

# SAR Alabama

Volume 20, Number 4

December, 2006

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear ALSSAR compatriots:  
2006 has flown by, the Alabama Society convention is just around the corner, and I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued dedication and service to the Sons of the American Revolution. You've been most gracious in having Leanne and me visit your chapters. We've witnessed, first hand, your enthusiasm in keeping the spirit of your patriot ancestors alive.

There is a lot of talent in each of your chapters. I foresee continual growth in our membership and am excited about the prospect of developing new chapters. Continue to reach out to the DAR chapters in your area, not only for combined programs but to further your recruitment efforts.

I thank Tim Gayle, our SAR Alabama editor, and Ron Diamond, our webmaster, for their tireless efforts this past year to bring you the state society news. Thank you also to our state officers who have given freely of their time and talents. I look forward to a long and continuing friendship with every Alabama Society compatriot.

See you in Montgomery in February!

—Larry Cornwell

## ALSSAR state convention set for Feb. 16-17 in Montgomery

The annual ALSSAR state convention, which will be hosted by the Gen. Richard Montgomery chapter this year, promises to be one to remember.

NSSAR President General Nathan White and his wife Wanda will be our special guests and NSSAR Genealogist General Chuck Bragg will be here with his wife

Karen to deliver the keynote address at the awards banquet on Saturday evening.

Unless you are staying with a friend or family member, you won't get a better deal than our convention site, the new Drury Inn just off I-85 at the Eastern Boulevard.

There is still time to get your reservations in. Every effort has been made to keep

the cost of the convention down.

All SAR members pay a \$25 registration fee and the banquet is only \$30 per person. Other guests pay only for the banquet if that is all they are attending.

However, if they want to attend the Friday evening

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—Photo courtesy of Glenn Nivens

### SAR Color Guard marks 225th anniversary of Yorktown

*Cahaba-Coosa compatriot William Wyatt (right side of photo, wearing white) carries the Alabama state flag in the SAR Color Guard parade during the 225th anniversary of the Surrender at Yorktown on Oct. 19. The four-day event at the Colonial Historical National Park in Virginia included speeches by French and American dignitaries marking the end of the Revolutionary War when British Gen. Charles Cornwallis surrendered to George Washington on Oct. 19, 1781.*



## Wiregrass pays homage to Solomon Wright's family

Under clear blue skies in Henry County some 80 people joined the Wiregrass chapter and other patriotic lineage organizations in remembering Revolutionary War soldier Solomon Wright, his sons who fought in the War of 1812 and grandsons and a great-grandson who served with the Confederacy.

The event, which was held on Oct. 14 at the Wright Chapel Cemetery near Edwin, was the culmination of more than a year of planning and work, not only in clearing parts of the cemetery but coordinating with numerous groups to assist in the program.

While not considered in the initial planning, the date of the program could not have been more fitting, coming just five days before the 225th anniversary of the Battle of Yorktown. According to Solomon Wright's pension application he participated in the Battle of Eutaw Springs which forced the British to withdraw and attempt to regroup in Yorktown.

Sixteen color guard participants were on hand including two from the Florida Society, three from the Mississippi Society, two from the Sons of the Confederate Veterans and elements from the Tri-State, Cahaba-Coosa and Wiregrass chapters of the ALSAR.

Active participation by the Daughters of the American Revolution, War of 1812 Societies, the United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Sons of Confederate Veterans contributed to the overall success of the day's program.

Seven wreaths were presented during the program to honor the four generations of the Wright family who had answered the call to arms of their country through the years.

The wee of Oct. 8-14 had been declared "Solomon Wright Week" by the Henry County Commission and the proclamation was presented during the program.

The dedication of the bronze SAR patriot marker for Solomon Wright was conducted by Wiregrass chapter president John Fuller, ALSSAR chaplain Rev. Walter Reeder and descendant Wayne Wright from Mississippi.

Other highlights of the program included chapter piper Dr. Nelson Gwinn playing "Amazing Grace," followed by a four-man musket volley by compatriots Andy Spann, John Kelsoe and Bruce Taylor augmented by Jerry Hicks of the Sons of the Confederate Veterans. This was immediately followed by "Taps," played by chapter bugler Bob Portman.

