



# SAR Alabama



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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Compatriots,  
It has been a highly engaged and non-stop summer for the Alabama Society and me. What an exciting time to be alive and witness the excitement to return some normalcy!

With the summer travel for many has seen some upticks in Covid. I remain optimistic that our members will continue to push through, are taking reasonable precautions and staying engaged should the upcoming fall throw us some curve balls along the way.

May 15th was our Spring BOM meeting, and it was a well-attended event at American Village. Numerous topics were covered which includes but not limited to our youth protection, GWEF and the State Society Color Guard line-item being included in the financial forecast. I appreciate the efforts of our state officers, our chapters and members working in our youth programs to complete their training. I appreciate our color guard and honor guard members continue to give their time and resources to promote our society around the state.

The next day (May 16), I was back on the road to participate in the ARW Patriot Owen Dailey grave marking ceremony held in Camden, a well-attended state event by the state society and the state DAR.

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## Maples earns Minuteman Award

One of the highlights of Congress, at least from an ALSSAR perspective, is the bestowing of the SAR's top honor on one of the society's compatriots.

James H. Maples became the 15th member of the Alabama Society, and the fourth in five years, to be honored with the Minuteman Award at the 2021 Congress in Washington.

The Minuteman Award is the most prestigious award of the National Society. It was established in 1951 to recognize and honor those who have made distinguished and exceptional contributions of service to the National Society.

Since 1967, a maximum of

six awards may be presented, although 12 were presented this year because Congress was not held in 2020.

Maples, a former ALSSAR president and a tireless contributor each year at the annual state convention, has made a major contribution at the national level as well.

He served as the Vice-President General for the Southern District in 2011-12 and has served on numerous NSSAR committees, including the Patriot Records Committee (for 18 years), the Public Service and Heroism Committee (for 11 years), the Information



—Photo by Fred Olive

**Jim Maples became the 15th ALSSAR compatriot to receive the Minuteman.**

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## Compatriots answer call to arms for filming at American Village



—Photo by Melanie Poole

**ALSSAR compatriots, dressed as "colonials," fire on the approaching "British," which are, in fact, other ALSSAR compatriots led by then-president David Jones in filming at American Village.**

One of the first things David Jones did when he began his 2020-2021 term as president of the Alabama Society was to reach out to the American Village, an American history and civics education center located in Montevallo.

A strong partnership exists between the American Village and SAR – both the Alabama and National societies – and has for much of the institution's 21-year history.

Jones was committed to further strengthening that bond.

His message to the American Village was simple and direct: "ALSSAR stands ready and

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## Message

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Mrs. Savannah Baswell of the DAR and our own former president Edmon McKinley were on hand to make this a well-organized event and our state color guard did a magnificent job!

On May 19, I attended the Gen. Richard Montgomery chapter (GRM) in Montgomery. GRM is my home chapter. First son William, First daughters Isla and Elissa Kirkland joined me for the meeting. Former State President Larry Cornwell gave an excellent presentation on General Montgomery, the namesake of the chapter. GRM continues to be actively engaged in the community. NSSAR Secretary General and Former GRM chapter president Bruce Pickette and chapter president Brian Musser were in attendance. Looking forward to GRM's September meeting when former ALSSAR president Bill Stone will give a presentation.

On May 27, I was fortunate to attend the Black Warrior chapter via Zoom as I had to be in two places at the same time that day. In times like these, Zoom has enabled me to engage with our chapters when my calendar fills up. I was able to speak to their chapter via Zoom. A shout out to chapter president Rich Johnson who runs wonderful meetings and is always willing to lend a hand.

Moving right along, I attended the Richard Henry Lee chapter (RHL) in Auburn the following day on May 28. It was an amazing meeting for me to be able to install new members and seeing the active work the RHL chapter does for their community. Chapter president Harris and chapter secretary Walker Jackson along with a large gathering of members and spouses were in attendance.

On June 5, I attended the compatriot Carl Quinton Black grave marking ceremony held in Jasper, a well-attended state event by the state society and the state DAR. The family appreciates the societies' participation and recognition of a fellow compatriot and WWII veteran. The color guard and honor guard's musket salute made a touching gesture. Former ALSSAR president David Jones, Society vice-president Bill Daniel, chapter president Tom Granger and chapter vice-president Michael Martin of the Cahaba-Coosa chapter did an excellent

job organizing this event. I found the roads to be busy with tourism revenue in full swing and I have learned to build in an extra hour should I-65 become a parking lot with suppressed tourism from 2020.

