



The Musket Report

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



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June, 2006

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June Meeting

The **June** meeting of the Wiregrass Chapter will be held on **15 June at 11:30** at the Rawls Hotel in Enterprise. The bulk of this meeting will concentrate on a review of the work being done for our multiple activities coming up in August, September and October. Everyone is strongly encouraged to attend as we need everyone's input at this meeting before we break for the Summer.

A very big "Thumbs Ups" goes to **Dr. Jack Oden** for his outstanding presentation on the Boston Tea Party at our May meeting. At the same time congratulations to **Stacy Adkinson** who received his new member certificate and rosette at the meeting.

The following high school juniors are the 2006 winners of the chapter's Shoffner Good Citizenship Award:

- Andrea Proffitt - *New Brockton*
- Charlie Strickland - *Enterprise*
- Jason F. Johnson - *Elba*

Bonds for these awards were provided again by the CBT Bank.

Blue Star Salute

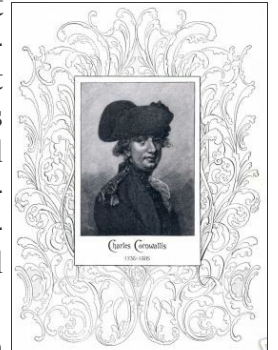


Andy Spann flanked by the drummer and bagpiper who lead the Color Guard for the posting of the colors.

The 2006 Blue Star Salute was an outstanding program recognizing veterans, the families of military personnel and the 63 Alabamians who have given their lives in Iraq. The event sponsored by the ALSSAR and the American Legion along with a multitude of other Veterans organizations was very well supported by members of the Wiregrass Chapter. Charlie and Donnie Dye, Bruce and Dinah Blankenship, Walt and Gwen Reeder, John Wallace, Bruce Taylor, Andy Spann and Mark Steetle all made the trip to the Shelby County Airport on the 20th of May. The last three were in uniform and served in the massed SAR color guard which presented the colors at the start of the event. Historian-General David Sympson, NSSAR Historian General was present representing our President-General Roland Downing. The ALSSAR owes a very big "Thanks for a job well done!" to SAR members Glenn Nivens for all his year long efforts in organizing and coordinating this event!

Patriotic Display

The Wiregrass Chapter has been asked to prepare a Patriotic Display about the American Revolution for the Ozark-Dale County Library during the month of June/July in celebration of, not only Flag Day, but also Independence Day. One item that will be on the display is this 1898 engraving of General Cornwallis. Other items will include replicas of flags used during the period and original documents from the period.



For those who do not know, in 2000 the chapter helped organize and collect funds for the placement of a monument dedicated to known Revolutionary War Soldiers who settled in Dale County, at the entrance of the Library. The staff of the



library have always been very supportive of the SAR and this will make an ideal place for such a display. Anyone who has some ideas, or would like to assist please contact Compatriot Wallace. Certainly a great opportunity to advertise the Wiregrass Chapter and the Sons of the American Revolution!

On 21 May, two of our members were elected to positions on the board of directors of the Pea River Historical and Genealogical Society. **Jack Oden** was elected president, and **Jim Gilmer** was elected a director. **Congratulations!** Everyone is encouraged to consider membership in our local historical society.

JROTC Cadets

The Wiregrass Chapter wishes to salute the following JROTC Cadets who were recognized with SAR Bronze ROTC medals at various presentations last month:

- Jackson Harris - *Pike County High School*
- Letara Thomas - *Goshen High School*
- Robert B. Brogden - *Carroll High School*
- Daniel Helms - *Daleville High School*
- Skye Wellman - *Enterprise High School*

These young men and women, through their military bearing and overall academic excellence, have set the example for their fellow classmates.

It is hoped everyone had the opportunity to read the great write-up about the volunteer activities of **Mark Steetle** in the *Senior Lifestyles* section of the May 18th edition of the *Dothan Eagle*. It would be hard to keep up with this "Baby Boomer!!"



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

On June 14, 1777, in order to establish an official flag for the new nation, the Continental Congress passed the First Flag Act:

"Resolved, That the flag of the United States be made of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field. Representing a new Constellation."