Nothing but positive comments were received from family members who attended from Mississippi, Florida, Louisiana and various sections of Alabama.

Compatriot Mark Steetle served as the event chairman for the Wiregrass chapter.

—John Wallace



—Photo courtesy of John Wallace

*The cemetery as it appeared a little more than a year ago.*



—Photo by Jim Clark

*A volley is fired by SAR compatriots Andy Spann, John Kelsoe and Bruce Taylor along with SCV's Jerry Hicks.*



—Photo by Jim Clark

*Nelson Gwinn plays "Amazing Grace" during ceremony.*

## *In Memory...*

### **John Capell Buck Meek**

The Alabama Society recently lost two compatriots dedicated to the state's heritage, including a member of the Gen. Richard Montgomery chapter.

**JOHN SIMPSON CAPELL JR.**, 81 and a former resident of Hueytown and Montgomery, died on Dec. 1, 2006 following a lingering illness.

Capell's brother Clifton, also a member of the Gen. Richard Montgomery chapter, passed away on Jan. 7, 2006.

John Capell was born on July 17, 1925 in Camden, the son of John Simpson and Mary Lucile Powell Capell. He spent much of his life in Montgomery, where he was employed by the state Department of Corrections for 37 years.

In addition to his service to the ALSSAR, he was a member of the Mayflower Society and the First Families of Alabama. The Capell family were among the earliest settlers of Wilcox County.

He was a member of the North Highland's Baptist Church in Hueytown.

Capell was preceded in death by his wife Bobbie Shadix Capell. He is survived by his step-daughters Kathy Pope and Carol McCutcheon, his step-grandsons Craig Haynes, John Rice and Michael Haygood; his step-granddaughters Carrie Tyson and Bridgett Wade; three nephews and five nieces.

Services were held on Dec. 3 at Jefferson Memorial Gardens in Trussville.

With the death of **WALTER BUCHANAN "BUCK" MEEK**

on Nov. 19, 2006, the ALSSAR lost a good friend.

Over the years he was a familiar face at many of our state conventions and he took a keen interest in the activities of our state society.

His sage advice and support of the SAR will be missed not only by the ALSSAR, but also the MSSAR, the Southern District and the NSSAR. While Buck served with distinction as both the President of the Mississippi Society and the Southern District Vice-President General, he will always be remembered as "Mr. GWEF". His years as the chairman of the George Washington Endowment Fund Fundraising Committee and strong commitment to assuring financial support of the national society's committees' activities earned him the National Distinguished Service Medal in 2002. Those GW fellows who received their pin from Buck will always recall the experience and his quick wit when presenting the pin. His efforts during the early years of the GWEF have resulted in a national endowment fund, which is valued today at more than \$900,000.

His wide ranges of activities included being a successful attorney, farmer and cattle rancher, insurance broker, active church member and a Mississippi state representative. By far his greatest love was his family and he leaves behind his wife of 56 years, Patsy, along with three children and numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

—Photo courtesy of Glenn Nivens

### *Lindsay dedication*

*ALSSAR Color Guard members assisted in the dedication of a marker for patriot David Lindsay on Oct. 1 at the American Village. From left, Kerry Barksdale, Eddie Bowling, Glenn Nivens, William Wyatt and Andy Spann listen while Helen Phillips, regent of the DAR's David Lindsay chapter, addresses the audience. Lindsay (1750-1835), a Revolutionary War soldier of the Virginia Continental Line and a pioneer of Shelby County, was honored with the dedication of a memorial stone.*



*Alabama Society*  
*Sons of the American Revolution*  
**Annual Convention Registration**  
**February 16-17, 2007**  
**Drury Inn & Suites, Montgomery, Alabama**

The General Richard Montgomery Chapter invites all compatriots and their guests to the ALSSAR State Convention, February 16-17, 2007 at the Drury Inn, 1124 Eastern Boulevard in Montgomery, at exit 6 of I-85.

