

# SAR Alabama

Volume 22, Number 4

December, 2008

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This is my last president's message before the annual convention when a new state president will be elected. It has been an honor to serve as your president. Due to a medical condition (shingles) I have been unable to fulfill intended plans during my tenure and I apologize.

I was able to attend the 118th National Congress in Sacramento. The National Congress for 2009 will be held in Atlanta and I encourage you to attend. By attending the National Congress and other events, you better understand the workings of the national and state societies.

The week following our annual state convention the Spring Leadership meeting will be held in Louisville. This event will be held at the historic Brown Hotel in downtown Louisville.

Our annual state convention is quickly approaching. It will be held Feb. 27-28, 2009 at the Radisson Admiral Semmes Hotel in downtown Mobile. National Secretary General Judge Edward F. "Ed" Butler will be our speaker.

In this newsletter you will find a Registration Form and an ad form for placing an ad in the convention brochure. Also, you can download a copy of each form at our state website, [www.alsar.org](http://www.alsar.org).

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## Gen. Galvez, Mobile prepare to host 2008 ALSSAR convention

The Gen. Galvez chapter will host the 2009 ALSSAR convention on Feb. 27-28 at the Radisson Admiral Semmes Hotel in downtown Mobile with NSSAR Secretary General Ed Butler as the featured speaker at the banquet.

The annual convention will include a welcome reception on Friday night at the hotel and business activities throughout the day on Saturday. The installation of new officers for 2009 will take place on Saturday night at the banquet.

Saturday activities include the George Washington breakfast at 7 a.m., the business meeting which starts at 9 a.m. and the oration contest that immediately follows. At the breakfast, there will be a PowerPoint presentation on the

Centennial Park Complex in Baldwin County. Mobile mayor Sam Jones will speak to the group at the business meeting and at the banquet.

A special ladies tour to the Richards DAR House and museum will take place on Saturday from 2-4 p.m. The house was constructed in 1860 by riverboat captain Charles Richards and is maintained by the six DAR chapters in Mobile.

Also, tours are planned for the ladies to see the eight National Register Historic Districts in town.

A registration form for the state convention can be found on page 3.



—Photo courtesy of Bruce Pickette

### NSSAR Fall Leadership meeting

*Nine ALSSAR compatriots made the trip to Louisville, Ky., for the annual NSSAR Fall Leadership conference. Among those in attendance were, from left: Bob Thomas, Larry Cornwell, Jim Alexander, Bruce Pickette, Tom Jacks of the Louisiana Society, Mike Wells, Price Legg and Ray Lantz of the Florida Society. ALSSAR members John Wallace, Lee Swart and Rod Hildreth also attended.*

## BOM deals with rising expenditures

In these tough economic times, one of the hottest topics for corporations throughout the country is finding ways to increase revenue or curtail spending.

It was the primary topic of discussion at the ALSSAR fall Board of Managers meeting in Montgomery on Oct. 25 as 34 ALSSAR officers and compatriots arrived at Max Federal Credit Union to discuss ways to help the organization balance its budget as expenses continue to rise.

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## Message

*(Continued from Page 1)*

Members make your reservations and honor your ancestor(s) by placing an ad in the convention brochure.

We must continue to promote our patriotic, historical and educational objectives. We must continue to promote membership. We must continue to be actively involved with the Sons of the American Revolution at the chapter level, the state level and at the national level. Let's continue to work together at every level.

A suggestion was offered at the October Board of Managers meeting to form a finance committee to study the ALSSAR budget, i.e., study the structure of membership dues, study revenue source(s), study the absolute necessary expenditures. The finance committee has been formed and will meet the second week in January 2009.

I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

—James L. Wardlaw

## BOM

*(Continued from Page 1)*

ALSSAR president Jim Wardlaw and trustee Jim Alexander reported on the awards won by the State Society and its members at the 2008 Congress and the group endorsed national candidates for the upcoming year, but the most important thing to come out of the October meeting was a finance committee created to scrutinize the ALSSAR budget.

ALSSAR treasurer C.W. Posey put together a 2009 forecast for the meeting – that document can be found online at [www.alssar.org](http://www.alssar.org) – and the outcome of the forecast discussion was the formation of a financial analysis committee to study such things as structure of membership dues, revenue sources and absolute expenditures.