On June 14, I had the privilege of attending the Tennessee Valley chapter (TVC) via Zoom in the recognition and honoring of a Medal of Honor recipient, Capt. Mike Rose. Capt. Rose's remarkable actions and devotion to our country was an inspiration to us all. TVC chapter continues to honor our veterans and even played a role in the opening of the Alabama Veterans Museum & Archives in Athens.

On July 3, First Lady Michelle, First Daughters Isla and Elissa Kirkland and I attended the Prattville Independence Day parade, an annual event the John Archer Elmore chapter (JAE) plays a large role in every year. The roll out of their new Liberty Bell float was amazing. JAE continues to be engaged with our youth and serving their community. The parade and the patriotic backdrop of small-town America greatly enriched my family's Independence Day weekend.

On July 18, I attended the Cahaba-Coosa SAR meeting along with First Lady Michelle and First Daughters Isla and Elissa Kirkland where I delivered greetings on behalf of the Alabama Society SAR and a history of the SAR and participating in the welcoming of new members. The chapter's location at the North Shelby County library is an excellent venue with an excellent collection of books and resources.

The 131st Congress met in Renton, Wash., on July 10-15. We were well represented by the Alabama delegation. The state society received several accolades and awards. I am sure an article will be forthcoming with the details.

More grave markings, color guard events and chapter meetings will be taking place in August. I plan to attend several of those events. Our fall BOM is scheduled for Oct. 16 at the American Village. Make plans to attend. Several topics will be covered, and you do not want to miss out as our ladies auxiliary will be catering this event. I hope you will make every effort to attend.

Patriotically yours,

—William A. Kirkland II, Esq.

## ALSSAR Minuteman winners

1953.....	Robert H. Smith
1955.....	William T. Carpenter
1959.....	Robert P. Gordon
1968.....	Ryall S. Morgan
1984.....	John L. McConnell
1995.....	Horace R. Jordan
2001.....	O. Lee Swart
2003.....	P. Rod Hildreth
2008.....	John R. Wallace
2012.....	Larry P. Cornwell
2013.....	Michael C. Wells
2017.....	C. Bruce Pickette
2018.....	C. David Billings
2019.....	William O. Stone
2021.....	James H. Maples

## Maples

*(Continued from Page 1)*

Technology Committee (for 11 years), the Internal Audit and Independent Audit committees (for 10 years each), the Genealogy Committee (for six years) and the Medals and Awards Committee (for six years).

Maples also served on the Library and Archives Committee for four years, the Council of State Presidents for three years, the George Washington Endowment Fund Fundraising Committee for three years, the Congress Planning Committee for two years, the George Washington Endowment Fund Board for a year, the chairman of the Audit Committee for a year and the Council of Vice Presidents General for a year.

He is a first line sponsor on 30 new compatriots, assisted in organizing a chapter and attended 14 Congresses and 27 National Leadership meetings.

In recent years, he has been a dedicated contributor of books and artifacts to the SAR Research Library collections and a contributor and financial supporter of the SAR Education Center and Museum.

He has been at the forefront of the Alabama Society's Web page design and content and his creation and development of the Tennessee Valley chapter newsletter has been a model for other chapters to follow.

In addition to Maples, other Minuteman Awards were presented to 2020 winners Darryl S. Addington, Tennessee Society; Louis V. Carlson Jr., California Society; Roger W. Coursey, Georgia Society; Clifford C. Olsen II, Missouri Society; John O. Thornhill, North Carolina Society; and Tony L. Vets Sr., Louisiana Society.

Maples was among the six 2021 honorees, along with Peter M. Davenport, Virginia Society; M. Kent Gregory, California Society; David Perkins, Connecticut Society; D. Wayne Snodgrass, Colorado Society; and James H. Wood, North Carolina Society.

## SAR's 131st Congress is held in Washington for the first time

The 131st Congress in Renton, Wash., was held from July 10-15 at the Hyatt Regency Lake Washington, marking the first-ever Congress in the state of Washington.

