

Enterprise, Alabama

May, 1999

TO ALL COMPATRIOTS AND FRIENDS:

MAY MEETING:

Spring has come to South Alabama and so has the pollen. Lets hope by our May meeting that we will have had some rain to clean the air and help the farmers. Our May meeting is scheduled for **Noon on May 20**, in Geneva at the **Devco Restaurant**. The restaurant is located on HWY 27 S on the left hand side after crossing the Pea River Bridge. Mr. Lamar Beck will be presenting a program on the history of Geneva County. All members, friends and, of course, wives are invited. Why not take this opportunity to treat your wife to lunch and come on down to Geneva and show your support for our speaker and the chapter? She might like to come home via Graceville!

BICENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES:

George Washington Bicentennial celebration events were held April 13th in Elba's library and again on April 14th in the children's section of the Enterprise Library. Wiregrass Chapter members and John Coffee Chapter DAR members donated sets of George Washington books for children to each libraries and on those dates reading sessions were held to introduce the publications. In Elba John Coffee Chapter Regent Nell Gilmer and our president, Dick Kemp, were on hand to meet and talk with youngsters as they arrived. While not many attended, the event was well supported by library staff members who told of making visits to local day care centers and the Head Start program to invite children. In Enterprise, Mary

Rollins, Children's Librarian, did a tremendous job of reading to a group of 20 pre-school children and backing up her stories with a historically accurate video tape on George Washington. President Kemp was present in uniform at both events and spoke with children on Washington and freedom. **Remember, May is the month for letters to the editor of your local paper concerning your thoughts on George Washington. Let's get them started early!**

MEMBERSHIP:

The Chapter received an application from prospective member Gerald Lee Hidle, descendant of Martin Hidle, who served in South Carolina. This has been forwarded to National. At the same time the Chapter is still awaiting the decision on the application of Attorney Joe Paul. Don't forget, our goal this year is to sponsor one new member for each member of the Chapter. The communities in Coffee and Geneva Counties are well stocked with men who are eligible. Let's seek them out and bring one to a meeting soon.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATIONS:

If you have more than one ancestor and would like to get NSSAR approval of them, talk to President Kemp. Cost is \$30.00 for a supplemental application and upon approval a certificate is issued. The Catch? Supplementals have to be documented as well as an original application. Don't let that fact hinder your efforts, however.

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VETERANS ACTIVITIES:

If you have made any special efforts to assist a veteran (taking to a VA Hospital, providing transport to see a doctor, volunteer work at a VA Clinic, etc.), please jot the facts down and send to the chapter. We have been requested by the state organization to provide a report on such activities.

DOING RESEARCH:

Each of us has spent many hours pouring over census records looking for that one clue we need to "tie things together"! It was thought members might enjoy the following poem:

THE CENSUS TAKER

It was the first day of census, and all through the land
each pollster was ready ... a black book in hand.
He mounted his horse for a long dusty ride,
his book and some quills were tucked close by his side.
A long winding ride down a road barely there,
toward the smell of fresh bread wafting, up through the air.

The woman was tired, with lines on her face
and wisps of brown hair she tucked back into place.
She gave him some water ... as they sat at the table
and she answered his questions ... the best she was able.
He asked her of children. Yes, she had quite a few --
the oldest was twenty, the youngest not two.

She held up a toddler with cheeks round and red;
his sister, she whispered, was napping in bed.
She noted each person who lived there with pride,
and she felt the faint stirrings of the wee one inside.
He noted the sex, the color, the age...
the marks from the quill soon filled up the page.

At the number of children, she nodded her head
and saw her lips quiver for the three that were dead.
The places of birth she "never forgot"
was it Kansas? or Utah? or Oregon ... or not?
They came from Scotland, of that she was clear,
but she wasn't quite sure just how long they'd been here.

They spoke of employment, of schooling and such,
they could read some ... and write some ... though really
not much.

When the questions were answered, his job there was
done

so he mounted his horse and he rode toward the sun.

We can almost imagine his voice loud and clear,
"May God bless you all for another ten years."

Now picture a time warp ... its' now you and me
as we search for the people on our family tree.

We squint at the census and scroll down so slow
as we search for that entry from long, long ago.

Could they only imagine on that long ago day
that the entries they made would effect us this way?

If they knew would they wonder at the yearning we feel
and the searching that makes them so increasingly real.
We can hear if we listen the words they impart
through their blood in our veins and their voice in our heart.

--- Author unknown. Extracted from a private e-mail
message

Remember, 31 May is Memorial Day - a time to
remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice
for the freedoms we all have today.

Richard Kemp President

John R. Wallace Editor