The seven-man committee is scheduled to meet in early January and is expected to report its findings at the business meeting of the ALSSAR state convention in February in Mobile. While some expenditures were raised – the amount of money appropriated to the Eagle Scout winner was raised from \$200 to \$300, for example – the focus of the discussion centered on reducing expenses.

The Board of Managers endorsed all the NSSAR candidates that are unopposed and those positions that are contested, an endorsement was decided by written ballot. Those endorsements include J. David Sympson of Kentucky for secretary general, Larry Guzy of Georgia for treasurer general and William Allerton of Louisiana for SAR Foundation.

## Compatriots are urged to support the SAR Library

The SAR Library is a vital part of the National Society. In a recent *Leader Express* article, the SAR Library Director, Michael Christian, invites potential donors to contribute books relating to genealogy, the Revolutionary War and the Colonial Period.

Michael Wells, Birmingham chapter member and past ALSSAR president, is chairman of the NSSAR Library Committee and C. Bruce Pickette, ALSSAR secretary and past president of the Gen. Richard Montgomery chapter, is a member of that committee.

At the last ALSSAR Board of Managers meeting, Pickette volunteered to coordinate donations that ALSSAR members desire to make.

For several years, the ALSSAR has contributed \$300 annually to the library for the purchase of books specially related to Alabama. The Alabama collection currently consists of approximately 428 books.

Christian has requested assistance in the selection of additional books as a result of the donation and also expressed the willingness to obtain such books as the ALSSAR members think would be beneficial to the collection, whether they are part of the donation amount or separately recommended and contributed.

Since the library does not typically collect duplicate materials, it is necessary to check with Christian or check the online catalog at <http://sar.library.net> before sending a book donation. Although not a requirement to do so, should you desire to contribute or recommend a book, contact Pickette at [pickette@att.net](mailto:pickette@att.net) or 334-273-4680. Gifts from members are greatly appreciated!

Another area of donation is membership in the Friends of the SAR Library. This membership is \$25 per year and primarily contributes to the Library Endowment Fund. The Friends of the Library brochure (with application form) may be viewed on, and printed from, the SAR website (<http://www.sar.org/forms/form-FoL.pdf>).

Other library donation programs described in the brochure are the Benjamin Franklin Subscriber, Library Endowment Fund, and Robert Morris Benefactor.

All donations are recognized by a formal acknowledgment from the library.

## Compatriot elected to U.S. Congress

Compatriot Bobby Bright was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in November and will represent the Second District in Congress when he takes office in January.

Bright was inducted into the Gen. Richard Montgomery chapter in September, 2007, as a descendent of Johan Peter Strozier, a soldier in the Georgia Militia.

A native of Midland City, Bright attended Carroll High in Ozark and earned degrees from Auburn and Troy. The Montgomery attorney has served as the mayor of Montgomery since 1999.

He will take over the position formerly held by Terry Everett and will become only the seventh person to represent the Second District in the last century.



**BRIGHT**



**Alabama Society**  
**Sons of the American Revolution**  
**ANNUAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION**  
**FEBRUARY 27-28, 2009**  
**MOBILE, ALABAMA**

The General Galvez Chapter invites all compatriots and their guests to the ALSSAR State Convention, February 27-28, 2009 at the Radisson Admiral Semmes Hotel, located at 251 Government Street in downtown Mobile. A reception will be held Friday evening from 6:30-8:00 P.M. to give attendees a chance to meet and greet each other. A George Washington Breakfast will be held Saturday morning at 7 A.M. The ALSSAR Business Meeting will follow at 9:00 A.M., followed by the Oration Contest. We are working on some activities for your enjoyment Saturday afternoon. Details will be available in the registration packet you will receive when you arrive.

We have reserved a block of rooms at a special rate of \$90.00 per night (includes parking). **You must call the Radisson Admiral Semmes Hotel directly at (251) 432-8000 and mention that you are attending the ALSSAR State Convention. Hotel reservation deadline is February 1<sup>st</sup>** If for some reason you become unable to attend, you may cancel your hotel reservations prior to February 12<sup>th</sup> without penalty. Make your reservation early to assure you have a room.

**REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR ATTENDANCE AT ALL FUNCTIONS.**  
**ALSSAR 2009 Convention**  
**Registration Form**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CHAPTER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**OFFICE HELD:** \_\_\_\_\_ **NAME OF GUEST(S)** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>REGISTRATION FEE:</b>	SAR MEMBERS	_____ x \$30=	_____
	AFTER FEB 1st	_____ x \$40=	_____
	GUESTS	_____ x \$10=	_____
	AFTER FEB 1st	_____ x \$15=	_____

**GEORGE WASHINGTON BREAKFAST**  
 7 A.M. Saturday (open to all) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$22= \_\_\_\_\_

**SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUET**  
 (Black tie for head table and new officers; others: tuxedo, uniform, or coat and tie; appropriate dress for ladies.)  
 7 P.M. Saturday \_\_\_\_\_ x \$32= \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE ENTER THE NUMBER FOR EACH ENTREE SELECTION(S)**

**Stuffed Greek Chicken** \_\_\_\_\_

**Grilled Pork Loin Medallions** \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate how many in your party will be attending the Friday night reception: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail your completed registration form along with your check payable to **ALSSAR** to:  
**Price L. Legg, Chairman, 2009 ALSSAR Convention, General Galvez Chapter, 12170 County Road 99, Lillian, AL 36549-5120** to arrive **no later than February 1, 2009.**

*In Memory of*  
**Noel Turner, Sr.**

Revolutionary Soldier  
1764-1837

Great-great-great grandfather of  
Howard Murfee Schramm, Jr.  
General Galvez Chapter

To help cover a portion of the expenses we will incur in hosting the 2009 ALSSAR State Convention and to help keep the registration fee low, The General Galvez Chapter is soliciting donation for advertisements, memorials and honorariums that will be printed in the convention booklet.

The memorial above is a sample. The sizes and associated donation amounts are as follows:

¼ page	\$25
½ page	\$50
Full Page	\$100

You may want to honor an ancestor or relative who served or is serving in the military. For each advertisement, memorial or honorarium please send camera ready copy if possible, or include the following information:

1. The name of the person you are honoring
2. Military service
3. Member's name
4. Member's relationship to the person
5. You may include other information as space will allow

Last, but not least, please include a check for your total donation, depending on the amount of space you are requesting. **Deadline for donations is January 15, 2009**

Make your check payable to ALSSAR and mail to:

Price L. Legg, Chairman  
2009 ALSSAR Convention  
General Galvez Chapter  
12170 County Road 99  
Lillian, AL 36549-5120

## In Memory...

By **CHALLEN STEPHENS**  
**Huntsville Times**

From liberating a German concentration camp to surviving an earthquake in the company of Mexican artist Diego Rivera, the life of Dr. John Rison Jones Jr. led him across the globe, providing him half-forgotten tales of encounters with movie stars and socialites and artists.

Jones, a history professor and art collector and policymaker at the U.S. Department of Education, ended his wanderings about 20 years ago, returning home to Huntsville to help create the local art museum. Jones died Wednesday (Nov. 5) at his home, lying in the same bed in which he had been born. He was 84. He requested no services.

"John Rison was a person with very broad interests and tastes, but I think you can put them in two zones, history and the arts," said Clayton Bass, president of the Huntsville Museum of Art. "He was one of those amazing people that if you ever knew him, if you ever crossed his path, you are thankful."

Jones, who had a particular passion for historical portraits from Alabama, was the leading contributor to the museum's collection. Having taught history at Washington & Lee University and later at Southern Methodist University, he would eventually contribute to books, articles and plays regarding Huntsville history.

"The first thing that came to mind is that Huntsville lost its greatest living historian," said his long-time friend Randy Roper.

But Roper also recalled Jones' manners and his dinner parties and his tales of foreign trav-

els.

"He entertained beautifully. He always was dressed impeccably. He just had great style," said Roper. "His house was filled with art. Just an unbelievable collection."

Jones was descended from the earliest settlers of Madison County, able to trace his fifth-generation roots back to 1809. He graduated from Huntsville High in 1942 and enlisted in the Army later that year.

As an infantry private, he spent a week in the Nordhausen, Germany, liberating a Nazi concentration camp. Decades later, he would famously confront a Holocaust denier during a talk at Huntsville's public library.

"In the middle of his speech, John Rison got up and called him out. He said, 'I was there. You're a liar and a fraud,'" recalled long-time friend Lakin Boyd. "That impressed me."