The highlight of every Congress was the Minuteman Award ceremony, in which the 2020 and 2021 classes were combined. In addition, the annual awards ceremony included streamers awarded to the Alabama Society for each of its youth entries as well as three individual awards presented to the society or its chapters.

The Alabama Society received the Walter Buchanan Meek Award, presented to the society recruiting the most new George Washington Fellows.

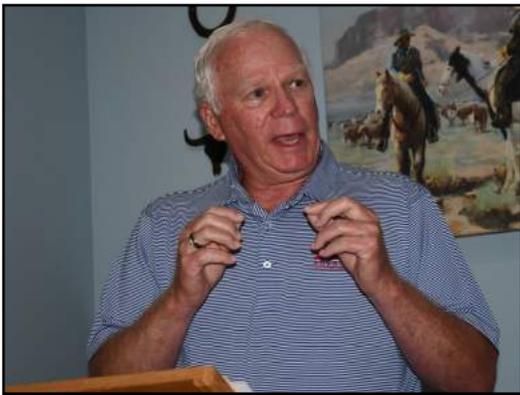
The Paul M. Niebell Award was presented to the SAR Alabama for the best publication of 10 pages or less.

The President General's Cup was awarded to the SAR's most complete chapter and was presented to four chapters throughout the country based on their membership size, including the Tennessee Valley chapter.

The chapter also earned the President General's Education Outreach streamer based on the number of new historical presentations each year.

One topic of discussion was an increase in application fees which was passed and went into effect at the end of business on July 15. More information regarding this has been sent to the various state secretaries and further information will appear on the SAR web site in the near future.

The 132nd Congress returns to the Southeast next July in Savannah, Ga.



—Photo by Dale Crawford

### *Little River resumes meetings*

*Major Gen. Willie B. Nance (Ret.-Army), president of the Jackson County Commission, was the featured speaker at the Little River chapter meeting in May.*



—Photo courtesy of Jason Williams

### *Richard Henry Lee chapter installs new officers*

*ALSSAR president William Kirkland, left, installs new officers for the Richard Henry Lee chapter at the May meeting, from left: Brian Davis, Larry Leonard, Sid Harden and Bill Sauser.*



—Photo courtesy of William Rozier

### *Cheaha chapter installs new officers for 2021-22*

*ALSSAR chaplain Rev. John Killian installed new chapter officers at a May 12 meeting at the Classic on Noble, installing, from left: chaplain Rev. Jeff Coker, genealogist Ron Burson, treasurer John M. Gruenewald, secretary William Rozier, vice president Eric Sloughfy and president Robert B. Folsom.*

## How to save time and money in putting together a colonial outfit

Good morning. Come in. The fire is warm and the coffee is hot. Or maybe you have a bit of a sweet tooth and prefer a cup of chocolate? We haven't had tea since 73, if you know what I mean. I wanted to speak with you in the hopes I may save you some time and money.

I understand you are considering putting together a colonial outfit (uniform as it is referred to), or maybe a gun purchase. While these are two completely different items they more often than not lead to the purchase of the other. Which comes first is like asking about the chicken and the egg. Each of us has our own answer, but first you must ask the right question.

What is your priority? What's your end goal? Is it to wear that striking red, white and blue uniform so that everyone immediately identifies you as a Revolutionary War Soldier? Or perhaps you covet owning that graceful piece of iron and wood made famous by marksmen like Timothy Murphy and Daniel Boone, that the British feared so much, the American Longrifle? While both of these are iconic symbols of the American Revolution, they do not belong together! Got your attention?

One of the most successful and popular ways the SAR has of educating the public about the American Revolution is personal representation. This is done through the SAR Color Guard, newly forming ALSSAR Honor Guard and when compatriots dress in uniform/colonial attire to attend public ceremonies, parades and visit classrooms to present awards or give history presentations to students. (The Tennessee Valley chapter is very active with this and HUZZAH to them for doing so.) To do this successfully we must not only present an accurate physical presence but be knowledgeable of the persons we are representing, their clothing, equipment and how to use it.

