



The Musket Report

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



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January, 2006

JANUARY MEETING

It is hoped everyone had a great Christmas Season and that your favorite football team won its respective bowl game! The January meeting of the Wiregrass Chapter will be **19 January 2006 at 11:30** at the **Rawls Hotel**. President Fuller has requested each of you bring your ideas for programs during the upcoming year. This is your chapter so he would like know what might interest you!

The chapter extend a very large **Thank You** to **Nelson Gwinn** for providing an excellent program with his bagpipes at our 13th Annual Chartering and Installation of Officers Banquet. The Highland tunes played by the British Army during the Revolutionary War held the group's rapt attention, and especially the song played by a captured bagpiper - *Yankee Doodle* - which brought a burst of laughter and applause by those attending. We are still wondering if **Mark Steetle** received the answer he was expecting when he asked, "What does a Scotsman wear under his kilt?". At the end of the program it was the chapter's distinct honor to induct Dr. Gwinn into membership of the SAR and the Wiregrass Chapter. His son **Jonathan** also received his youth applicant certificate. As always the ladies of the chapter provided excellent decorations - *hats off* to **Lynn Kelsoe** and **Nell Gilmer**. **Sarah Kline** and **Rex Everage** were the lucky winners of the wine provided by the Rawls Hotel—hope to have a report in January on the quality of "spirits" served by the Rawls!! Not the ones said to haunt the hotel!!



Our new officers ask for your support as we move into 2006. If asked to help with a program or serve on a committee, it is hoped you will be the first to volunteer!

President - John Ray Fuller
Vice-President - Jack P. Oden
Treasurer - John A. Kelsoe
Secretary - Mark Steetle
Registrar - John R. Wallace
Chaplain - Rex Everage
Sgt-At-Arms - Andy Spann

Despite the cold and rain outside, the camaraderie of compatriots and friends coupled with the program and Christmas setting, made for an outstanding evening.

POLAND ANYONE? The NSSAR and the SR are planning a trip to Poland to honor Polish Patriots from Apr 27 - May 7th. Deadline for making reservations is 15 January '06. For additional information contact John Wallace (347-0661).

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:

As my first official act as the President of the Wiregrass Chapter, ALSSAR, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our officers for volunteering to serve in this new year. I would also like to thank all of our compatriots who took the time and expended their funds to renew their membership not only in the Wiregrass Chapter, but also the State and National Organizations. Without member support, none of our various programs would be accomplished and our chapter would soon languish.

This new year will be an exciting one for the chapter, with the Battle of Cowpens 225th anniversary in January, grave marking in the spring, State Convention and the National Congress, right on through Christmas. Each of us has our own reason for being a member of the SAR and, for that reason I would urge you to participate in our many activities! Happy New Year!

John Ray

ALSSAR STATE CONVENTION

It is rapidly reaching the deadline for making room reservations for our State Convention in Huntsville on **February 17-18, 2006**. A block of rooms at the Holiday Inn Select (256-533-1400) in downtown Huntsville has been reserved but the **reservation deadline** is **17 January**. It is best to make your room reservations now, but then if you cannot attend, cancellations must be received 48 hours prior to arrival. A convention application itself was provided in last state newsletter or can be downloaded from the ALSSAR website <www.alssar.org>. It is hoped to have as many of our chapter color guard members present as possible. Secretary-General Nathan White is scheduled to be the special guest of the society at the meeting.

The state convention is always a great place to meet compatriots and wives from around the state, while learning about programs from other chapters and ideas from the National Headquarters.

Peanut Butter Pie

One of the hits with the banquet meal was the Peanut Butter Pie which was served. **Gwyn Taylor** provided the directions for its preparation to the Rawls Hotel, and, due to popular demand, has shared her secret recipe:

1 gram cracker crust, 9 inch
3/4 cup creamy peanut butter (or crunchy)
1-8 oz soft cream cheese
1-8 oz thawed cool whip
Chocolate syrup

Mix peanut butter and cream cheese together. Add cool whip, stir. Place ingredients in gram crust, drizzle with chocolate syrup and refrigerate for at least 1 hour. This can also be used with all fat-free ingredients.

Some of Gwyn's other recipes can also be found on the Rawls menu! *Thanks Gwyn!!*

REGISTRAR REPORT



The chapter has received notification that the new membership applications for the following individuals have been approved by National Headquarters:

Adam C. McDonough, Matthew S. McDonough, Stuart A. McDonough and Darin Stacy Adkinson. The McDonough brothers are the sons of Dr. John

McDonough of Enterprise and each is attending college at the present time. Stacy lives in New Brockton and is the first cousin, once removed, of chapter member Don Ellis. The chapter wishes to extend its congratulations to these new compatriots!!