We have reserved a block of rooms at a special rate of \$64.00 plus tax per night for king and \$74.00 plus tax per night for two queens. We've blocked 40 rooms: 25 kings and 15 with two queens, so **make your reservations before January 16, 2007 to guarantee this rate.** With the price of the room, per day, you will be able to enjoy a **complimentary hot quick start breakfast, three evening cocktails & snacks, one hour long distance, and wireless Internet.**

For those with Internet access, the following link is very user friendly way to reserve your room:

<http://reservations.druryhotels.com/GroupReservationConfirmation.aspx?GroupNo=600352>

All others will need to call 1-800-325-0720. Request the Montgomery Drury Inn & Suites (Code 126), give the group name "Sons of the American Revolution" and provide a credit card number to guarantee the reservation.

**THE REGISTRATION FEE IS REQUIRED FOR ALL SAR MEMBERS.**  
**IT IS ALSO REQUIRED FOR GUESTS ATTENDING ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:**

**Friday night reception, Saturday morning George Washington Breakfast for those not staying at the Drury Inn, Saturday afternoon reception/tour of the Alabama Archives, and hospitality room. The fee also includes van transportation for Drury Inn hotel guests to the Alabama Archives and Maxwell AFB.**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

CURRENT OFFICE \_\_\_\_\_ \*NAME OF GUEST \_\_\_\_\_

\*ADDITIONAL GUESTS \_\_\_\_\_

**\*It's critical that you list your guests' names for nametags and for entry to Maxwell AFB.**

**REGISTRATION FEE:** SAR Member (required): \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 After January 16<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ x \$35 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 GUEST (optional): \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 After January 16<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**SATURDAY EVENING BUFFET BANQUET - MAXWELL OFFICERS CLUB**

(Black tie, Revolutionary War uniform, or coat and tie; appropriate dress for ladies)

6:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_ x \$30 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Mail your registration form along with your check payable to: General Richard Montgomery Chapter, SAR, to:  
 George Gayle  
 Treasurer, 2007 ALSSAR Convention  
 2150 Ester Street  
 Montgomery, AL 36110-2410

*Alabama Society*  
*Sons of the American Revolution*  
**Annual Convention**  
**February 16-17, 2007**  
**The Drury Inn & Suites, Montgomery, Alabama**  
**& The Officers Club, Maxwell Air Force Base**

Friday, February 16

3-5 p.m.      Hospitality Room Open  
3-6 p.m.      Registration, Hotel Lobby  
6-10 p.m.     Reception, Meeting Room

Saturday, February 17

6:30 - 8 a.m.    George Washington Buffet Breakfast, Meeting Room  
8 a.m.          Breakfast Oration, Mike Manasco, "Words of the Patriot Heart"  
9-11 a.m.        Hospitality Room Open  
9-11 a.m.        Annual Business Meeting  
11 a.m.          Orations Contest  
12-1 p.m.        Lunch (on own)  
1-2 p.m.          Annual Business Meeting (continuation, if needed)  
2-4 p.m.          Reception and Tours, Alabama Archives and History Building  
  
6 p.m.            Activities begin at Maxwell AFB Officers Club (cocktails)  
7 p.m.            Buffet Dinner  
8:30 p.m.        Program. Guest Speaker, Charles Bragg, Genealogist General

**Order Form for Purchasing Advertisements and Memorials  
to be placed in the Annual Convention Booklet**

**¼ page: \$35.00    ½ page: \$60.00    Full page: \$99.00**

**Attach a copy of the ad as you would like to see it published, and mail a check for the size of the ad payable to: General Richard Montgomery Chapter, SAR, to:**

**George Gayle  
Treasurer, 2007 ALSSAR Convention  
2150 Ester Street  
Montgomery AL 36110-2410**

## Richard Montgomery chapter presents award to DAR member

Reconvening after the summer break, the Gen. Richard Montgomery chapter recently kicked off its fall program by presenting Susan Mathews with the SAR Medal of Appreciation.

Mathews, a past Regent of the Anne Phillips chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, was presented the award by chapter president Bruce Pickette.

The medal can be presented to DAR members in recognition of and in appreciation for outstanding services rendered to the SAR, as she was instrumental in having at least three members of her family join the SAR.

In addition to the recent induction of her husband, retired oral surgeon Dr. John Mathews, into the chapter, the couple's three children — John Mathews III, Page Sanders Mathews and William Jackson Mathews — also were inducted.