When out at SAR functions I like to ask compatriots that are dressed out in "uniform" why they have chosen their particular attire? Those who are wearing uniforms other than the blue coat with red facings and white small clothes (waistcoat and breeches) usually are wearing it to honor an ancestor and have done the research to not only identify the unit but also the uniform worn or issued. Perhaps they are wearing civilian clothing, because their ancestor was a member of a "Committee of Safety" or a militia unit (no they are not the same).

So, I understand everyone has their own personal reason for selecting their uniform or clothing. And everyone also has their own budget and money is tight. This is why I hate to see compatriots' waste good money on bad clothing and equipment or the *WRONG* clothing and equipment like the uniform with a long rifle.

Let's do a little history refresher.

With the initial outbreak of armed hostilities, all of the units were initially state, county, township or even town/city militia. Almost all initially mustered out with their own clothing. Massachusetts and Pennsylvania archives have Officer Commissions charging them to raise a company with men that can supply themselves with needed arms and equipment.

(There are exceptions, larger more organized militia units from more densely populated areas, or hastily organized and equipped units funded by wealthy, well known leaders in a community, possibly in a bid for a commission. And these would not necessarily have been blue uniforms. Knox's Artillery Company was outfitted in blue with red facings. However, Nathaniel Green's Kentish Guards wore scarlet with green facings and "The New

York Bold Foresters led by Col. Alexander Hamilton were attired in green short coats with small hats and brass plates reading 'FREEDOM'")

Again, the exceptions.

With everyone trying to uniform and outfit troops both in the colonies and abroad at the beginning of the war, not only was there a uniform shortage, but a *cloth* shortage! This effected civilians as well as the military. It wasn't long till clothing was the currency of the realm! The term "Naked and Drunk on Duty" began appearing in Regimental orderly books as soldiers were selling what little clothing they had for drink. The second and third years of the war were the worst.

As the cloth shortage eased and purchasing and supply lines became more organized, uniforms became more readily available and so did muskets and other equipment, whether provided by states, France or other foreign governments. The availability of arms followed almost the same pattern.

As school boys we were taught how the American Rebels whipped the "Red Coats" by hiding behind rocks and trees and using their "Kentucky Long Rifles," pouring down accurate fire upon them as they marched in line and sent them scurrying back to England. There is so much wrong with this it makes my head spin. (Pass the rum.) Most myths are based in some fact, at least they start that way, as is the case here.

Again, men answered the call to arms with what they had and not all had "long rifles." If you hunted to either make a living or supplement your family food supply, and lived in the areas where they were manufactured and still had the means and overwhelming desire for a rifle, you may have had a long rifle. If you lived in a town and were in the militia, you probably had something akin to a musket. It may have been old, it may have been military surplus, or handmade by a local "gun stocker" or a piece destined for the Indian Fur Trade, but there is a good chance it was smooth bore. Even some rifles were smoothbore! They are known as "smooth rifles" but, this is a discussion for a later time.

Remember the event that ignited this whole thing was the British were going out to confiscate the weapons and ammunition stores the Sons of Liberty/Committee of Safety had collected and stored outside of Boston. These were no doubt mostly muskets.

The truth in the myth lies I believe, not so much with the arms, but their ability to use them. If you owned a gun and used it at all whether for hunting or other shooting sports or militia duty, you had some idea how to sight and shoot effectively. Many militia training days eroded into impromptu shooting matches.

As things progressed outside Boston and an army collected, men as well as arms arrived as different as the areas they came from. The Pennsylvanians, for example, arrived overwhelmingly armed with long rifles, as their name implied "Thompson's Rifles" (later to be the First Pennsylvania Regt.). While the most accurate arm in its day, the rifle had its drawbacks when it came to military service. Mainly slow to load and no bayonet. It didn't take long for the army and the new Commander to limit the use of rifles. While Thompson's Rifles were eager for action they were limited to scouting patrols, harassing supply lines and rear guard actions during the early years of the war.

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## Uniform

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In 1777, Gen. Anthony Wayne wrote a letter to the Board of War commenting on the state of his First Pennsylvania Regiment (having enlisted and departed Pennsylvania in June of 1775 as *Thompson's Rifles*) that they "never received any uniforms except hunting shirts, which were worn out." He also states that "His Excellency" wishes to "have our rifles exchanged for good muskets and bayonets." The following year, 1778, he issued an order that is recorded in his orderly book, "make a return of the number of Rifles in each Brigade, in order to Exchange them for an equal number of Muskets and Bayonets."