By most accounts, Jones did not require much cajoling to tell a tale about one of his many brushes with fame. Seated at a funeral with the Duke and Duchess of Windsor. Lunch with Katherine Hepburn. Tales of Tony Curtis, Rock Hudson, and Gertrude Stein.

"If you knew him well, one thing he certainly knew how to do was embellish the truth," said Boyd, "but perhaps the most incredible aspect of life was his service in World War II, yet that was a part of his life he would never talk about."

When he got out of the Army, Jones went to the University of the South in Sewanee, Tenn., where he majored in history. In 2006, Jones recalled that period of his life, telling *The Times* that the war had left him with the

## Dr. John Rison Jones

need to "understand why things happen."

"It was difficult to come back to a segregated South," he said two years ago. "It didn't make any sense. We went out to rid the world of evil, and we were perpetrating our own evil at home. And look at our record of treatment of native Americans.

"I'll tell you, I was one messed up kid. Fortunately, I had two wonderful professors at Sewanee who literally took me apart and put me back together."

He then went on to earn his doctorate in history at the University of North Carolina and was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to the University of Paris.

After several years of teaching, Jones went to Washington, D.C., to work for the U.S. Department of Education. He served as Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education. He retired in 1986. Back in Huntsville, Jones served on the museum board, heading its acquisitions committee. He also served on the Greater Huntsville Community Foundation, the Historic Huntsville Foundation and several other preservation groups. He also helped decide the placement of historic markers for the Historical Commission.

"He was like a living encyclopedia," said Bass at the art museum. "When he passed away, he took something with him that was wonderful and profound and, I regret to say, probably not replaceable."

*Jones was a dedicated member of the Tennessee Valley chapter and the Alabama Society since 1996.*

## Montgomery native leaves \$1 million donation to SAR

The trustees of the William C. Drinkard Charitable Foundation have selected the NSSAR's Center for Advancing America's Heritage to receive a donation of \$1 million. The gift will be used for the construction, development, staffing and operation of the William C. Drinkard Jr. Education Gallery, a cornerstone of the center's new location on Louisville's "Museum Row" on West Main Street.

Drinkard was born on May 11, 1929 in Montgomery. He grew up in the Capital City and attended Huntingdon College, where he was president of the chemistry club and received his bachelor's degree in 1950. He received advanced chemical training at Auburn University and at the University of Illinois. He began his professional career as a chemistry professor at

UCLA for four years before joining DuPont in 1960.

He retired in 1985 after reaching the level of associate director of the Central Research Department. He earned a worldwide reputation for his invention of a catalytic process to convert butadiene to adiponitrile, the key to low-cost nylon manufacturing. He held more than 20 U.S. patents and was the author of several papers relating to his field. He was honored in 1998 with the American Chemical Society Award in industrial chemistry.

Drinkard, a former member of the Delaware Society, died earlier this year and directed in his will that his entire estate be distributed to charitable organizations. The trustees of his estate decided his largest gift should be directed to the NSSAR.

# Montgomery, Prattville chapters join forces at December chapter banquet

The Gen. Richard Montgomery chapter held its annual winter banquet on Dec. 16 at the Montgomery Country Club and included members from the newly created John Archer Elmore chapter in its meeting.

Eighty-five members from the two chapters were on hand to listen to featured speaker Frank White, the executive director of the Alabama Historical Commission.

White, a native of Tennessee who has worked for the last 11 years with the Georgia Trust, was brought into his new position on Jan. 2, 2007, to reorganize the organization.

"We have made a lot of progress," White promised. Some of that progress, however, may be undermined by the economic crunch which has brought on proration to most government departments.

"The good news is we saw this coming," White said. "I think we're going to be fine. We'll have to make some sacrifices, but that's OK."

White praised ALSSAR compatriots for their efforts in promoting and preserving history.

"Y'all keep up the good work," he said, "because our history is so important and sharing it with our youth is so critical."

The banquet opened with a presentation from the November orations winner, Bethany Pate. The Evangel Christian Academy senior presented her oration, "George Washington: Setting the Example for Presidents Today," that she will take to the state convention in February.