Pickette noted the presentation was a "first" for the chapter and expressed the hopes that other "Daughters" might also help other "Sons" and that the recent cooperation between the SAR and DAR will continue.

—Bruce Pickette



—Photo courtesy of Bruce Pickette

***Pickette, left, presents award to DAR's Susan Mathews as her husband John looks on.***



—Photo courtesy of Charles Howell

***Cheaha chapter vice-president William Rozier, right, presents flag certificate to Daniell Brown.***

## Cheaha donates money to library

At the Cheaha chapter's November meeting, ALSSAR president Larry Cornwell gave an outstanding program on "Getting Members Further Involved in the SAR."

Chapter vice-president and flag chairman William Rozier presented a flag certificate to Daniell M. Brown for his display of the American flag and the chapter donated \$100 to the An-niston/Calhoun Public Library to purchase material for genealogical research.

In September, guest speaker Glenn Nivens spoke on the Blue Star Salute, Patriot William Jennings grave-marking ceremony, the American Village Christmas program and National Veteran's Day events.

Chapter president Charles Howell inducted Louis Cleveland Culver into the chapter as a new member.

Rozier presented members with updated 2006-2007 yearbooks and presented flag certificates to Junious Cates and Gary Mayo.

Registrar Charles Dinsmore reported that there are six prospective members and three prospective chapter transfers.

—Charles Howell



—Photo by Jim Gilmer

## Constitutional Week Awards luncheon

***Among the 60 members and guests attending the Wiregrass chapter's SAR-DAR Constitutional Week Awards luncheon on Sept. 21 were ALSAR president Larry Cornwell and ALSDAR regent Shelby D. Ward. The luncheon, co-hosted with the DAR's John Coffee chapter, is an annual event and provides an opportunity for each group to recognize the work of members of the community. The SAR Law Enforcement Award was presented to retired Coffee County Probate Judge Marion B. Brunson. Pictured are, from left: Cornwell, Ward, Wiregrass chapter president John R. Fuller and Mrs. Lucy Luck, vice-regent of the DAR's John Coffee chapter.***

# Gen. Richard Montgomery honors patriot

By Tatiana Richards  
Montgomery Advertiser

The final resting place of Dixon Hall sits in a small plot of land near Lagoon Park. Employees of a local business regularly maintain the lone grave site, keeping the grass neat around the marble headstone.

Hall rests alone, but the veteran of the Revolutionary War is not forgotten.

A local heritage group honored Hall on Oct. 15 and is working to make sure other Revolutionary War soldiers buried in Montgomery are recognized as well.

The General Richard Montgomery chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution held a gravemarking ceremony Sunday for Hall at the grave site on Midpark Road. The dedication marked the chapter's first ceremony but it won't be the last.

"We have other soldiers buried all around and we hope to have ceremonies for each," Larry P. Cornwall, president of the Alabama Society of SAR, said.

"That's one of the goals of the Sons of American Revolution, to identify the graves of soldiers and said, 'Thank you,'" Cornwall said.

To Cornwall's knowledge, there are at least four other grave sites of Revolutionary War soldiers in the area.

Dixon fought in the Revolutionary War for his native state of Virginia. He came to Montgomery in 1818 to join his brother and died here in 1820.

Among the hundred or so people who gathered Sunday to pay tribute to Dixon



—Photo courtesy of Bruce Pickette

***ALSSAR president and event organizer Larry Cornwall, above left, places a wreath at the grave site of Dixon Hall, above right, during a ceremony honoring the Revolutionary War patriot in Montgomery.***

Hall was Sandra Zellely, one of Hall's direct descendants.

"I truly feel honored that somebody would honor his memory in this way," Zellely said.

Zellely said family members came from as far away as Tennessee and Arkansas to participate in the dedication.

Also in attendance was Alabama state

treasurer Kay Ivey, who said honoring American soldiers is one way to exercise patriotism, which is exactly what the SAR wanted to do.

"Another of our goals is to inspire patriotism in the general public," Cornwall said.

The group hopes to hold another ceremony sometime next year.