With the start of the new year the chapter has 46 active members, two dual members, two youth members with one application still at NSSAR Headquarters. Unfortunately, six members have yet to renew their membership for 2006. These compatriots are encouraged to send their dues check payable to the Wiregrass Chapter, SAR for \$50.00 to: **John Kelsoe, 1654 Country Rd 606, Enterprise, AL 36330. Due to the increase in postal rates, compatriots who have not renewed their membership by 1 February will have to be dropped from the chapter newsletter mailing list.**

Several other potential members have been identified, and work is currently under way on these applications. If you know of someone who is eligible for membership, invite them to a meeting!

Chapter Member deployed to Iraq

In December, 2005 Chapter Member John Ray Fuller, III was deployed from Fort Hood, TX to Iraq. John, of course, is the son of our chapter president, John Ray Fuller.

Trey's mailing address is:

**SFC John R. Fuller
HHB 2-77 FA BN 4th IN Div (M)
FOB Union III
APO AE 09348**

Compatriots are asked to drop him a card to show him your support of the members of the United States Military.

What is significant about our January meeting date?

Robert E. Lee Day 19 Jan 1807 - 12 Dec 1870

Membership Data Base

The National Society has established a membership data base, whereby each member can access the official information maintained by the National Headquarters. It allows the member to change personal information such as address, telephone number, and e-mail address. To access your individual account go to www.sar.org and click on the Membership tab and follow the link to "member info database". You will have to establish a user ID and password to access your data. If there are changes which should be made, make the corrections and hit the "submit" button.

Lice 'undermined Napoleon's army' Hard genetic evidence that lice-borne disease played a key role in Napoleon's disastrous retreat through Russia in 1812 has been produced by researchers. Experts analyzed dental pulp extracted from the teeth of soldiers who died during the campaign. They found lice-borne versions of typhus and trench fever ran rampant among the French Grand Army. The study, by the Université de la Méditerranée in Marseille, is published by the Journal of Infectious Diseases.



Napoleon's harrowing retreat from Moscow

Napoleon marched into Russia in the summer of 1812 with 500,000 soldiers. Only a few thousand staggered out again, victims of war, weather, and disease.

Twenty-five thousand arrived in Vilnius that winter, but only 3,000 lived to continue the retreat. The dead were buried in mass graves (French defensive ditches built the prior summer – the French had dug their own graves). Construction work in 2001 unearthed one such grave, containing between 2,000 and 3,000 corpses.

Researchers led by Dr Didier Raoult identified body segments of five lice in a forensic excavation of two kilograms of earth containing fragments of bone and remnants of clothing. Three of the lice carried DNA from *Bartonella quintana*, which causes the disease commonly known as trench fever and afflicted many soldiers in World War I.

The team analyzed dental pulp from 72 teeth, taken from the remains of 35 soldiers. The pulp from seven soldiers contained DNA from *B. quintana*, and pulp from three soldiers contained DNA from *Rickettsia prowazakii*, which causes epidemic typhus. In all, 29% of the soldiers tested had evidence of either *R. prowazakii* or *B. quintana* infection.

The researchers said this suggests that louse-born diseases such as typhus and trench fever may have been a major factor contributing to Napoleon's retreat from Russia.

They believe analyzing dental pulp for signs of DNA from infectious agents may become an important tool for investigating the history of communicable diseases.

Dr Carole Reeves, a medical historian, said it was ironic that teeth were now uncovering the health secrets of Napoleon's army, as they were widely salvaged at the Battle of Waterloo in order to make dentures.

"Wherever there is warfare there is always infectious disease," she said. "And up to World War I many deaths were caused by infectious disease rather than the warfare itself."

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/health/4534540.stm>
Published: 2005/12/18 23:53:04 GMT, BBC News

Task Force to Develop Out Reach Support

Six months ago the National Society started a program to inform compatriots of all the various programs conducted by the NSSAR to include the Color Guard, Youth Programs, Historic Site Celebrations, etc., and the opportunities to become involved in these programs. Each of us was asked to sign a card showing our support of these endeavors. While not all chapters within Alabama have been contacted, as of 1 December, only 119/749 ALSSAR members have returned their cards. If you have not done so, please complete your card and drop it into the mail to demonstrate your belief in these programs which help keep alive the patriotic principles upon which our nation was founded. Nationally only 3% of the membership has replied!