



The Musket Report



Newsletter of the Wiregrass Chapter, Alabama Society, Sons of the American Revolution

ENTERPRISE, ALABAMA

December 2025

Monument Rededication / Flag Raising

The Wiregrass Chapter ALSSAR celebrated the Revolutionary War Veterans Memorial rededication at the Ozark-Dale County Public Library on 7 November. Our Chapter originally installed this monument 25 years ago on Veterans Day in 2000, commemorating the then four known Revolutionary War Patriots associated with Dale County- today we know of 13. The Color Guard was provided by the U.S. Army Warrant Officer Career



College of Fort Rucker, who did a fantastic job! On hand for the celebration were representatives of the Daughters of the American Revolution, several Compatriots from the Joel Early Chapter GASSAR, staff members of the Ozark-Dale County Public Library Committee and many patriotic local citizens. This monument and flag pole are the first installments of what will eventually become a 'Veterans Park' the library wishes to establish, in order to honor Dale County veterans from all wars. We commend the Ozark-Dale County Public Library Committee for undertaking this patriotic endeavor.



Wiregrass Chapter members in attendance from left to right. Compatriots: Travis Parker, John Cheney, Jason Dallas, Phillip Kitchens, and Bob Cooper.

2026 Chapter Officers Elected

At our Chapter's November meeting, the members of the Wiregrass Chapter present unanimously elected the 2026 slate of officers who will lead us into our 250th year of Independence from Great Britain.

President-elect: Phillip Kitchens
Vice President-elect: Bob Cooper
Secretary-elect: Jason Dallas
Treasurer-elect: John Cheney
Registrar-elect: Jason Dallas
Historian-elect: James Crabtree
Chaplain-elect: Jack Anderson, MD
Sergeant-At-Arms-elect: Paul Olson



The officers of the 2026 Wiregrass Chapter humbly ask for your prayers and support as we enter into a historic year in our Country's history.

November Continental Brunch

This month's Continental Brunch was held at the Cracker Barrel in Dothan. The primary topic of discussion was the issuance of long-overdue SAR service certificates owed to several members of our Chapter. SAR service certificates are awarded in 5-year increments of active membership. Please note that breaks in membership caused by unpaid dues affect your total service time—another reason why submitting dues promptly each year is so important. Your active service time is cumulative, and we have a good understanding of which members are due for recognition. Our **next brunch** will be held in **January** somewhere in **Troy**. More to follow.

Upcoming Events

Chartering & Installation Banquet: **11 Dec at 6pm**
Enterprise Country Club. **Please note that this takes the place of the normal meeting on the third Thursday of the month.*

Monthly Chapter Meeting: **15 Jan 26, 1130am**
Enterprise Country Club.

Check out our website!

<https://www.sarwiregrassal.org/events>



The Continental Army in December 1775



It is December 1775; General George Washington sits astride his horse on a cold and cloudy Massachusetts morning. The Virginia planter reviews the poor condition of his shivering six-month-old Continental Army. It is mostly comprised of New England patriot farmers, fishermen, and tradesmen. They are poorly supplied and inexperienced. The 43-year-old Washington is keenly aware, that if he does not organize this hodgepodge of militia regiments into some semblance of a fighting force soon, the American Revolution may be over before it really begins — and their enlistments expire at the end of the month.

One of the most defining features of the Continental Army at this moment is the challenge of supply. Soldiers suffer shortages of clothing, blankets, and gunpowder. Winter weather makes matters worse as the Army faces cold conditions with inadequate shelter and limited resources. Washington spends much of the month writing urgent letters to Congress, political leaders, and state governments pleading for supplies. These difficulties often threaten morale, yet the troops demonstrate remarkable resilience born from their shared conviction in the cause of liberty.

December 1775 is also significant for the Army's expanding strategic vision. While the planned siege of Boston remains the centerpiece of operations, American leaders look northward to Canada. The Continental Army's expedition under General Benedict Arnold, combined with General Richard Montgomery's forces, marches toward Quebec, hoping to bring the province into the rebellion and deny the British a northern base. By mid-December, Montgomery captures Montreal and presses on to join Arnold. Though the final assault on Quebec will occur on the final night of the year—and ultimately fail—the campaign demonstrates the boldness and ambition of the Continental Army at this early stage.



Training and organization are additional concerns. Washington works tirelessly to impose discipline and standardize military practices among the diverse regiments. December 1775 sees efforts to re-enlist soldiers whose terms expire at the end of the year, a problem that constantly threatens the stability of the Army. Many soldiers reenlist, but others return home, forcing Washington to rebuild units even as he prepares for continued conflict.

Despite its struggles, the Continental Army at this time embodies the determination of the American Revolution. It is an army still learning, still forming, and still uncertain of its future. Yet it stands firm before one of the world's most powerful empires, driven by resolve and guided by leaders who believe that perseverance, even in the face of winter hardships, will one day secure Independence.