Chapter president Stan Phillips then presented awards to several chapter members, including Color Guard members Jack Caraway, Larry Cornwell, Michael McCreedy and Brad Sanders (another member, Dick Wells, was unable to attend).

Phillips handed out certificates of appreciation to the 2008 officers and a special "Extraordinary Contributions Award" to Cornwell for his contributions in speaking to area civic and educational organizations as well as his tireless dedication to recruiting new members to the chapter.

Cornwell's wife, Leanne, was presented an Oak Leaf Cluster for her Martha Washington medal as well.

The chapter inducted two new members, Clark Dorsey and Ken Mahan, then turned its attention to inducting the new 2009 officers for the Richard Montgomery and John Archer Elmore chapters.



—Photo by Bruce Pickette

***Compatriot Larry Cornwell, right, installs the 2009 officers of the Richard Montgomery and John Archer Elmore chapters.***

The officers for the Elmore chapter are Billy Spears, president; Wayne Sewell, vice-president; Chris Booth, secretary; Al Booth, treasurer; Bill Branch, chaplain; and Frank Rivers, registrar.

"I am honored to be a member of the Sons of the American Revolution," Spears said in his acceptance speech, "and I'm looking forward to being president of the Gen. John Archer Elmore chapter."

Phillips was elected president of the Richard Montgomery chapter for a second consecutive year, along with Dick Erickson, vice-president; Richard Hobson, secretary; George

W. Gayle, treasurer; Michael McCreedy, historian; Walter Stevenson, genealogist; Larry Cornwell, registrar; Brad Sanders, chaplain; and Ron Davis, sergeant-at-arms.

Phillips, in his acceptance speech, said one of his biggest rewards is belonging to an organization whose members "value the contributions of their forefathers. To me, no other organization measures up to the integrity, the patriotism and the ideals of the Sons of the American Revolution."

Past chapter and state president Larry Cornwell installed the 2009 officers for both chapters.



—Photo by Bruce Pickette

**DAR member receives chapter award**

DAR member Lynna Meadows, second from left, became the first DAR member to be awarded the SAR Medal and Certificate of Appreciation for obtaining at least three new SAR members for the Gen. Richard Montgomery chapter. Lynna and her daughter Shanna Carter were also presented SAR membership certificates for Lynna’s sons Paul and Matthew Spivey and youth registration certificates for Shanna’s sons Jonathan and Jason Carter by chapter president Stan Phillips, left, and registrar Larry Cornwell, right.

**Bethany Pate wins Montgomery orations contest**

The Gen. Richard Montgomery chapter held its annual Rumbaugh orations contest at its November meeting at the Montgomery Country Club, featuring two competitors from local private schools. Patriot Bill Scanlan directed the competition and Larry Cornwell, Philip Davis and Michael McCreedy served as judges. Jeff Samuel was the timekeeper.

Miss Bethany Lyn Pate represented Evangel Christian Academy. Bethany is daughter of Keith Pate, a minister of music, and Evelyn Pate. Evelyn served as her daughter’s coach. Martha Dempsey was Bethany’s school sponsor.

Bethany is senior Student Government Association class representative and past SGA School Reporter. She is a member of the National Honor Society and National Society of School Scholars, “A” honor roll, a vocalist and keyboard player for the Praise Band; and state secretary for the 4-H Club.

Pate is involved with the YMCA, Red Cross and Salvation Army. Her future plans are to become an aerospace engineer specializing in rocketry. She identifies her ultimate goal as to work for NASA designing rockets and to become an astronaut.

Bethany’s winning oration “George Washington: Setting the Example for Presidents Today” was perfectly and per-



—Photo by Bruce Pickette

**Pate and runner-up Clint Mitchell are presented certificates by Richard Montgomery chapter president Stan Phillips, left, and Bill Scanlan.**

suasively delivered. She received a cash prize and was later presented with an Olympic size medal at the year end banquet. Bethany will represent the chapter in the ALSSAR competition in 2009.

Runner-up Clint Mitchell represented

Alabama Christian Academy. He is the son of Ross Mitchell, a minister and Tia Mitchell, a teacher. He will represent the chapter in the event Bethany is not able to attend.