Ouch! You can imagine this did not sit well with someone who worked long and hard to acquire a fine shooting rifle. But, "His Excellency," Gen. Washington's plan (and that of Congress), was to have the entire army uniformed and armed with a standardized musket. "He wanted an army like the British had!" This took some time but eventually it started to happen. The largest number of muskets were coming from our friends the French supplying what we know as "Charlevilles."

So our army during the revolution was a mixture of all the above. And while there are exceptions to the rules, the safe play is to go with the most common.

Now, remember that uniform and long rifle I mentioned earlier? If your goal is to wear the blue, red and white uniform, you should have a musket. If you really have to have that long rifle, civilian or rifle man's clothing will be your outfit.

Stay away from the exceptions unless you can document how they fit your persona. That is, the character you are portraying.

Here are my top three rules for acquiring historical clothing and equipment.

- (1) Do your homework. Research it. Is it correct for your time and place? I hate the words "Well, in the movie..." Hollywood and Wikipedia are your worst sources. Collector books and museums make mistakes, too. That's why we try to have at least two sources for each item.

- (2) Don't go cheap! Get the best you can buy. I know money is tight and you are wondering how spending more will save you money. If you buy something that is not right, or cheap to "make do," you will buy it again later. A wall hanger gun may be cheaper, but it won't even shoot blanks. If you are making what you need, make it right. It takes as much time to do it right as to do it wrong.

- (3) Get advice from someone who is knowledgeable and whom trust *before* making the purchase. Just because you see someone with something (or in a movie) doesn't make it right. I really think people don't like this because the advice is not going to be what they want. Better to put off the purchase than make a bad one. We keep the traders and suppliers in business by buying the right thing, we make them rich by buying the wrong thing, then going back to buy the right thing.

I hope this has helped. I want all my fellow compatriots to be proud of their uniforms and be able to share the knowledge of it with everyone they meet. I know I'm a "history snob" when it comes to clothing and equipment. But I believe it springs from a genuine concern to do it right and pass on what

was, not what is more comfortable or affordable. After 33 years of Living History, I'm trying to use my experience to help you avoid some of the pitfalls. If you could see some of the hokey stuff I've worn in years past, you'd understand (but luckily I've burned all those pictures).

Thanks for taking the time to come over. Too bad our visit was so short. Perhaps next time we can talk more on the different guns they used and what it took to keep them working.

God keep you and our country safe.

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- [www.veteranarms.com](http://www.veteranarms.com)



For over 30 years I have been involved in Living History, participating in History Camps and Displays, at History Sites to include National and State Parks. I have given Historical Presentations in First Person Character at Schools in several States and Department of Defense Schools in Okinawa Japan and private patriotic shooting organizations. I participate in Black Powder Shooting sports, and with reenactment groups from French and Indian War, Revolutionary war and The Fur Trade era. I research and reproduce my own clothing and most of my camp gear and accouterments. My wife Victoria is an author and enjoys researching historic food ways and open-hearth cooking. Besides being an ALSSAR member I'm also a member of the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association and the Contemporary Longrifle Association as well as a Retired U.S. Marine.

—MP Brady  
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## Film

*(Continued from Page 1)*

able to assist the Village in any way possible, just put the call out and we will answer." The American Village took Jones' message to heart and wasted no time in taking him up on the offer, which turned out to be a call to arms of sorts.

In February, 2020, the American Village unveiled its Liberty 250 Campaign; the Village's most ambitious capital campaign to date, and one that envisions the next chapter of its mission to strengthen and renew the foundations of American liberty and constitutional self-government.

Chief among the Liberty 250 Campaign's five priority areas is the raising of a full-scale replica of Philadelphia's Independence Hall that will serve Alabama, the Southeast and the nation as a premiere educational center on America's founding and the Charters of Freedom for 250,000 students, teachers and other visitors each year.

The American Village's Independence Hall will come to life over the course of three phases of construction.

The first phase – the West Wing – is currently in progress and upon completion will house a multi-sensory movie theater (seat shakers, air cannons, the works!) with seating for over 100.



