



The Musket Report

Newsletter of the Wiregrass Chapter, ALSSAR

Enterprise, Alabama

"Home of the Boll Weevil Monument"

www.wiregrasssar.org

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FEBRUARY MEETING



The February meeting of the Wiregrass Chapter will be at **11:30 AM** at the **Rawls Hotel** on **15 February 2007**. Dr. Jack Oden will be presenting a program on "*The Revolution within the American Revolution*". Hope to see everyone there along with that special *Valentine*!

The chapter wishes to thank Mrs. Lavonne Stromenger for the most informative talk about the volunteer services provided by the RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program) within Henry, Geneva and Houston counties. Certainly the group's work with Meals on Wheels and the children of an incarcerated parent makes a big impact on families within the Wiregrass area. If interested in volunteering some of your time, please contact Andy Spann.

Part of the January meeting was devoted to planning for the upcoming year, and very interesting programs/events are on tap for the next twelve months. Please note that the April meeting will be held on **Saturday 21 April** rather than the traditional third Thursday. Compatriot Bob Portman, will be putting on a demonstration at his forge and has promised to let anyone who might desire to get their "hands dirty" make nails! As in the past, there will not be a meeting in July, but the August Family Picnic has been scheduled for **Saturday 18 August**. Everyone knows that September will bring our traditional SAR/DAR Constitutional week awards luncheon which will be held on **September 20th** this year.

One of the outgrowths of the work in planning a new chapter in Troy was the identification of the probably grave site of Revolutionary War Soldier William Wicker. A preliminary **Saturday 20 October 2007** date has been selected for a grave marking program in conjunction with the Oliver Wiley DAR chapter in Troy and the new compatriots in Pike County. This date is flexible based on the activities of the DAR chapter and receiving permission from the church to hold the program. At the same time the chapter's color guard is investigating the possibility of participating in the Peanut Butter Parade in Brundidge scheduled for the last weekend in October. November again will be dedicated to our veterans while our December Chartering Banquet and Installation of officers will be held on the **13th of December**.

These special activities are in addition to our traditional youth activities such as JROTC and Roy Shoffner Awards to high school students, and identification of potential recipients of a flag certificate. The chapter's "Books for Veterans" program is still active and members are always needed to drop a box or two off at veterans' facilities across the state. Seeking new members continues to be a high priority.

These planned events do not "just happen" but require the help and assistance of all chapter members. Please let President Fuller know where you would like to participate. It is your dedication and willingness to say "yes" that has led to the continued growth of the Wiregrass Chapter, and its being recognized as one of the most active chapters within the ALSSAR.

Blue Star Salute - 2007

Honoring those who serve and those who have fallen in service

It is not too early to start marking your calendar for important events scheduled for the upcoming year. Please note that this year's Blue Star Salute will be held at The American Village on **Memorial Day, 28 May 2007**. The ALSSAR, through the "Partners in Patriotism" program will once again be one of this year's co-hosting organizations. As in the previous salutes, the ALSSAR State Color Guard will be called upon to present the colors and it is hoped that all our "Minutemen" will be able to attend. Other activities to include the transformation of "The Red Barn" into a WW II USO inspired cantina, Patrick Henry delivering his famous "Give me Liberty or Give me Death Speech", static displays of vintage aircraft and Air Force fly - overs are just a few of the events scheduled for the day. More information will be published when it becomes available.

"The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any way, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional as to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their country." George Washington

Troy SAR Chapter

Work on the establishment of a new SAR chapter in Troy continues and has been very successful to date. Two applications have already been submitted, and three are in the final stages for submission. Additional potential members have been identified and posters about the potential chapter have been placed both in the library in Troy and Brundidge. One of the next steps will be to contact the *Troy Messenger* to get some articles in the paper about the SAR and the planned chapter. An initial organizational meeting is scheduled for the **15th of March** at the Troy Public Library at 6:30 PM. At that time it is hoped to have some color guard support and present at least two new member certificates. Numerous pioneer Pike County families have been identified with roots back to a Revolutionary War Soldier. Please contact Compatriot Wallace if you have any ties/potential contacts in the Pike County area. The Oliver Wiley Chapter, DAR has been most supportive of the chapter's efforts to develop a new chapter.