—Mike Manasco



—Photo by Jim Gilmer

### *Wiregrass inducts new members*

*The Wiregrass chapter inducted two new members at its November meeting. Chapter President Dr. Jack Oden (left) presented certificates to Malon Murphy (center) and W. Perry Vickers (right). What made this unique is that Malon and Perry are brothers-in-law. To make it even more of a family affair, a new membership application for Perry's brother has already been submitted and sister Claire Vickers Murphy is in the process of applying for DAR membership.*

## Make plans now for 2009 Congress in Atlanta

The 119th annual Congress is being hosted by the Georgia Society in metro Atlanta. Our host hotel is the Marriott Renaissance Waverly in Cobb County/Marietta. The Georgia Society last hosted Congress in 1983 so they are ready to show us Southern hospitality (with grits to be served instead of potatoes)! This is the last Congress over the Fourth of July so they have some exciting events to offer working with this special occasion. With great rates and important pieces of business to resolve, the attendance is expected to be high so early registration is encouraged. For complete information on all events, visit [www.sar.org](http://www.sar.org) and go to 119th Congress.

Registration of \$285 includes the host reception on Saturday (July 4) from 4-6 p.m.; memorial service on Sunday 2:30-3:30 p.m.; youth awards luncheon on Monday; the President General's banquet on Tuesday; and the Installation Banquet on Wednesday, July 8. Although Registration includes these items, for proper seating and arrangements check the form to indicate your intention to attend them. Registration after June 1 is \$310.

The optional events are as follows:

- Friday, July 3, 8 am-12:30 pm — **Genealogy Seminar.** Join us at 8:30am for a morning session of great speakers. Registration is \$20 SAR/DAR, \$25 all others, after June 1st \$30 for all.

- Friday, July 3, 10 am to 3:30 pm — "Four-ball" 18-hole **Golf Tournament** at City Club of Marietta. 18 holes, cart and lunch, all inclusive cost is \$82.

- Friday, July 3, 7-10 pm — Join us after your dinner for **Social Hours.** First drink included \$10.

- Saturday, July 4, 9 am-2 pm — **Tour 1: The Booth Museum and Cartersville.** Fantastic Presidents Hall and Western Art Collection. Lunch included, \$57.

- Saturday, July 4, 9 am-2 pm — **Tour 2: Kennesaw Mountain National Park & Southern Museum of Civil War & Locomotive History.** The Engine General calls this home. Lunch

included, \$50.

- Sunday, July 5, 8-9:30 am — **Color Guard Breakfast.** Planning and coordination working breakfast for any Color Guardsmen. \$24.

- Monday, July 6, 7-8:30 am — **Council of State Presidents Breakfast** for current, immediate past and potential future State Presidents. Nominations for the eight slots for the Nominating Committee are started here. \$25.

- Tuesday, July 7, 7-8:45 am — **Southern District Breakfast.** Deep South folks enjoying their own language and carrying on business \$24 (grits spoken here).

- Tuesday, July 7, 7-8:45 am — **Atlantic Middle States Breakfast.** If you are one, join them for the only breakfast with potatoes. \$26.

- Tuesday, July 7, 11:30-2:30 pm — **Ladies Luncheon,** terrific food and great program in the Habersham Ballroom in the Hotel. \$44.

- Tuesday, July 7, 12-1:30pm — **George Washington Fellows and VPsG Luncheon.** Join those who choose to support the GWEF for an entertaining fellowship lunch. VPsG will depart at 1 pm for their meeting. \$37.

- Wednesday, July 8, 7-8:45am — **SAR 1000 Breakfast.** Join all those who support the various funds of the SAR in celebration of another great year. \$24.

- Wednesday, July 8, 11:30am-3:30pm — **Tour 3: Cyclorama and City Tour.** See the Battle of Atlanta in this historic Diorama where the Engine Texas calls home, preceded by a tour of the City. Lunch included \$50.

- Wednesday, July 8, 11:30am-4:30pm — **Tour 4: Stone Mountain Park.** You thought Mt. Rushmore was big, the carving on the face of this 800-foot granite rock dwarfs the carvers' other famous one in South Dakota. All attractions including the lift to the top and lunch included. \$68.

## Cahaba-Coosa chapter marks final resting place of Revolutionary War veteran Jonathan Clower

On Oct. 19, 2008, the members of the Cahaba-Coosa chapter marked the final resting place of Revolutionary War veteran Jonathan Clower at his burial spot in northern Chilton County.