—Photo by Val Crofts

### *ALSSAR compatriots, dressed as British soldiers, fire on the colonials in "Massachusetts" during filming at the American Village.*

The film that will be played in the theater will take visitors on a deep dive into the events that took place in the American colonies leading up to the American Revolution, the Battles of Lexington and Concord and the Shot Heard 'Round the World, and will culminate with the sign-

ing of the Declaration of Independence and the forming of a new nation.

Realizing the critical role this film will play in the overall Independence Hall experience, the American Village enlisted the professional services of a highly sought-after cinematography and production company based in Richmond, Va. As plans for the movie began to take shape it was decided that half of the film would be shot at various locations around Virginia and the other half at the American Village's campus in Alabama.

However, one problem that consistently presented itself during film discussions was the fact that it would be difficult to find locally the large number of actors needed for the Lexington and Concord scenes (these scenes were planned to be filmed at the American Village), as the majority of the actors and extras the production company routinely worked with were based in Virginia and the New England states.

Several workarounds for this issue were considered, such as tighter camera shots using fewer actors or the use of green screen technology, but none felt like they would do these scenes the justice they deserved.

One fall afternoon as American Village Founder and CEO Tom Walker was in his office pondering this issue, he remembered the generous offer of assistance made by Jones months earlier.



—Photo by Melanie Poole

### *The "British," led by then-ALSSAR president David Jones, cross the bridge in pursuit of the colonials.*

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## Film

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It was immediately clear to Walker that this was the perfect solution to the American Village's dilemma! Walker, a charter member of the Cahaba-Coosa chapter, was keenly aware of the high esteem in which the state society is held within the national society due to its robust and passionate membership, as well as its well organized and active Color Guard. Who better to make America's stand against British forces in the American Village's film?

The American Village reached out to Jones to share this idea and Jones agreed that it was an opportunity tailor-made for the Alabama Society.

Initially, the American Village asked Jones if he thought it would be possible to recruit 20-25 members to participate in the film. The response to Jones' call to arms was so overwhelmingly positive that he ended up enlisting approximately 50 members from across Alabama.

When the day of filming finally arrived on Feb. 13, 2021, the mild winter weather Alabama typically experiences was nowhere to be found. In its place was a bitterly cold, windy and drizzly day.

The filmmaker worried that the less than favorable weather conditions would have a negative impact on the turnout of ALS-SAR members who had signed up to participate. To his surprise – and relief – when the American Village opened its gates early that Saturday morning ALS-SAR members arrived en masse, ready and eager to get started.

Compatriots from all over the state were in attendance, with many traveling several hours early that morning or having stayed in nearby hotels the night before. One dedicated group of compatriots from the Wiregrass even brought their personal collection of reenactment cannons to be used in another battle scene that was to be filmed that day!

To say that it was an action-packed day would be an enormous understatement. Soon after checking in, members participated in an orientation meeting where they were briefed on safety protocols, the filming schedule, and several other pertinent informational items.

Next it was off to costuming and hair and makeup. Our Alabama compatriots made for a very authentic looking and patriotic band of American colonists. However, as British Regulars were also needed for the film's Lexington and Concord scenes, several members were conscripted to serve in King George's Army.

In a rather comical turn of events, the production crew chose to cast Jones as the



—Photo by Terry Lawley

### *Colonial wounded receive attention as British soldiers close in.*

commanding officer of the British regiment in the Concord Bridge scene.

Despite assurances to the contrary from both his fellow Alabama Society compatriots and the American Village staff, Jones remains suspicious that someone surreptitiously petitioned the director to make this casting decision. As to whether or not this was actually the case, we may never know the whole truth; but let the record show that current ALSSAR president William Kirkland was on the right side of history as one of the American militiamen!

As the filming got underway, ALSSAR members formed ranks and made ready to reenact scenes from that fateful April day in 1775. The smell of spent black powder hung heavy in the air around the American Village campus as countless takes were filmed from every possible angle and perspective. Judging by the enthusiastic reaction from the film crew, each shot that was captured was seemingly better than the one prior. The filming would continue at a breakneck pace throughout the entire day until the sun was almost dipping below the western horizon.