"Some family trees have beautiful leaves, but some just have a bunch of nuts. Remember it is the nuts that make the tree worth shaking."

Colors of the Revolutionary War Regimental Coat

Those who have attended various National SAR functions or grave markings where members of the color guard were present, may well have wondered about the various colors and cuts of the uniforms worn by the guardsmen. It should be understood that the uniforms of the Revolutionary War period were actually an exaggeration of the civilian attire of the time and the cut of the coat was often dependent about the soldier's individual tailor. Likewise, the fabric used was a function of what was available to the tailor. No standard patterns are known to exist, so usually the dimensions of the cuffs, collars, lapels and button arrangement would vary.

Unfortunately, very few original Revolutionary War uniforms are still in existence today, but some documents relating to the colors to be utilized in the uniform coat do still exist. Like the various colors used in shoulder boards worn on Army dress uniforms which identify an officer's corps, the colors of the regimental coat helped identify from which colony or area the soldier served.

At first very few individuals possessed a uniform, and there was a wide variation among these. When General Washington took command most senior officers elected to duplicate his blue and buff choice. In an attempt to standardize the colors of uniform coats, Washington issued the following General Order:

Headquarters
Moores House
October 2, 1779



George Washington's Uniform
Smithsonian photo

The following re the Uniforms that have been determined for the troops of those states respectively as soon as the state of the public supplies will permit these being furnished. Accordingly, and in the meantime it is recommended to the Officers to endeavor to accommodate their Uniforms to this standard that when the men come to be supplied there may be proper uniformity.

*New Hampshire - Blue faced with White Buttons and Lining White
Massachusetts
Rhode Island
Connecticut*

*New York - Blue faced with Buff White Linings and Buttons
New Jersey*

*Pennsylvania - Blue faced with Red Buttons and Linings White
Delaware
Maryland
Virginia*

*North Carolina - Blue faced with Blue Button holes edged with narrow white lace or tape. Buttons and Linings White
South Carolina
Georgia*

Artillery and Artillery Artifers - Blue faced with Scarlet, Scarlet linings, yellow buttons, Yellow bound hats. Coats edges with narrow lace or tape and button holes with the same

Light Dragoons—The whole Blue faced with White, buttons and linings white.

Continental Army uniform coat worn by Brigadier-General Peter Gansevoort Jr. during his command of Fort Stanwix, New York, in 1777

Smithsonian photo



It should be noted that this General Order applied only to the Continental Army. The militia and State Troops were not governed by it. Likewise special units, such as the Commander-in-Chief Guards, and Von Heer's Provost Guard, appear to have also been exempt from the orders. As can be seen except for the Artillery head gear was not addressed nor the color for the breeches, waist coats or shirts. Those interested in obtaining a uniform that closely resembles one worn by a patriot ancestor can normally obtain additional information from uniform suppliers.

Source: *The SAR Guardsman*, Winter, 2006. *The SAR Guardsman* is the official newsletter of the National Color Guard Committee, NSSAR. Subscriptions (four copies per year) are available at \$10.00 per year (January - December). Checks payable to the Treasurer-General, NSSAR with *SAR Guardsmen* noted in the memo line should be sent to : Donald N. Moran, 17651 Tehachapi, CA 93561-5300

JAMESTOWN



President General White recently signed a Letter of Agreement, whereby the National Society SAR and Jamestown 2007 have become partners in the celebration of America's 400th anniversary. Under this Letter of Agreement the NSSAR is allowed to use the National Partner logo through June 2008 in conjunction with official NSSAR publications. If one checks the VASSAR State Website (<http://www.sar.org/vassar/>) , tours to Jamestown are in the planning for those attending the NSSAR Congress in Williamsburg.