Approximately 45 people were in attendance at the ceremony, including seven descendants of the patriot.

Descendants of Jonathan Clower came from as far away as Texas and Arkansas to attend the ceremony. Scott Martin, a Clower descendant and former president of the Cahaba-Coosa chapter, organized the dedication and also provided the family history to those in attendance.

Alan Dismukes, current president of the Cahaba-Coosa chapter, presented the state wreath.

Other groups represented at the grave dedication were the Chilton Cemetery Association, the Chilton County Historical Society, the Shelby County Historical Society, the Alabama Cemetery Preservation Alliance and the Alabama Historical Commission.

Clower was born on Dec. 3, 1763 in Berks County, Penn., and served in the North Continental Line. He fought at the Battle of Eutaw Springs and the Battle of Dorchester and was discharged on May 20, 1782 in Charleston, S.C., by Colonel Lee.

After the war, he married Mary Shular and they had 12 children (nine daughters and three sons). They eventually migrated to Alabama and were among the first settlers of what is now Chilton County.

Clower died Sept. 18, 1837 in Shelby County (now part of Chilton County) and his grave is the earliest recorded grave in Chilton County. His gravesite, known as Caviness Gardens, is named for Clower's son in law, Andrew Caviness, who owned the land on which Clower is buried.

Mary Clower, widow of Jonathan Clower, applied for a pension in Shelby County on Nov. 8, 1844. Around 1850, the Clower and related families moved westward, most of them settling in Arkansas and Texas. Mary Clower died on Sept. 3, 1853 and is buried in Drew County, Arkansas.

—Scott Martin



—Photo courtesy of Scott Martin

*Clower descendant and former Cahaba-Coosa president Scott Martin, left, and chapter president Alan Dismukes presided over the ceremony.*



—Photo courtesy of John Wallace

### *A valuable history lesson*

*At a recent grave marking in Dale County for Patriot Ruben Ard, Color Guard member John Kelsoe took the time to explain his flintlock rifle to fifth and sixth generation descendants of Patriot Ard. After his impromptu presentation, Kelsoe was approached about appearing in some of the local schools to discuss his uniform and weapon. One of the best ways ALSSAR members can keep our patriotic heritage alive is to interact one on one with the younger generations whenever possible. The ceremony was sponsored by the Dothan DAR chapter with support from the Wiregrass chapter.*

**ALABAMA SOCIETY, SONS OF  
THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

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**NEWSLETTER OF THE ALSSAR**

3573 Foxhall Drive Phone: 334-279-2054  
Montgomery, AL 36111 E-mail: [timgayle@knology.net](mailto:timgayle@knology.net)



**Visit the ALSSAR Web site at [www.alssar.org](http://www.alssar.org)**

**Send in your chapter's news to be included in the next newsletter**

Please submit any information about your chapter's activities or notice of upcoming events by March 10 to Tim Gayle at 3573 Foxhall Drive, Montgomery, AL 36111 or send photos or stories via e-mail to [timgayle@knology.net](mailto:timgayle@knology.net).

## Montgomery compatriot tours civic, history groups

Gen. Richard Montgomery compatriot Larry Cornwell continued his tour of local civic and history classes with a recent trip to the Jefferson Davis High School Advanced Placement American History classes in Montgomery, where he lectured on the Revolutionary War soldier.

Cornwell has given this talk this past year at the Prattville Rotary Club, two fifth grade classes at the Daniel Pratt Elementary School in Prattville, the Montgomery Civitan Club, the Chilton County Historical Society, a large family reunion in Vernon and the Askesis Study Club in Prattville.

He has additionally lectured on the "Christian Faith of Our Patriot Forefathers" at the Woodland United Methodist Church in Montgomery, a Cahaba-Coosa chapter meeting, the Francis Marion chapter of the DAR and the Cloverdale United Methodist Church men's group.

Children at Daniel Pratt Elementary sent him colorful thank you notes (which can be viewed at [www.alssar.org](http://www.alssar.org) by clicking on Gen. Richard Montgomery chapter, then on Notes from Mrs. Kayser's Fifth Grade Class ).

—Larry Cornwell



—Photo by Colt Sinclair

**Gen. Richard Montgomery compatriot Larry Cornwell discusses the Revolutionary soldier to a history class at Jeff Davis High School.**