As our country has grown so has our flag and the number of stars in the union. The 23 Star flag became the Official United States Flag on July 4th, 1820. Two stars were added for the admission of Alabama (the 22nd state on December 14, 1819) and Maine (the 23rd state on March 15, 1820) and was to last for 2 years. The only President to serve under this flag was James Monroe (1817-1825).



Our current flag with 50 stars and the 27th flag of the United States became the official flag on July 4th, 1960, following the admission of Hawaii to the union on August 21st, 1959.

REMEMBER: There will be **NO** chapter meeting in July, nor will be a newsletter be published. Our August meeting will be the traditional family picnic on **Saturday August 19th**. The chapter will again be asking that each member contribute a few of bucks toward the expenses, and that everyone bring a salad or desert. More information in the August newsletter!

The chapter recently heard from **Bob Giffin** and he appears to be enjoying his new job and position in Jordan. While we do not have a mailing address at the moment, Bob may be contacted at: safetybobjptc@yahoo.com

"In the first place, we should insist that if the immigrant who comes here in good faith becomes an American and assimilates himself to us, he shall be treated on an exact equality with everyone else, for it is an outrage to discriminate against any such man because of creed, or birthplace, or origin. But this is predicated upon the person's becoming in every facet an American, and nothing but an American...There can be no divided allegiance here. Any man who says he is an American, but something else also, isn't an American at all. We have room for but one flag, the American flag... We have room for but one language here, and that is the English language.....and we have room for but one sole loyalty and that is a loyalty to the American People"

Theodore Roosevelt 1907



Registrar's Report

The chapter has been informed that the membership application of **William L. Gilmer** was approved on 11 May 06. We certainly do want to welcome Bill to the chapter and the Sons of the American Revolution. At the same time a supplemental application for **David Finch** based on his patriot ancestor Jacob Leonard Pouder has been submitted. Pouder was a German immigrant who was born at sea in 1730 on a ship coming to the colonies.

Chartering Centennial

June 9th 2006 represents the 100th anniversary of the Congressional Charter of the Sons of the American Revolution which was signed by President Theodore Roosevelt.

Local Death

Autauga Citizen March 3, 1853 - Dead in Pike County, Alabama, on Sunday, December 20th, 1852, William Wicker. The deceased was aged 106 years. He served as a soldier in the Revolutionary War.

Ed. Note: The age of this Revolutionary War Soldier may be a little suspect, but additional information about this patriot is being sought. He does appear on the Alabama State Archives of Revolutionary War Soldiers and he did apply for a Pension in Barbour County, AL. He is listed as being 95 and from Virginia on the 1850 Census of Pike County. Preliminary investigations indicate that his grave site is unknown. Anyone who might know something about this patriot is asked to contact the editor.

Eddie Bowling



At the Childersburg High School Awards Day program on 16 May, Eddie Bowling was asked to present the colors along with other members of the ALSSAR Color Guard. During the program, Eddie was awarded both the SAR Bronze Good Citizenship Medal and the SAR Color Guard Medal by ALS-SAR President Cornwell. Eddie has been very active

with the state color guard although he only turns 17 this September. He did assist in the marking of the Wm Harrison Grave last fall here in Coffee County. Eddie is Glenn Nivens' grandson, and has traveled out of state several times to assist the ALSSAR color guard.

Newsletter Distribution

The electronic distribution of the May newsletter appears to have gone very well. It resulted in only 27 hard copies being mailed, down from the previous month's 52 which represented a considerable savings in postage to the chapter. It also allowed the newsletter to be sent to local DAR regents and others who were not previously on the distribution list.

Law Enforcement Nominees: As in the past the Chapter will be presenting a Law Enforcement Medal at our September SAR/DAR Constitutional Week Luncheon. Please submit nominations to Chapter President John R. Fuller at < fullers65shelby@aol.com > .

Floral Wreath

The chapter wants to thank Gwen Reeder for the recent donation of the floral wreath which she made for Dick Kemp's funeral. The Wiregrass Chapter now has its own wreath which can be used for presentation at not only SAR events, but other suitable functions such as Memorial Day, or Veteran's Day programs. Like in the military, under the caveat "other duties as assigned", Chapter President John Fuller has accepted the additional position of "Keeper of the Wreath".

"All men having power ought to be distrusted to a certain degree."

-- James Madison (speech at the Constitutional Convention, 7/11/1787)