—Photo courtesy of Ann Goolsby

***Birmingham chapter presents award to Maytown mayor***

***Birmingham chapter president John H. Killian, right, presents the Emergency Medical Services Award to Maytown mayor Ann Hodges on Oct. 17. Hodges, in her capacity as an emergency medical technician, delivered a baby in the parking lot of Maytown Baptist Church. The story received notice on local television stations and was reported in The Alabama Baptist.***



# Veterans Day celebration 2006



—Photo by Rachel Clinkscale

***Etowah chapter's Arthur Ennis (fourth from right) joins World War II 8th Air Force veterans in honoring the 26,000 Air Force personnel lost in the war.***



—Photo by Glenn Nivens

***Birmingham's Hunter Street Baptist Chorale presents a soul-stirring patriotic salute at the National Veterans Day celebration on Nov. 10.***

Celebration of the 59<sup>th</sup> observance of National Veterans Day in Birmingham on Nov. 10-11 drew superb participation by the Alabama Societies of the Sons, Daughters and Children of the American Revolution.

ALSSAR president Larry Cornwell, ALS DAR regent Shelby Ward and CAR honorary president "Miss Jo" Thomas were featured guests at the gala National Veterans Award Banquet in Boutwell Auditorium on Nov. 10.

Retired Army Lt. Gen. Hal Moore of "We Were Soldiers Once, And Young" fame led a "Raymond Weeks Walk of Honor" from the historic Tutwiler Hotel through Linn Park to pay honors to the founder of America's Veterans Day. Weeks was the leader of an Alabama delegation between 1947-1954 which culminated in then President Eisenhower's re-designation of Armistice Day to become a national observance to pay respect to all veterans of all wars in 1954. Thus, Birmingham is known as the "home" of National Veterans Day.

More than 30 SAR, DAR and CAR members joined a contingent of Gold Star Wives and Mothers in becoming a very significant part of the "overflow" crowd for the 59<sup>th</sup> annual presentation of the National Veteran Award to Gen. Moore for



—Photo by Rachel Clinkscale

***Lt. Gen. Hal Moore (USA-Ret.), National Veteran of the Year, George Lisicki, VFW senior vice-president and Kathy Upchurch, American Gold Star Wives national vice-president at the banquet.***

his lifetime of service to America. National, state and local dignitaries habitually flock to Birmingham annually to seize the opportunity to be a part of this event.

Attending the banquet this year were members of Birmingham, Black Warrior, Cahaba-Coosa, Cheaha and Montgomery chapters, along with state and national DAR officers.

For a number of years in the '70's and early '80's compatriot Glenn Nivens

was honored to serve as the Department of Defense regional coordinator for this event. Nivens helped to coordinate the ALSSAR's involvement in hopes that it will become a significant annual event for the joint Sons, Daughters and Children of the American Revolution.

This annual observance is held annually on Nov. 10-11 so plan now for next year's National Veterans Day in Birmingham.

—Glenn Nivens



—Photo courtesy of Wayne Novy

***ALSSAR's Eddie Bowling, left, and Glenn Nivens, right, joined veterans such as Wayne Novy and his daughter Amanda for Bluff Elementary's Veterans Day program.***

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

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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 information about your chapter's activities for the next newsletter. The deadline for the March newsletter is Feb. 15. Mail information to Tim Gayle, 3573 Foxhall Drive, Montgomery, AL 36111 or send photos or stories via e-mail to [timgayle@knology.net](mailto:timgayle@knology.net).



—Photos courtesy of John Wallace

***ALSSAR participates in 226th anniversary of Battle of Kings Mountain***

***On Oct. 7, six members of the ALSSAR attended the 226th anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain near Gaffney, S.C. From left: Cahaba-Coosa's John Walker and Glenn Nivens, Joe Graves of the Wiregrass chapter, Cahaba-Coosa's Eddie Bowling, Wiregrass chapter president John Fuller and John Wallace of the Wiregrass chapter presented the ALSSAR wreath, which was among the approximately 80 tributes presented to honor the patriots who fought and died in this important Revolutionary War battle. Wallace, whose patriot ancestor was part of the "Over the Mountain Men" who traveled from Tennessee to participate in the battle, presented the ALSSAR wreath at Kings Mountain, right photo. Secretary-General Bruce Wilcox represented the National Society at the celebration.***