Our Alabama Society compatriots, though chilled to the bone and completely exhausted from the long day of filming, were vital to making these essential scenes

possible. Without their involvement, the magnitude of what happened at Lexington and Concord very possibly could have been lost on future viewers of the American Village's film.

The production company was especially pleased with the Alabama Society's involvement and contribution to the film. So much, in fact, that in a follow-up message to the American Village shortly after filming had concluded, the filmmaker stated the following: "In my opinion what we achieved last week was both smooth in operation, and excellent in the material we were able to capture. This could not have been accomplished without the efforts of those involved: actors, freelance crew, but especially of American Village staff and Sons of the American Revolution members. I think we are well on our way to unique and compelling content."

Once the American Village's film is complete and playing daily in its new Independence Hall theater, it will undoubtedly impact hundreds of thousands of students and adult citizens each year, relaying to them the heroic sacrifices made by our forebearers on that fateful April day in 1775, and ultimately what that stand for liberty meant for the very future of this nation we all hold dear.

## Cheaha chapter awards Heroism Medal to Oxford officer



—Photos courtesy of William Rozier

The Cheaha chapter presented Oxford police officer Joshua Hardeman with the SAR's Medal of Heroism at Oxford City Hall on March 9 in recognition of Hardeman's life-saving heroics.

Making the presentation were Cheaha chapter president William Rozier and Oxford Police Capt. L.G. Owens, a Cheaha chapter compatriot.

Rozier presented Hardeman with a certificate and medal after addressing Oxford mayor Alton Craft and the City Council on behalf of the chapter. Rozier told the assembly of the chapter's mission while noting the presentation of the Medal for Heroism "stands out above the rest because it is given to someone who also stands out above the rest."

"On July 5th, 1:30 Sunday morning a family driving on Interstate 20 noticed that their one month old baby boy stopped breathing near mile marker 185," Rozier said. "The family quickly called 911. Responding to the call for help, Officer Hardeman rushed to the scene and was the first officer to arrive. And jumping into action, he began life-saving measures to clear the child's airway and patting the baby's back until the infant began breathing again. The infant, now safe, was transported by EMS to RMC.

"Officer Hardeman, it is my honor to present to you, on behalf of the Cheaha chapter and the Alabama Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, this certificate and Medal of Heroism."

Oxford Chief of Police Bill Partridge also presented Hardeman with the department's Life Saving Award.

*Above, members of the Oxford Police Department stand with Joshua Hardeman after the presentation of the SAR Heroism Medal by Cheaha president William Rozier, third from right, and Capt. L.G. Owens, second from right, a Cheaha chapter compatriot. Oxford Chief of Police Bill Partridge, between Hardeman and Rozier, also participated in the ceremony. Below, Cheaha chapter president William Rozier presents the award to Officer Joshua Hardeman.*



## Book chronicles the reintegration of South Carolina loyalists

Rebecca Brannon.

*FROM REVOLUTION TO REUNION: THE REINTEGRATION OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA LOYALISTS.*  
Columbia: The University of South Carolina Press, 2016.

After the fall of Charleston in May of 1780, South Carolina fell into a bitter civil war. Patriot and loyalist militias exercised little restraint in engagements which destroyed property, killed otherwise innocent civilians, and committed all manner of crimes far beyond anything which occurred earlier in the conflict.

The patriot army sent to relieve Charleston met with disaster at Camden. Horatio Gates' force suffered a devastating defeat which led to more violence as South Carolinians who favored one side or the other fought with a bitterness and viciousness not matched in most of the other rebelling precincts.

Nathaniel Greene's Continental army, along with patriot militias, eventually forced a British command to occupy Charleston as the other red coat army attempted to carry the war into North Carolina and Virginia. Gradually, the war ended and finally, the British evacuated Charleston leaving the loyalists who remained in the hands of the victorious patriots.

In 1782, the South Carolina legislature, sensing success, passed a harsh Confiscation Act. Former loyalists suffered *amercement*(1) and, as a result many who possessed the funds, fled to British possessions.

(1) — See page 8. Black's Law Dictionary, 5th Edition, defines amercement as a "money penalty in the nature of a fine imposed.... At common law, it was assessed by the peers of the delinquent. (p. 75).

