing a cookbook containing recipes from members and wives from across the country. The preliminary committee has been formed, and the details on the submission of recipes and format are being developed. As more information is received it will be passed along so that members of the Wiregrass Chapter can get some good Southern home cookin' into the recipe book. Proceeds from the sale of the cookbook, will be used toward the building fund for the new SAR Library in Louisville. It is planned to have the cookbook completed by the 2002 Congress in Nashville.

Anu looking forward to seeing as many compatriots as possible at our August meeting in Geneva. I want to thank everyone for the hard work and dedication this year. I believe that our chapter has accomplished a great deal over the past few months. John Wallace - President