Within two years, according to Brannon, the situation changed: the reintegration of loyalists into South Carolina society began. They counted on public support from their pre-war neighbors and communities. Aided by patriots (including Christopher Gadsden, who suffered imprisonment in the fort at St. Augustine, East Florida, after the fall of Charleston in 1780, Adeanus Burke, and John F. Grimke.), loyalists began petitioning the legislature for relief from confiscation and fines.

Acceptance depended on loyalist activities during the Revolutionary War. Many redcoat supporters claimed they had not been active combatants and had remained at home peaceably. When neighbors vouched for them, relief from confiscation usually occurred, especially when communities viewed their former enemies as being useful citizens for the future of South Carolina. By 1784, most petitioners had their pleas for forgiveness granted.

Some years ago, historians began using memory as an interpretive tool. Brannon cleverly marshals how people remember the intense conflict in South Carolina as a way to view reintegration. The success of the reunion of loyalists might best be measured by the odd fact few of their descendants know anything about their ancestors' Revolutionary Era politics.

This is, however, not to say the book possesses no problems. First, the type is small and, secondly, chapter two collapses into poorly documented psychology to explain fear and anxiety. On the whole, however, Brannon presents a new way to measure forgiveness after an intense struggle.

—Bob England

## Gen. Galvez chapter sponsors state Eagle Scout winner

The Gen. Galvez chapter had a special guest at our February Zoom meeting. Miss Catherine "Catie" Simpson, the daughter of William and Jennifer Simpson of Mobile, was the chapter's Eagle Scout winner and went on to win the ALSSAR award as well.

Catie is the first female Eagle Scout in the Mobile Area Scout Council and is joined this year by four other lady Eagles in the state.

Catie, now 18, comes from an Eagle family that includes a scoutmaster father and brother.

In less than two years, Catie completed the rank of Eagle, accumulated 49 merit badges, adding a Bronze, Gold, and Silver Palm to her rank. She canoed the Northern Tier, has camped out 31 nights and reached Brotherhood level in the Scout honor camping society, Order of the Arrow.

Her Eagle project was building nine Bat houses at Bellingrath Gardens, one of which has a plexiglass

side for youth observation and education. Her project entailed 15 volunteers and 215 work hours.

Catie attended St. Luke's Episcopal School through 9th grade and has home schooled since then.

She has maintained an online blog since 2018; enjoys traveling and has spent nearly five months in visits to six foreign countries; she sings and was a member of the Alabama All-State Chorus, plays ukulele and enjoys concerts; and she has documented over 150 hours of public service at many organizations.

Catie is a member of the Historic Mobile Preservation Society; was appointed by the mayor to the current year on the Mobile City and County Youth Council; and, finally, is one of 50 members on the Mobile Azalea Trail Court, selected from 1,500 applicants, to serve as Ambassadors for Mobile in local and Southeastern United States events.

—Jon Huffman



—Photo courtesy of Jon Huffman

**Gen. Galvez compatriots Larry Liles, far left, Wayne Sirmon, far right, and president Jerry Green present trophy to Catherine Simpson.**

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**NEWSLETTER OF THE ALSSAR**

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**Tell everyone in the next newsletter what your chapter is doing**

If you're submitting material for the next newsletter, please e-mail your pictures and information to [timgaylesar@gmail.com](mailto:timgaylesar@gmail.com) or send information about your chapter's activities or upcoming events by Sept. 10 to Tim Gayle at 3104 Cabot Street, Montgomery, AL 36110.



—Photos by Brian Head

***Montgomery chapter posts the colors at Classical Conversations' Faces of History***

*Each year, the Classical Conversations Homeschool Co-Op hosts the "Faces of History" program. It's a semester long program, where fourth, fifth and sixth graders have the opportunity to do a research report on an American historical figure. On the last day of the program, each student presents their paper and dresses up as their historical person. The entire co-op has over 200 students. It is a well-attended event including student, siblings, parents and friends. The Gen. Richard Montgomery Color Guard posted the colors at Taylor Road Baptist Church on April 20. Members of the color guard were led by GRM commander Tom Smith, NSSAR Secretary General Bruce Pickette, ALSSAR president William Kirkland and past chapter president Jack Caraway.*